

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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**VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DE LA CONFÉRENCE
ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DE LA CONFERENCIA**

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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 87/PV/1

Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARY

Vingt-quatrième session
PLENIERE

24° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

FIRST PLEÑARY MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE
PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

(7 November 1987)

The First plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours

Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-khaled, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15

Sous la présidence de Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-khaled, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la Primera Sesión Plenaria a las 10.15 horas

bajo la presidencia de Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-khaled, Presidente de la Conferencia

OPENING OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH CONFERENCE SESSION

OUVERTURE DE LA VINGT-QUATRIÈME SESSION DE LA CONFÉRENCE

INAUGURACION DEL 24º PERIODO DE SESIONES DE LA CONFERENCIA

Opening Statement by the Director-General

Overture par le Directeur général

Inauguración por el Director General

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL: Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués et observateurs, Mesdames, Messieurs, j'ai l'honneur et le plaisir de vous souhaiter la bienvenue à cette vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence de l'Organisation. La Conférence de la FAO, qui réunit tous les deux ans les responsables mondiaux de l'agriculture, est une rencontre au sommet d'une importance exceptionnelle.

Je tiens à saluer de tout cœur tous les délégués qui se sont déplacés pour cette occasion, et en particulier ceux qui participent pour la première fois à la Conférence de la FAO. Je suis certain que le travail que vous allez accomplir au cours des prochaines semaines sera fécond et comblera votre attente, et que vous apprécierez votre séjour dans cette ville incomparable qu'est Rome.

Nous devons nous attacher aujourd'hui à des questions de procédure pour que la Conférence puisse dès lundi aborder les questions de fonds qui sont inscrites à son ordre du jour. Dans cet esprit, je suis persuadé que les débats de la Conférence se dérouleront dans un climat de sérénité et d'harmonie sous la conduite du Président que vous allez élire.

INTRODUCTION -PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

INTRODUCTION -QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

INTRODUCCION -CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

1 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

1 Election du Président et des Vice-Présidents

1. Elección del Presidente y de los Vicepresidentes

L'élection du Président est le premier point inscrit à votre ordre du jour.

Conformément aux dispositions de l'Article XXIV du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Conseil a proposé la candidature de Son Excellence M. Faisal A.R. Al-Khaled, Ministre du commerce et de l'industrie du Koweït. Le rapport du Conseil à ce sujet est soumis à la Conférence dans le document C 87/LIM/1.

La Conférence approuve-t-elle cette candidature?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

DIRECTOR-GENERAL (original language Arabic): I declare His Excellency Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled elected Chairman of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Conference. I am certain that he has the capability to guide the work of this Conference successfully because of his skill which we are all aware of. I congratulate His Excellency Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled and I offer him my best wishes for success. May I assure him that I am completely available, as all my staff, to support him in his task.

May I ask His Excellency Mr Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled to step up to the podium and take his place?

M. Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, took the chair

M. Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia el Sr. Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled

Address by the Chairman of the Conference

Discours du Président de la Conférence

Discurso del Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): In the name of Allah The Most Benevolent and Merciful, Excellencies, Excellency the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, Ladies and Gentlemen Your choice in electing me Chairman of this Conference I deem as a -great expression of trust in my person. You would allow me, on this occasion, to express, in my name and on behalf of the delegation of the State of Kuwait, our sincere appreciation and thanks for the honour bestowed on Kuwait in entrusting us with the responsibility of the Chairmanship of the Conference. This trust, which I highly hold and which assures me of your valued help and support, gives me faith and great satisfaction and hope that our work in this Conference, sustained by active efforts and close cooperation, will be for the fulfilment of our noble aspirations and objectives.

It gives me great pleasure and pride to take this opportunity to express my high esteem and appreciation to the Director-General of FAO, Dr Edouard Saouma, for his work and efforts in promoting the role of the Organization in the field of food and agriculture.

Our Conference is being held under circumstances overshadowed by varied economic difficulties and issues. The FAO and its work, after all, are not insulated from the problems and difficulties besetting the world economy. The principle of mutual dependence between the economies of nations worldwide, and the interrelation of economic problems, confronts the international community with the need to tackle these issues in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation free from the shortsightedness of pursuing immediate narrow interests. Efforts made till now have borne no tangible results. It remains for the international community to intensify its efforts for the sake of remedying the distortion and establish the balance of equality and justice between North and South, a condition which is, bound to put an end to the increased deterioration in the economies of developing nations, and opens the door for them to pursue their developmental efforts in a world guided by principles and philosophies embodying more justice, equality and fairness in opportunity for all nations of the world. Thus, there is no alternative to the combined effort of both developed and developing countries in laying down the foundations of constructive cooperation.

The situation of food and agriculture in the world, needless to say, is not immune from the uncertainty and confusion dominating the world economy. Agriculture for the developing nations is of special importance, since the majority of their populations are dependent on it for generating employment and a source of income. Hence, the objective of improving the food potential, and the development and advancement of agricultural activities in the developing nations was greatly affected by ensuring a sound economic environment, and establishing the desired balance in the areas of funding, trade and developmental cooperation.

It is unfortunate, indeed, that millions of humans continue to suffer shortages of food, even in the basic needs for their survival. The, challenge that faces the international community is in eradicating hunger and malnutrition in all parts of the world, especially in Africa, the other least developed countries and rural areas, as well as supporting agricultural development with the aim of increasing local production to help improve the living conditions of the populations in the developing countries, and enabling them to actively participate in all aspects of the economic and social process. The hungry or the ailing are hardly expected to play a role, or fulfill their tasks, as progress, development and growth would demand.

World food security is not an impossible objective to achieve as long as there is a combined international effort and better understanding and recognition. However, the interrelation and interdependence of the problems and interests of the international community require an exchange of views, coordination, and unified action to save hundreds of millions of humans from the dangers of hunger and malnutrition. These noble objectives require the existence of the necessary basic conditions for their achievement. It is in this light that the FAO which undertakes major tasks needs to continue its activities and intensify its work in providing technical assistance to developing nations in the fields of its specialization, and give advice on the development and promotion of agricultural production drawing from its expertise and practical experiences in the field of food and agriculture. And undoubtedly, agricultural development work needs adequate funds, which requires that able donor countries should increase the development assistance to the levels specified by the United Nations, giving due attention to the agricultural sector in directing resources and investments with the aim of preparing for the future when the expected growth in world population will exert more pressures on the limited resources.

Finally, I should like to point out that we have, before us, a long agenda containing a great number of topics that you are going to deliberate and discuss. I am much assured that you will spare no efforts in making all the contributions that promote international cooperation, and assist the work of the Organization, for the achievement of our aspirations and objectives,

Saalam al-Ykum wa rahmat o' Allah wa Barakatuh.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: May I now give the floor to the distinguished delegate of New Zealand.

Colin J. MOYLE (New Zealand): I would like to be the first to congratulate you on your election to this important office. The New Zealand delegation wishes you well in your task- as I am sure do all delegates. FAO is one of the world's most important international organizations: Food production and distribution is the single most important physical requirement for human survival and well being.

May I say, as one who has attended three of these meetings, as New Zealand's Minister of Agriculture, that I am acutely aware of the potential for good that FAO can achieve; and as the Minister of Agriculture in a country which is the largest single contributor in world trade in three world food commodities, and a leader and a sharer in the technology of food production, we know the importance of the role that FAO can exert in smoothing the problems of food production and distribution. This Conference can make a tremendous contribution in these respects.

So, again Sir, we wish you well in guiding this meeting towards achieving its full potential.

Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): In the name of Allah the most gracious and merciful: your excellency. Chairman of the General Conference, it is with great pleasure and pride that I express to you on behalf of the Group of 77 in Rome, and on my own personal behalf, our sincerest congratulations on your election to the Chairman of the Twenty-fourth Session on this Conference.

You are certainly aware of the importance of this Session as delicate questions are put before its main Committees. However, we are sure that, with your wide experience and know-how in the field of international cooperation, in addition to your youthful vitality and energy, with God's will this Session will reach historical results and decisions under your faithful administration. These historical results are, in fact, the hope of the developing countries' peoples.

You would be right in saying, Mr. Chairman, that this responsibility is certainly a burdensome one, requiring a sincere, constructive cooperation on the part of all member countries in this pioneer organization. We would like to assure you, sir, that we will stand beside you in solidarity. We shall do our utmost to facilitate this arduous task and to crown this Session with success. Our peoples, the people of the developing world, are looking forward to our work, awaiting our results, our decisions, with patience. These peoples are praying to God and hoping, as we do, that our decisions will fulfil the hopes and aspirations of these countries and peoples, safeguarding their dignity and their sovereignty. These decisions would be able to achieve the highest possible and continuous level of food security.

Mr Chairman, we also pray to God that success will accompany you in this Session. We also pray that understanding and brotherhood will prevail during our work. We also pray that peace, security and welfare will prevail among all the peoples of the world.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, distinguished delegate from Saudi Arabia. May I give the floor now to the delegate from Italy?

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): Thank you, Mr Chairman. In the name of the host government, let me briefly join in the congratulations and good wishes of the distinguished delegates from New Zealand and Saudi Arabia. This is a return of your Excellency to Rome. We wish you a very pleasant stay. We have done our best to have a glorious day, as you can see. We hope it will last during the whole Conference over the three weeks of our work and that we shall be blessed by God in the wisdom of our decisions, under your guidance. Welcome again.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you, distinguished delegate of Italy. If there are no more speakers, I think we can proceed with our work. Excuse me, I will now speak in Arabic.

Paragraph 1 of Rule VIII of the General Rules of the Organization provides that the Nominations Committee shall propose to the Conference candidates for the three posts of vice-chairmen of the Conference.

The three Vice-Chairmen will be announced now, after which the seven member nations of the General Committee of the Conference required under paragraph 1 of Rule X of the Rules of Procedure will be mentioned by the Chairman of the Nominations Committee. After that we shall be mentioning the nine members of the Credentials Committee as laid down in paragraph 3 of Rule III of the General Rules. The Nominations Committee which made these proposals was elected by the FAO Council at its Ninety-second Session held from 3 to 6 November, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 (.b) of Rule XXIV of the General Rules of the Organization.

This Committee met on Friday 6 November, and drew up its recommendations for the posts just mentioned. I shall now ask to the Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Mr Patrick Alleyne from Trinidad and Tobago, to place before the Conference the nominations agreed to by this Committee, starting with the three vice-chairmen of the Conference.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Chairman, Nominations Committee): Mr. chairman, distinguished Ministers, other heads of delegations, delegates, observers, permit me first of all on behalf of the Nominations Committee to extend warmest congratulations to you on your selection. I also wish to convey my appreciation to the Committee members in respect of the work which we conducted yesterday.

In accordance with Rule VII-2 of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee submits the following nominations to the Conference: Mr Jõa Pereira Silva of Cape Verde, Minister of Rural Development and Fisheries; Mr L.B. Hertog of the Netherlands, Minister Plenipotentiary to FAO, Mr Mahbub-uz Zaman, Minister of Agriculture and Forests of Bangladesh. These are the three nominations, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): You have just heard the proposals of the Nominations Committee in respect of the three vice-chairmen of the Conference. Are there any objections to these nominations? If there are none, I shall Consider these proposals adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

2. Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee

2 Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

2. Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales

CHAIRMAN: Let us move on now to item 2, "Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee". That is to say, the appointment of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee. I will ask the Chairman of the Nominations Committee to proceed with his report. We shall first have the Committee's proposal for the membership of the General Committee.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Chairman, Nominations Committee): Mr Chairman, in accordance with Rule X of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee submits the following nominations to the Conference: Belgium, Brazil, China, Kenya, New Zealand, Nicaragua, and the United States of America.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): You have just heard the nominations for the seven Member nations to be elected to the General Committee. Are there any objections? If there are none, I shall consider the seven Member nations to be duly elected to serve on the General Committee of the Conference.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRMAN: Once again I will call upon the Chairman of the Nominations Committee for proposals concerning the Credentials Committee.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Chairman, Nominations Committee): Mr Chairman, in accordance with Rule III of the General Rules of the Organization the Committee submits the following nominations to the Conference: Australia, Canada, Cyprus, El Salvador, Lebanon, Pakistan, Spain, the United Kingdom and Zaire.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): We have just heard the Nominations Committee's proposals regarding the nine Member nations to comprise the Credentials Committee. Are there any objections?

Edgar Noel FITZPATRICK: (Australia): Thank you Mr Chairman. The South-West Pacific Group has consulted and agreed that Samoa will replace Australia on the Credentials Committee, if that is acceptable to the Conference.

CHAIRMAN: (original language Arabic): If there are no objections, I think that we can accept this replacement. Therefore, the proposal is accepted, Samoa will replace Australia on the Credentials Committee. If there are no further objections, then we will take it that we have accepted those nine members on the Credentials Committee as proposed, with Samoa replacing Australia.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): On behalf of you all, I should like to thank the Chairman of the Nominations Committee for his efforts. The General Committee should meet as soon as possible to consider matters pertaining to the arrangements for the Conference; in particular it will have to make proposals to the Conference on the adoption of the agenda, the allocation of agenda items to the various Commissions as well as the admission of observers.

It should report to Plenary at 15.00 hours this afternoon. I therefore propose to adjourn this first Plenary Meeting of the Conference. The General Committee - that is, your Chairman, the three Vice-Chairmen of the Conference and the seven Member Nations just elected to the General Committee - will meet in the King Faisal room, D236 on the second floor of Building D, immediately after the closure of this meeting. The Credentials Committee will also hold its first meeting now. It will convene in the Malaysia room, B227 on the second floor of Building B.

Ladies and gentlemen, this completes our Agenda for this morning. I hereby declare the adjournment of the first Plenary meeting of the Conference. I thank you all. The meetings stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 10.45 hours
La séance est levée à 10 h 45
Se levanta la sesión a las 10.45 horas

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C

C 87/PV/2

Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARY

Vingt-quatrième session
[PLENIERE

24° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

SECOND PLENARY MEETING
DUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA

(7 November 1987)

The second Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours

Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 15

sous la présidence de Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la Segunda Sesión Plenaria a las 15.15 horas

bajo la presidencia de Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I declare open the second Plenary meeting. According to the provisional timetable in Appendix A of document C 87/12 we should first of all examine items 3, 4 and 5, which are as follows: Adoption of Agenda, Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items, and Admission of Observers, respectively.

As instructed by the Conference this morning, the General Committee has prepared its first report which relates to these three items, and also other proposals relating to the organization of the Conference's work. I suggest that the first report of the General Committee be read and approved section by section.

May I ask the Secretary-General to read the first section of the report.

First Report of the General Committee

Premier rapport du Bureau

Primer informe del Comité General

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Section 1: Ordre du jour de la session

Paragraphe 1: Le Bureau a examiné l'ordre du jour provisoire de la Conférence, qui figure dans le document C 87/1.

Paragraphe 2: Compte tenu des propositions formulées par le Conseil à sa quatre-vingt-douzième session, le Bureau recommande que le titre du point subsidiaire 21.1 soit modifié et libellé comme suit: "Procédure d'élection des présidents et des membres du Comité du programme et du Comité financier";

qu'un nouveau point intitulé: "Rapport de situation sur la mise en application du Code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides" soit introduit dans la partie I de l'ordre du jour provisoire;

qu'un nouveau point subsidiaire 24.6, intitulé: "Questions de personnel" soit ajouté à l'ordre du jour provisoire, et que le point subsidiaire 21.2 et le point 25 soient supprimés de l'ordre du jour provisoire.

Paragraphe 3: Le Bureau recommande également que l'ordre du jour provisoire ainsi amendé soit adopté par la Conférence.

Je rappelle que le point 21.2 était ainsi libellé: "Amendement à l'alinéa b) du paragraphe 1 de l'Article VI du Règlement financier" et que le point 25 était intitulé: "Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation".

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I thank the Secretary-General. Are there any comments on the section just read? If not, this section is approved.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

I would ask the Secretary General to continue reading and proceed to the next section.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Section 2: Constitution des commissions et calendrier provisoire de la Session

Paragraphe 4: A sa quatre-vingt-onzième session, le Conseil a formulé au sujet de l'organisation et du calendrier de la vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence des propositions qui ont été communiquées à tous les Etats Membres dans le document C 87/12.

Paragraphe 5: L'attention de la Conférence est appelée sur le fait que, pour pouvoir donner aux Ministres qui ne seront à Rome que durant les premiers jours de la Conférence le temps de parole qu'ils ont demandé, il sera peut-être nécessaire de prolonger ces jours-là le débat général jusqu'à 13 heures le matin et 18 h 30 l'après-midi, étant entendu que les séances du matin et de l'après-midi devront commencer rigoureusement à l'heure. Il faut espérer que tous les orateurs inscrits pour les mardi 10 et mercredi 11 novembre seront ainsi à même de prendre la parole. Si cela se révélait impossible, on pourrait prévoir une séance supplémentaire le soir. La durée de chaque intervention ne devra pas dépasser 15 minutes.

Paragraphe 6: Le Bureau recommande à la Conférence de constituer trois commissions et d'approuver le calendrier provisoire proposé par le Conseil tel qu'amendé au paragraphe 2 ci-dessus, étant entendu que le point supplémentaire introduit dans la partie I de l'ordre du jour sera examiné par la Commission I le matin du vendredi 20 novembre et que ce calendrier pourra être sujet à modification compte tenu des progrès accomplis en plénière et aux réunions des commissions.

Paragraphe 7: Le Bureau recommande également que la réunion officieuse des observateurs d'organisations non gouvernementales soit tenue les matin et après-midi du mardi 10 novembre.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): If there are no comments, this section is approved.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Section 3: Nomination des présidents et vice-présidents des trois commissions

Paragraphe 8: En application des Articles VII.1 et XXIV.5 b) du Règlement général de l'Organisation, et comme il est indiqué dans le document C 87/LIM/1, le Conseil, à sa quatre-vingt-douzième session, a proposé les candidatures suivantes à la présidence des commissions.

Commission I: C.S. Sastry (Inde)

Commission II: Fred J. Eckert (Etats-Unis d'Amérique)

Commission III: Jozef Wiejacz (Pologne)

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): If there are no comments, I declare that this section has been adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Section 4: Comité des résolutions.

Paragraphe 9: Le Conseil à sa quatre-vingt-onzième session a recommandé la création d'un Comité des résolutions de la Conférence, composé de sept membres, à raison d'un membre par région de la FAO. Son mandat est énoncé dans le document C 87/12 (Annexe D), ainsi que les critères devant présider à la formulation des résolutions.

Paragraphe 10: Le Bureau recommande que la Conférence fasse sienne la proposition du Conseil.

Paragraphe 11: Les présidents des groupes régionaux concernés sont priés de communiquer aussitôt que possible au Président de la Conférence le nom du pays et celui du-membre de sa délégation désigné pour siéger au Comité des résolutions.

Paragraphe 12: Le Bureau recommande en outre que le Comité des résolutions soit présidé par le Président en exercice du Comité financier, afin de bénéficier de l'expérience de ce dernier.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Are there any comments on this section? If not, this section is approved.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Section 5: Admission de l'observateur de l'URSS

Paragraphe 13: Le Directeur général a reçu du Ministre des pêches de l'URSS un télex indiquant que le Gouvernement de l'URSS souhaiterait être représenté à la vingt-quatrième Session de la Conférence de la FAO. Une invitation à assister à la Conférence en qualité d'observateur a été envoyée au Ministre des affaires étrangères de l'URSS, en précisant toutefois qu'elle devrait être confirmée par la Conférence conformément aux Principes régissant l'octroi du statut d'observateur aux Nations (Textes fondamentaux, Section L, paragraphe B. 1) qui spécifient que les Etats qui ne sont pas membres de l'Organisation peuvent, sur demande, être invités "par la Conférence ... à se faire représenter par un observateur à une session de la Conférence". Le Bureau recommande à la Conférence de confirmer l'invitation.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabie): Are there any comments on this section? If there are no comments, then this section is approved.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Section 6: Nomination du Directeur général

Paragraphe 14: le 3 avril 1987, date fixée par le Conseil, trois candidatures au poste de Directeur général avaient été reçues, à savoir celles de M. Edouard Saouma (Liban), de M. Bula Hoyos (Colombie) et de M. Moïse Christophe Mensah (Bénin). Ces candidatures ont été communiquées à tous les Etats Membres par lettre circulaire G/CF4/2 du 27 avril 1987. Par la suite, le Gouvernement colombien a, le 22 octobre 1987, informé le Secrétaire général de la Conférence et du Conseil qu'il retirait la candidature de M. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Le texte de la notification est reproduit dans le document C 87/18 - Corr. 1.

Paragraphe 15: Aux termes de l'Article XXXVI 1 a) du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Bureau fixe et annonce la date de l'élection, étant entendu que le processus de nomination du Directeur général lors d'une session ordinaire est engagé et mené à terme dans les trois jours ouvrables suivant la date d'ouverture de ladite session, en l'occurrence avant minuit le soir du mardi. 10 Novembre 1987. L'élection se fait au scrutin secret. Le candidat qui obtient la majorité simple des suffrages exprimés (à l'exclusion des abstentions) est élu. Le Bureau recommande que le scrutin ait lieu le matin du lundi 9 novembre 1987, des quo la plénière aura adopté le rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs, ainsi qu'il est dit dans le document C 87/12 intitulé: "Organisation de la vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence" et comme l'a approuvé le Conseil dans sa quatre-vingt-onzième session.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section just read? If there are no comments, this section is approved.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Section 7: Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil

Paragraphe 16: à la date fixée par le Conseil, c'est-à-dire le 4 septembre 1987, une proposition de candidature au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil avait été reçue: celle de M. Lassaad Bon Osman (Tunisie). Cette candidature a été notifiée à tous les Etats Membres par lettre circulaire G/CF4/3 du 11 septembre 1987.

Paragraphe 17: Aux termes du paragraphe I b) de l'Article XXIII du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Bureau fixe et annonce la date de l'élection. Il recommande que le scrutin secret en vue de cette élection ait lieu dans la matinée du mardi 24 novembre 1987.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this part of the report?- If not the section is approved.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Section 8: Election des membres du Conseil

Paragraphe 18: l'Article XXII. 10 a) du Règlement général dispose que la Conférence, sur recommandation du Bureau, fixe au plus tard trois jours après l'ouverture de sa session la date de l'élection des membres du Conseil et la date limite de présentation des propositions de candidatures.

Paragraphe 19: Le Bureau recommande donc:

- a) que le scrutin commence le matin du lundi 23 novembre;
- b) que les candidatures aux sièges du Conseil à pourvoir à la présente session soient communiquées au Secrétaire général de la Conférence (Bureau B-202) au plus tard le lundi 16 novembre à 12 heures, pour permettre au Bureau, conformément à l'Article XXII. 10 d) du Règlement général, de communiquer à la Conférence, trois jours ouvrables au moins avant la date fixée pour l'élection, la liste des candidatures recevables qui lui ont été soumises.

Paragraphe 20: A ce propos, la Conférence notera en particulier les dispositions suivantes des paragraphes 3,4,5 et 7 de l'Article XXII du Règlement général de l'Organisation.

"3. En choisissant les membres du Conseil, la Conférence s'efforce de tenir compte de l'intérêt qui s'attache:

- a) à assurer au sein de cet organisme une représentation géographique équilibrée des nations intéressées à la production, à la distribution et à la consommation des produits alimentaires et agricoles;
- b) à assurer la participation aux travaux du Conseil des Etats Membres qui contribuent dans une large mesure à la réalisation des objectifs de l'Organisation;

à donner au plus grand nombre possible d'Etats Membres l'occasion, par roulement des sièges, de faire partie Hti Conseil.

4. Les membres du Conseil sont rééligibles.

5. Aucun Etat Membre n'est éligible au Conseil si l'arriéré de ses contributions à l'Organisation est égal ou supérieur aux contributions dues par lui pour les deux années civiles précédentes.

7. Un membre du Conseil est considéré comme démissionnaire, si l'arriéré de ses contributions à l'Organisation est égal ou supérieur aux contributions dues par lui pour les deux années précédentes ou s'il ne s'est pas fait représenter à deux sessions consécutives du Conseil."

Paragraphe 21: On trouvera dans le document C 87/LIM/18 toutes les informations nécessaires sur les sièges pour lesquels des candidatures doivent être présentées ainsi que les formules de présentation de candidature.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on the section just read out? If not, this section is approved.

Adopted .

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Section 9: Droit de vote

Paragraphe 22: Le Bureau note que, vu le montant de leurs arriérés, cinq Etats Membres (Antigua-et-Barbuda, Guyana, Kampuchea démocratique, Paraguay, Roumanie) risquent de ne pas pouvoir participer aux scrutins de la Conférence, conformément aux dispositions de l'Article III. 4 de l'Acte constitutif, qui stipule ce qui suit:

"Chaque Etat Membre ne dispose que d'une voix. Un Etat Membre en retard dans le paiement de sa contribution à l'Organisation ne peut participer aux scrutins de la Conférence si le montant de ses arriérés est égal ou supérieur à la contribution due par lui pour les deux années civiles précédentes. La Conférence peut néanmoins autoriser ce Membre à voter si elle constate que le défaut de paiement est dû à des circonstances indépendantes de sa volonté".

Paragraphe 23: Toutefois, deux de ces pays ont soumis au Directeur général un plan de liquidation de leurs arriérés. Le Bureau recommande donc à la Conférence d'approuver les projets de résolution ci-après:

A. REGLEMENT DES CONTRIBUTIONS ANTIGUA-ET-BARBUDA

LA CONFERENCE

Notant que le Gouvernement d'Antigua-et-Barbuda a proposé de liquider ses arriérés de contributions sur une période de dix ans commençant en 1987, tout en réglant ses contributions courantes durant l'année civile à laquelle elles se rapportent,

Décide que :

1. Nonobstant les dispositions de l'article 5.5 du Règlement financier, les arriérés de contributions d'Antigua-et-Barbuda, s'élevant à 61 507 dollars des Etats-Unis, seront réglés en dix tranches annuelles de 6 150,70 dollars chacune;

2. La première tranche ainsi que la contribution ordinaire de 1987 seront exigibles en 1987;
3. Le paiement annuel des tranches sus-indiquées, ainsi que celui des contributions courantes durant l'année civile à laquelle elles se rapportent et des avances au Fonds de roulement, seront considérés comme liquidant les obligations financières d'Antigua-et-Barbuda envers l'Organisation.

Suivra la date à laquelle la résolution sera adoptée.

B. REGLEMENT DES CONTRIBUTIONS GUYANA

LA CONFERENCE,

Notant que le Gouvernement du Guyana a proposé de liquider ses arriérés de contributions sur une période de dix ans commençant en 1988, tout en réglant ses contributions courantes durant l'année civile à laquelle elles se rapportent ,

Décide que :

1. Nonobstant les dispositions de l'article 5.5 du Règlement financier, les arriérés de contributions du Guyana, s'élevant à 66 100 dollars des Etats-Unis, seront réglés en dix tranches annuelles de

6 610 dollars chacune;

2. La contribution ordinaire de 1987 sera exigible en 1987, et la première tranche en 1988;

3. Le paiement annuel des tranches sus-indiquées ainsi que celui des contributions courantes durant l'année civile à laquelle elles se rapportent et des avances au Fonds de roulement seront considérés comme liquidant les obligations financières du Guyana envers l'Organisation.

Suivra la date d'adoption de la résolution.

Paragraphe 24: Le Bureau a noté que le Directeur général a été en contact avec des représentants des trois autres Etats Membres (Kampuchea démocratique, Paraguay et Roumanie) et a constaté que, pour différentes raisons, ils ne peuvent régulariser leur situation en ce qui concerne les arriérés dont ils restent redevables à l'Organisation. Néanmoins, le Paraguay et la Roumanie ont officiellement prié le Bureau de recommander à la Conférence de les autoriser à voter durant sa vingt-quatrième session.

Paragraphe 25: Le Bureau recommande donc à la Conférence que les cinq Etats Membres susmentionnés soient autorisés à voter le lundi 9 novembre.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section of the report? I would like to remind the distinguished representatives that there are two resolutions in this part of the report.

Elija Wasike MWANGALE (Kenya): I do not know why the Secretary-General felt that installments should be paid over ten years because if you take a sum like \$66 000, and you pay only \$6 000 per year, that is not equivalent to the actual interest payable to that amount per year. It makes no financial sense at all. I would have thought that the distinguished countries that are mentioned, all of them, should try and pay that amount as quickly as possible before the next biennial Conference. However, to suggest that the amount of money should be outstanding for ten years and that they pay only \$6 000 per year is making a farce of our mathematics in this Conference. May I suggest that instead of suggesting this payment per year, we reject that and ask them to pay within a short period of time, and that they should go ahead and vote.

CHAIRMAN; (original language Arabic): If the distinguished representative of Kenya allows me, I would recall that this proposal is not a proposal by the Secretary-General. It is a proposal by the General Committee. This is what I want to clarify. Secretary-General, would you like to add anything to this query?

Dean k. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General Administration and Finance Department) The delegate from Kenya has raised the question concerning the ten-year instalments. It has been the practice of the Conference, in accordance with the General Rules of the Organization, to allow Member Nations that have had conditions exist that are beyond their control, to apply for an instalment payment plan, and this has always been over a ten-year period in which they would pay their arrears during the next ten-year period, but, in addition, pay their normal annual instalments. In the specific case cited where that amount of \$66 100 in arrears were due from Guyana, the ten-year instalment would require an annual payment of one-tenth of the \$66 100. In addition, if accepted the resolution would provide for this country also to pay its normal contributions. It does allow that country, and others who have had similar proposals made to the Conference that have been previously accepted, to vote and to regularize their arrears which would be a very difficult burden for each of these countries if they were not allowed to use such an instalment plan. Such an instalment plan is provided for in the Regulations, provided that the Conference agrees to it.

As the Report has stipulated, there are two countries who are now applying for such an instalment

plan to regularize their arrears. In addition, other members have applied for the right to vote.

This has been the normal practice of the Conference, to allow instalment plans for those countries to regularize their votes

Eli jab Wasike MWANGLE(Kenya): We have have similar problems in our organization OAU. We decided that it is best if we enforced the rules. The fact that you are taking \$6 000 only out of \$60 000, that does not even cover your interest rates. That is what I am saying. There should be something more sensible about it. It is better for us to say either that we write it off in ten years; \$60 000 would be nothing in ten years. Is it best to write it off and to forget, or simply to suggest that they pay within two years and are allowed to vote. \$6 000 is nothing for ten years just blank paper. So I would like to suggest that that should be considered for them if they cannot afford it. We have countries in our organization who cannot afford to pay and we allow them to write it off; "We'll let you in because you're brothers". To allow somebody to keep \$60 000 for ten years does not make sense. I do not know what other members feel.

CHAIRMAN: (original language Arabic): I thank the distinguished representative of Kenya for the enthusiasm you have shown on behalf of your country and of yourself, for Member States to make their contributions to the Organization effective. This position was stated clearly by the representative of Kenya during the discussions of the General Committee which supported these recommendations with unanimity, but, despite that, I do appreciate the position and the enthusiasm shown by the representative of Kenya for the Organization. Working on the same basis, after this statement, I would ask you to take this into account for the future because these recommendations were contained in the Committee's Report as a form of petition to speak in the same way. I have a request from Nicaragua to speak.

Humberto CARRION MCDONOUGH(Nicaragua): Simplemente, Sr. Presidente, para corroborar lo que acaba de mencionar usted. En la mañana tuvimos una reunión del Comité General muy cordial y discutimos el asunto que ahora nos detiene un poco. También comprendemos esta posición constructiva que tiene ahora la Delegación de Kenya, quien estuvo en la mañana con nosotros sesionando y aprobó y adoptó esta Recomendación que ahora tenemos ante la Plenaria. Por lo tanto me uno a su llamada y creo que la Conferencia puede sin mayor problema adoptar esta Recomendación que hemos hecho en el Comité General, y que fue aprobada en ese Comité unánimemente.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Thank you very much, distinguished delegate of Nicaragua. Are there any further comments?

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Section 10: Droit de réponse.

Paragraphe 26: A ses dix sessions précédentes, la Conférence avait décidé que, si un délégué désirait répondre à des critiques visant la politique de son gouvernement, il devrait le faire de préférence dans l'après-midi du jour où ces critiques ont été exprimées, après que toutes les personnes désireuses de participer au débat auraient eu la possibilité de prendre la parole.

Paragraphe 27: Le Bureau recommande qu'il en soit de même à la présente session.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Are there any comments on this section of the Report? If there are no comments we will adopt this part of the Report.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Section 11: Comptes rendus sténographiques

Paragraphe 28: L'Article XVIII.1 du Règlement général de l'Organisation stipule qu'il est établi un compte rendu sténographique de toutes les séances plénières et séances des commissions de la Conférence, et le droit pour les délégués de vérifier l'exactitude du compte rendu de leurs interventions leur est expressément reconnu aux termes de l'Article XVIII.2.

Paragraphe 29: La correction du compte rendu peut se faire soit par rectification d'erreurs de transcription et autres, soit par amendement portant sur un mot ou une expression effectivement utilisés. En pratique, ces rectifications ou amendements ne sont acceptés que s'ils sont demandés par la délégation qui a fait l'intervention, et cela dans les quarante-huit heures qui suivent la distribution du compte rendu provisoire.

Paragraphe 30: En 1961, la Conférence a officiellement adopté une procédure en vertu de laquelle les délégués qui le désirent peuvent demander que leurs déclarations soient reproduites dans le compte rendu sans qu'ils les aient prononcées devant la Conférence. Cette procédure est encore suivie et il est recommandé qu'elle soit maintenue pour gagner du temps.

Paragraphe 31: Bien que le Bureau n'ait pas d'objection de principe à ce que des déclarations que le manque de temps a empêché de prononcer soient insérées dans le compte rendu, il se rend compte des difficultés qui pourraient surgir si l'on ne donne pas aux délégués la possibilité de répondre à des critiques qui seraient formulées contre la politique de leur gouvernement dans les déclarations ainsi insérées.

Paragraphe 32: En conséquence, le Bureau recommande à la Conférence de continuer à autoriser l'insertion de telles déclarations, sous réserve:

a) que la Conférence ou la commission intéressée soit informée par son président qu'une déclaration qui n'a pas effectivement été prononcée, ou qu'un complément substantiel à une déclaration faite en séance, est inséré dans le compte rendu;

b) que le texte à insérer soit rédigé en anglais, français ou espagnol, c'est-à-dire dans l'une des langues utilisées dans le compte rendu sténographique;

c) que le compte rendu provisoire contenant la déclaration ajoutée soit distribué trois jours au moins avant la clôture de la session; et

d) que les délégations participant à la session aient la possibilité d'exercer leur droit de réponse en faisant, avant la clôture de la session, une intervention portant sur la déclaration ajoutée.

CHAIRMAN: (original language Arabic): Do we have any comments on this part of the Report? If there are none, I declare this part of the Report adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Section 12: Déclarations des Chefs de délégation (Débat général)

Paragraphe 33: Ayant pris note de la situation décrite plus haut, le Bureau recommande que la liste des orateurs soit publiée tous les jours dans le Journal de la Conférence, dans l'ordre dans lequel le Président leur donne la parole.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Are there any comments or observations on this part of the Report?

Robert KIKOMO KITARIKO (Uganda) : I accept that comment, provided it is recorded in the order in which they come to the Secretariat.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegate of Uganda, your observation is noted and the Secretary-General will take care of it. Shall we continue?

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Section 13: Admission d'observateurs d'organisations intergouvernementales et d'organisations internationales non gouvernementales

Paragraphe 34: La liste des organisations intergouvernementales et des organisations internationales non gouvernementales que le Directeur général a invitées à se faire représenter par des observateurs à la présente session de la Conférence figure dans les documents C 87/13 et C 87/13-Sup.I. Les invitations adressées à des organisations intergouvernementales avec lesquelles la FAO n'a pas conclu d'accords officiels et à des organisations internationales non gouvernementales ne jouissant pas du statut consultatif auprès de la FAO sont faites à titre provisoire, sous réserve de l'approbation de la Conférence.

Paragraphe 35: Ayant étudié cette liste, le Bureau recommande à la Conférence de co'nfirmer ces invitations provisoires.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments or observations? Fine, if there are none, let us adopt this part of the report.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Section 14: Réunion officieuse des observateurs d'organisations non gouvernementales

Paragraphe 36: 'le Conseil a recommandé que, comme lors des sessions précédentes de la Conférence, les observateurs des organisations non gouvernementales soient invités à tenir une réunion officieuse afin que leurs avis et suggestions concernant les activités et programmes de l'Organisation puissent être communiqués à la Conférence. Il est suggéré que cette réunion ait lieu le matin et l'après-midi du mardi 10 novembre. Le Bureau recommande que la Conférence accepte cette proposition.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this section of the report? If not, then this section is approved.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Section 15: Participation des mouvements de libération

Paragraphe 37: conformément à la suggestion formulée par le Conseil à sa quatre-vingt-onzième session, des observateurs de l'Organisation de libération de la Palestine et des mouvements de libération africains reconnus par l'OUA ont été invités à prendre part à la Conférence. Le Bureau recommande à la Conférence de confirmer ces invitations.

CHAIRMAN:- Are there any comments on this section of the report? If not, then this section is approved.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Section 16: Conclusion

Paragraphe 33: le Bureau recommande enfin que la Conférence confirme toutes les dispositions détaillées relatives à l'organisation de la session et que, sauf pour la période mentionnée plus haut au paragraphe 5, l'horaire de travail pour les séances plénières et celles des commissions soit normalement de 9 h 30 à 12 h 30 et de 14 h 30 à 17 h 30. Il invite instamment toutes les délégations à observer l'horaire de travail avec la plus grande ponctualité.

Ceci nous amène, Monsieur le Président, au terme du premier rapport du Bureau.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on this final section of the report? If not, then this final section of the report is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

This concludes the adoption of the first report of the General Committee. The text will be distributed on Monday with the number C 87/LIM/6.

Elijah Wasike MWANGALE (Kenya): Mr Chairman, now that we have adopted this document, I should like to make a small general observation. I notice that with the election of the distinguished head of the Kuwait delegation as our Chairman, either by mistake or an oversight, or perhaps by design - I do not know - the appointment of Independent Chairman goes to our distinguished colleague from Tunisia. It may also be by accident, but I notice that the Chairman, the Independent Chairman and the Director-General all come from the same zone. I should like to propose that we take note of this in future so that these things are distributed according to regions. This is a very important point, and I hope it is taken note of for the future.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Kenya. However, this is not under consideration right now. I hope this will be taken into consideration in the near future. It was not by design or oversight but is in accordance with the nominations and the elections for these posts.

Elijah Wasike MWANGALE (Kenya): I want to correct the impression that you seem to have given that these come as a result of elections. I think there was no election in the case of the independent Chairman because he was the only one who was submitted. I doubt that it was purely for lack of other candidates. Let it be taken seriously that we do not want any designs of this type. We want a full distribution of this type of chairmanship.

CHAIRMAN: I should like to inform the distinguished representative of Kenya that the system adopted is that the states willing to nominate themselves should do so in accordance with the General Rules. Since this was the only nominee, there were no other candidates, I should like to close this subject.

First Report of Credentials Committee

Premier rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

Primer informe del Comité de Credenciales

We come to the First Report of the Credentials Committee. I ask the Chairman of this Committee, Mrs Maria Eulalia Jimenez from El Salvador, to read out the Report.

Adoption of First Report of Credentials Committee

Adoption du premier rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

Aprobación del primer informe del Comité de Credenciales

Sra. Maria Eulalia JIMENEZ (Presidente del Comité Credenciales): Muchas gracias Sr. Presidente. El Comité de Credenciales celebró su primera reunión el 7 de septiembre de 1987 a las 11 horas para examinar las credenciales de las delegaciones de los Estados Miembros al 24º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO. El Comité eligió a María Eulalia Jiménez, de El Salvador, como Presidente.

De conformidad con lo dispuesto en el Artículo III - 2 del Reglamento General de la Organización y con los criterios establecidos por anteriores comités; el Comité de Credenciales examinó las credenciales de 150 delegaciones y las halló válidas.

En la lista adjunta figuran los Estados Miembros a los cuales pertenecen dichas delegaciones. Hasta la fecha ocho Estados Miembros no han presentado credenciales. Vanuatu ha comunicado a la Secretaría que no asistirá a la Conferencia.

El Comité examinará en posteriores reuniones las credenciales que se reciban, así como la de los representantes de organismos especializados de las Naciones Unidas y de los observadores de otras organizaciones intergubernamentales y no gubernamentales.

A continuación me permito leer la lista de los países miembros cuyas delegaciones han presentado credenciales encontradas en orden:

Afganistán, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua y Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrein, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bélgica, Belice, Benin, Bután, Bolivia, Botswana, Brasil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Birmania, Camerún, Canadá, Cabo Verde, República Centroafricana, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoras, Congo, Islas Cook, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Chipre, Checoslovaquia, República Democrática Popular de Corea, Dinamarca, Djibouti, Dominica, República Dominicana, Ecuador, Egipto, El Salvador, Guinea Ecuatorial, Etiopía, Fiji, Finlandia, Francia, Gabón, República Federal de Alemania, Ghana, Grecia, Granada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haití, Honduras, Hungría, Islandia, India, Indonesia, República Islámica de Irán, Iraq, Irlanda, Israel, Italia, Jamaica, Japón, Jordania, Kenya, República de Corea, Kuwait, Laos, Líbano, Lesotho, Liberia, Libia, Luxemburgo, Madagascar, Malawi, Malasia, Maldivas, Malí, Malta, Mauritania, Mauricio, México, Mongolia, Marruecos, Mozambique, Nepal, Países Bajos, Nueva Zelandia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Noruega, Omán, Pakistán, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Filipinas, Polonia, Portugal, Qatar, Rumania, San Cristóbal y Nieves, Santa Lucía, San Vicente y las Granadinas, Samoa, Santo Tomé y Príncipe, Arabia Saudita, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leona, Islas Salomón, Somalia, España, Sri Lanka, Sudán, Suriname, Suecia, Suiza, Siria, Tanzania, Tailandia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad y Tabago, Túnez, Turquía, Uganda, Emiratos Arabes Unidos, Reino Unido, Estados Unidos de América, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, República Árabe del Yemen, República Democrática del Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

CHAIRMAN: My thanks to the Chairman of the Credentials Committee. Are there any comments? If there are none then I declare the report adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Now we come to item 25, Applications for Membership in the Organization. As you have already been informed, when adopting the General Committee Report, there are no applications for membership in FAO, so item 25 will not be taken at this stage of our work.

This means that we have concluded our work for today. We shall resume on Monday morning at 9:30 to take up the matters listed in the timetable. I thank you, the meeting stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 16.15 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.15 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 87/PV/3

Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARY

Vingt-quatrième Session
PLENIERE

24° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

THIRD PLENARY MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

(9 November 1987)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 heures

sous la présidence de Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 10,00 horas

bajo la presidencia de Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

Second Report of Credentials Committee

Deuxième rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

Segundo informe del Comité de credenciales

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Allow me, ladies and gentlemen, to declare open the Third Plenary Meeting of our Conference. At the outset of our deliberations this morning, we shall first be looking at the Second Report of the Credentials Committee. According to our timetable, we should first adopt the Second Report of the Credentials Committee, and I should like to give the floor to Mrs Jimenez, who chairs the Credentials Committee.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (Presidente del Comité de Credenciales): Tengo el honor, Señor Presidente, de someter a la consideración de la Conferencia el segundo informe del Comité de Credenciales.

El Comité de Credenciales celebró su segunda y tercera reunión el 7 y el 9 de noviembre de 1987, a las 16.30, y 9.00 horas respectivamente, y examinó las credenciales de Burundi, Gambia, Namibia, Rwanda y Swazilandia y las halló en buena y debida forma. Con lo cual el total asciende a 155 credenciales. Dos Estados Miembros no se han inscrito hasta la fecha. Un Estado Miembro ha notificado a la Organización que no va a asistir al 24º período de Sesiones de la Conferencia, el cual fue informado en el documento anterior.

Las credenciales de los Observadores permanentes de la Santa Sede y de la Orden de Malta, fueron también examinadas y halladas en buena y debida forma. El Comité finalizará el examen de las credenciales de las Naciones Unidas, de los Organismos especializados, de las Organizaciones Inter-gubernamentales y de los Movimientos de Liberación en posteriores reuniones.

Lista suplementaria de Estados Miembros, cuyas Delegaciones han presentado credenciales halladas en buena y debida forma: Burundi, Gambia, Namibia, Rwanda y Swazilandia. Total 5 Estados Miembros.

Lista de Estados Miembros que no se han inscrito hasta la fecha: República Democrática de Kampuchea, Papua Nueva Guinea.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I thank you, Madam, for the report of the Credentials Committee.

You have heard what has been said. Have you any observations to make? This does not seem to be the case. Are there any comments? If there are none, I declare the report adopted. This report will be printed and distributed at the documents desk under the symbol C 87/LIM/17.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS

PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES

27. Appointments

27. Nominations

27. Nombramientos

27.1 Appointment of the Director-General

27.1 Nomination du Directeur général

27.1 Nombramiento del Director General

CHAIRMAN: We have before us item 27.1 of the agenda, Appointment of the Director-General. As indicated in documents C 87/18 and C 87/18-Corr.1, there are two candidates for this office, namely Mr Edouard Saouma and Mr Moise Christophe Mensah. The vote is governed by Article VIII, paragraph 1, of the Organization's Constitution which reads as follows: "There shall be a Director-General of the Organization who shall be appointed by the Conference for a term of six years. He shall be eligible for reappointment."

Furthermore, paragraph 1(b) of Rule XXXVI of the General Rules of the Organization specifies that the Director-General shall be elected by a majority of votes cast.

Paragraph 4(a) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization indicates that "votes cast" shall not include abstentions or defective ballots.

Finally, paragraph 9(a) of the same Rule XII specifies that the appointment of the Director-General shall be decided by secret ballot.

I now call upon the Secretary-General to give details of the voting procedure.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Chaque électeur se rendra au bureau de vote et recevra le bulletin de vote où figurent uniquement les noms des deux candidats, sans aucune autre marque. Il passera dans l'isoloir où il marquera d'une croix la case correspondant au candidat de son choix.

Comme le Président vient de le rappeler, l'expression "suffrages exprimés" s'entend à l'exclusion des abstentions ou des bulletins nuls.

Conformément à l'alinéa 4 c) de l'Article XII du Règlement général, les électeurs désirant s'abstenir déposent dans l'urne un bulletin blanc ou portant la mention: "abstention".

L'alinéa 4 d) de l'Article XII du Règlement général stipule que "tout bulletin de vote portant plus de suffrages qu'il n'y a de postes à pourvoir sera nul".

Sous peine de nullité, les bulletins de vote ne doivent porter aucune indication ni aucun signe autres que ceux par lesquels s'exprime le suffrage.

Les deux scrutateurs que le Président va désigner, en conformité de l'alinéa 9 c) du même article, statueront sur la validité du bulletin de vote dans tous les cas douteux.

Tout électeur qui aurait accidentellement rempli son bulletin de vote de manière défectueuse peut demander un autre bulletin vierge qui lui sera délivré par le fonctionnaire électoral en échange du bulletin défectueux.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): According to paragraph 2 of Article XII of the General Rules of the Organization a majority of the Member Nations shall constitute a quorum and before proceeding to a vote the Chairman shall announce the number of representatives present.

The required quorum is 80 and I am informed that there are 153 Member Nations present so we may proceed now with the vote.

However, allow me to remind the Conference that "Once voting has commenced no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to rise to a point of order in connection with the voting". I have just quoted paragraph 14 of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization.

I would like now to ask the Secretary-General to read out this paragraph again.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le paragraphe 14 de l'Article XII du Règlement général se lit comme suit: "Lorsqu'un scrutin a été ouvert, aucun délégué ou représentant ne peut l'interrompre, sauf pour présenter une motion d'ordre touchant le vote".

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): In fact, paragraph 9 (c) of the same Rule XII specifies that for the purposes of a secret ballot the Chairman shall appoint two tellers from among the delegates who are not parties directly interested in the election.

If you will allow me, I shall now request the representatives of China and Iceland to serve as tellers for this election. Would these two representatives please proceed to the voting area? As soon as they are ready, the Secretary will call the voters in alphabetical order.

The Gambia has asked for the floor. If the representative of the Gambia is raising a point of order, I shall be giving him the floor.

Saihou SABALLY (Gambia): Mr Chairman, I am only asking two questions. One question is whether there will be an examination of the ballot boxes before the actual voting starts. The second question Is whether the counting will take place at an open place, so that all the delegates cm see the procedure of counting. This is in accordance with the practice of democracy all over the world. So I want to know what the rules say about that.

CHAIRMAN: I shall ask the Secretary-General to answer these questions.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: L'urne va être examinée par les deux scrutateurs que le Président vient de désigner.

Quant au dépouillement, il s'effectue dans une salle séparée. Le cas est prévu par l'Article XII 9 g) du Règlement général qui stipule: " si les scrutateurs quittent la salle où se trouvent les délégués ou les représentants pour procéder au dépouillement du scrutin, seuls les candidats ou des surveillants désignés par eux peuvent assister au dépouillement, sans toutefois y prendre part."

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Before the Secretary-General starts calling on the Member Nations to vote, I should like to remind you of the information given to you by the Secretary-General already.

In order to ensure the secrecy of the ballot, the ballot papers will only have the names of both candidates written on them, without any other indication.

Vote

Vote

Votación

PRESENTATION OF B.R. SEN AWARDS FOR 1986 ET 1987

PRIX B.R. SEN POUR 1986 ET 1987

ENTREGA DE LOS PREMIOS B.R. SEN PARA 1986 y 1987

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabie): It is time now to present the B.R. Sen Awards for 1987. This award was established by the Conference in honour to Mr B.R. Sen who was Director General of FAO from 1956 to 1967.

Annually the award is made to a field officer who has made a special contribution to the country or countries to which he or she was assigned. The prize consists of a medal, a scroll, a cash prize of US\$ 5 000 and a round trip to Rome for the winner and spouse to the Conference session when the awards are distributed.

I will now ask the Director-General to introduce the winners and present the B.R. Sen Awards.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The award is, as the Chairman has just said in the name of Mr B.R. Sen who was Director-General of FAO from 1956 to 1967. There is one Sen Award for each year, and it is given to the field officer who has made the most outstanding contribution towards the development of the country to which he or she has been assigned. On this occasion we shall be presenting the swards for 1986 and 1987.

The award for 1986 goes to Mr Wilhelmus J. Scheffers, a citizen of the Netherlands. It is given in recognition of his work in Rwanda, and more specifically his contribution towards developing the small scale fisheries of Lake Kivu. It is to the credit of Mr Scheffers, to his professional competence and enthusiasm, that the increased production of a fishery activity which barely sustained itself a few years ago now feeds thousands, has raised the level of the population, and has created employment and food opportunities in the area.

The Government of Rwanda, in endorsing the choice of Mr Scheffers for the B.R. Sen award, has confirmed the success of his efforts. The work of Mr Scheffers highlights a small pioneering project which has opened up new possibilities of development in Central Africa.

The award for 1987 is conferred on Mr Renato Carucci of Italy for his contribution to integrated rural development in Niger. Assigned to a project financed by the Government of Italy, jointly executed by the Government of Niger and FAO and based in Keita, a remote region stricken by desertification, Mr Carucci has, through his technical ability, enabled the project to reclaim thousands of hectares of land. Through his competence and personal qualities he has helped to mobilize the participation of men and women at all levels, and numerous complementary activities undertaken by the project, such as the organization of producers' groups and the establishment of an agricultural credit system, the setting up of a basic infrastructure through the construction of village stores and classrooms, the building of wells and of rural roads. Here again, the Government of Niger has endorsed the selection of Mr Carucci for the Sen award, thus recognizing that his contribution has been decisive in the success of the project. Mr Carucci's project is very much larger in scale than that of Mr Scheffers. Mr Carucci and his fellow workers have shown that a big project can also work well.

I may add that this is by no means the first time that the Keita project in Niger has received international recognition. At a meeting in Genoa just a year ago it was given a special prize for outstanding achievements in technology and development of human resources.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I thank the Director-General and I would like to congratulate those who were awarded the Sen prize. On behalf of you all, I will now invite both Mr Wilhelmus Scheffers and Mr Renato Carucci to receive their awards.

Wilhelmus SCHEFFERS (FAO Staff): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur General, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je suis très honoré d'avoir été choisi pour le Prix B.R. Sen. Je suis heureux pour le personnel de la contrepartie du projet et pour les pêcheurs qui, par cette nomination, reçoivent eux aussi, même indirectement, toute la reconnaissance pour leur travail et leur collaboration. En effet, c'est à eux que l'on doit la réussite de cette phase du projet qui a abouti à la création de plus de 300 emplois dans le secteur Pêches ainsi qu'à une augmentation de la production de poissons.

En cette occasion je voudrais également remercier mes collègues internationaux du projet pour leurs efforts. C'est surtout grâce à leur appui exceptionnel que ce prix m'est décerné. Je suis reconnaissant au Gouvernement du Rwanda qui, par l'intermédiaire du Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et des forêts, a patronné ce projet en mettant à la disposition de celui-ci une équipe d'homologues valables, de centres de pêche et d'autres appuis logistiques.

Je remercie, en outre, le Secrétariat et le personnel technique du projet pour leur assistance infatigable ainsi que les diverses institutions privées pour leur appui technique. Je voudrais exprimer ma gratitude aux représentants des Nations Unies au Rwanda ainsi qu'à notre nouveau représentant de la FAO au Rwanda, qui, avec leur personnel, ont fourni l'appui logistique essentiel. Je remercie enfin le Sous-Directeur général intérimaire au Département des pêches et tout son personnel pour leurs conseils et leur confiance.

A ce point, une pensée pour mes parents qui ne sont plus, pour leur enthousiasme et l'intérêt qu'ils ont toujours montrés pour mon travail dans les pays en voie de développement en tant qu'expert FAO.

Et maintenant, pensons à l'avenir. Suite à l'introduction réussie, au cours des années cinquante, d'une espèce de sardine d'eau douce au lac Kivu, le Gouvernement rwandais avait décidé, en 1977, d'exploiter des ressources en protéines animales, conformément à plusieurs critères de sa stratégie de développement: autosuffisance alimentaire, création d'emplois tant pour les hommes que pour les femmes et amélioration de l'alimentation au Rwanda. Cette action du Gouvernement avait permis de faire face à la carence de protéines animales due à un accroissement élevé de la population à 94 pour cent agricole qui avait envahi les pâturages pour gros bétail.

En raison du manque d'expérience dans ce domaine, le Gouvernement rwandais a sollicité l'assistance des Nations Unies, et précisément celle de la FAO qui a abouti, en 1979, à la création du projet de développement de la pêche au lac Kivu. Le financement initial du projet a été assuré par le Fonds des Nations Unies, plus tard, conjointement avec le Fonds des Pays-Bas.

Sur une période de huit ans, le projet a pu mettre sur place trois centres de pêche actuellement gérés par la contrepartie aux alentours du lac Kivu. Ces trois centres fournissent leur assistance à plus de 300 pêcheurs travaillant sur 42 embarcations privées initialement mises à leur disposition par le projet par un système de location-vente.

En 1986, plus de 300 tonnes de poisson ont été débarquées et vendues à l'état frais ou séché, ce qui a permis une amélioration du niveau nutritionnel de la population riveraine.

Outre l'emploi dans la pêche proprement dit, ces activités ont permis de créer de multiples emplois surtout pour les femmes, dans d'autres domaines tels celui du commerce ou de la transformation. Les résultats des recherches biologiques et agro-aquatiques entreprises en collaboration avec des chercheurs rwandais et zaïrois montrant un potentiel de production de l'ordre de 2 000 à 3 000 tonnes par an pour la partie rwandaise du lac Kivu indiquent que l'exploitation optimale est loin d'être atteinte. Grâce à une prolongation du projet, ce niveau peut être atteint ce qui assurerait encore plus d'emplois ainsi que des disponibilités de protéines animales non seulement pour la population riveraine mais aussi pour toute la population rwandaise en milieu rural et dans les villes.

Je saisis l'occasion pour souhaiter une bonne continuation à mon successeur et à mes collègues sur place.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Renato CARUCCI (FAO Staff): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, c'est évidemment un jour très important et heureux pour moi, Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général. En rédigeant le texte que je suis en train de lire j'ai eu pas mal de difficultés à mettre de l'ordre dans mes sentiments et mes souvenirs. Ils étaient effectivement trop nombreux, quelque peu excités, indisciplinés, bruyants, un peu pathétiques, comme des anciens combattants accourus à un rendez-vous spécial. Finalement, ils sont devenus plus raisonnables et voilà mon texte.

Tout d'abord, un sentiment de joie et de satisfaction pour l'honneur qui m'a été donné de recevoir le prix B.R. SEN. Je vous remercie chaleureusement pour cela, Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, ainsi que tous ceux qui, sur le terrain et au Siège, ont promu et déterminé ce choix.

Je ne peux que penser d'autre part à tous les nombreux artisans de ma formation et expérience professionnelles, d'abord à ces maîtres, qui au-delà des bancs universitaires n'ont jamais cessé de m'en-richir et de m'étonner; ensuite, à tous mes amis et collègues nationaux et internationaux qui ont partagé avec moi autant de projets que de défis pour réussir; enfin, à tous ces paysans de par le monde auprès desquels je me suis rendu chaque fois comme quelqu'un qui avait longuement marché et qui avait soif. Chaque fois ils m'ont accueilli et ils m'ont offert à boire, me faisant partager leur sagesse et leur expérience imbattables. Les résultats de mon travail ont toujours été le fruit de l'osmose entre moi et le monde présent.

Le prix qui m'honore honore dans la même mesure le milieu des paysans approchés' pendant ma vie et surtout ceux de Keita au Niger, avec leurs femmes courageuses et extraordinaires.

Pour conclure enfin parmi la foule de souvenirs, un seul que je consacre aux quelques jeunes ici présents qui débutent leur carrière professionnelle, celui d'un jeune agronome italien avec son diplôme tout frais en poche, de passage à Rome, s'arrêtant dans le hall de ce bâtiment pour demander ce qui devait être fait pour entrer à la FAO. Il reçut un formulaire qu'il remplit sept ans après; il n'a jamais perdu cette mauvaise habitude de remplir avec retard les formulaires. Egaleme nt, il n'a jamais perdu un certain optimisme et deux grands amours qu'il avait à l'époque: l'un pour deux grands yeux bleus, l'autre pour ce travail qu'il allait chercher.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabie): I will now give the floor to the representatives who have asked to speak, and I will start with the representative of Rwanda.

Anastase NTEZIRYAYO (Rwanda): A l'occasion de l'attribution du prix B.R. Sen 1986 à M. Scheffers, maître en zoologie et biologie marines, je voudrais lui exprimer, au nom du Gouvernement rwandais et en mon nom propre, mes félicitations pour ses efforts fournis dans le cadre du projet de développement de la pêche au lac Kivu. Ce projet a été cofinancé par le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, le Gouvernement des Pays-bas et le Gouvernement rwandais. Son exécution a été confiée à l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. En 1982, la FAO a affecté M. Scheffers comme Directeur de ce projet, pour l'organisation générale et l'implantation du projet en étroite collaboration avec le cadre national, coordonner et superviser les activités du personnel international et local détaché au projet, continuer l'organisation et l'expansion de trois centres de pêche du projet et le Programme de formation des pêcheurs artisanaux du lac pour l'exportation des ressources des sardines d'eau douce, superviser l'introduction de techniques efficaces de pêche à la lumière pour la capture de sardines d'eau douce et donner des conseils dans toute la gamme des activités qui ont comme but le développement rapide de la pêcherie de sardines, y compris la fourniture d'équipement, la transformation et la commercialisation des captures ainsi que le fonctionnement du Fonds de roulement pour l'équipement des unités de pêche, superviser et contribuer au programme d'évaluation des stocks et d'études de la biologie des sardines dans le lac, préparer le programme de travail et d'entretien du navire Isan-Basa FAO 99, attestant le cadre du projet.

La production du lac Kivu s'est rapidement développée, passant de 90 tonnes en 1983 à 250 tonnes en 1986 et à 222 tonnes au cours du premier semestre 1987. La production totale de 1987 est estimée à 450 tonnes.

La mise à disposition du poisson à la population rwandaise contribue à l'amélioration de la qualité de son alimentation.

Au cours de son séjour au Rwanda, M. Scieffers s'est montré très actif et très dynamique. Son sens des responsabilités, ses initiatives ainsi que son sens social lui ont facilité l'accomplissement de sa mission à notre entière satisfaction et en conséquence. il mérite incontestablement le prix B. R. SEN 1986. Je le félicite encore une fois.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Elhadji HABIBOU ALLELE(Niger): Le Gouvernement de la République du Niger par ma voix est heureux de prendre part à cette cérémonie d'attribution du prix B.R. SEN 1986-87 et s'associe à la FAO pour exprimer sa plus grande satisfaction à M. Renato Carucci pour l'excellent travail qu'il a fourni jusqu'ici au Niger, il le félicite vivement pour l'obtention de ce prix bien mérité.

Il n'est certes pas besoin de vous présenter l'homme que vous avez en face de vous puisque la FAO vient de vous faire part de l'essentiel avec d'ailleurs beaucoup de modestie.

Cependant, il me paraît normal de rappeler ici que M. Renato Carucci travaille au Niger depuis mai 1984 où il occupe les fonctions de Conseiller technique principal du projet CPN/028 du programme de développement intégré dans l'Ader Doutchi-Maggi, vallée de Keita. En étroite collaboration avec les cadres nationaux et internationaux du projet, M. Renato Carucci a été constamment à l'écoute des populations de la région. Grâce à ses conseils avisés et à une participation exemplaire des populations, le projet Keita a obtenu des résultats très appréciables en l'espace de trois années sur les sept que prévoit sa première phase.

Il me plaît aussi de souligner que le projet intégré de Keita s'inscrit dans le cadre de la Société de développement, instance politique de consultation et de concertation qui privilégie l'intégration, la responsabilisation et la participation des populations dans toutes les actions de développement économique, social et culturel de la nation.

La mobilisation volontaire des populations dans le cadre du projet Keita est sans précédent au Niger et justifie aisément le bien fondé du projet.

Aussi, le Gouvernement du Niger saisit cette heureuse occasion pour renouveler ses remerciements les plus sincères au Gouvernement de la République d'Italie qui a bien voulu financer le projet Keita pour un montant supérieur à 29 millions de dollars, auquel s'ajoute une contribution généreuse en nature du Programme alimentaire mondial estimée à 3,5 millions de dollars.

Qu'il me soit aussi permis de transmettre à la FAO et au Programme alimentaire mondial les sentiments de gratitude du Gouvernement et du peuple nigérien. Ils ont permis de mesurer et d'apprécier les performances d'une coopération véritable. Tout en renouvelant nos chaleureuses félicitations à M. Renato Carucci et à sa famille, nous l'encourageons à poursuivre dans cette voie.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

João Pereira Silva Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair

João Pereira Silva, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia João Pereira Silva, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Gerrit BRAKS (Netherlands): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure and an honour for me to take the floor on the occasion of the presentation of the Sen Award for 1986 to my countryman Mr Wilhelmus Scheffers. In the first place, I should like to congratulate Mr Scheffers himself, but I should also like to congratulate the FAO. As a matter of fact, the Sen Award has been given this time to an expert in fisheries. This underlines the importance that FAO gives to the development of the fisheries sector in the Third World. Indeed, in the FAO Review of the first forty years of its existence it says: "The fisheries sector has probably seen more far-reaching changes over the last forty years than any other activity of concern to FAO" This also holds true for the recent field of operation of Mr Scheffers: that is, inland fisheries, improvement of fish stocks and artisanal fisheries.

Finally, I should like to congratulate the Government of Rwanda. Indeed, they also have given priority to the fisheries sector. This has been shown by the Fisheries Development Project at Lake Kivu. The winner of the award has given his full energy to this project. The financial contribution by the Netherlands to the Lake Kivu project may show our appreciation for the approach of FAO and of the Rwanda Government in this respect. We are convinced that this approach has already substantially contributed to the improvement of the food and nutrition situation in the Third World. In my opinion, this example deserves to be followed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESENTATION OF A.H. BOERMA AWARD FOR 1986-87

PRIX A.H. BOERMA POUR 1986-87

ENTREGA DEL PREMIO A.H. BOERMA 1986-87

LE PRESIDENT: Puisque je ne vois pas d'autres délégations qui veuillent prendre la parole, nous passons donc à la présentation du prix A.H. Boerma pour 1986 et 1987. Le prix Boerma est décerné chaque deux ans à un écrivain ou à un journaliste dont les écrits ou les productions à la radio ou à la télévision ont contribué à l'accroissement de la conscience internationale sur les problèmes d'alimentation et d'agriculture. Il consiste en un diplôme, un prix de 10 000 dollars et un voyage à Rome pour le gagnant et son épouse.

J'invite donc le Directeur général à présenter le gagnant du présent prix Boerma.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Twelve years ago the Eighteenth Session of this Conference instituted the A.H. Boerma Award in recognition of Dr Adeke Boerma's leadership as Director-General of FAO. The Award is presented biennially to a journalist or journalists whose coverage of development issues has helped to focus public attention on important aspects of food problems and increased public support for measures leading to their solution.

On this fifth occasion, the honour is shared by two distinguished journalists, one a senior reporter, Mr Hiroyuki Ishi, writing for Japan's leading daily newspaper, Asahi Shimbun, and the other, a young journalist from Peru, Mr Victor Bracamonte, writing for Lima's daily newspaper, "El Comercio".

The honour is given to Mr Ishi for his many articles on food and agricultural issues, written over a period of 22 years and more, especially for the series of articles he wrote on the recent Africa food crisis. This article has helped to create a public awareness in Japan of the serious food situation in Africa and helped to stress the urgent need for increased assistance.

The award is given also to Mr Bracamonte for his extensive writing in a number of occasions on the importance of local food crops which has helped to create greater awareness of the need for small farmers to grow and market crops, thus increasing food production.

Mr Chairman, I am sure that you and the delegates present here today will join me in expressing our appreciation to these two dedicated journalists whose efforts and concern have helped to mobilize public opinion in support of FAO's worldwide struggle against hunger and malnutrition.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Hiroyuki ISHI ("Asahi Shimbun") (Japan): Thank you, Dr Saouma, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am deeply honored to be here today to receive the A.H. Boerma Award. First of all, I would like to reiterate my sincere appreciation to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for selecting me as the joint winner of the distinguished award.

I was particularly happy and delighted to know that I was chosen because of my articles reporting about the food crisis in Africa. The role that world citizens played in saving Africa from hunger was both a significant and historical event. In this endeavour, multilateral organizations including FAO and the WFP, in addition to volunteers from non-governmental organizations, played a vital role.

At the same time, journalists from around the world, who reported the crisis in Africa should also be given credit for their roles. So please allow me to receive the award, not as Hiroyuki Ishi personally, but on behalf of all the journalists who are working for the same cause.

As I receive the award, the faces of my colleague journalists cross my mind who had to abandon their work because of illness or accidents during their reporting in Africa. I would like to share today's honor and pleasure with those friends and colleagues.

I arrived in Rome just yesterday, amidst my reporting activities in Africa. I will return to Africa early tomorrow morning. During the past two years, the food situation in Africa has improved somewhat. However, another possibility of hunger is again endangering the African continent. I have renewed my determination to continue to report the African situation to the world.

Thank you very much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Víctor BRACAMONTE ("EL Comercio") : SR. lüdou.ird Saoum.i, Directeur General de La Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación; Sres. invitados especiales; Sres. Diplomáticos; Sras. y Sres.: Debo agradecer a la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y Alimentación este reconocimiento a nombre de mi periódico "El Comercio" de Lima, Perú, y en el mío propio. Esta distinción la recibo con emoción y humildad y con amor la dedico a mi pequeño hijo Daniel, a mi esposa Tania Maguiña aquí presente y a mi madre Juana, quienes permanentemente apoyan mi labor.

Quiero, desde aquí, sinceramente agradecer a los Directores de "El Comercio" Doctores Alejandro Miro Quesada Garland y Aurelio Miro Quesada Sosa, quienes a través de sus enseñanzas sobre estos temas me orientaron para un mejor desarrollo de los informes periodísticos que sobre el tema agrario desarrollé en "El Comercio" de Lima, Perú.

Debo destacar la función de los medios de comunicación, ya que a través de ellos, los agricultores van tomando conciencia de que hay que producir más, y también a través de estos medios de comunicación se llega a los grandes públicos para anunciar los avances de la tecnología, en este caso el del campo agrario.

Debo subrayar que a través de las cartas que nos enviaron las personas en respuesta a los informes periodísticos publicados en "El Comercio" de Lima, se destacaba que si no hay mayor producción no hay solución para mi país. Un país sudamericano en vías de desarrollo que necesita y necesitará la atención de Organismos Internacionales que apoyen la producción, especialmente, de los alimentos.

Por eso, en nombre de docenas de investigadores peruanos en el campo agrario y en el mío propio, quiero agradecer el apoyo de la FAO a mi país, y quiero también pedir un mayor apoyo a investigaciones futuras y actuales, una de ellas que se está desarrollando desde hace quince años como es el trigo invernal.

El trigo invernal en mi país se consume en aproximadamente el 12 por ciento; es el 12% del consumo total de alimentos por lo que debe ser producido en Perú, y evitar de esta manera la importación indiscriminada que lo único que causa es la dependencia alimentaria, lo que evidentemente se trata de evitar.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRESIDENT: Je vais maintenant donner la parole aux délégations qui l'ont demandée et en premier lieu au représentant du Japon.

Reishi TESHIMA (Japon): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames, Messieurs les délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs. C'est à la fois un plaisir et un honneur pour moi de prendre la parole à l'occasion de la remise du prix qui vient d'être décerné à Monsieur Hiroyuki Ishi. Ainsi que M. Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de l'OAA l'a fort bien dit, M. Ishi s'intéresse depuis de longues années aux problèmes de l'agriculture et l'alimentation du monde, et en particulier aux difficultés rencontrées par les pays en voie de développement, comme par exemple, la faim, la désertification, la pauvreté rurale et la détérioration de la sylviculture tropicale. Ces articles d'information et de publication sont des comptes rendus instructifs, lucides et analytiques des résultats de ses interviews et des recherches qu'il a conduites sur place. Il va sans dire qu'à la base du tout il y a sa propre expérience et ses connaissances approfondies. Il a donc permis aux 120 millions d'habitants du Japon de se rendre compte des problèmes et des contraintes des populations, dans les pays en voie de développement, surtout ce qui regarde le secteur de l'agriculture et des aliments.

Cette année le Gouvernement japonais a décidé de choisir la date du 6 octobre comme journée de coopération internationale, pour faire prendre une meilleure conscience à la population japonaise de l'importance de la coopération avec les pays en voie de développement, et surtout pour promouvoir encore davantage les activités internationales des organisations privées japonaises en ce domaine. Je suis sûr que M. Ishi poursuivra ses efforts dans le même sens, et apportera une contribution toujours croissante. Je me réjouis donc très vivement de la distinction qui lui est ainsi conférée, distinction qui, à travers Monsieur Ishi, honore le Japon. La délégation japonaise lui adresse ses chaleureuses félicitations.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Remigio MORALES BERMUDEZ (Perú): Sr. Director General, Dr. Saouma; Sr. Presidente de la Asamblea de la 24^o Conferencia de la FAO; Sres. Ministros y Delegados todos: es de especial satisfacción para quien habla como Ministro de Agricultura del país en esta ocasión, además de asistir a este magno evento, asistir a la premiación de un periodista joven profesional, brillante de un diario que, a la vez, ha hecho historia en el Perú como diario decano más antiguo del Perú y Miembro de Sociedad interamericana de Prensa.

Estos programas de motivación al consumo de los productos nativos son parte integral dentro del contexto de los programas de cooperación que, en forma importante, vienen implementándose y son ejemplo del rescate de valores históricos en cada una de nuestras culturas y en nuestra sociedad.

Efectivamente, cultivos nativos oriundos de Sudamérica, de América Latina, del Perú en este caso, como la papa, el maíz, la quinua, el targwi que era la menestra incaica, y el trigo de verano e invierno son importantes factores, por un factor social y un factor económico. El factor social es justamente evitar la migración de la pobreza del campo a la ciudad; migran los campesinos en busca de esperanzas y encuentran en las ciudades desesperanza y frustraciones que generan las eclosiones sociales y los problemas internos de enfrentamientos entre miembros de una misma nacionalidad.

Así por otro lado, el efecto económico del rescate de los pisos ecológicos y de los microclimas para poder justamente generar la distribución de ingresos en favor de las ciudades más pobres en cada uno de nuestros países. Pero en esto, me place a la vez felicitar a la FAO porque son cuatro factores que están envueltos, en el aspecto técnico y productivo, en el rescate de estos valores culturales y estos valores productivos nacionales.

Primero, el Programa de Manejo de Cuencas y de recuperación de las formas incaicas y nativas hidráulicas de cultivo, como son en el sur de América del Sur los andenes, los guaruguarus, los camellones y otras formas hidráulicas incaicas.

Segundo, una política agraria que vaya a darle un precio de garantía -para que quien esté sembrando sepa qué es lo que va a recibir producto de ese gran esfuerzo.

Tercero, los programas de capacitación campesina y de reforestación que se encuentra realizando la FAO a través de un Programa con Holanda y Suiza con el Centro de Forestación del Perú. Y por otro lado, la FAO se encuentra así mismo con el Programa de recuperación de andenes, como he dicho.

Llegamos entonces a que la promoción al consumo realizada por este joven profesional ha venido a concluir y a integrar un Programa, desde afuera promovido por la FAO, desde adentro por el país, con la participación de jóvenes y brillantes profesionales como el que ha recibido el digno premio de hoy.

Sr. Presidente, Sr. Director General, Sres. Ministros y Delegados: mis saludos, saludos de nuestro Gobierno y del Presidente del Perú. Queremos reafirmar que estamos el día de hoy gestando juntos, porque juntos sí podemos, un nuevo orden agrario internacional que es la base del desarrollo económico y social de los pueblos. Sin desarrollo agrícola, no hay desarrollo integrado entre nuestros pueblos y en nuestro propio pueblo.

La deuda alimentaria con nuestros pueblos es muy importante. Se trata de promover los entendimientos entre nuestras naciones, entre los más ricos y entre los más pobres; entre la ciudad y el campo. Estamos seguros que unidos vamos a poder llegar a las soluciones nacionales y a las soluciones en cada una de las regiones del mundo. Tenemos que unir nuestras capacidades y nuestra voluntad de trabajo. El desarrollo agrícola es el nuevo nombre de la paz y tenemos que sembrar juntos, surcando las tierras estériles para hacerlas fértiles, juntos, sembrando la semilla que sea el sinónimo de la producción del pan que nos dé la libertad con la paz y justicia.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il d'autres orateurs qui veulent prendre la parole? Puisqu'il n'y en a pas, nous allons revenir au point 27: Nomination du Directeur général.

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (Continued)
QUATRIEME PARTIE - NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)
PARTE IV - NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

27. Appointments (continued)
 27. Nominations (suite)
 27. Nombramientos (continuación)

- 27.1 Appointment of the Director-General (Continued)
 27.1 Nomination du Directeur général (suite)
 27.1 Nombramiento del Director General (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Le dépouillement du scrutin pour l'élection du Directeur général est maintenant terminé. Le Secrétaire général va nous donner lecture des résultats.

REPORT OF BALLOT	No.	Appointment of Director-General
RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN		Nomination du Directeur général
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION		Nombramiento del Director General

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	155
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	2
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	153
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	153

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	77
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Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Eligidos			
Edouard Saouma	94	Moise Christophe Mensah	59		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Recrutadores

Signature L. Zhenhan (China)
 Firma

Signature S. Dagfinnsson (Iceland)
 Firma

9.11.87
 Date
 Fecha

B. Linley
 Election Officer
 Fonctionnaire électoral
 El oficial de elecciones

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: En conséquence, Monsieur Edouard Saouma est élu Directeur général de l'Organisation pour un mandat de six ans à compter du 1^{er} janvier 1988.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les Ministres, Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs,

Au moment où vous venez de me renouveler votre confiance en me nommant à la tête de l'Organisation pour un nouveau mandat, je suis, vous le pensez bien, assailli par des émotions et des sentiments très divers. Il m'est très difficile de les mettre en ordre. Pourtant, il y a un de ces sentiments qui dominent les autres: c'est avec humilité que j'accepte la mission que vous me confiez. Cela paraîtra peut-être surprenant à certains d'entre vous puisqu'il s'agit simplement de poursuivre une tâche que j'ai commencée voilà déjà douze ans. Mais justement, si je parle d'humilité, ce n'est pas par pose ou par coquet, terie, c'est parce que, dirigeant cette maison depuis si longtemps, je peux mesurer mieux que personne la gravité de cette charge.

J'éprouve aussi, bien sûr, une profonde reconnaissance. Certes, ma gratitude va tout simplement aux pays du Proche-Orient, à la Ligne des Etats Arabes, qui ont été les premiers à exprimer le vœu de me voir continuer l'oeuvre que j'ai entreprise. Mais ce sont toutes les régions qui ont participé à l'élection et je remercie de tout coeur les pays qui m'ont témoigné leur confiance. En même temps, je précise que mes remerciements s'adressent à tous les Etats Membres, y compris ceux qui avaient souhaité le succès de l'autre candidat car, en exprimant librement leur choix, ils ont contribué à maintenir vivant dans notre Organisation le pluralisme qui lui est essentiel, ils ont contribué à l'exercice de la démocratie. Je tiens à leur dire ma ferme volonté de coopérer avec eux comme avec tous.

C'est pourquoi je veux saluer ici Monsieur Moïse Mensah. Je ne saurais considérer comme un rival ce collègue avec lequel j'ai travaillé pendant bien des années et à qui je porte une sincère estime. Je sais que, comme moi, il est passé inégalement attaché à notre Organisation et ne désire que son bien. C'est pourquoi on aurait tort de considérer qu'il y a ici plusieurs camps dont l'un l'aurait emporté sur l'autre. Non, il n'y a qu'un seul camp: celui de la FAO. Dans les temps difficiles que nous traversons, il est plus que jamais essentiel de préserver et de renforcer l'unité de notre Organisation.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Je vous disais-Vous à l'heure que j'aborde ce nouveau mandat avec gravité. Cette gravité est la mesure de ma préoccupation devant un horizon des plus sombres. La conjoncture est d'une difficulté sans précédent, et cela pour tout le système des Nations Unies qui n'a jamais eu à faire face à des problèmes aussi nombreux et aussi ardu.

Le premier et principal facteur, c'est la crise économique internationale, qui a suscité chez les gros contributeurs un vif désir de freiner l'accroissement des budgets de nos organisations, voire de les réduire. La désaffection dont on parle tant est liée à cette crise. En fait, nous allons vers une période de décroissance, comme ce fut déjà le cas en 1986-87. Nous constatons une stagnation, voire une régression des budgets, alors même que la population ne cesse d'augmenter, surtout pour les pays du tiers monde.

Pour ce qui est de la FAO, je dois élever une sérieuse mise en garde. Considérant le budget pour 1988-89, je constate que, depuis 1984, il aura enregistré sur six ans une croissance négative de près de 4 pour cent. Or, dans le même temps, le nombre de bouches à nourrir aura augmenté d'un demi-milliard. Nous allons donc devoir faire face à des besoins accrus avec des ressources amoindries-Tout cela se produit à un moment où les circonstances rendent la coopération multilatérale plus nécessaire que jamais. La crise met en pleine lumière notre interdépendance à l'échelle mondiale, en particulier dans le domaine agricole.

En second lieu, comme vous le savez tous, nous allons aborder l'exercice 1988-89 avec une masse considérable d'arriérés non payés et avec de sérieuses incertitudes concernant le versement des contributions. C'est le cas surtout d'un pays grand contributeur qui a joué un rôle déterminant dans la fondation et dans la vie de la FAO et qui pèse d'un grand poids dans nos débats et dans l'orientation de nos programmes. Ce pays, qui a tant de fois fait preuve de générosité, connaît des difficultés qu'il nous faut comprendre, notamment en ce qui concerne les efforts que son Administration doit déployer pour convaincre et rallier à ses vues le pouvoir législatif. Il n'en reste pas moins que notre situation de trésorerie est terriblement précaire.

Troisièmement, nous observons un phénomène évidemment lié au précédent. Je veux parler d'un mouvement qui a pris une certaine ampleur et qui tend non pas à remettre en cause l'Organisation elle-même mais à susciter un réexamen de ses structures, de ses activités et de ses méthodes. Ce sentiment n'est pas, tant s'en faut, partagé par tous les Etats Membres. A côté de ce groupe de réformateurs, nous avons un autre important groupe d'Etats aux yeux desquels, si la FAO est malade, c'est d'inanition, c'est parce qu'elle est privée de ressources nécessaires à sa bonne santé et à sa pleine activité. Ceux-là considèrent qu'en soi notre Organisme est sain et ressentent comme une grave blessure les 25 millions de dollars que nous avons dû retrancher en 1987.

Quoi qu'il en soit, les conclusions de toute étude qui serait entreprise sur la FAO doivent à mon sens, comme ce fut le cas à l'ONU, éviter de remettre en cause les Textes fondamentaux, ce qui serait faire vaciller les bases mêmes -de l'Organisation. De plus, elles ne doivent rien contenir qui risquerait d'affaiblir l'efficacité de la FAO dans le service de tous ses Etats Membres.

Il serait inconcevable de ne pas faire participer notre personnel à cet exercice. Il représente une masse de compétences; il possède une expérience dont on ne saurait faire fi sous peine de perdre toute crédibilité. Comment prendre au sérieux une étude dont on aurait soigneusement tenu à l'écart les personnes qui connaissent le mieux l'Organisation, qui en sont la vie même comme elle est la leur? De plus, ce serait là manifester vis-à-vis de ceux qui effectuent le travail de la FAO avec un sens élevé de leur mission un manque de confiance dont les répercussions ne pourraient être que néfastes.

En effet - et c'est là mon quatrième point - le moral du personnel souffre déjà, lui aussi, de la crise que nous traversons. Il connaît un malaise dont les causes sont manifestes: détérioration des retraites et des prestations, traitement de base qui n'augmente pas, affaiblissement de notre monnaie de compte, sentiment d'insécurité. Aussi, voyons-nous se multiplier les départs à la retraite anticipée et la liste des postes vacants ne cesse de s'allonger. Or la richesse réelle de l'Organisation, son capital le plus précieux, le ressort de son action, sa force de frappe, ce sont les personnes, ce sont les hommes et les femmes qui la servent. Il y a peut-être des organisations dont les effectifs sont pléthoriques et demandent à être dégraissés. Chez nous, cela a été déjà fait en 1976. J'avais proposé de supprimer 300 postes; ils l'ont été et, depuis, notre vigilance à cet égard ne s'est pas relâchée un instant. Même le présent budget pour 1988-89 propose de supprimer 22 postes. Aussi les difficultés du présent nous laissent présager un avenir chargé de menaces.

Cependant, je suis persuadé qu'avec l'aide et l'appui de tous les Etats Membres, avec le travail d'un personnel hautement motivé, nous viendrons à bout de cette crise. Je dis bien "nous" car, si je prends ma charge avec humilité, cela veut dire que j'ai besoin de tous et de leur confiance. Votre confiance, vous venez de me la signifier par votre vote. En ce sens, l'élection d'aujourd'hui devrait reconforter tout le monde. Pour ma part, mon souci majeur sera de rechercher l'intérêt de tous et d'obtenir un consensus chaque fois que cela se pourra. Cela ne sera pas toujours le cas, je le sais, mais je n'épargnerai aucun effort en ce sens, comme je l'ai fait constamment pour notre Programme de travail et budget qui n'a fait l'objet de votes négatifs qu'une seule fois en dix ans: c'était en 1981, avec cinq votes contre.

De même, les grandes conférences que nous avons organisées, par exemple celle de 1979 sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural ou encore celle de 1984 sur les pêches, ont toujours adopté leur rapport à l'unanimité, par consensus.

Le monde attend beaucoup de nous, surtout maintenant que nous sommes bien implantés, bien ancrés dans les pays. La coopération internationale est indispensable, et plus spécialement au niveau régional, dans le cadre des entités économiques existantes où elle revêt un caractère plus intime et se trouve ainsi facilitée. Je suis résolu, pour ma part, à faire tous les efforts pour promouvoir cette coopération. De même, je compte collaborer étroitement avec les organisations du système des Nations Unies comme le PNUD, l'OMS, etc., et tout particulièrement avec celles qui poursuivent à Rome des activités voisines et complémentaires des nôtres. Je veux parler du Programme alimentaire mondial, du Fonds international de développement agricole et du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation.

J'entends également poursuivre notre coopération avec les organisations non gouvernementales. Mais ce que je tiens surtout à vous dire, en mon nom et au nom de tous mes collègues ici et sur le terrain, c'est qu'au seuil de ce nouveau mandat, je m'engage solennellement devant vous tous à continuer de vous servir, de vous aider dans la formulation des programmes et politiques et de mettre en oeuvre avec rigueur vos décisions et vos orientations - celles que vous aurez décidées, celles que vous aurez choisies.

Les douze années que j'ai déjà passées à la tête de l'Organisation n'ont pas entamé, bien au contraire, mon ardente résolution d'en faire un outil efficace au service de tous les hommes et d'abord des plus pauvres. Oui, tous ensemble, nous devons et nous pouvons faire en sorte que la victoire sur la faim, la malnutrition, la misère et le sous-développement, devienne une lumineuse réalité.

Encore une fois, et du fond du coeur, je vous remercie de votre confiance.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Elias HRAOUI (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Monsieur le Président, au nom du Liban, qui a beaucoup souffert de guerres sur son sol - guerres qui sont celles d'autrui en réalité - je tiens à remercier tous les pays sans exception de cette élection que nous avons menée à bien aujourd'hui.

Mes félicitations s'adressent également à l'esprit démocratique qui a joué une fois de plus. Er j'aimerais à nouveau remercier toutes les régions et tous les pays qui ont participé à cette élection. Maintenant que les résultats sont connus, j'espère sincèrement qu'il n'y aura ni vainqueur ni vaincu et que le grand vainqueur sera la FAO.

Monsieur le Directeur général, je tiens à vous féliciter en mon nom propre ainsi qu'au nom du Gouvernement et du peuple libanais. Je suis convaincu que votre éducation dans la tradition libanaise portera ses fruits pour le bien de l'OAA et à son service. Je félicite la FAO ainsi que vous, son Directeur général, et toutes les organisations des Nations Unies. Je suis pleinement convaincu que le message que vous avez fourni au cours des deux mandats précédents à la tête de la FAO ne changera pas de teneur et que votre mission restera la même, qu'il s'agisse d'être le représentant du Proche-Orient, de l'Europe, des Etats-Unis et du Pacifique. Soyez tout cela avant d'être le représentant de la région arabe. Vous avez énormément consacré d'effort à l'Afrique et ceci dans l'intérêt de l'humanité, dans l'intérêt de l'Homme et de sa dignité.

J'espère que vous vous comporterez en vrai Libanais comme d'autres qui se trouvent dans le monde entier maintenant et qui ont été de dignes citoyens des pays où ils vivent. Ces pays où sont installés ces Libanais les connaissent bien.

Soyez le représentant de l'OAA, soyez le messager de l'OAA à tous les niveaux. Que Dieu puisse guider vos pas au service des affamés, au service des pauvres et j'espère que vous pourrez réaliser votre mission avec l'appui de tous les pays.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Rodolfo ESTRADA HURTARTE (Guatemala): Sr. Presidente, honorables delegados, recientemente, en la Reunión de Ministros de Agricultura del Continente Americano y el Caribe realizada en la ciudad de Ottawa, Canadá, hablé sobre el conflicto de la pobreza y compartí con mis colegas experiencias recientes que me hicieron sentirme más que honrado realmente con una efectiva carga sobre mis hombros que constituye hoy el más serio desafío de mi vida. Más recientemente fui invitado por una de las más prestigiosas universidades de Guatemala para tratar sobre el controversial tema del control demográfico. Dije entonces en aquel auditorio que soy de las personas que comparten una definitiva e infinita fe en la misericordia de Dios, en el fruto de la tierra a través del trabajo honrado del hombre y que estos son elementos suficientes para resolver el problema del hambre y garantizar un mejor futuro para nuestras naciones por la vía del desarrollo.

Decía en esa última Conferencia, con cifras que tuve a la mano entonces, que si hubiera una repartición equitativa y justa de los alimentos en Guatemala no tendríamos grandes problemas. Lo mismo sucede a nivel mundial. Si los grandes países y sus graneros hipotéticamente se utilizaran para satisfacer el hambre del mundo, ésta estaría resuelta; no es, entonces, en esencia una falta de capacidad para producir alimentos, sino más bien a veces en los países subdesarrollados hay escasez de alimentos, pero mayoritariamente a nivel mundial hay una falta de conciencia y de justicia en la solidaridad del justo, correcto repartimiento de los bienes para producir.

Dije en esa ocasión que hay dos grupos de personas en el mundo: los pesimistas que ven en cada niño que nace una boca que alimentar y un obstáculo para los padres en disfrutar mejor de la vida; los optimistas que ven en cada criatura no sólo una boca que alimentar, sino una mente para pensar, dos brazos para trabajar y un corazón para amar entrañablemente a sus semejantes. Me gustaría seguir siendo parte de ese grupo de los optimistas.

Reunido hoy aquí en este magno recinto, en compañía de tan honorables y distinguidas personalidades, le pido a Dios lo siguiente: primero, que a nosotros, países en vías de desarrollo, y en el caso de Guatemala mi país, con una nascente democracia, la sabiduría y la habilidad de encontrar por el camino del trabajo efectivo, la paz que se encuentra sólo cuando no hay estómagos vacíos ni familias sin techo.

Segundo, que todos los países desarrollados compartan con nosotros la necesidad de respetar nuestros criterios y nuestras ilusiones como la principal demostración de solidaridad auténtica, comprendiendo que lo único que necesitamos más que una ligera y oportuna ayuda, es una justa remuneración a nuestros productos, y dicho sea de paso, un justo precio a los mismos como fruto del trabajo de todos, pero más directamente de nuestros campesinos, hombres y mujeres, que muchas veces con más fe que nosotros y con mayor sabiduría luchan incansablemente por un mundo mejor.

Tercero, que Dios bendiga a quien sea el Director nuevo de FAO, en este caso el Dr. Saouma, y que pueda brindar oportunamente el apoyo a quienes más lo necesitamos, sin presiones políticas o financieras, sino inspirado fielmente en el principio de justicia y de solidaridad mundial.

Sr. Presidente, señores representantes, reciban un saludo muy solidario de mi país, de los agricultores de Guatemala y de nuestro Presidente Licenciado Vinicio Cerezo, que, junto con los distinguidos Presidentes de Centroamérica se ha convertido en un paladín de la paz en la región centroamericana.

Finalmente, felicitaciones al Sr. Saouma por haber ganado esta elección; congratulaciones, Sr. Mensah, por haber tenido un brillante papel en este proceso electoral que constituye una fiesta en honor a la democracia del mundo.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de passer la parole au représentant du Costa Rica je voudrais demander aux délégués d'accorder à nos collègues le minimum de silence nécessaire pour qu'ils puissent délivrer leur message dans les meilleures conditions.

Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Sr. Director General: tomo la palabra en nombre del grupo latinoamericano y del Caribe, o sea del GRULAC.

Los miembros del Grupo que tengo el honor de presidir hemos conocido el resultado de la elección con profunda emoción y gran alegría. Durante 12 años hemos trabajado juntos y hemos tenido la posibilidad de apreciar en todo su valor sus enormes capacidades. Durante estos años la FAO ha tenido realizaciones importantísimas y sin precedentes en todos los sectores; sector de la seguridad alimentaria, sector de los plaguicidas y en todos los demás sectores.

En otras palabras, estamos convencidos que la FAO está en una fase de expansión; estamos convencidos, firmemente convencidos que las labores que hemos hecho son importantísimas y que hoy no existe una crisis de la FAO, sino problemas secundarios de fondos, problemas que no tienen que ver con la situación general de la FAO que es extremadamente sana, porque las deudas actualmente existentes no han sido negadas nunca, son deudas completamente exigibles.

Yo Creo que tenemos que seguir durante esta Conferencia y los seis años que tenemos delante las líneas adoptadas hasta ahora. Tenemos que potenciar, seguir potenciando la Organización en su obra universal de ayuda al desarrollo del Tercer Mundo.

Estamos extremadamente complacidos de que el voto del cual acabamos de oír los resultados le permita a usted seguir en su misión de guía y nosotros de colaboradores con usted en esa labor en la que le deseamos con todo corazón, con toda amistad, el máximo éxito.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

M, MAH BUBUZZAMAN (Bangladesh): It is an honour and n privilege to express on behalf of my Government, as well as on my own behalf, our warmest felicitations to Dr Saouma on his reelection as the Chief Executive of the Food and Agriculture Organization. By reelecting him to the highest office of our Organization, the international community has again indicated its complete trust in him, his leadership, his vision and his statesmanship which has helped us to build this edifice of peace to the provision of bread and rice and to safeguarding the dignity of human beings.

On this occasion we join hands with all those engaged in the noble task of eradicating hunger and malnutrition from this globe, and of helping you, Mr Director-General, to realize those objectives. Mr Director-General, please accept our heartfelt congratulations again on your well-deserved reelection.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Roberto W.ANSALDO (Philippines): Mr Chairman, allow me, on behalf of the Republic of the Philippines, as Chairman of the Asian Group, to extend our warmest congratulations to Dr Edouard Saouma on his reelection as Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

Of even more importance, is our desire to add our voice to the countless other countries who wish for the strength of FAO through continued unity and singleness of purpose. Perhaps it is timely and appropriate to reexamine ourselves, our aspirations and our visions with a hope of reestablishing the same ideals, the same universality of purpose from which our predecessors drew strength when the UN, and subsequently FAO, were first established.

With that desire in mind we stand committed to, and fully supportive of, the leadership of Dr Saouma as the duly reelected head of this worthy Organization.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Musa ABU FREWA (Libya) (original language Arabic): It gives me pleasure, on behalf of the Near East Region which we are honoured to chair, to extend to Dr Edouard Saouma our heartfelt congratulations on his reelection as Director-General of this Organization for the next six years. His reelection is an indication by the international community of the trust of this community in the great efforts exerted by Dr Edouard Saouma for the achievement of agricultural development in developing countries, and in Increasing agricultural productivity in order to safeguard the interests of man-in and to free mankind from hunger and malnutrition. We hope that this new term of office for this Organization will be a continuation in order to achieve the lofty goals for which this Organization was established. We have no doubt whatsoever that he will continue the great efforts which he has-initiated since he was elected Director-General of this Organization. The cooperation of the international community in these critical, economic circumstances, faced in particular by developing countries, is a goal for which we should all work. We are fully confident in the Near East Region that international, multilateral cooperation will facilitate the solution of agricultural problems in developing countries. It will help developing countries to free themselves socially and economically. Consequently, they will also be free politically, well away from dependency and hegemony which some big powers try to impose upon developing countries in a new form.

In conclusion, I should like to reiterate our sincere, warm congratulations to the Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma. We wish him all success and we are fully confident that the entire - international community will stand by his side in order to make a success of the programmes of this Organization in the interests of the agricultural sector, in order to increase the production of food and for better distribution.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Martin Dohou AZONHIHO (Bénin): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur, le Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs.

Maintenant que nous connaissons le résultat de l'expression de la démocratie et que nous avons pu apprécier l'importance du vote qui vient de se dérouler dans les conditions de démocratie les plus totales, maintenant que le désir de mon pays, la République populaire du Bénin, de voir se concrétiser le dynamisme nouveau à la tête de la FAO est bien connu, et que le Directeur général réélu dans son intervention a remis l'accent sur ce désir de dynamisme nouveau au sein de cette Organisation à laquelle mon pays tient tant, je voudrais, de façon sincère et en toute franchise, exprimer toutes mes félicitations au Directeur général réélu. Je voudrais qu'il sache que le Bénin n'est pas arrivé en ennemi. Je voudrais également qu'il sache que nous avons voulu que la démocratie joue, et elle a joué. Je voudrais qu'il retienne que nous sommes tous les mêmes, appartenant à un pays du tiers monde qui ne jette d'ostracisme sur aucun pays, qui n'a pas voté pour lui.

Nous le félicitons et lui souhaitons un succès total au cours des six ans qui vont arriver. Nous lui disons que le Bénin lui apportera toute sa contribution, comme par le passé, afin qu'ensemble nous puissions, comme il l'a dit lui-même,,gagner cette victoire sur ce front extrêmement important de l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Je voudrais, au nom de mon pays, remercier sincèrement le Secrétariat général de l'OUA et son Président pour tout ce qui a été fait au cours de cette élection. Je voudrais remercier tous mes frères africains qui ont voté pour le candidat africain béninois. Je voudrais remercier la plupart des pays extra-africains qui ont senti et apprécié le ressortissant béninois naissant et se sont alignés derrière lui. Je voudrais leur dire à tous que la démocratie s'est manifestée, que nous avons connu le résultat, et, comme l'a dit le Directeur général, il n'y a qu'un seul organisme: la FAO, nous sommes derrière lui.

Je remercie tout le monde, et je demande sincèrement que le Directeur général fasse tout pour que l'action de la FAO se présente encore beaucoup mieux dans notre sous-région et dans notre continent l'Afrique. Je lui souhaite plein succès.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Jeno VÂNCSA (Hungary): In the name of the group of Socialist countries, I wish warmly to congratulate the Director-General on his re-election. We wish him good health and good conditions for the successful implementation of his noble, important, but at the same time very demanding, tasks. In this he may be sure of our full cooperation and support.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

F. CHUULA (Zambia): On behalf of the African region, and on my own behalf, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Edouard Saouma on his re-election to the post of Director-General of this important Organization. The African regions-stands united behind the principle of democracy and therefore accepts completely Dr Saouma's re-election. I can assure Dr Saouma that he will receive all support, and we hope that he will continue in his ceaseless effort to respond to the needs of the world at large.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Moise Christophe MENSAH (Bénin): Monsieur le Président, M. le Directeur général, le sens de ma candidature était d'apporter une sensibilité et une approche nouvelles à la direction de la FAO. Cette offre a été faite par l'Organisation de l'Unité africaine; cette auguste assemblée a choisi de demander au Directeur général, le Docteur E. Saouma, de continuer sa mission. Je voudrais donc du fond du coeur féliciter le Docteur Saouma pour sa réélection, et former les vœux les plus sincères de santé (parce que c'est indispensable) pour un succès réel au cours du troisième mandat qui lui a été confié.

Je voudrais aussi remercier très sincèrement, outre les pays africains, tous les pays amis qui ont voulu me faire confiance en appuyant ma candidature. Je voudrais leur dire qu'en réalité la FAO n'est que l'un des champs de bataille sur lesquels la lutte contre la malnutrition et la faim se poursuit. Il y a d'autres fronts, et pour ma part, je continuerai à lutter à ma manière pour le développement rural et le développement agricole dans ce monde où nous vivons et où malheureusement règne encore un niveau de pauvreté qui, pour les uns et les autres, ne peut pas être acceptable. Encore une fois merci à tous, et tous mes vœux à vous M. le Directeur général pour votre action.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Gurdial Singh DHILLON (India): I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend to Dr Saouma my own and my country's hearty congratulations on his re-election. It is a due recognition of the long work, dedication and devotion to the ideals and programmes for which FAO was established. Dr Saouma, we are particularly happy that in one stage of your career you spent three full years in Delhi. We have a very close association with you because of your own links with our country. We were fully judging everything and we are confident that, in electing you, we are not taking any risks. We have full faith in you. All developing countries are very confident that you will strike a reasonable and constructive balance between developed and developing countries. We congratulate you again and wish you continued success. We hope that you will steer the Organization through the difficult times by charting a safe, wise and statesman-like course. Congratulations again.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Elijan Wasike MWANGALE (Kenya): I should also like to take this opportunity, on behalf of many countries in Africa and other members of this Organization, to congratulate Dr Saouma on his very deserved reelection to this highly controversial post. I am sure he knows that Kenya has been one of the countries that wished him to be out but, because you have won, we thank you and we congratulate you very much.

I should like to say this because it is a question of principle. I recall that during the time a previous Director-General was also trying to take a third term, it was Kenya that spoke out very critically and contributed to the ousting of the Director-General purely out of the principle that two terms are two terms. We stick to that. In fact, we told Dr Mensah that if he tried to take another two terms we should come and tell him "No". That has been our principle, but we now wish you luck. I know that you will face a lot of difficulties. I can see turbulent times ahead of you. But I can assure you, Mr Director-General, that, as usual, Kenya believes in democracy, and we will support you fully. On the other hand, in 1993, up to which time you will stay, we shall be around again to propose an African candidate. We believe that this was the time for Africa. If it is not now, we shall come back in 1993 and will hope that members of other continents will give us the support that we shall be looking for. Having given that notice for Africa in 1993, I should like to assure you, Dr Saouma, that we shall support you and that we shall be here all the time: I shall be here in 1989, I am sure I shall be here in 1991 and I shall be here in 1993.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Gustave MENAGER (Haïti): La République d'Haïti, par mon humble organe, saisit l'occasion de vous présenter, Monsieur SAOUMA, ses félicitations les plus vives en ce jour de réussite.

Le succès du moment n'a pas été certes facile, mais il est le signe avant-coureur d'une plus forte résolution et d'une volonté mieux exercée à trouver la solution aux problèmes angoissants qui assaillent le monde.

Le Gouvernement provisoire d'Haïti, le Conseil national du gouvernement est en train de mener une lutte sans précédent pour l'établissement de la démocratie dans le pays. Toutes les autorités entendent déjà des appels tant annoncés que résonants de ce gouvernement à l'institution que vous avez l'honneur et le privilège de diriger à nouveau pour ce terme. Ces appels seront aussi l'écho de nombreux autres pays certes, mais qui sortiront du pays haïtien en conformité avec ses aspirations et sa haute préférence pour la vie. Ce pays vous souhaite de trouver tous les supports qui seront nécessaires à la FAO pour que vivent mieux les hommes.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Saihou SABALLY (Gambia): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, I also would like to intervene at this juncture to express our congratulations to the newly elected Director-General of the FAO. I think it was made quite clear and unequivocal that Gambia supported the resolution passed by the OAU but Gambia is also one of the countries which believe in the principle of democracy and we respect the verdict of the majority.

As far as we are concerned, we have a lot of faith in the FAO, Africa has a lot of faith in the FAO and this faith will continue. We respect democracy and therefore we accept the verdict of the majority and we give our best wishes and cooperation to Mr. Saouma on his being elected as Director-General of the FAO. I associate myself with the Minister of Agriculture for Kenya in saying that Africa will continue to have a leading position in the FAO in 1993, as he indicated. Once again, I congratulate Mr Saouma.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Jean-Baptiste YONKE (Cameroun): Au nom du Cameroun, au nom du Gouvernement camerounais, et en mon nom personnel, je tiens à adresser de vives et sincères félicitations à Monsieur E. Saouma qui vient d'être élu pour un troisième mandat à la direction de la FAO.

Si notre Conférence, instance suprême de l'Organisation, en a décidé ainsi c'est qu'elle a vu et constaté que Monsieur E. Saouma a accompli du bon travail. Le Cameroun est de ceux qui pensent qu'il a accompli un bon travail, et personnellement je garde un excellent souvenir de la collaboration que nous avons eue avec lui-même et son Secrétariat général lors de la vingt-troisième session de la FAO que j'ai eu l'insigne honneur de présider, Conférence qui coïncidait avec le Quarantième anniversaire de la FAO. Je m'en souviens et garde un très bon souvenir de l'excellente collaboration que nous avons eue particulièrement à cette époque.

J'assure à Monsieur Edouard Saouma, au nom de mon pays, et à la suite des interventions de mes collègues du Kenya, de la Gambie, du Bénin et de la Zambie, au nom de l'OUA, que mon pays lui apportera toute sa collaboration pour le succès de sa mission, succès qui sera celui de l'Organisation à laquelle mon pays adhère totalement.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRESIDENT: Pour terminer, j'ai l'honneur de donner la parole au représentant de l'Italie en tant que pays hôte de la Conférence et de l'Organisation.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italie): C'est bien le privilège du pays hôte de parler le premier dans le débat général et le dernier maintenant cette heure tardive, pour ne pas observer le silence dans "une occasion pareille.

Au nom de mon pays et en celui d'autres pays européens qui m'ont prié d'être leur porte-parole sans qu'il soit besoin de les mentionner, je tiens à adresser à Monsieur Edouard Saouma nos félicitations les plus sincères accompagnées du vœu profond que les propos qu'il vient de tenir quant à l'avenir de notre Organisation soient couronnés de succès.

Il pourrait compter sur l'appui d'un pays comme le nôtre et comme d'autres pays donateurs.

Nous tenons à nous féliciter encore une fois du résultat d'un vote démocratique - quel que soit le côté où se soit trouvé un pays ou l'autre. Et je vois qu'il y a ici à ce sujet cette harmonie qui doit être maintenue dans l'intérêt de la FAO et dans celui de nombreux pays du monde qui bénéficient de son activité.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRESIDENT: Avec ce point, nous arrivons à la fin de nos travaux de ce matin. Nous nous réunirons à nouveau à 14 h 30.

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 87/PV/4

Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARY

Vingt-quatrième session
PLENIERE

24° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

(9 November 1987)

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h

sous la présidence de Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-KhalePrésident de la Conférence

Se-abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a Las 15.00 horas

bajo la presidencia de Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, . Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful, we declare this fourth session of the Plenary open.

We shall hear the McDougall Memorial Lecture which will be the 15th in the series, which began with Professor Arnold Toynbee at the 1959 Conference. These lectures commemorate the late Frank Lidgett/ McDougall who played a leading role in the foundation of FAO at the initiation of its objectives.

I now ask the Director-General to introduce this year's McDougall lecture.

FIFTEENTH McDOUGALL MEMORIAL LECTURE

QUINZIEME CONFERENCE McDOUGALL

15a DISERTACION EN MEMORIA DE McDOUGALL

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, nous allons maintenant, selon une tradition établie de longue date, écouter la Conférence McDougall.

Ce sera la quinzième de cette série de Conférences instituée pour rendre hommage à Frank McDougall, qui joua un rôle décisif dans la création de notre Organisation.

Nous le savons tous, ce fut lui qui, en pleine guerre, sut convaincre le Président Roosevelt que, pour mettre en oeuvre le grand dessein des "Quatre libertés", pour mettre l'humanité à l'abri de la famine à l'issue du conflit, il fallait créer une Organisation mondiale chargée des problèmes de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Ce fut la Conférence de "Hot Springs", puis la Conférence de Québec.

Mais l'action de ce grand citoyen de l'Australie et de ce grand citoyen du monde avait commencé beaucoup plus tôt.

En liaison étroite avec John Boyd-Orr et avec Stanley Bruce, dont il était alors le Conseiller économique, il fut aux environs de 1935 l'un des principaux artisans de la recherche que la Société des Nations allait entreprendre dans le domaine de la nutrition en vue de réaliser "le mariage de la santé et de l'agriculture".

Ce problème n'a rien perdu de son actualité, et c'est pourquoi le Conseil a choisi comme conférencier, pour honorer le souvenir de Frank McDougall, un nutritionniste de renommée mondiale.

J'ai nommé le Professeur Jean Mayer, Président de l'Université TUFTS.

Scientifique, enseignant, animateur aux Etats-unis d'innombrables organismes publics et privés s'occupant des problèmes de la nutrition, de l'alimentation, de la santé, de l'enfance, de la pauvreté, de la faim, le Professeur Mayer a également exercé une intense activité internationale, en particulier au sein du Groupe consultatif des protéines (du système des Nations Unies) et du Comité mixte FAO/Office mondial de la santé d'experts de la nutrition.

Il possède en outre deux titres particuliers à notre amicale attention: d'une part, il est le fils d'André Mayer, que nous vénérons parmi les fondateurs de la FAO et dont le rayonnement s'étend encore aujourd'hui sur nos travaux touchant la nutrition; d'autre part, il est, parmi les conférenciers McDougall, le premier ancien fonctionnaire de la FAO, où il travailla comme nutritionniste de 1948 à 49.

Nulle voix n'aurait été plus autorisée pour nous parler des problèmes et perspectives de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture et de la nutrition dans le monde d'aujourd'hui.

Ses paroles ne manqueront pas d'exercer un vigoureux impact sur les délibérations et les orientations de notre Conférence.

Professeur Mayer, nous vous écoutons.

Prof. Jean MAYER: Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General -and it is a pleasure to congratulate you again - honourable ministers and distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour to have been asked to present the McDougall Lecture. It is also, for me, a special pleasure. Frank McDougall was a friend and colleague of my father, André Mayer, in the years between the two world wars. Stanley Bruce was the High Commissioner for Australia in London, and McDougall, as you pointed out, was his economic advisor. McDougall knew of the nutrition surveys, linking minimum salary, employment, nutrition, and health, that had been led by my father in France, John Boyd-Orr in Scotland, and Hazel Stiebeling in the United States.

It was his account of these surveys that spurred Bruce's opposition to the restriction of food production at the height of the Great Depression. It was his acquaintance with my father and the other members of that small group of international economists, physiologists, and nutritionists that spurred Frank McDougall's lifelong commitment to feeding the world. In 1943, I was at the front in North Africa, then in Italy, but I knew later, from my father, of McDougall's memorandum proposing the formation of an international organization to implement President Roosevelt's pledge of Freedom from Want; of their approach to Eleanor Roosevelt, and, through her, to the President; and of the Hot Springs Conference that was in a way the birth of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

It was with great pride that I joined FAO in its first years, and had a hand in the promulgation of the first set of international calorie and protein requirements.

I have been proud to have the opportunity to meet, several times, with Frank McDougall. It seems appropriate to begin this lecture with his often-quoted statement, made in 1935 and still true: "it would argue a bankruptcy of statesmanship if it should prove impossible to bring together a great unsatisfied need for highly nutritious food and the immense potential production of modern agriculture".

To move on to the more recent past, specifically, thirteen years ago, I was travelling frequently to Rome as a member of the planning group for the 1974 World Food Conference. Many of you remember the Conference itself. Everyone here vividly remembers the cause. During the 1950s and 60s, world food production had been outpacing world population growth. In 1972, the world suddenly reached a point of discontinuity in the history of the equation of food to population. For the first time in a long time, there were very poor harvests in four major growing areas: the Soviet Union, China, the Indian subcontinent, and the Sahel. Massive replacement grain sales in the United States (which, by the way, went unnoticed by American authorities until they were over) left the United States with no stock of emergency reserves. At the same time, the rise in oil prices in 1972 and again in 1973 left large areas of the developing world without agricultural fuel or fertilizers. All at once, the world grain reserve was reduced by 60 million tons. When the Conference convened in 1974, the world family was down to 20 days of food. There was essentially no food in many areas of the Indian subcontinent. There was food in the Sahel, but lack of organization and extreme difficulties in transportation prevented it getting to where it was needed.

Today, we are thirteen years from a new century. The total food situation has once again been reversed. In 1988 world stocks will equal about 23 percent of consumption. A recent article on economics in a Boston paper was headed, "The Food Glut is Worsening". In the American mid-west, silos are full. Grain is being stored in some schools. The Green Revolution (which first benefited North America and Europe) has taken hold in Asia and in some parts of Latin America. We are at the point where India, China, Pakistan, and Mexico, among others, are giving technical assistance and sharing results of agricultural research with less agriculturally advanced nations.

There is enough food grown in the world today to feed adequately every person on earth, if the food were equitably distributed. This, however, would condemn peasants in poor countries to continued poverty. We could feed billions more if rich nations and the rich people in poor nations decreased their meat consumption. Probably there would also be a decrease in deaths from cardiovascular disease. Yet we are no nearer the resolve of the World Food Conference, that-by the mid-1980s no child should go to bed hungry. The percentage of hungry people is less than in 1974, but because the world population is growing, the absolute number is greater.

Sadly, "starvation" is very easy to identify. "Hunger" is a somewhat vaguer concept, and "malnutrition" an even less well-defined one. Looking at hunger, both the World Bank and FAO assume that sufficient energy implies sufficient protein, and perhaps enough of other nutrients. The World Bank uses 90 percent and 80 percent of country-specific FAO/WHO energy requirements. FAO uses the Basal Metabolic Rate - that is, the rate of a person's energy expenditure in the fasting and resting state - to estimate maintenance requirements. Estimating the number of people chronically deprived of the food necessary to lead and enjoy an active, healthy life, the World Bank arrives at 730 million. The FAO estimates 512 million. Using a stricter definition of hunger, FAO puts the number of people close to the survival line in 1985 at 348 million, up from 320 million in 1980 and from 316 million in 1970. Whatever estimate is used, the total is horrendous.

Between 1970 and 1980, 1.5 million people were added each year to the list of the hungry. Then, as the world economy faltered and inflation and debt increased in the developing countries, the figure rose to 8 million a year. We must resort to statistics for analysis, planning, and remedial action. But we must also remember that the figure represents 40 million individuals, and that a disproportionate number are children. Furthermore, even when a food balance sheet looks adequate, acute malnutrition can occur in countries or in households, if the foods are divided inappropriately.

Malnutrition is the lack of sufficient amounts of one or more nutrients in the diet. It can occur even when calories and protein are adequate. Infants, young children, pregnant and nursing women are most at risk, because their needs are increased for a number of vitamins and minerals. For example, some 250 000 children go blind each year from xerophthalmia caused by vitamin A deficiency. This condition is easily reversed in the early stages by feeding vegetable foods high in beta-carotene, the precursor of vitamin A, or by giving vitamin A supplements twice a year at the cost of pennies per child.

Goiter and cretinism persist in a number of high-altitude areas far from the sea. Iodine deficiency has been identified as the major causes of both - in the case of cretinism, the deficiency predates pregnancy - and several hundred million people world-wide lack iodine to some degree. Again, at a negligible cost, iodine can be added to food (iodized salt, for example). Added to oil, it can be injected or taken orally. It is cheaper to give orally, but even the injections, given every three to five years, cost just seven cents per person per year.

Iron deficiency afflicts women in the child-bearing years the world over. Unicef estimates that about half of the women in developing countries have iron-deficiency anaemia. It saps the energy of working women - and no-one in developing countries works harder. It deprives a growing fetus of iron for the development of red blood cells. In households where men and older boys are habitually given the best foods, particularly meats, which are rich in iron, the women and small children may suffer chronic anaemia.

In areas where low-protein cereals are the staple foods, small children who cannot consume enough bulk may suffer from protein deficiency, even when calories are adequate. In areas where cassava or potatoes are the staple, protein will be grossly insufficient. This is less likely to happen in areas where millet, rice, and particularly wheat are eaten, since these cereals are high in good-quality protein. Small children may have a problem eating enough rice. Older children will have no trouble. Nutrition should not be simply a set of corrective measures which are practised in an episodic fashion after deficiencies are recognized. Nutrition should be the basis for planning agricultural production and food consumption and thus crucial to the laying down on long-term plans.

Some features of the food situation today are reminiscent of the 1930s. The world-wide economic collapse of the late 1920s had brought on the farm collapse of the early 1930s. Soup kitchens and a food surplus existed side-by-side in the United States. We can echo today Stanley Bruce's words at the 1933 World Monetary and Economic Conference: "If the best that can be done for a poverty-stricken world is to restrict the production of food and other necessities of life, the ... political and economic system is leading to disaster."

There are, of course, major differences between the situation before the Second World War and the situation now. Today there is a surplus in almost every major growing area. In 1932, it may have made some sense to repeat, "the poor we have always with us." In 1987, by contrast, we have learned to multiply loaves and fishes so that all can eat and be filled. Barring massive changes in the climate, the food producing nations could keep the rest of the world on permanent food welfare. That is not the right solution. The world community has or is developing the knowledge in agriculture, food and nutrition and technology to permit all people everywhere, to feed themselves, provided that, in the near future, world population can be stabilized.

However, we also know we are dealing with something that did not have to concern Bruce, Frank McDougall and André Mayer: an extremely fragile environment that is being stressed in many ways, not the least being world-wide agricultural practices. Indeed, even at the time of the World Food Conference, the scientific community was hardly aware that earth's four great eco-systems, croplands, grasslands, forests and fisheries, had about reached or possibly had already exceeded their carrying capacity.

Again, at the time of the World Food Conference, a petroleum-powered Green Revolution was the only weapon we possessed to combat hunger. It has worked well for Europe, North America and Asia, and to some extent for Latin America except where there are conditions of civil unrest or enormous social inequalities. But the Green Revolution, as it exists today, is energy, fertilizer and water-intensive (and capital-intensive, for small farmers). It cannot be pursued everywhere and indefinitely without exhausting resources and further damaging the four eco-systems on which our food supply depends. The farming of the future - and the future is not too far away - must be less profligate.

In tropical areas, and particularly in Africa, agriculture has prospered far less than elsewhere. One essential reason is that research in the subsistence crops of tropical agriculture has only been intensively pursued in the last ten or fifteen years. The diversity of Africa's soils, terrains, and climates is matched by the diversity of its agricultural methods and societal organizations. Another reason, even more important, is that the agricultural revolution into which the rest of the world has moved presupposes a new social, economic and physical infrastructure. It must be capable of supporting a market-oriented agriculture and a population able to purchase the foods that are produced. In short, the Green Revolution is a social revolution and a managerial revolution as much as a technological revolution. (Even if, eventually, genetic engineering will progressively decrease the present large requirements of energy, water and chemicals, the societal requirements will be the same.) In addition to a large-scale market, farmers need roads and railroads to bring inputs to the farm and products to market. They will need trucks and small farm machinery -although it is crucial, in countries where the labour force is expanding rapidly, that agriculture not be mechanized too fast. Both the new seeds and nutrient-depleted soils require large amounts of fertilizer. High-yield seeds require greater amounts of water, which means additional irrigation. More favourable conditions for growth mean more herbicides, insecticides and pesticides before harvest, and insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, and storage facilities after. The best way to make more food rapidly available would be to devise storage to protect the 30 to 50 percent of crops that are destroyed before they can be moved to market. All this means a shift from a system of cash or barter to a moneyed economy and the installation of local credit facilities. Small farmers will find it essential to form cooperatives in order to get better credit and buying conditions, and ensure some specialization of labour. On course, somebody must manage the cooperatives.

Finally, food producers must have food consumers. Channels of distribution and means of transportation must be provided. Prices have to be high enough to encourage farmers to increase their output. Prices must be low enough so that the non-farming segment of the population, which will grow as farming becomes more productive, can purchase a nutritious diet. This means parallel development in other sectors of the economy. It makes sense to first create jobs by developing businesses that will help support and increase farm production, for example, manufacturers of small, simple farm machinery, fertilizer plants, small food-processing plants and the like. Examples of successful development can be found, compatible with a variety of socio-political ideologies, as long as conditions of education, credit availability and local control and local decision-making exist.

This however does not happen overnight. In Africa, to help prevent the recurrence of another disaster like the 1972-73 and 1984-86 famines, - it will be necessary to continue food relief to some countries. In some cases it may be as long as 15 to 20 years. But this ought to be done very carefully. Food imports should not compete with local products and undermine the struggling farm industry.

Beyond all this is the absolutely crucial long-term support system. Agricultural research and development and a good network of extension services are vital for the evolution of a strong, diversified agriculture. Under "agricultural research and development" I would include veterinary research and services and a strong effort in aquaculture. Thus far, aquaculture has not lived up to its potential. Africa, in particular, has very little tradition of fish farming, and could benefit greatly from the introduction of a plentiful source of high-quality animal protein. We heard about a beginning of this in Kivu this morning. I would also like to see more intensive research on subsistence crops and on ground-cover crops for the Sahelian area. These crops would both fix the soil and serve as pasture for animals. Not enough research is being done on millet, corn and the varieties of beans and rice that are appropriate for most parts of Africa. As rapidly as possible, we should try, through genetic engineering, to improve the protein content and quality of tuberous crops, especially cassava, and probably of plantain. Research in applied nutrition is urgently needed to develop highly nutritious diets based on native foods. It should be possible to use more dry skim milk. We now have a world surplus, and will probably have considerably more with the development of new hormone treatments of cows, which should markedly increase their milk production. Fortified milk is an excellent source of protein and calcium,

vitamins A and D, a number of the B vitamins and zinc. If lactose intolerance can be circumvented, (and it is not a problem for small children) use of dry skim milk would result in much better diets for most children.

Obviously, a literate population is essential. Most African nations emphasize primary education within the limits of their economic resources. In addition, farmers will need managerial and technical skills, and should understand the relationship of agricultural practices to environmental protection.

In some developing countries, women are responsible for 50 percent or more of the food production. It is absolutely essential to educate and involve them in every step of planning and decisions having to do with the food system. Women are also the custodians of their family's health, and there is an urgent need for nutrition education, more particularly for mothers of young children. The high mortality rate of children under five could be lowered substantially if the cycle of malnutrition-infection-malnutrition could be broken by a good diet during these years of extremely rapid growth. As women understand nutrition better, they will improve the health of their own families, and thus the health of the nation.

Now let me say a word about the long term - the next twenty years or so. The present Green Revolution is still the only way to increase grain yields. At this point we are totally dependent on massive amounts of petroleum and water. Less water-intensive methods of irrigation are being developed. However, the major key to eventual change is research in genetic engineering of food plants and animals (including aquatic animals) for tropical environments.

I do not need to point out to ministers of agriculture that genetic engineering is not the great danger to the environment envisioned by some groups of laymen. That is not to say, however, that we should not take care with the development of projects in genetic engineering, or lest the results thoroughly before disseminating them. But, used properly, genetic engineering is a powerful tool in enhancing food production and doing it in a way that also enhances nutrient quality, uses less of many inputs, and is ecologically beneficial. Tobacco and petunias have been described as the test organisms of agriculture as Escherichia coli, white mice and fruitflies are the test organisms for medicine. In 1983, scientists succeeded in transforming these plants by transplanting useful genetic materials from one to another. Since then, various laboratories have transformed over a dozen vegetable and commercial crop plants. Plants have already been engineered to resist insect pests like caterpillars and beetles, to resist many viruses, or to live compatibly with a friendly herbicide.

Within the next seven years at the outside, genetic engineers will have tested and have ready for farmers major crops, such as maize, soybeans, rice wheat, oil-seed rape, sorghum, cotton and alfalfa that are resistant to fungi, pathogens, pests, and various stresses. Before too long thereafter, tropical crops like millet, cassava, yams and taro will also be ready. Experiments are underway to produce crops that grow hardier and give better yields with less fertilizer and no tilling, which can grow in saline or impoverished soils. The range of important food crops is being increased. Imagine the effects of an added range of 50 miles to the north for wheat in Canada or the Soviet Union. Similarly, imagine what a decrease in water requirements would do for millet in most of the South.

Foods are being designed with higher nutritional value and with better taste, foods that are easier to store, easier to process.

It is also very important that genetic engineering of plants can increase, rather than decrease, their diversity. Such crops are less vulnerable than mono-cultures to disease and stress. These plants, in effect, are high-technology seeds which do not require high-technology farming.

Plants are not the only subjects of enlightened, humane genetic engineering. At some point in the foreseeable future, genetically-improved animals will be born, so to speak, already vaccinated. They will be resistant to various common infections, viral, bacterial and parasitic diseases, such as hoof and mouth disease, trypanosomiasis, and intestinal nematodes. Cattle and pigs will produce more protein and consume less feed. As plant yields increase, acreage needs decrease. With each acre that is unnecessary to increase production or to feed grazing cattle, the destruction of grasslands and tropical forests is slowed, helping to protect water reserves, prevent erosion, and preserve the germplasm which is the source of all genetic diversity.

Of course we cannot wait for the five to twenty years it will take to see the first of these crops planted on a large scale. This situation is urgent. Together, we must, proceed with the Green Revolution, adapting the techniques whenever possible.

In Africa, per capita grain production peaked in 1967 just at subsistence level. That is, at 180 kilograms per person per year. During the 1960s, food production had been increasing 2.5 percent a year, barely exceeding population growth. In the 1970s, population growth rose from 2.4 to 2.8 percent a year. The rate of increase of food production declined precipitously, to 1.7 percent. While hunger declined in other areas, the numbers of undernourished in Africa rose steadily, from 92 million in 1969 to 110 million in 1980, to 140 million in 1985. Grain imports increased ninefold between 1972 and 1983. In 1984, food imports consumed about 20 percent of total export earnings. Debt service accounted for another 22 percent. If, as predicted, the population rises by about 3.3 percent a year for the rest of the century, the growth rate of agricultural production will have to double merely to keep up. In his recent Arturo Tanco lecture, General Olusegun Obasanjo quoted a report of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture: "In Africa, almost every problem is more acute than elsewhere. Topsoils are more fragile and more subject to erosion and degradation. Irrigation covers a smaller fraction of the cultivated area, leaving agriculture exposed to the vicissitudes of an irregular rainfall pattern. The infrastructure, both physical and institutional, is weaker. The shortage of trained personnel is more serious. The flight from the land is more precipitate..." I might add that in normal times the flight from the land to the cities makes the nutritional state of the poor more precarious. Of course, this may not be so in the case of famines, although during the Nigerian civil war I saw as acute hunger in the countryside as in the cities. Chronic hunger and malnutrition are caused by a lack of access to food rather than by the absence of food.

The Fifth World Food Survey shows that hunger tends to be greater in unemployed urban poor than in rural poor. In rural areas, the exceptions are landless households, particularly those headed by women.

The installation of more productive sustainable agriculture and of an economy that permits an adequate diet for every person, has been likened to the Marshall Plan. (The Marshall Plan, if you remember, revived the European agriculture and economy after World War II.) In reality, the project is far more complex and costly and will take far longer. It asks for contributions from each member of the world community, for every member has a particular capacity in one area or another.

For example, as we saw only too recently, the world does not yet have a fully effective early warning system for incipient famines. The pieces of such a system are beginning to fall into place. We need monitoring of harvests and market prices; long- and short-term weather monitoring by satellites and airlines; ground reports of the health and nutritional status of vulnerable populations, most especially of young children. But the pieces are not yet well coordinated. There is no mechanism in place to insure a timely response, either by the world community or by national governments. The trigger, if you want, does not exist. There is no systematic maintenance of reserves, either outside potential famine areas so situated as to allow quick delivery, or inside vulnerable countries to provide stop-gap aid until outside help arrives. Elements of this warning system, when they are in place, can also provide data and analyses for long-term national and regional food and agricultural planning. To work, the system must have inputs from the local to the international level.

Another example of large-scale infrastructure needs is an effective road and transportation network for the continent. Africa (and to a lesser extent, Latin America) does not yet have the system of transcontinental roads and railroads, North and South, and, particularly, East and West to permit easy movement of food during famines. Even with the difficulties of moving foods inland from the ports, importing food is usually easier than moving it overland from one area of the continent to another. Or, for that matter, sometimes of moving it from one region of a country to a food-short area. Planning for an adequate system of roads and rail has to be done by the region, the nation, perhaps even the localities involved. But the funding and technical assistance must come from individual industrial nations or from the international community. The same is true of planning for water resources.

In general, assistance on large-scale projects to create missing infrastructure will have to come from governments. Private enterprises must realize a fairly quick return on their investment; non-profit private organizations do not have the financial resources. Companies can be part of the second phase of economic development, and of the research effort - for example, in genetic engineering. Contributions of the international agricultural research network, most especially of the thirteen CGIAR centres, are absolutely indispensable. It has been said that these centres, funded through the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, may well be a more significant contribution of the Green Revolution than the expanded harvest. Universities and other research organizations also have a significant role to play, both in research and in its application in the field. Universities are especially qualified to train agricultural research scientists, veterinarians and aquaculturists, teachers, technicians, extension workers, nutrition educators, and managers. In addition, the transfer of intermediate technologies under the Regional and South-South Cooperation effort is particularly useful.

The issue of population growth is usually seen as a matter for the people of each nation to decide, but the world community should stand ready to give whatever assistance is requested by national governments. It is obvious that even genetic engineering in agriculture cannot forever produce enough food if the world population expands indefinitely. There is no doubt that a rapid drop in the rate of population increase in many countries would help the population: food equation. But it is well to remember that North America and Western Europe, which had their population increase earlier than other parts of the world, also were the first areas to eliminate famine, except in wartime. It may well be that we will run out of housing, schools, health care, and recreation space, even breathable air, before we run out of food. Every person who is born deserves a chance at a good life, and a long one. The world can provide that, as well as an adequate diet, provided we stabilize the population or, perhaps better, reduce it through birth control.

All the forms of assistance, ranging from infrastructure to agriculture, to early industrialization, to birth control to health and to education can be given through bilateral agreements between rich or developed countries and poor countries. However there is a risk that such bilateral agreements may create situations of permanent dependence. Whenever possible, it seems more consistent with principles of universal fairness, maintenance of national self-respect, and (when the international organizations work well) with effectiveness, for aid to be provided through multilateral channels. In the opinion of many sympathetic observers, there has been a wide range of impartiality and effectiveness in the activities of multinational organizations. Some like UNICEF, may justifiably receive universal applause - including, for UNICEF, the Nobel Peace Prize. Everyone knows, at the other extreme, the tribulations of Unesco. The very creation of FAO as an international organization, was based on the fact that the problems both of agricultural surpluses and of agricultural shortages transcend national boundaries. They are thus best dealt with in the framework of international action. From the point of view of practical work in the field, it also is to FAO's advantage that much of the experience gained in poor countries - tropical or arid - is transferable to other areas with similar geological and climatic conditions. Finally, the experiences of several crises have shown that to be effective the defence of agricultural prices to producers has to rest on multilateral international agreements. Given a budget of sufficient size, and assured choices of its specialists based on competence and not on politics, FAO should be on its way to fulfilling the hope of its founders, and of an entire generation of us who, back from World War II, believed in world organizations.

There is, however, a condition that has to be underlined. I have spoken of FAO being given sufficient means. This will demand an international commitment to a common goal that has not been seen since World War II, a commitment of intellectual, human, and economic resources to restoring the life of a continent. The intellectual and human resources are mobilizing. But the world's economic resources are being drained by a commitment to death. The arms race consumes close to 2 billion dollars a day in the United States and the Soviet Union. Our economies suffer, our domestic programmes suffer, our people suffer: the United States' infant mortality rate stands eighteenth in the world. The Soviet Union's is forty-sixth. But the two largest powers are not alone in these warped priorities. The developed countries on average spend 5.4 percent of their GNP for military purposes, 0.3 percent for development assistance. The United States' yearly non-military aid for Africa amounts to five hours of the yearly arms budget.

In total, the world spends about one trillion dollars a year on "defence". Between 1975 and 1985, arms imports of the developing countries amounted to 40 percent of the increase in their foreign debt. Since 1960, while their unemployment increased eight-fold, military expenditures increased six-fold in constant dollars. Throughout the world, in fact, since 1960, military expenditures, at over \$14 trillion, have more than absorbed the over-\$9 billion increase in GNP, in effect leaving a smaller civilian economy than existed in 1960. Yet military requirements do not foster a broad economic base. Military production is capital-intensive, creating fewer jobs than if an equivalent amount of money had been spent on schools, health programmes, and the like in the private sector. Labour training in the military has limited use for civilian jobs in industrialized countries. It is almost totally useless for the domestic needs of developing nations. All this, while the International Labour Organization estimates the number of unemployed people in the world at present at 90 million. Another 300 million are underemployed. By the year 2000, 600 million new jobs will need to be created, 90 percent of them in developing countries, just to absorb additions to the work force. Without looking at the worsening situation in the industrialized countries, in the developing world alone, one billion people - one in five - are estimated to live below the poverty line, 100 million have no shelter, one billion are inadequately housed. Four times as much is spent each year on armaments as on health care. The Food and Agriculture Organization recently destroyed a plague of locusts in Africa at the cost of less than one half hour of the world's military outlay. Africa, incidentally an essentially disarmed continent in 1960, is accumulating arms and armies at the cost of development.

Just twelve nations have or are thought to have the capacity to produce nuclear weapons that could destroy all life. But every nation whose military imports consume a significant share of its GNP, or whose military exports make a substantial contribution to its trade balance, is contributing to the slow wasting of its people and the slow devastation of its environment. We must find a way to break this mad cycle of expenditure. If nuclear arms can be abolished and conventional arms reduced and controlled, the funds and technologies can be redirected to peaceful and humane ends. The first priority should be food for the world.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN (original Language Arabic): Thank you, Professor Mayer, for your inspiring and interesting lecture.

E.N. FITZPATRICK (Australia): Mr Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to respond to the McDougall Memorial Lecture delivered today by Dr Jean Mayer.

Dr Mayer, it was with keen interest that the Australia delegation listened to your outstanding 15th McDougall Memorial Lecture. It is fitting that you be asked to speak to us today. Your father, Dr André Mayer, and my compatriot, Frank McDougall, were both men of vision who played a leading role in the foundation of FAO and the initiation of its activities. Frank McDougall's sense of vision and his sense of urgency arose from his own experience as a farmer in Australia and later as an international representative of his country. As has been said today, while he was in Washington in 1941 he was invited to the White House where he had outlined to President Roosevelt his ideas of an international food and agriculture organization. His ideas about a better world without hunger and malnutrition have since reached out and touched us all, and that is why we are here today.

You, Dr Mayer, are also a person deeply concerned with malnutrition and hunger, which unfortunately remains one of the major global issues of mankind. I thank you for your most thought-provoking address. In its context and its delivery today you have paid honour to the memory of both Frank McDougall and your father, André Mayer.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): If there are no requests for the floor, I request the Director-General to make his statement to the Conference.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S STATEMENT TO CONFERENCE
DECLARATION DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL À LA CONFÉRENCE
DECLARACION DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL A LA CONFERENCIA

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL: Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les Ministres et Chefs de délégation. Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués et observateurs, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs,

C'est pour moi une grande Joie de prendre la parole devant la Conférence de la FAO qui vient de me renouveler sa confiance en m'élisant pour un nouveau mandat. Je mesure l'honneur qui m'est ainsi fait et je tiens à exprimer une fois encore ma profonde gratitude aux Etats Membres. Je mesure également le défi que représente, en ces temps troublés, la charge que vous m'avez confiée. Faisant le bilan du chemin parcouru durant mes deux premiers mandats, la Conférence peut, je crois, éprouver quelque satisfaction pour la manière dont les organes directeurs ont conduit les affaires de l'Organisation. Celle-ci a su s'adapter aux exigences changeantes du monde, se centrer sur l'essentiel, alléger sa bureaucratie, préserver une situation financière fondamentalement saine, développer un programme de terrain selon les priorités de ses Etats Membres les plus pauvres. Dans le climat d'austérité qui règne en ce moment, ses dépenses ont été passées au peigne fin et ses programmes n'ont plus connu d'expansion au moins depuis quatre ans.

Je ne peux cependant cacher mon inquiétude pour l'avenir. Au cours de ces dernières années, en effet, les circonstances sont devenues moins favorables: morosité économique persistante, dégradation progressive du climat de la coopération internationale, aggravation des tensions et de la compétition commerciale, tribulations sur les marchés monétaires, endettement et crises financières. Tous ces facteurs d'incertitude et de doute jettent une ombre sur les perspectives de croissance futures. Ils ne pouvaient manquer d'exercer des répercussions déprimantes sur le système des Nations Unies.

Ce dernier, malgré les réalisations remarquables à mettre à son crédit, traverse ainsi une crise existentielle très grave, une crise d'identité. Quelle sera sa place à l'avenir, dans le concert des nations? Ce système met à disposition un outil remarquable de concertation, de coopération, et un recours précieux en cas de catastrophe ou de crise.

Il faut tout mettre en oeuvre pour ne pas l'affaiblir. On ne peut laisser une crise de trésorerie, espérons-le momentanée, gripper durablement la machine. On ne peut assister passivement à la retraite prématurée de ses meilleurs agents et à la difficulté constante de recruter des experts qualifiés à cause de la détérioration progressive des conditions d'emploi. Le vent de réforme qui souffle ne doit pas davantage remettre en cause ses grandes orientations et ses moyens d'action.

Pour ce qui est de la FAO, je sais que je peux compter sur tout votre appui pour affronter cette passe difficile et trouver les solutions nécessaires dans la concorde et l'harmonie.

L'actualité m'impose, en tout cas, de vous parler brièvement dans cette intervention de ces trois sujets - crise de trésorerie, personnel, réforme - de même, bien sûr, que du programme de travail et budget dont vous aurez à débattre. Mais, auparavant, permettez-moi de jeter un bref regard sur la situation alimentaire mondiale.

Monsieur le Président,

Il n'y a pas de doute qu'au cours des dernières décennies des progrès considérables ont été réalisés à l'échelle mondiale. Malgré cela, que d'ombres encore au tableau

Que le monde soit globalement mieux nourri aujourd'hui qu'il y a vingt-cinq ans, bien qu'il y ait 1,8 milliards d'habitants de plus sur notre planète, ce n'est certes pas une mince performance. Mais en même temps, il n'est pas rassurant de constater que, malgré cela, le nombre de malnourris continue à croître en chiffres absolus, sinon en pourcentage.

La production agricole mondiale a crû en moyenne de 2,5 pour cent par an pendant cette période.

L'expansion a été de 3,2 pour cent dans les pays en développement, soit, en tenant compte de l'accroissement démographique, de 0,8 pour cent par habitant.

La FAO est particulièrement heureuse d'avoir contribué à ce résultat par ses activités d'analyse, de recherche, de formulation des politiques et des programmes, de formation, et d'exécution de nombreux projets de terrain.

Evidemment, cette progression moyenne recouvre bien des différences d'une région et d'un pays à l'autre.

Le tour de force le plus remarquable a sans doute été réalisé par les pays d'Asie dont on désespérait, il y a quelque dix ans encore, de les voir jamais sortir de la crise alimentaire. Grâce à la révolution verte et à diverses mesures d'incitation, leur production s'est accrue au rythme de presque 5 pour cent par an depuis 1980.

En Amérique latine et au Proche-Orient, la croissance annuelle de la production agricole a été de 3 pour cent et 2,9 pour cent respectivement entre 1961 et 1985. Cependant, il faut noter un ralentissement depuis le début de la décennie et une extension récente de la malnutrition, en particulier dans les couches les plus pauvres de la population. En Afrique, la production agricole s'est à peine accrue de 2 pour cent en moyenne durant les deux dernières décennies, donc bien en dessous de l'expansion démographique, et la terrible famine des années 1983 et 1984 est encore dans toutes les mémoires.

Dans les pays développés, la production agricole a augmenté d'environ 2 pour cent par an entre 1961 et 1985, avec une nette décélération volontaire au cours des dernières années. Ce tassement n'a cependant pas empêché l'accumulation d'énormes excédents.

Pour 1987, les perspectives sont peu encourageantes. Selon nos dernières prévisions, la production mondiale de céréales pourrait subir un recul de l'ordre de 4 pour cent à la suite de réductions des emblavures dans certains pays exportateurs, mais aussi d'une moisson médiocre en Asie et aussi à cause des calamités naturelles. En Afrique, la situation alimentaire est toujours tragique et cela dans plusieurs pays qui auront besoin d'une aide exceptionnelle accrue à bref délai.

La menace que les criquets et sauteriaux font peser sur de vastes zones du continent n'est pas encore complètement conjurée, même si elle a pu, jusqu'ici, être tenue en échec par de promptes interventions au niveau national et international, coordonnées par la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, globalement, donc, l'agriculture mondiale de ces dernières décennies présente un bilan positif. Grâce surtout à l'adoption de systèmes agricoles plus productifs un peu partout dans le monde, les disponibilités alimentaires se sont remarquablement améliorées, et il n'y a pas eu de pénuries chroniques généralisées. Les stocks mondiaux de céréales assurent un niveau confortable de sécurité alimentaire, même s'ils sont concentrés dans les pays développés et si certaines réserves ont tendance à s'amenuiser dangereusement dans quelques-uns des grands pays du tiers monde. Je pense surtout au riz.

Et pourtant, selon les estimations de notre cinquième enquête mondiale sur l'alimentation, il y aurait toujours de 350 à 510 millions de personnes gravement sous-alimentées.

Nous assistons même à une dégradation progressive des niveaux nutritionnels dans beaucoup de pays en développement à la suite, notamment, des mesures d'ajustement structurel mises en place pour réduire les déficits budgétaires. Certes, celles-ci sont bien souvent la condition sine qua non d'une reprise non inflationniste de la croissance. Mais elles ne peuvent être appliquées sans discrimination. Couper brusquement les subventions alimentaires ne peut que retentir négativement sur les revenus et l'alimentation des plus pauvres: retirer du jour au lendemain tout subside aux intrants ne peut qu'affecter le niveau de la production agricole. L'expérience montre que ces ajustements ne sont socialement tenables et économiquement efficaces que s'ils sont progressifs, s'insèrent dans une perspective de croissance et sont modulés de manière à assurer aux plus pauvres un accès raisonnable à la nourriture.

Je souhaite, en tout cas, que l'étude d'ensemble des programmes d'ajustement que le FMI a décidé d'entreprendre amène la Communauté internationale à prendre davantage encore conscience des coûts sociaux de l'ajustement imposé aux pays débiteurs.

Car, en dernière analyse, la malnutrition ne provient pas tant d'une absence physique d'aliments que de la pauvreté: pauvreté des individus qui ne peuvent ni produire, faute de terre ou de

moyens, ni acheter, faute de revenus: pauvreté des Etats qui ne peuvent assurer les infrastructures nécessaires ou subventionner les services et soutenir les revenus des agriculteurs comme le font les pays développés.

Les pays pauvres ont beau réorienter leurs politiques, accorder à l'agriculture une plus haute priorité, lui consacrer une part accrue du budget et l'Etat, leurs moyens restent dérisoires face à leurs immenses besoins. Dans ces conditions, pour s'en sortir, ils ont plus que jamais besoin d'apports extérieurs. Sur quoi doivent-ils pouvoir compter?

D'abord, sur une assistance accrue de la part des pays riches? Sans doute, mais celle-ci ne sera jamais qu'un appoint. Il est d'ailleurs décevant de constater que le volume de l'aide est resté pratiquement inchangé en termes réels depuis le début de la décennie. Au demeurant, les pays en développement exportent désormais plus de capitaux qu'ils n'en reçoivent.

Peuvent-ils compter sur une aide alimentaire accrue? Peuvent-ils compter sur des échanges plus profitables? Voilà, je pense, une des clefs du problème. Le tiers monde a besoin, comme les pays développés du reste, de pouvoir commercer pour s'équiper, créer des emplois et donc des revenus, rembourser ses dettes, bref, assurer son développement. Force est toutefois de constater que les conditions du commerce international lui sont des plus défavorables. Exportateurs de produits primaires, les pays en développement sont affectés, au premier chef, par la crise du commerce agricole.

Le volume des échanges agricoles n'augmente pratiquement pas depuis cinq ans, et les prix de nombreux produits sont aujourd'hui tombés à des niveaux sans précédent. Pour l'année 1986 seulement, la détérioration des termes de l'échange s'est traduite, pour les pays en développement, par une perte estimée à plus de 90 milliards de dollars. Globalement, selon l'OCDE, cette dégradation équivaut à 3 pour cent de leur produit national brut. En outre, le pouvoir d'achat de leurs exportations est érodé par le renchérissement des produits finis et des services. Ainsi, les termes de l'échange des produits agricoles vis-à-vis des articles manufacturés se sont dégradés de près de 30 pour cent depuis 1980.

Dans ces conditions, comment ces pays pourraient-ils assurer le service de leur dette qui, pour beaucoup d'entre eux, absorbe désormais plus du quart des recettes d'exportation? La remontée de certains cours à laquelle on assiste aujourd'hui ne sera-t-elle qu'une bouffée d'oxygène ou marquera-t-elle l'amorce d'une amélioration plus générale? L'instabilité chronique des marchés, aggravée par les mouvements erratiques des changes, ne permet guère de prévision.

La dépression actuelle des cours des matières premières s'explique, pour une large part, par l'anémie persistente de l'économie mondiale qui affaiblit la demande. Les perspectives à court terme laissent prévoir une croissance contenue de l'économie, de l'ordre de 2,5 à 3 pour cent. Cette expansion risque d'être insuffisante pour stimuler notablement la demande et orienter les marchés en faveur des exportations.

D'autre part, la situation présente est en partie provoquée, et sans aucun doute aggravée, par les politiques de soutien aux marchés agricoles adoptées par les pays développés. Ces politiques conduisent à une surproduction quasi généralisée des principales denrées de base dans les pays occidentaux avec ses corollaires inévitables: protectionnisme et bradage des denrées sur les marchés tiers.

De plus en plus, les prix internes et ceux des marchés mondiaux divergent de manière extravagante allant parfois de 1 à 14 dans le cas extrême du sucre. N'est-il pas aberrant de penser que les dépenses publiques des Etats-Unis, de la Communauté Economique Européenne et du Japon pour le soutien à l'agriculture et les subventions à l'exportation dépasseront 70 milliards de dollars en 1987, soit l'équivalent de la totalité des recettes que les pays en développement tirent de leurs exportations agricoles? La comble est qu'en dépit de ces dépenses, les revenus des petits agriculteurs sont de moins en moins protégés et que ces politiques finissent par mécontenter tout le monde, producteurs comme consommateurs.

Les pays en développement sont les premières victimes de cette compétition effrénée. Pour les productions qu'ils exportent en concurrence avec les pays développés, ils ne peuvent se lancer dans la course aux subventions, et les marchés leur échappent. Encore, si les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier pouvaient vraiment tirer parti des bas prix pour améliorer leur ordinaire! Hélas, ils sont de toute façon souvent forcés de réduire leurs importations pour freiner l'hémorragie de devises et équilibrer leurs comptes.

Pour les produits dits tropicaux, c'est par contre la baisse de la demande qui handicape et freine les possibilités d'exportation des pays en développement.

Dans tous les cas de figure, ceux-ci sont perdants. Aucun mécanisme régulateur ne les protège. Les accords par produits battent de l'aile et, malgré certains progrès récents, ils ne sont pas vraiment en mesure d'assurer sur les marchés un niveau décent et stable de prix. Les règles du commerce international sont de plus en plus fréquemment tournées et les pays pauvres se voient trop souvent barrer l'accès aux marchés des pays développés par toute une panoplie de mesures.

Cela dit, on ne doit pas sous-estimer certains signes encourageants. Ainsi, il semble que les chances de voir le Fonds commun des produits de base entrer enfin en activité se soient sensiblement améliorées; la FAO, pour sa part, continuera à appuyer énergiquement le Programme intégré des produits de base et à collaborer avec la CNUCED pour la réalisation de ses objectifs.

Par ailleurs, le sentiment est de plus en plus répandu que les politiques de commerce et de production agricoles doivent être révisées pour répondre davantage aux impératifs et aux signaux du marché. La coexistence de zones d'excédents et d'espaces de pénurie ne peut durer éternellement. La communauté internationale est condamnée à mieux harmoniser l'usage et la finalité de ses ressources. A terme, la solution réside dans un marché plus fluide et plus libre où les distorsions patentes d'aujourd'hui seraient nettement atténuées.

C'est pourquoi la FAO attache une très grande importance aux négociations commerciales du GATT et se félicite, en particulier que les parties contractantes aient invité la FAO à participer aux travaux des groupes chargés de l'agriculture et des produits tropicaux. Ces derniers seront ainsi à même de tirer le meilleur parti des compétences et des informations que l'Organisation pourra mettre à leur disposition.

De nombreuses propositions constructives sont sur la table de négociation et nous ne pouvons que formuler des vœux pour le franc succès de ce très important cycle de négociations commerciales.

Monsieur le Président, j'ai pris peut-être plus de temps qu'il n'aurait été nécessaire pour tracer à grands traits la situation économique mondiale telle que la FAO la perçoit. Vous comprendrez cependant que c'est sur cette toile de fond que l'Organisation doit tisser son action.

La FAO ne saurait résoudre tous les problèmes agricoles et alimentaires du monde. Mais elle peut et doit jouer un rôle majeur dans un certain nombre de domaines qui constituent l'ossature de son programme de travail. Son but ultime est de promouvoir la production agricole, d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire et de garantir à tous un niveau nutritionnel décent. Tous nos programmes y tendent. Permettez-moi aujourd'hui d'en éclairer plutôt les aspects de politique générale que les aspects techniques. Les considérations qui suivent sont autant de repères, me semble-t-il, pour l'action future de l'Organisation.

Catalyseur: Avant tout, son rôle n'est pas de tout faire par elle-même, mais de promouvoir les idées et les politiques, d'inciter à l'action. Elle doit servir de révélateur des problèmes, de catalyseur des initiatives et chercher l'effet multiplicateur. Pour ne prendre que l'exemple des nombreuses réunions qu'elle organise chaque année de par le monde, je dirai qu'au-delà de leur intérêt économique, technique ou scientifique, leur valeur réside dans la mise en présence, et en condition de dialogue, de milliers et de milliers d'experts et d'opérateurs du développement. Le Secrétariat n'offre qu'un support, les Etats Membres sont les vrais acteurs. Ces échanges, ces transferts de connaissance et de technologie sont d'une importance capitale dans les relations nord-sud, mais aussi pour promouvoir la coopération entre pays en développement: ce sont là deux objectifs majeurs de l'Organisation.

Information: L'analyse, la collecte et la diffusion des données de base sur l'agriculture, les pêches et les forêts constituent une tâche capitale de l'Organisation. Le recours systématique aux techniques modernes d'information et le regroupement envisagé des informations et stratégies agricoles dans une seule et même banque de données permettront, ici même, à la FAO, d'assurer un service toujours meilleur à tous nos Etats Membres en améliorant la qualité, l'accessibilité, la transparence des informations. Le renforcement constant de notre Système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture, aujourd'hui couplé avec un système informatisé de surveillance de l'environnement, permet désormais une meilleure sécurité alimentaire par la détection précoce des risques de sécheresse, de mauvaises récoltes ou d'infestations acridiennes.

Le rôle de la FAO comme forum intergouvernemental de discussion sur les politiques agricoles et alimentaires vient encore d'être mis en lumière, il y a quelques semaines seulement, par les délibérations du Comité des produits sur le protectionnisme dans le commerce agricole.

Fonction normative: La fonction "normative" progressivement assumée par la FAO, avec le concours actif de tous ses Etats Membres, mérite également, je crois, d'être soulignée. Un début de jurisprudence internationale s'élabore ainsi sous nos yeux dans des domaines variés et hautement spécialisés. Dois-je citer, par exemple, les normes du Codex Alimentarius, le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides, ou encore l'Engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques et le Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire? L'importance de cette fonction ne peut être sous-estimée.

Je suis, par ailleurs, convaincu que la FAO peut et doit se faire le promoteur et le coordonnateur d'initiatives de vaste portée internationale, impliquant tout à la fois les pays récipiendaires et donateurs ainsi que les institutions multilatérales. Permettez-moi d'explicitier ce concept à l'aide de quelques exemples:

- Le Plan d'action forestier tropical. Les forêts tropicales représentent un patrimoine universel d'importance critique par son impact sur l'écologie et l'environnement. En même temps, elles constituent des ressources très appréciables pour le développement des pays où elles sont situées. Le Plan d'action forestier tropical réconcilie les objectifs de conservation, d'utilisation et de développement et fournit un cadre universellement accepté pour l'action au niveau national, régional et mondial. Au sein du système des Nations Unies, la FAO a été chargée d'assurer la coordination de ce Plan qui a été préparé en consultation avec la Banque mondiale, le PNUD et le World Resources Institute.
- Les Pêches. La stratégie adoptée par la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches constitue un cadre conceptuel coordonné dans lequel programmes et projets peuvent être formulés et exécutés. Il s'agit maintenant de bâtir sur les acquis des trois dernières années. Les pêches doivent à la fois procurer de la nourriture et promouvoir le développement à la mesure des besoins de l'an 2000 et au-delà.
- La protection des plantes et du bétail. Le succès récent des campagnes antiacridiennes a montré combien le rôle de la FAO avait pu être décisif pour coordonner l'action de la communauté internationale. Plus généralement, d'ailleurs, notre Organisation a un rôle à jouer dans le renforcement des capacités nationales et régionales de protection des végétaux. Mutatis mutandis, cela vaut également pour la sauvegarde du bétail contre les principales maladies.
- Biotechnologie. Les développements se multiplient à un rythme accéléré dans ce nouveau secteur. La FAO y a un rôle important à jouer en aidant les pays membres à examiner les implications politiques et socio-économiques de ces nouvelles technologies dans le secteur agricole. Elle compte également en poursuivre l'examen des aspects techniques en collaboration avec des institutions du système des Nations Unies comme l'ONUDI et l'Unesco.
- Finalement, je mentionnerai deux autres initiatives lancées par la FAO en faveur de l'Afrique à la suite de son rapport à l'Agriculture africaine: les vingt-cinq prochaines années. Je pense à l'étude sur l'aide en nature, dont votre Conférence discutera, et à la mise au point progressive d'une stratégie de conservation des sols en Afrique. Dans les deux cas, le but de la FAO est de rassembler toutes les parties intéressées pour une action internationale coordonnée.

Conseils aux gouvernements: La FAO est appelée, d'autre part, à jouer un rôle de plus en plus actif comme conseiller des gouvernements dans la formulation de leurs politiques agricoles et de développement rural. La présence de nos représentants dans les pays est cruciale à cet égard. Il s'agit d'une fonction qui va de soi pour une organisation comme la nôtre. L'assistance qu'elle prodigue déjà à la planification du secteur agricole dans de nombreux pays est illustrée dans le document sur les programmes de terrain soumis à la Conférence. La FAO est disposée à intensifier ses activités d'analyse sectorielles et sous-sectorielles à la demande des gouvernements. Elle est surtout désireuse d'être associée, aussi étroitement que possible, à tout le processus de préparation et de tenue des Tables rondes du PNUD et des Groupes consultatifs de la Banque mondiale, d'autant que le secteur agricole y tient presque toujours une place prépondérante.

Enfin permettez-moi de dire un mot du programme de terrain. Pour nous, il n'y a pas solution de continuité mais bien synergie entre programme ordinaire et programme de terrain. Les deux doivent s'épauler réciproquement. Ce n'est d'ailleurs pas un hasard si les activités financées par les fonds extrabudgétaires épousent si souvent les grandes orientations de politique et les programmes d'action prioritaires arrêtés par nos organes directeurs. Je ne peux, faute de temps, entrer dans le détail de nos différentes interventions, que ce "soit pour les opérations d'urgence en cas de catastrophes naturelles ou autres ou pour les projets de développement. Je souhaite cependant souligner l'importance que nous attachons à certains aspects particuliers:

- La promotion des investissements. Le Centre d'investissements de la FAO, en particulier, est chargé d'identifier et de préparer des projets bancables à soumettre aux institutions internationales de financement. Rien qu'en 1986, 40 projets préparés par le Centre ont été approuvés pour un financement total de 3 milliards de dollars, dont 1,7 de crédits internationaux. Aujourd'hui, des accords de coopération ont été conclus avec virtuellement toutes les institutions multilatérales prêtant au secteur agricole, et le Centre a, en outre, développé un important programme de coopération avec les banques privées;

- Le renforcement des capacités nationales dans les pays récipiendaires eux-mêmes, tant pour la préparation que pour l'exécution des projets, ainsi que l'utilisation accrue des experts et services nationaux et la promotion de la coopération entre pays en développement;

- Un autre point important: l'importance de l'éducation et de la formation. La FAO a formé pas moins d'un demi-million de personnes au cours des dix dernières années. Mais cela ne suffit pas. Elle entend promouvoir un effort massif dans ce secteur, en étroite collaboration avec les différentes agences intéressées, que ce soit une collaboration multilatérale ou bilatérale;

- Enfin, un mot sur la place des femmes dans le développement rural. L'importance de cette question ne peut échapper à personne. La FAO est heureuse de pouvoir vous présenter un document sur les orientations de ses programmes dans ce secteur, ainsi que le Conseil le lui a demandé;

- Enfin, il faudra intégrer toujours davantage la dimension "écologique" dans nos activités, qu'elles soient au titre du programme ordinaire ou du programme de terrain. La FAO souscrit à l'analyse et aux conclusions générales du Rapport Brundtland, de la Commission mondiale de l'environnement et du développement. Elle s'efforcera de renforcer son aide aux Etats Membres, spécialement pour la conservation et la mise en valeur des ressources naturelles et la lutte contre la dégradation des sols, la désertification et le déboisement.

Toutes ces actions, la FAO entend les poursuivre en étroite coopération avec l'ensemble de la famille des Nations Unies: à Rome, d'abord avec les organisations qui ont leur siège ici: le PAM, le FIDA, le CMA; ensuite, au sein du Comité administratif de coordination, présidé par le Secrétaire général de l'ONU et où siègent tous les chefs d'institution; enfin, par nos contacts permanents avec les différentes institutions spécialisées comme l'AIEA, l'OIT, l'OMS, l'ONUDI, l'Unesco, ainsi qu'avec le PNUD, le groupe de la Banque mondiale, etc. J'ajouterai que nous souhaitons également renforcer notre coopération, déjà si fructueuse, avec les organisations non gouvernementales, celles qui sont actives dans le secteur rural.

Monsieur le Président, avons-nous, aurons-nous les moyens de l'action ainsi esquissée?

En vous présentant mon projet de budget pour l'exercice 1988-89, j'ai été animé par un souci majeur: assurer son approbation par consensus. C'est ainsi que j'ai modifié les propositions présentées dans le Sommaire de façon à recueillir l'accord le plus large possible. L'augmentation réelle de programme finalement proposée se chiffre à 0,25 pour cent seulement de la base budgétaire.

Comme, en outre, les crédits nécessaires pour couvrir les augmentations de coûts n'ont pas été prévus intégralement, il faudra sans doute en absorber une partie lors de l'exécution du prochain programme de travail. De sorte qu'un budget en croissance symbolique sur le papier pourrait fort bien conduire à une croissance négative en pratique, comme cela a déjà été le cas durant le présent exercice 1986-87.

Dans ces conditions, j'espère fermement que tous les Etats Membres pourront se rallier par consensus au projet de budget tel qu'il a été présenté.

Quoi qu'il en soit, je me dois à ce stade de dire quelques mots de la crise de trésorerie sans précédent à laquelle nous devons faire face. Celle-ci est essentiellement due à l'enchaînement de trois circonstances malheureuses mais concomitantes: d'abord, le retard dans le versement de sa contribution de la part du plus gros contributeur; deuxièmement, un fléchissement de plus de 30 pour cent du dollar; troisièmement, la baisse des revenus divers.

Par une série de mesures d'économie draconiennes, portant sur quelque 25 millions de dollars, et en recourant aux mécanismes dont nous disposons, en particulier le Fonds de roulement et le Compta de réserve spécial, nous pourrions terminer sans trop de dommages le biennium qui s'achève. Cependant, même si le dollar se maintient - et il ne se maintient pas, il me semble - et si l'inflation ne reprend pas trop, la FAO se trouvera bientôt dans une impasse de trésorerie si notre principal contributeur ne s'acquitte pas rapidement de son dû. Aujourd'hui, nous avons reçu Les deux tiers de sa contribution pour 1986, rien pour 1987, et l'incertitude demeure sur la date et l'ampleur du prochain paiement. Pour l'exercice 1988-89, nous ne savons rien. Tout porte mime à croire que retard et arriérés vont continuer à s'accumuler.

Comme vous le savez, ce n'est pas la FAO seule qui est concernée, mais l'ensemble des organisations du système des Nations Unies, dont la solidité financière serait remise en cause si cette pratique devait se prolonger en 1988 et au-delà. En tout cas, il serait navrant de voir la FAO précipitée dans une crise de trésorerie alors que, si on prend en compte tous les arriérés et les contributions qui lui sont dus, sa situation financière est équilibrée - nous avons même des surplus.

Il ne me reste plus qu'à faire appel à ce grand pays, ami de toujours de la FAO, pour qu'il s'acquitte au plus tot de ce. qu'il reconnaît lui-même comme étant une obligation contractuelle de sa part vis-à-vis de notre Organisation. Nous prenons acte avec satisfaction de l'intention qu'il a exprimée à maintes reprises de le faire.

Tandis que ces problèmes de trésorerie sont, espérons-le, passagers, il ne faut pas oublier que le vrai capital de la FAO, c'est son personnel. A ce sujet, je dirai peu de choses - me réservant d'y revenir en Commission III - mais avec la conviction profonde d'accomplir un devoir de justice tout en me comportant en administrateur soucieux de bonne gestion.

En effet, certaines décisions récentes de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur les traitements et les retraites'décisions qui s'appliquent aussi aux institutions spécialisées membres du système dans la FAO dégradent les conditions d'emploi du personnel et lui portent préjudice. De ce fait, l'Organisation subit une avalanche de retraites prématurées (plus de 100 l'année dernière) et a de plus en plus de mal à recruter du personnel qualifié. Les Comités du Programme et des Finances ont récemment attiré l'attention des organes directeurs sur cet état de fait. Pour ma part, en tout cas, je ferai tout ce qui est en mon pouvoir pour défendre les droits légitimes de notre personnel dans les enceintes appropriées.

Monsieur le Président.

Avant de terminer, permettez-moi quelques mots au sujet des réformes.

Comme toute entreprise humaine, la FAO est perfectible et, en réalité, elle se perfectionne sans cesse. Le Secrétariat a toujours été ouvert aux idées et aux initiatives nouvelles. Après tout, n'est-ce pas au lendemain même de mon élection en 1976 qu'à la demande de la Conférence j'entreprenais un examen détaillé qui a conduit à des changements profonds dans les politiques, les priorités et les modalités d'intervention de la FAO? Mes propositions furent adoptées unanimement.

Elles visaient surtout à "débureaucratiser" l'Organisation et à la rendre plus directement utile à ses Etats Membres. Je renonçais ainsi à quelque 330 postes dont je venais d'hériter. Je prenais des dispositions pour réduire l'incidence des dépenses de personnel dans l'ensemble du budget au point que cette proportion est tombée de 77.2 pour cent en 1974-75 à 51.7 pour cent pour 1988-89. D'autres mesures étaient prises pour réduire le coût des réunions, des publications, etc. alors que le Centre d'investissement était renforcé.

Avec les économies ainsi réalisées, nous pouvions lancer le Programme de coopération technique afin d'aider directement les pays dans le besoin: urgences, assistance technique de courte durée, préparation de projets d'investissements, etc.

Enfin, cette réforme prévoyait la mise en place progressive d'un réseau de représentants dans les pays, dont le déploiement arrive seulement presque à son terme.

Depuis lors, d'autres ajustements sont intervenus, comme le lancement de programmes d'action spéciaux ou les nombreuses initiatives en faveur de l'Afrique frappée par la sécheresse et la crise. Il serait fastidieux de les énumérer, mais ils témoignent de la capacité d'adaptation de notre Organisation. Certaines des réformes envisagées aujourd'hui aux Nations Unies ont ainsi été introduites ici de longue date.

La FAO est une organisation intergouvernementale. C'est donc à ses Etats Membres de décider ce qu'elle doit être, quelles sont ses fonctions, comment elle doit opérer et si le type et la qualité des services qu'elle rend leur conviennent.

Il vous appartient de dire si un examen de certains aspects de la FAO est nécessaire et, si oui, de vous accorder sur les sujets à examiner, la méthode à employer, le calendrier de la discussion et le processus de conclusion.

Permettez-moi cependant de plaider pour que vous preniez cette décision dans la concorde, par consensus - comme cela a été le cas aux Nations Unies. Tout examen ou toute réflexion sur les activités d'une Organisation aussi vaste que la nôtre doit se faire de manière ordonnée et réfléchie, pour éviter le risque de paralysie ou le travers de la réorganisation permanente. Il doit être clair que l'objectif est de renforcer l'Organisation et non de la ployer aux exigences financières de l'heure.

D'autre part, il serait simpliste de croire qu'on pourrait tout simplement transposer à toutes les institutions les conclusions arrêtées par l'Assemblée générale en ce qui concerne les Nations Unies. Ces agences ont connu une évolution sui generis du fait de leur caractère technique, et c'est à partir de leur acquis qu'on doit réfléchir à l'avenir.

Le Secrétariat, pour sa part, compte pouvoir apporter sa contribution pleine et entière à cet effort de réflexion.

Monsieur le Président, notre objectif à tous est de faire de la FAO, toujours davantage, cet instrument de progrès que ses pères fondateurs voyaient en elle.

J'ai esquissé ci-dessus les grands axes de l'action possible, tels que le Secrétariat les perçoit. Il vous appartient de nous dire si cela correspond à votre attente et, si non, de rectifier le tir.

L'important est de préserver l'harmonie et l'unité qui ont toujours prévalu au sein de nos organes directeurs. Les perceptions peuvent être différentes, les intérêts et les besoins aussi: malgré cela, le haut degré de consensus atteint ces dernières années autour des grandes orientations et des programmes de la FAO est remarquable.

Faut-il l'attribuer à la conscience que nous avons de la gravité de notre mission: éliminer la faim et la malnutrition? J'en suis persuadé. Devant ce terrible défi et cette noble résolution, nous sommes convaincus que la Communauté internationale a plus que jamais besoin d'une FAO forte, cohérente, rassemblée dans une vision commune. Dès lors, les divergences possibles paraissent dérisoires. Seule compte une coopération étroite et sincère entre les Etats Membres et avec le Secrétariat.

Nous vivons une époque de paradoxe. Il ne semble plus y avoir de limite aux exploits de la science et de la technique. Des extrémités de la terre nous paraissent chaque jour plus proches. L'interdépendance des peuples s'impose comme une vérité aveuglante. Et pourtant, l'abondance et les surplus ici coexistent toujours *avec* la misère et la pénurie là-bas; les dépenses d'armement, comme l'a dit le Président Mayer, dissipent nos richesses; le froid calcul l'emporte fréquemment encore sur la solidarité entre nations; la dignité et les droits de l'homme, l'équité et la justice sociale sont trop souvent bafoués.

La lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté sera longue: elle exigera un engagement personnel et collectif opiniâtre. C'est un des impératifs catégoriques de notre temps. Son importance transcende nos personnes et fait pâlir tout intérêt partisan. Mais ce n'est pas une cause perdue. On le sait. Les moyens d'en venir à bout existent: ils sont d'ordre scientifique, technique, économique, mais surtout politique.

C'est à mobiliser tous ces moyens que la FAO se dédie. Un écrivain célèbre a dit que "la grandeur d'un métier, c'est d'unir les hommes". Il en va de même d'une organisation comme la nôtre. Son ambition est de rassembler les bonnes volontés et de travailler en commun dans la concorde pour un avenir plus juste et plus solidaire. C'est, en tout cas, mon objectif et c'est dans cet esprit que je m'efforcerai de poursuivre la tâche que vous venez, une fois encore, de me confier.

Je vous remercie et vous souhaite plein succès dans vos travaux.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Thank you, Mr Director-General, for your statement, which gives valuable information and which sets the tone for the Conference. I should like to thank you also for raising the problem of food and agriculture in the developing countries. We all need to unite our efforts in order to arrive at the goals of this Organization. I should also like to thank you for including very important items on our agenda. This shows a high degree of responsibility and the need to work for the good of humanity. We hope that you will achieve all that you have set out to do.

Are there some delegates who wish to speak about the Director-General's report? If there are no speakers, I should like to thank you all. This concludes our work for today. We shall resume tomorrow morning. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 16.45 hours

La séance est levée à 16h45

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.45 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C**C 87/II/PV/5**Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARYVingt-quatrième session
PLENIERE24° período de sesiones
PLENARIA**FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA****(10 November 1987)**

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 heures
sous la présidence de Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled. Président de la
Conférence

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 10 horas bajo la
presidencia de Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al—Khaled, Presidente de la
Conferencia

CHAIRMAN: (original language Arabic): Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates. I should like to call this Fifth Plenary Session to order, and I should like to give the floor to the Independent Chairman of Council, Mr Lassad Ben Osman, to make his report. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL
DECLARATION DU PRÉSIDENT INDÉPENDANT DU CONSEIL
DECLARACION DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO

Lassaad BEN OSMAN (Président indépendant du Conseil)(langue originale arabe): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Honorables délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs,

Permettez-moi tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, de vous féliciter chaleureusement à l'occasion de votre élection à la présidence de la vingt-quatrième Conférence générale de la FAO. Je suis persuadé, Monsieur le Président, que, grâce à votre compétence et à votre sagesse vous allez diriger les travaux de cette Conférence avec la plus grande expertise, ce qui garantira la réussite de cette session.

J'ai également le plaisir de féliciter chaleureusement le Docteur Saouma à l'occasion de sa réélection à la tête de la FAO, et je le félicite de la confiance qui lui a été faite par la Conférence générale. Je suis persuadé que, grâce à ses qualités, le Directeur général permettra à la FAO de s'acquitter de la meilleure façon des tâches qui lui incombent dans cette crise mondiale, à savoir la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition et la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde.

La tradition veut que, juste avant l'ouverture du débat général, le Président indépendant du Conseil, rende compte à la Conférence générale de ce que le Conseil a fait depuis qu'elle a clôturé sa précédente session. Aujourd'hui, tout exposé que je pourrais vous faire n'aurait ni cohérence ni signification si je ne commençais par évoquer la conjoncture générale qui n'a pas manqué de peser sur les délibérations et les décisions du Conseil.

Comme vous le savez, ces circonstances constituent un ensemble complexe, mais qui, en simplifiant à l'extrême, peut se résumer en ces termes: difficultés sérieuses parmi lesquelles:

- un environnement économique, dont les répercussions frappent de plein fouet les pays en développement à économie essentiellement agricole: affaiblissement de la demande de produits agricoles, affaiblissement des cours, montée, du protectionnisme dans les pays industrialisés, fardeau écrasant de la dette, problème pour lequel des initiatives paraissent cependant se dessiner en vue de sa solution.
- des difficultés de l'agriculture africaine, subissant notamment les effets souvent tragiques sur la nutrition des sécheresses et des invasions acridiennes.
- une réduction de la confiance, inutile de nous le dissimuler, de la part de certains Etats et même de certaines opinions publiques à l'égard de tout le système des Nations Unies.
- une crise de liquidité affectant toutes les Organisations relevant des Nations Unies sous l'effet conjugué de l'affaiblissement du dollar, de la hausse des coûts et du non-paiement d'une part importante des contributions.

De même que les autres organisations du système des Nations Unies, la FAO traverse donc une passe difficile, telle qu'elle n'en pas connue au long de son histoire. Toute l'activité du Conseil, depuis deux ans, s'est déroulée sous l'ombre de cette situation, qui ne peut manquer de marquer fortement l'action présente et future de l'Organisation.

Je tiens à dire bien haut que le Conseil a tenu le cap malgré cette conjoncture générale, grâce \ notamment à sa coopération avec le Secrétariat et aux travaux précieux réalisés par le Comité du programme et le Comité financier, il a suivi régulièrement, avec autant d'attention que de souplesse, l'évolution de la situation, en s'efforçant de faire en sorte que la FAO puisse remplir sa mission au mieux, en dépit de toutes les difficultés.

Ses délibérations n'ont certes pas toujours été faciles dans un tel contexte, avec des délégués venus de tous les horizons et représentant autant de sensibilités différentes. Mais - et c'est là un hommage que leur Président tient à leur rendre - ces délégués ont abordé leur tâche avec tant de foi, de sérieux, d'intensité, de volonté d'aboutir, qu'ils sont presque toujours parvenus à réaliser la symbiose de ces différentes sensibilités. Je vois là, en dépit de toutes les traverses, une puissante raison d'espérer.

Je n'ai pas l'intention de vous faire un compte rendu détaillé de tout ce qui s'est passé au Conseil depuis novembre 1985: vous disposez déjà des rapports du Conseil et d'une masse d'autres documents; de plus, vous avez entendu hier le magistral exposé du Directeur Général. C'est pourquoi je me bornerai à évoquer brièvement quelques-uns des principaux thèmes que le Conseil a traités et des grandes idées qui ont été avancées et discutées dans cette enceinte depuis la 23ème Session de la Conférence.

C'est ainsi qu'ont été confirmées les grandes priorités de l'activité de la FAO:

- Promotion de la production vivrière dans les pays en voie de développement
- Amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde.

En ce qui concerne les politiques agricoles, la nécessité d'accorder et de maintenir la priorité à l'agriculture a été réitérée. Vivement conscient de l'interdépendance entre croissance économique, production vivrière et amélioration de la nutrition, le Conseil préconise des politiques agricoles qui assurent l'équilibre entre cultures vivrières, cultures d'exportation et promotion des produits locaux.

Reprenant les analyses et les conclusions qu'il formule, je suis frappé de constater à quel point le Conseil éprouve, dans sa sagesse collective, le sentiment que tout se tient. Il évoque les conséquences concrètes de l'endettement et du protectionnisme et autres pratiques analogues sur le développement agricole et la nutrition dans les pays en voie de développement.

Ses travaux sur la sécurité alimentaire font une place de premier plan aux questions commerciales: il ne se borne pas à exprimer son appui au système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide ou à encourager les Gouvernements à mettre en oeuvre des plans nationaux; il préconise dans ce contexte, l'amélioration de l'environnement économique, l'intensification des échanges entre pays en développement, il recommande que les opérations triangulaires soient intensifiées et bénéficient d'une aide accrue, il prône une approche multilatérale à la libéralisation des échanges, il demande instamment que la FAO par les données dont elle dispose apporte une contribution précieuse aux négociations commerciales multilatérales, pour ce qui touche aux produits agricoles. A plusieurs reprises, il plaide avec force pour que la reconstitution des ressources du FIDA soit largement assurée.

Saluant l'action menée dans le domaine de l'aide alimentaire par le programme Alimentaire Mondial agissant en coopération harmonieuse avec la FAO, le Conseil a approuvé, pour ce qui le concerne, l'objectif de contribution aux ressources ordinaires du PAM pour 1989-90, fixé à 1,4 milliard de dollars.

L'Afrique, dont la situation demeure très préoccupante, a naturellement retenu au plus haut degré l'attention du Conseil. Il a pris connaissance avec beaucoup d'intérêt de l'étude de la FAO sur "l'agriculture africaine: les 25 prochaines années", dont les conclusions et recommandations lui ont paru tellement valables qu'après les avoir faites siennes il a demandé instamment la mise en chantier d'une étude analogue sur l'Amérique Latine et les Caraïbes. Il s'est préoccupé des effets de la politique d'apartheid sur la production agricole et le développement économique de nombreux pays d'Afrique australe, et il a recommandé que la Conférence charge la FAO d'effectuer une étude sur cette question.

Devant la résurgence de l'antique fléau des criquets, sauterelles et sauteriaux, le conseil a adopté une résolution spéciale pour exprimer sa satisfaction des mesures prises et recommander que l'action antiacridienne soit renforcée.

La dernière Conférence Régionale pour l'Afrique avait recommandé que le Conseil donne au Directeur général mandat d'entreprendre une étude de faisabilité, initialement axée sur l'Afrique, concernant l'expansion de l'aide en nature. Ayant souscrit à cette recommandation, le Conseil a demandé que lui soit soumis un rapport intérimaire sur l'état d'avancement de l'étude; il a entendu ce rapport avec intérêt.

L'intégration des femmes dans le développement présente aux yeux du Conseil une importance majeure; aussi a-t-il recommandé à la FAO de poursuivre et renforcer sa coopération à cette fin avec les autres organisations du système des Nations Unies, et invité le Directeur général, à présenter à la Conférence un programme d'action dans ce domaine.

La vive préoccupation que suscite dans le monde la détérioration accélérée des ressources forestières est pleinement partagée par le Conseil. C'est pourquoi il a souscrit au Plan d'action forestier tropical approuvé par le Comité des Forêts. Saisi d'une étude de la FAO sur le financement des actions visant à protéger et à conserver les forêts dans le monde, en particulier pour assurer la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action forestier tropical, il a approuvé l'analyse présentée et les stratégies proposées dans cette étude.

Monsieur le Président,

Mesdames, Messieurs:

Il incombe au Conseil d'examiner "les activités courantes et futures de l'Organisation, y compris son programme de travail et de budget".

Les questions relatives au programme de travail et budget - touchant aussi bien l'exécution du programme en cours que la préparation de celui du prochain exercice - occupent toujours une très grande place dans les travaux du Conseil, mais a fortiori dans une conjoncture comme celle que nous connaissons. La situation de trésorerie de l'Organisation exerce sur ces questions une influence si profonde que je crois devoir vous dire les réactions du Conseil devant cette situation avant même d'évoquer ses avis sur le Programme de travail et budget.

Point n'est besoin de vous rappeler la nature et l'ampleur des difficultés de trésorerie que la FAO subit en ce moment. Je ne reviens pas non plus sur l'analyse des causes de cette crise: tout cela vous est connu. Mentionnons seulement que le Conseil a solennellement rappelé que le règlement ponctuel et intégral des contributions est une obligation fondamentale des Etats Membres; qu'il a instamment fait appel aux Etats Membres en retard, et singulièrement au principal bailleur de fonds, pour qu'ils règlent leurs arriérés; qu'il a approuvé les ajustements opérés par le Directeur général pour faire face à la situation, et convenu que celui-ci doit avoir le maximum de flexibilité pour les appliquer, et s'est déclaré convaincu que le Directeur général proposera ou prendra les mesures qui pourraient se révéler nécessaires; qu'il a exprimé sa vive préoccupation pour les effets pervers que les économies décidées ne peuvent manquer d'exercer sur la réalisation d'activités et de programmes considérés comme prioritaires, enfin, qu'il s'est prononcé en faveur de mesures portant sur la répartition de l'excédent de trésorerie, le traitement des recettes accessoires et l'augmentation du Fonds de roulement.

Dans l'examen du Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour 1988-90, c'est tout naturellement le débat sur le montant du budget qui a été marqué le plus fortement par la situation que je viens d'évoquer. A la traditionnelle différence d'opinions entre les tenants de la croissance zéro et les partisans, beaucoup plus nombreux, d'un accroissement réel est venu s'ajouter un élément nouveau: tablant sur une prolongation des difficultés financières, certains ont émis le vœu que le programme de travail soit basé sur un budget moins élevé, ou bien qu'un plan soit mis en place pour en assurer l'exécution compte tenu des contributions effectivement recouvrées. Mais la grande majorité du Conseil, considérant qu'une telle formule reviendrait au non respect des dispositions statutaires qui imposent aux Etats Membres d'honorer leurs obligations, a maintenu le principe d'un budget indépendant de toute hypothèse ou projection de difficultés financières et a jugé qu'en pareil cas,

il serait indiqué que la Conférence donne au Directeur général les pouvoirs et la latitude nécessaire pour parer à la situation.

C'est dans cette optique que le Conseil a, d'une manière générale, souscrit aux principes dont le Directeur général s'est inspiré pour formuler ses propositions, approuvé le choix des priorités et le dosage des activités proposées notamment par une réduction délibérée des dépenses de soutien afin de préserver les activités techniques, soulignant qu'il convenait d'apporter une attention particulière aux besoins des petits exploitants et des femmes rurales.

Malgré les divergences d'opinions tout à fait normales qui se sont fait jour sur certains points et notamment sur le montant du budget, le Conseil a formulé le vœu, au nom de la 91^{ème} session, que la version intégrale du Programme de travail et budget puisse être adoptée par consensus, et le Conseil a recommandé au Directeur général de mettre au point ses propositions définitives sur la base du Sommaire et compte tenu des réactions du Conseil.

Le Programme de Travail et Budget 1988-89 dont la Conférence est maintenant saisie représente l'aboutissement de ce travail de mise au point.

Je suis persuadé que tous les Etats Membres auront à cœur de donner tous les moyens de travail appropriés à la FAO qui est leur Organisation et qui est porteuse d'espoir pour une grande partie de l'Humanité pour son alimentation et son développement agricole.

Monsieur le Président,

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Cet exposé déjà long et pourtant schématique des activités du Conseil ne rendrait absolument pas compte de ce qu'a été la vie du Conseil s'il ne faisait une place à la confrontation fructueuse d'idées qui a caractérisé nos réunions. Le Conseil est une tribune: il est tout naturel qu'il soit le lieu privilégié de nombreux débats d'idées.

Mais toutes les interventions, sans exception, procèdent d'une volonté affirmée de renforcer le rayonnement et l'efficacité de notre Organisation afin qu'elle remplisse dans les conditions les meilleures la noble mission qui lui revient.

A maintes reprises en effet j'ai pu constater - non sans émotion parfois - la convergence générale des Etats Membres sur les grandes finalités de notre Organisation: vaincre la faim et la pauvreté, assurer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, porter à un optimum d'efficacité la gestion de la FAO, veiller à ce que sa présence et son aide apportent les meilleurs résultats, bref, faire en sorte que les bourgeons du développement puissent s'ouvrir, s'épanouir, prospérer et porter tous leurs fruits.

Le débat d'idées porte sur les moyens d'aboutir à ce résultat, de réaliser ces fins, et c'est là que depuis toujours s'expriment les conceptions et les sensibilités diverses toutes respectables.

C'est ainsi que l'on voit régulièrement revenir des échanges de vues divergentes sur l'environnement économique général plus particulièrement le protectionnisme, l'endettement et les moyens d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde.

Par ailleurs, de nombreuses opinions ont été émises sur le fonctionnement de l'Organisation notamment sur la décentralisation, la transparence, le Programme de Coopération Technique, etc.

Ainsi, et dans la conjoncture générale que nous vivons, les idées qui ont été avancées, contestées, débattues, parfois vivement lors des trois dernières sessions du Conseil vont plus loin et creusent plus profond qu'à l'accoutumée.

Devant les difficultés diverses que doit affronter le système des Nations Unies, certains demandent la mise en chantier d'un examen "étendu et approfondi" du rôle de la FAO, de ses stratégies et priorités, de son organisation, de sa gestion et de ses relations avec les autres institutions des Nations Unies.

Cependant, si tout le monde s'accorde à penser que beaucoup d'améliorations sont possibles et nécessaires, une grande majorité des membres du Conseil estime que la FAO repose sur des bases solides et que son action est bénéfique pour l'Agriculture et l'alimentation dans les pays en voie de développement et que de telles améliorations devraient viser à renforcer le rayonnement et l'efficacité de l'action de la FAO dans ces pays.

Ces échanges intenses et souvent animés ont abouti à la décision d'inscrire à l'ordre du jour provisoire de votre Conférence un point intitulé: "Examen éventuel de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO, y compris la nécessité d'une réforme de la procédure du budget-programme" Mais pour bien comprendre la portée de cette question et l'enjeu qu'elle met en cause, on ne saurait, me semble-t-il, trouver une formulation plus juste et plus équilibrée que celle qui figure au paragraphe 204 du rapport de la 91ème Session du Conseil, dont je me permets de vous donner lecture in extenso:

"Un certain nombre de délégations ont recommandé et souligné la nécessité que le Conseil examine à sa quatre-vingt-douzième session et que la Conférence décide à sa vingt-quatrième session si, quand et comment les réformes des procédures de planification, de programmation et de budgétisation proposées, mises en oeuvre ou à l'étude à l'ONU ou dans d'autres organisations du système des Nations Unies, auront des incidences à la FAO.

Au cas où la Conférence conviendrait d'une initiative de réforme, ces délégations ont en outre recommandé qu'elle envisage la constitution d'un groupe indépendant de haut niveau pour procéder à un examen complet de la FAO, y compris ses stratégies et priorités à long terme, son organisation et sa gestion et ses relations avec les autres institutions des Nations Unies; la majorité des membres, observant que ces questions ne sont pas inscrites à l'ordre du jour, ont estimé qu'elles ne sauraient être examinées sans avoir été soumises au Conseil conformément aux procédures établies. Quelques membres ont exprimé l'avis que ces questions, même si elles ne figurent pas formellement à l'ordre du jour, sont capitales pour l'élaboration du Programme de travail et budget. Par un vote majoritaire, le Conseil a décidé que, la question n'étant pas inscrite à l'ordre du jour, elle ne pouvait être débattue. La majorité des membres a par ailleurs estimé que la FAO a prouvé son efficacité et sa capacité d'adaptation dans sa gestion et ses opérations, et que les mécanismes dont elle est déjà dotée sont à même d'entreprendre les réformes qui pourraient être nécessaires. Il a également été jugé que la question de la réforme de la FAO ou de l'examen de l'Organisation ne pourrait être envisagée qu'après que l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies aura formulé un avis mûrement considéré sur la nature et l'étendue de la réforme des secteurs économiques et sociaux des Nations Unies. Le Conseil est convenu que l'étude et les décisions relatives aux propositions de réforme ou d'examen relevant de la Conférence et que c'est à elle qu'il appartient de décider de la nécessité, de la teneur, de la méthodologie et du mécanisme de ces réformes ou examen".

Ainsi, nous avons fait tout le possible pour que l'ordre du jour préparé à l'intention de votre 24ème session serve à donner à la FAO une efficacité maximale; il réserve, croyons-nous, toute la place voulue aux grands sujets qui font aujourd'hui les préoccupations essentielles du monde agricole et de notre Organisation.

Le Conseil n'a épargné aucun effort pour préserver un esprit de rencontre et de dialogue et pour que ce climat puisse continuer de prévaloir à la Conférence, afin que la FAO puisse coïncider au maximum avec sa finalité première, telle qu'elle est impérissablement gravée au fronton de son Acte constitutif:

"élever le niveau de nutrition et des conditions de vie des populations;

"améliorer le rendement de la production et l'efficacité de la répartition de tous les produits

alimentaires et agricoles;

"améliorer la condition des populations rurales;

"et ainsi contribuer à l'expansion de l'économie mondiale et libérer l'humanité de la faim"

Pour nous guider à travers cette conjoncture particulièrement difficile, peut-on imaginer phare plus lumineux?

J'éprouve, à l'orée de votre Conférence, une confiance totale, je dirais presque viscérale, en l'issue féconde que votre sagesse et votre détermination sauront donner à vos travaux.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I thank Mr Lassaad Ben Osman, independent Chairman of the Council, for his very interesting statement.

Mr Independent Chairman of Council, may I thank you for everything which you have said and for everything which you have done to ensure the success of the work of this Conference.

We now come to the substance of our Conference which will continue for the next three weeks. During these sessions Ministers and Heads of Delegations will take the floor in turn and will address all the matters which are of importance to this Conference and to this Organization.

I should like to remind speakers that it has been agreed that your speaking time will be fifteen minutes. That limit is imposed so that all those who wish to speak will have the opportunity to do so. Today we will meet until 1 o'clock and then in the afternoon until 6.30 p.m.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

DEBAT GENERAL

DEBATE GENERAL

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFS DE LAS DELEGACIONES

Italy, China, France, Mexico, United States of America, Indonesia, Belgique, Cook Islands, Maroc, Barbados, Congo, Iceland.

Filippo Maria PANDOLFI (Italy): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Ladies and Gentlemen, to congratulate Director-General Saouma on yesterday's re-election may seem a simple courtesy obligation. But for me that is not the case. I cannot separate my congratulations from a reflection and an interpretation.

In cases such as this, in the case of a third re-election for a period of six more years, chronology indeed has its rights. Chronology says continuity. But there is something which goes beyond chronology and I cannot resign myself to accepting such a reducing and partial interpretation. The continuity of the office, the experience accumulated, the mastery of the problems, the strong ties acquired with the Organization, all represent an ideal platform not so much for conserving what exists now as for guiding the necessary changes. Even the most solid institutions need special maintenance. To change and to undergo modifications in the light of needs is a condition for lasting in time. This was the commitment that I felt transpired from your statements yesterday, Mr Director-General. The spirit of unity of the Organization which lives beyond the contraposition of candidacies, the constructive commitment of the member countries which will allow FAO to win the challenge of time: that is my wish to you.

I will now face the three questions on which I believe it is useful for this Conference to know the

opinion of my country. To inform you of such questions is all the more a duty because Italy has

the privilege of giving hospitality to FAO. The three questions are as follows: the future of

FAO, budget problems and Italy's commitment.

As to the future of FAO, a question must be posed and we must answer it frankly. Is there still need -for multilateral cooperation in the sectors which historically have constituted the objective of FAO's action? I say that the answer is yes. It is true: the demand for multilateralism is expressed today in forms which are very different from those which characterized the birth of the United Nations, the constitution of FAO. It was more natural then, in a world in which international relations were still traditional relations and in which, on the contrary, the vital drive towards peace and development was stronger, to orient one's attention first and foremost in the direction of multilateral cooperation. Today things have changed. There is a vast network of relations between Nation and Nation, between regional institutions, between world areas, and thus the classical

form of multilateralism of which FAO is an expression, seems to lose weight at least in a relative sense. A statistical indicator of the change in the objective conditions could be provided by the percentage of expenditure delivered through the multilateral or multilateral channel and the total expenditure delivered by the member States of this Organization for cooperation for development in the agricultural and food sectors. It is a percentage which has been going down constantly.

But if this is the case, it is equally true that there is now a new demand for multilateralism which is objectively arising from the present situation. Problems take on a world dimension. The contrast between a part of the world which seems to be dying of suffocation, submerged by increasing surpluses, and alas an increasingly large part in which the populations suffer from hunger and malnutrition has become more dramatic. Interdependence in world agricultural problems is an increasingly dominant factor. Decisive negotiations are under way to find new, acceptable regulations for international trade in agricultural commodities. I am referring to the Uruguay Round. In this situation would it be even thinkable to attenuate and compromise the important role of multilateral seat and of coordinator at the world level which is the role of FAO?

If one still believes in multilateralism, and indeed Italy does, then steps must be taken with a new vision of things, to make those adjustments and records which need to be made.' To change means to grow in strength. I do not believe that it would be useful to re-discuss the fundamental texts; similarly I believe it would be inopportune and unfairly humiliating to exclude the contribution of FAO staff from such a process of adjustment. If the objective one wishes to attain is clearly delineated, then a pragmatic approach can facilitate an agreement. We are willing to participate and contribute to the success of this process.

BUDGET PROBLEMS:

This is an area in which it is necessary not to lose one's calm. The situation of the dollar has had a negative effect on the entire picture of FAO's budget. I might add: FAO is not the only organization to find itself in this difficult situation; other similar international or multilateral institutions are facing the same problem. These economic difficulties have aggravated a situation which in itself was already difficult due to delays in back payments and in the payment of current contributions. It would be foolish not to acknowledge realistically that at the basis of all this, and to a greater degree than the economic factors, is a prevailing situation of doubt and perhaps of disaffection.

At this point I would like to express my opinion. The serious cash crisis presently faced by FAO cannot be solved by means of brilliant expedients of financial engineering. Nor can it be solved by means of praiseworthy statements of intent. It can only be solved if first serious political agreement has been reached on the role and on the future of the Organization.

Nonetheless we must acknowledge the fact that serious efforts have already been made to improve the budgetary situation. Spending has been blocked and already, for an initial percentage fraction, reduced. The time has come to realistically face up to the budgetary problems, with each member country recognizing its precise responsibilities. Italy has already given its support to the programme and budget for the next financial period. I would like to make an appeal to the other Member States to collaborate in this operation which is both an exercise of rigour and of responsibility. We are aware of the difficulties encountered by the major contributor, but we are also aware of the long-standing tradition of the United States to always be in the forefront on questions of international solidarity and aid for development.

ITALY'S ROLE:

Italy is conscious of her obligations, which derive from the privilege of giving hospitality to FAO. Director-General Saouma can acknowledge that my country has in recent years shown a growing awareness of her responsibilities. I wish to thank him also personally for having made the task of those in my nation who, like me, believe in FAO an easier one.

During the World Food Day, less than a month ago, in this same hall the Premier of Italy, Mr. Gorla, reminded us that in the space of a decade, Italy has passed from a percentage of 0.12 of her gross domestic product being devoted to cooperation with developing countries to 0.40. We have exceeded the OCSE/DAC average. The total expenditure for 1986 for the delivery of this service was 3.1 billion dollars: of this 27%, equal to 0.8 billion dollars, concerned the agriculture and food aid sectors. Forty percent of the total sum, again in 1986, went to multilateral programmes, for 1.2 billion dollars. In this context Italy's cooperation with FAO has progressively grown in strength. Italy is now the first funding nation of FAO projects.

Mr President, Mr Director-General, Italy is examining supplementary forms of support for FAO programmes which should make it possible to make tangible reductions on the cuts that may prove necessary to contain the present deficit. I wish to remind you that in addition to the compulsory quota, Italy contributes both directly and indirectly in an objectively consistent manner. I am referring to the dimensions of our trust fund, to the programme of young associate experts, to the continuing free concession of the building hosting the Organization, to the special contributions granted towards the rent of external premises, to the decision never to claim from FAO its quota of the cash surplus of 1984-85 in the hands of the Organization. But here I have the honour of informing you that the Italian Government is contemplating a further extraordinary step. We will provide further details on this on a suitable occasion and in the competent seat after establishing the forms and the times with the Director-General. I say these things without emphasis. The Italian contribution is simply a proof of our political conviction and commitment on the role of FAO.

I wish to conclude simply by saying that if we believe in international cooperation, why not increase, within the sum which each of us contributes for cooperation for development, the quota which is delivered via FAO? It is not a question of upsetting our national budget. It is not a question of increasing expenditure but only of remodulating it. Mr President, this is a small message which I am leaving with you, as a sign of the strong feeling of affection and participation in the destiny of an Organization to which so much of the world still turns.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): We would like to thank his Excellency the Minister of Agriculture of Italy for concentrating in his speech on extremely important points which are closely linked in our work and the work of the Organization in general. We would also like to thank the Government of Italy, through his Excellency, for its willingness to provide additional resources to this Organization, which is in dire need of it. We hope that we will hear more on this from other delegations.

We will now like to give the floor to the representative of China.

Xiang CHONGYANG (China) (original language Chinese): At the outset, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese Delegation, to warmly congratulate you and the three vice-chairmen for being elected to the Bureau of the 24th Session of the FAO Conference. We are convinced that with your wisdom and experience, you will be able to guide the session to success.

Yesterday, Dr Edouard Saouma was reelected Director-General of FAO. The Chinese Delegation wishes to take this opportunity to offer him warm congratulations and sincerely hopes that in his new term, the Director-General will make new contributions to the world's agrarian reform and rural development and to the great cause of freeing mankind from hunger and malnutrition. The Chinese Government will as ever support FAO in its endeavours and strengthen its cooperation with the Organization and other countries in the field of food and agriculture.

Eight years ago, when addressing itself to the problem of agrarian reform and rural development here at this forum, the Chinese Delegation said that "the reform should be designed to accelerate development and only by carrying out reforms. can a solid foundation be laid for rural development". Practice over the past eight years ever since has fostered our awareness that reform and development always go along with each other. In our view, reform carried out in the light of specific national conditions aimed at achieving equity and growth, constitute the motivating force for overall rural development.

The past eight years witnessed sustained growth of the world's agriculture. In 1986, the global food and agricultural production reached a record high. The African continent, by relying on its own efforts and the support of the international community, rehabilitated its agricultural production and set it on a new course of development. Agricultural science and technology continue to advance and new productive forces are growing. However, in the past two years, the world found itself challenged by an increasingly grave economic crisis. Not a few developing countries suffer from augmenting difficulties and the conflict between North and South is getting more and more evident. Under such circumstances, the global food and agricultural production has weakened its momentum of growth. The paradox still prevails in which some countries have food surpluses while others suffer food shortage. The number of hungry and malnourished people is increasing. What merits special attention is the constantly diminishing trend of agricultural trade and reduced foreign earnings of the developing countries which rely on agricultural trade for survival. Compounded by their heavy debt burdens, the economy of these countries was rendered stagnant. The distortions in agricultural trade have adversely affected a great number of countries, including developed ones. Facts show that in the field of food agriculture, there is an urgent need to reform the inequitable and irrational international economic order, to reform or readjust the inappropriate agricultural policies as well as the backward agro-techniques and irrational farming systems. These are the grave challenges we must face.

The global food and agricultural development requires a sound international environment, so that all countries can benefit from common development. Under the current situation, it is necessary to take effective measures in the spirit of reforms, to promote liberalization of agricultural trade and to enhance international trade of farm commodities step by step. We hope that those developed countries having a major share in the import and export of farm commodities will adjust their policies in this regard, reduce their import duties and non-tariff barriers, gradually abolish direct and indirect subsidies and other barriers affecting agricultural trade, with a view to promoting its liberalization and improving the terms for agricultural commodities of the developing countries to have enhanced access to international markets. It is hoped that during the new round of negotiations of GATT on agricultural trade, full consideration should be given to the need of developing countries and their interests in exporting farm commodities so as to reflect more favourable treatment for developing countries. At the same time, developed countries also need to strengthen their financial and technical assistance to developing countries in order to help them to achieve sustained agricultural development.

To accelerate their agricultural development, developing countries themselves also need to carry out appropriate adjustments and reforms in the agricultural system, policy, technology and management which impede development of production. Naturally, such adjustment and reform should be enforced in the light of the need of national development and take into account the prevailing national conditions and factors, such as the extent to which people can sustain such changes. Moreover, they should be carried out gradually in a way that suits local conditions and at an appropriate stage. We believe that reforms in the following three areas may be identical in many countries.

First is to introduce technical innovations in production aimed at improving agricultural productive forces. As rightly pointed out in Document C 87/27 "Agriculture: Toward 2000", "Technological change has been at the heart of the capacity of world agriculture to respond to the challenges arising from the explosion of world population". Practice has proved that, with modern agricultural technology, mankind can feed itself while the key lies in the most effective application of the available science and technology to production through strengthened extension and training. Unremitting efforts are called for to raise the scientific and technical level of the vast number of agricultural workers and to train, at a faster pace, a new generation of farmers who will possess scientific and technical knowledge and who will be familiar with production operations. In this way, new and strong productive forces can be developed.

The second is to introduce reforms in the rural economic structure designed to promote integrated rural development. The 13th Ministerial Session of the World Food Council, held in Beijing last June, in its Beijing Declaration, called upon "those responsible for national adjustment programmes to give priority to the requirement of the integrated rural development as they affect the living conditions of both rural and urban populations". It is our hope that national governments will earnestly sum up, exchange and spread their experience in this regard, for this will help on the one hand, to change the mono-crop production pattern and overcome rural backwardness and on the other, to develop diversified economic undertakings which can tap the potential in production capacity of various localities, thus generating greater economic, social and ecological results.

The third is to enforce reforms in rural circulation aimed at accelerating the development of commodity economy. At present, most developing countries are trying to reorient their agricultural production towards commercialization. In order to accommodate and promote this trend, corresponding reforms and adjustments have become necessary in the purchasing and marketing system of agricultural products, in the price policy, in the means of processing, transport and marketing, as well as in credit and market management. All this is required by strengthened market mechanism and improved management of commodity circulation.

In our era of progressing world economy and advancing science and technology, the national agricultural production cannot develop in isolation. Just as the economic development of developed countries needs developing countries, the agricultural development of the latter needs the assistance of the former and international agencies and in particular the close cooperation in agriculture among developing countries themselves. It is our hope that FAO will devote more efforts to the above-mentioned areas, and play a stronger role as organizer and coordinator in the activities related to world food and agriculture.

The rural economic reform in China has made considerable progress over the past eight years. In spite of frequent natural calamities in the country this year, the production of cereals, cotton, oilseeds and other major farm products will still increase as compared with last year.

At present, China's reform in the rural areas has entered its second phase with emphasis on the reform in circulation. In combining state plans with market regulation, we are steadily carrying out reforms in the purchasing system of farm commodities and pricing policies. The rural reform at this stage is effected along with economic reforms in the urban areas. This is an extremely arduous task for us. We shall firmly adhere to the envisaged objectives and deepen the rural reform so as to enhance overall development of the rural economy.

We understand that in order to help FAO to better discharge its responsibilities, a number of countries have put forward some reformative proposals. The Chinese Delegation has always supported FAO in initiating reforms which will be conducive to fulfilling its mandate and improving its efficiency. We also support all the positive proposals to remove obstacles to the progress of FAO. We have noted that since he took office as the executive head of this organization in 1976, Dr. Edouard Saouma has adopted a series of reformative measures, such as "action-oriented programmes" and "decentralization", established "Technical Cooperation Programme" contributing to the technical advance of developing countries and intensified policy advice and technical exchange in agriculture, forestry, fishery and other fields. These measures have proved to be positive and effective for they have facilitated the agricultural production in developing countries and helped to improve world food security. We think that this reorientation of FAO's activities deserves approval and support.

At the Council Session last year, the Chinese Delegation made a proposal concerning the "conservation and renewal of agricultural resources", and it was recorded in the Council's report. We hope that FAO will, based on this past experience, undertake systematic studies on this subject and make effective financial and personnel arrangements for this purpose.

François GUILLAUME (France): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Messieurs les Ministres, Mesdames, Messieurs, permettez-moi d'exprimer ma très vive satisfaction d'être parmi vous, dans cette enceinte privilégiée de dialogue qu'est la Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture.

C'est bien ici, en effet, qu'entre Ministres de l'Agriculture nous sommes en mesure d'évoquer nos problèmes, d'échanger nos expériences et de réfléchir ensemble pour orienter nos actions et celles de l'Organisation.

Nous bénéficions pour cela, depuis presque douze années, de la haute compétence et du dévouement de Monsieur Saouma.

Avec votre permission, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais dire à Monsieur le Directeur général Saouma, combien la France se réjouit de le voir demeurer à la tête de l'Organisation.

Avec une détermination à laquelle je tiens à rendre hommage, vous avez, Monsieur le Directeur général, maintenu le cap malgré les difficultés de toute nature rencontrées depuis que vous êtes à la tête de l'Organisation, qu'il s'agisse de faire face, au plus vite, aux situations d'urgence ou de prendre les mesures de sauvegarde qui s'imposent en raison des contraintes financières auxquelles la FAO est confrontée.

Dans toutes ces circonstances difficiles, vous vous êtes attaché à préserver l'essentiel, c'est-à-dire l'action concrète, directement utile aux Etats Membres. Il a fallu pour cela consentir des sacrifices, réduire les effectifs, restreindre les dépenses de fonctionnement.

Ce n'est pas tâche aisée, aussi je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour dire aussi toute notre gratitude au personnel de la FAO qui participe à cet effort de rigueur et témoigne ainsi de son entier dévouement aux causes de l'Organisation.

Le choix d'un Directeur général n'est pas chose facile surtout, comme c'était le cas hier, lorsque des hommes de haute valeur sont candidats à ce poste.

Mais le temps des élections est passé et il importe, aujourd'hui plus que jamais, de préserver ce consensus qui a toujours prévalu au sein de la FAO pour répondre aux défis de la dernière décennie" du millénaire.

Ce consensus nous sera indispensable pour déterminer la place qui revient à notre organisation dans le concert de l'aide internationale et les moyens dont il faut la doter pour occuper cette place. A cet égard, il est impératif que chacun des Etats Membres assume envers l'Organisation ses engagements et ses responsabilités financières. En tout état de cause, la France fera des propositions en matière budgétaire.

Toutefois au cas où cet appel ne serait pas entendu, il apparaît nécessaire de définir les moyens permettant de faire face, en toute clarté, aux conséquences des situations aussi créées.

Je tiens dès à présent à mettre l'accent sur l'essentiel, c'est-à-dire l'examen des objectifs de la FAO et de la réforme de la programmation.

Dans la période difficile que nous traversons, la pénurie de moyens doit conduire plus que jamais à faire des choix et à concentrer les efforts sur des priorités clairement définies. A cet égard, on peut craindre que notre organisation soumise à tant de demandes, au demeurant parfaitement justifiées, ne puisse résister à la tentation de toutes les satisfaire.

A l'inverse, il faut être bien conscient qu'une approche trop rigoureuse pourrait entraîner par la révision des programmes une remise en cause des objectifs.

Aussi il est nécessaire que les priorités soient soigneusement étudiées et sélectionnées.

La France attache donc à cet examen des priorités et à ses modalités d'application une importance particulière. Elle souhaite notamment- que les organes compétents de la FAO, et en premier lieu le Comité du Programme et le Comité Financier, soient pleinement associés à cette étude.

S'il apparaissait nécessaire de recourir aux services d'un groupe d'experts indépendants, à la compétence incontestée, il nous paraît indispensable que ses conclusions puissent être remises par le Directeur général à ces Comités avant de parvenir au Conseil et à la Conférence, en même temps qu'elles pourraient être aussi transmises au Secrétaire général des Nations Unies.

Parmi les priorités de travail de l'Organisation, il en est une dont l'intérêt me paraît évident: celle du soutien déterminé aux efforts d'ajustement structurels que la plupart des pays ont entrepris. En juillet dernier, la VII^e CNUCED, unanime, en a rappelé la nécessité.

C'est pourquoi, dans le domaine agricole, la FAO doit être en mesure d'éclairer l'ensemble des autorités concernées de ces pays, dans les choix et les arbitrages qu'elles ont à effectuer. C'est, à mon sens, une des missions prioritaires de la FAO qui, au sein du système des Nations Unies, doit en effet s'affirmer comme un pôle de compétence reconnu dans le conseil aux gouvernements pour l'élaboration de leurs politiques agricoles et alimentaires.

Mais l'action de terrain, menée par la FAO grâce à l'expérience acquise, est à mes yeux dans la plupart des cas inséparable de l'action de conseil aux gouvernements. Elle en représente la complémentarité au même titre qu'on ne peut séparer l'intelligence des choses de leur réalisation.

Forte de cette conviction, la France, et je suis heureux de vous l'annoncer M. le Directeur général, est décidée à mettre à votre disposition un fonds fiduciaire d'environ 1 million de dollars.

Mais, Mesdames et Messieurs, les réponses, si importantes soient-elles, qu'apporte la FAO par toutes ses composantes au problème du développement agricole et rural, sont encore bien modestes au regard des difficultés que rencontrent des économies fragiles et de nombreuses populations angoissées.

Aujourd'hui, la faim frappe encore 750 000 000 d'êtres humains alors que, oh terrible paradoxe, dans d'autres parties de la planète on oblige les paysans à réduire leur production.

La paupérisation croissante des campagnes rejette vers les villes des flux de population à la recherche d'une sécurité alimentaire aléatoire.

La baisse des recettes d'exportation des produits tropicaux se nourrit des carences des organisations de marché et de l'instabilité du dollar, monnaie des règlements internationaux. C'est ainsi qu'en 15 jours, les exportateurs de cacao, de café et de coton ont perdu 7 % de leurs recettes d'exportation.

L'asphyxie financière menace de nombreux pays, brisant leur développement et le rééchelonnement de leur dette ne peut apporter une réponse définitive à leurs maux.

Dénoncer les méfaits ne suffit pas à les réduire, mais si le réalisme nous oblige à mesurer notre relative impuissance il n'autorise pas pour autant l'inaction. C'est en ce sens qu'il faut comprendre la proposition française d'un nouvel ordre économique mondial.

L'originalité de notre démarche par rapport à toutes celles qui l'ont précédée, c'est qu'elle trouve en elle-même son propre financement, or c'est là l'essentiel car toute action en faveur des pays en voie de développement rencontre rapidement une limite: l'effort qu'acceptent de consentir des pays industrialisés. Nous en avons sous les yeux la preuve dans la baisse du pourcentage du produit national brut que ces Etats consacrent à l'aide au tiers monde. Le taux de 0,7 % retenu comme souhaitable à Venise en 1986 par les sept chefs d'Etat des pays les plus industrialisés est encore loin d'être atteint par chacun d'eux.

Or le temps presse, la situation se détériore. Aussi, est-il nécessaire de faire plus par une démarche plus économique et par là même plus acceptable pour les pays en voie de développement.

A ceux-ci, plutôt que de leur apporter une aide alimentaire sauf lorsqu'elle est reconnue indispensable, ne convient-il pas de leur donner les moyens de réduire leur dépendance extérieure par le développement de leur agriculture?

En 1945, à l'Europe ravagée par la guerre, les Etats Unis ont fourni non seulement du pain mais aussi des tracteurs pour produire le blé. Jeune paysan à cette époque j'ai pu mesurer que le courage, s'il est nécessaire, n'est pas suffisant lorsqu'on est privé de tout. Et c'est ainsi que par leur intervention nos amis américains nous ont rendu en même temps que notre capacité à produire et à commencer, notre dignité et notre liberté!

Cet exemple nous invite aujourd'hui à prendre une initiative analogue. Je retiens de mes entretiens avec un grand nombre de responsables des pays du Tiers monde qu'ils attendent des pays occidentaux moins d'assistance que de réelle coopération. L'appui à l'investissement, la formation, le transfert des technologies seront les meilleurs outils de leur développement et les leviers les plus efficaces de leur véritable indépendance.

Encore faut-il que l'acte de production soit normalement rémunéré pour être encouragé. Or il l'est de moins en moins par le marché et malheur à celui qui, faute d'être protégé par des barrières douanières, subventionné par le gouvernement de son pays, subit de plein fouet les conséquences du désordre des marchés internationaux.

Dans tous les secteurs de production les prix mondiaux se sont effondrés, et souvent en deçà des prix de revient des producteurs les plus compétitifs. Les recettes d'exportation des pays en voie de développement ont chuté entraînant l'aggravation de leurs dettes. Un sentiment d'injustice les habite alors que dans les pays occidentaux les non-agricoles s'irritent de la croissance des subventions aux agriculteurs lesquels dénoncent cependant la baisse importante de leurs revenus.

Si quelques pays ou catégorie de consommateurs profitent de cette anarchie, le sentiment général prévaut qu'il faut mettre fin à ces désordres autrement que par des accords qui ne résistent pas à la pression des faits.

Oui, il faut le faire par l'organisation des marchés mondiaux par les grands pays producteurs exportateurs.

Le relèvement des prix qu'on peut attendre des disciplines mises en oeuvre accroîtra immédiatement les recettes d'exportation des pays en voie de développement.

Quant aux recettes supplémentaires obtenues par les occidentaux, si elles peuvent réduire les subventions directes ou indirectes qui faussent le commerce international, elles seraient pour l'essentiel consacrées à alimenter un fonds appelé à financer les programmes de développement des pays en voie de développement et la réduction de leurs dettes.

Tel est le plan, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, que propose le Gouvernement français et qui appelle votre adhésion. Il offre une occasion unique de mettre fin à la spirale de désespérance dans laquelle sont entrées de nombreuses populations.

Il est l'expression d'un idéal qui peut rassembler l'humanité au-delà de ses divisions géographiques, politiques ou idéologiques, il marque la volonté de relever un défi à la dimension de l'homme.

Il est une oeuvre de paix.

Eduardo PESQUEIRA (Mexico): Permítame felicitarlo a nombre de la delegación de Mexico por su atinada elección para presidir esta Conferencia.

Sres. delegados, la eficiencia en el quehacer de la FAO se finca en la participación activa y corresponsable de sus Estados Miembros en el desarrollo de sus programas, en un mundo donde el proceso de interdependencia se ha generalizado. Aceptamos que el reto de garantizar la seguridad alimentaria del mundo sigue vigente y se complica su resolución; confirmemos que los programas no resueltos son resultado de la falta de cooperación internacional y veamos porque la congruencia y la voluntad política hacia el objetivo propuesto, sea el imperativo de nuestros trabajos.

A nombre del Gobierno mexicano, me complace reiterar su reconocimiento al Dr. Edouard Saouma por los infatigables esfuerzos que ha desplegado en favor del desarrollo agrícola de todos los países que integran la FAO, especialmente por sus compromisos asumidos por programas de Asia, Africa y América Latina, México acoge con beneplácito la decisión de esta Asamblea de confiar a usted, Dr. Saouma, un período más de liderazgo ante nuestra Organización y augura un período pleno de realizaciones que consolidarán la estrategia orientada a resolver el problema alimentario de la humanidad. Sin embargo, debemos reconocer que el actual contexto internacional es poco favorable para la consecución de este propósito. Desde la década anterior, la evolución económica del mundo ha mostrado severas oscilaciones que propician la incertidumbre e inciden en el desarrollo de todas las naciones.

Lo anterior conduce a reflexionar sobre la amenaza que significaría una nueva recesión de alcance mundial que invalidaría los esfuerzos para promover el crecimiento económico, robustecer el papel que debe desempeñar el comercio en el progreso de las naciones, alentar la creación de puestos de trabajo para resolver el alto desempleo y lograr una concertación que permita avances sustanciales en la resolución del problema del hambre en el mundo.

Si bien la problemática alimentaria mundial no es estrictamente de índole productiva, no pueden soslayarse los efectos de la reciente evolución económica internacional sobre la agricultura. En los dos últimos años este sector, reconocido por su resistencia a las condiciones de crisis generalizada, ha crecido a ritmos que apenas alcanzan la mitad de los observados en su conjunto por la economía mundial.

Uno de los efectos más evidentes de la recesión mundial ha sido el decremento en el consumo de alimentos. Los fenómenos de la desnutrición y el hambre, antes ubicados en algunos lugares del mundo, hoy se han generalizado entre los países en desarrollo. Los organismos internacionales han presentado la evidencia de que en estas naciones hay una marcada reducción en la disponibilidad de alimentos y un deterioro en los niveles nutricionales de su población.

El gran reto del mundo contemporáneo consiste en lograr una mejor distribución del ingreso y de la producción alimentaria, puesto que aun con la existencia de excedentes agrícolas de abundantes reservas, sigue vigente la paradoja del hambre en medio de la abundancia, al estimarse que son más de 500 millones de seres los que padecen hambre y desnutrición crónica.

La escasa rentabilidad de las actividades productivas y el recrudecimiento de las prácticas proteccionistas, agudizadas por los efectos recesivos de drásticas políticas de ajuste que se han aplicado a muchas economías nacionales, han frenado la expansión de la producción mundial y reducido el valor de los flujos comerciales internacionales en casi un 10 por ciento en los dos últimos años.

Por el contrario, los flujos financieros mundiales han elevado su valor hasta veinte veces más de lo necesario para movilizar las corrientes comerciales, con lo cual adquieren una dinámica propia que subordina los procesos productivos y comerciales a la órbita financiero-especulativa. La profundidad y magnitud que ha alcanzado este fenómeno ha sido puesta en evidencia por la reacción observada en las últimas semanas en los mercados bursátiles de distintas partes del mundo.

Las nuevas tecnologías apuntan hacia una interdependencia en los procesos productivos a escala mundial, en donde la rentabilidad se centra más en la generación y venta de tecnología punta y servicios conexos, y no tanto en su aplicación. Aún más, estas nuevas tecnologías marginan prácticamente las ventajas de los países en desarrollo, sustentadas en el buen clima, la abundancia de mano de obra y materias primas.

Las consecuencias para los países que tenemos rezagos estructurales en materia tecnológica y escasos recursos financieros para superarla han sido su desplazamiento constante de los mercados internacionales y la tendencia a participar en forma subordinada en los nuevos esquemas productivos, ahora como maquilladores de los países industrializados. Es por eso que ponemos énfasis en los principios básicos que, desde la posición de México, como país en desarrollo e importador de productos agro-pecuarios básicos, deben estar comprendidos en toda concertación de reforma del comercio mundial de productos agrícolas: trato especial y más favorable para los países que se encuentren en vías de desarrollo y tengan un sector agropecuario con particularidades histórico-sociales y políticas muy especiales.

Seguridad alimentaria, que reivindica como legítimos los empeños de toda nación soberana para asegurarse el abasto de sus consumos alimentarios básicos:

Respecto al manejo de las políticas nacionales agropecuarias, el estímulo a la producción y al consumo, en países como México, constituyen la única vía para alcanzar su desarrollo rural integral y por ello son irrenunciabiles para alcanzar una verdadera justicia social.

La situación de los países en desarrollo es más dramática, dada su casi nula injerencia en la determinación de las variables que afectan su economía. La espectacular caída de sus ingresos en divisas por la vía de la restricción de créditos internacionales y de sus ventas al exterior, ha tenido que compensarse con severos ajustes internos que reducen los ya críticos niveles de vida de sus pueblos y amenazan con afectar su estabilidad política.

Hasta ahora, las alternativas de solución propuestas se han formulado en los ámbitos estrechos de foros especializados que consideran de manera desvinculada los factores políticos, financieros, comerciales, tecnológicos y culturales que intervienen en el problema alimentario mundial.

En los distintos organismos internacionales, financieros y comerciales se ha constatado que en la instrumentación de sus políticas existen discrepancias que surgen tanto de la distinta formulación de sus diagnósticos, como de las medidas que se proponen para su solución, y que se reflejan sobre todo en la dispersión de las acciones que desarrollan. Por ello, se ha considerado la necesidad de que el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación se constituya en una instancia de concertación de las políticas de los organismos financieros y comerciales internacionales, de manera que se asegure la coherencia en sus instrumentos, complementariedad en sus recursos y lograr así una efectiva acción encaminada a aliviar el problema del hambre y la desnutrición en el mundo.

La coordinación con la FAO en materia de tecnología, investigación, uso del suelo, irrigación y forestación, establecimiento de bancos de germoplasma y uso de recursos fitogenéticos son algunos temas que pueden ser motivos de ocupación común, principalmente en beneficio de aquellos países con amenaza de hambre y de seria malnutrición.

La reunión del Consejo Mundial de Alimentación con organismos internacionales financieros, comerciales y de asistencia técnica, que celebraremos aprovechando este período de sesiones de la FAO, puede considerarse como un primer encuentro para impulsar la articulación de políticas alimentarias mundiales. Es fundamental reforzar los mecanismos de coordinación entre los organismos internacionales para profundizar en la adopción de medidas concertadas que se sustenten en la cooperación internacional.

Reiteramos lo expuesto durante la XIII reunión del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación que se celebrara el pasado mes de junio en Beijing (República Popular China).

El Consejo Mundial de Alimentación y la FAO son organismos afines que comparten la responsabilidad y el propósito de resolver el problema alimentario mundial y, en este sentido, hemos de compartir también los esfuerzos dirigidos a ese objetivo. No se trata de duplicar funciones ni de competir en los campos de acción de cada entidad.

Me complace hacer mención al decisivo apoyo que recibió la "Declaración de Beijing" del Consejo Mundial de Alimentación tanto en la sede del ECOSOC el pasado julio, como hace unos días en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas. En efecto, la resolución 1987/90, aprobada por el ECOSOC en su segundo período ordinario de sesiones de 1987, suscribió dicha declaración de Beijing como una reafirmación del compromiso de la comunidad mundial de erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición y como marco para acelerar las medidas destinadas a alcanzar ese objetivo. Por lo demás, las deliberaciones sobre la reciente reunión del Consejo Mundial de Alimentación, celebrada en Beijing en junio último, fueron muy constructivas y reflejaron claramente el apoyo de los Estados miembros y observadores a la función y actividades del Consejo.

Por su parte, la FAO, a lo largo de su existencia, ha venido realizando valiosas aportaciones para impulsar el desarrollo agrícola de sus Estados miembros y avanzar en la resolución de este problema de la humanidad; ha propuesto efectuar un reajuste agrícola internacional que considere integralmente todos los aspectos inherentes al desarrollo del sector agropecuario para promover los cambios estructurales que exige la actual coyuntura internacional.

Destacan los esfuerzos de la FAO para expandir la producción aprovechando el potencial agrícola de las naciones mediante lineamientos que procuran armonizar los objetivos económicos y sociales e incidir fundamentalmente en lograr un nivel apropiado de los ingresos rurales; ha reiterado que el pacto de seguridad alimentaria mundial simboliza el compromiso moral asumido por los gobiernos, las organizaciones internacionales, regionales y nacionales, y los particulares de todo el mundo de concertar objetivos, instrumentar medidas políticas y ejecutar acciones que conduzcan al establecimiento de una política alimentaria mundial eficiente en los próximos decenios.

En congruencia con estos objetivos, el programa de labores y presupuestos de la FAO del bienio 1988-89 se orientará mayoritariamente al apoyo de los programas técnicos y económicos de los países, a promover proyectos de cooperación técnica y de desarrollo agropecuario, concentrando sus esfuerzos en la utilización de tecnologías avanzadas, el desarrollo de suelos y aprovechamiento de aguas, mejoramiento de insumos y protección ecológica, investigación y aplicación de tecnologías, uso eficiente de las bases de datos en la producción y la comercialización de alimentos.

La FAO no ha estado exenta de ajustes sufridos por la crisis económica internacional. Actualmente atraviesa por un período caracterizado por problemas presupuestarios y financieros que la han obligado a limitar sus acciones, sus servicios de asesoramiento y apoyo técnico a proyectos de campo. En este contexto, como otros organismos de las Naciones Unidas, enfrenta presiones que buscan transformar y reformar su estructura y actividades.

La delegación de México no ve que existan elementos para emprender un proceso de reforma en aspectos fundamentales de la Organización, tales como sus prioridades, sus programas de labores, sus métodos y procedimientos administrativos.

Respecto al establecimiento de un grupo de alto nivel, como el que se ha propuesto para evaluar las reformas, quisiéramos sólo recordar que por mandato de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, el ECOSOC estableció una Comisión especial encargada del estudio a fondo de la estructura del sector económico y social de las Naciones Unidas en su conjunto.

Dicha Comisión prevé terminar sus labores a mediados del año próximo; resulta por tanto inútil y duplicatorio establecer - por el momento - tal grupo de alto nivel o cualquier fórmula de revisión en FAO, en tanto no se conozcan las conclusiones y recomendaciones de la Comisión especial del ECOSOC,

Advertimos que rechazamos, desde ahora, todo intento que pretenda convertir a la FAO en instrumento para la aplicación de políticas que se formulen en otras instancias.

En ese caso, la FAO se reduciría a un simple órgano técnico que avalaría o rechazaría la bilateralización de las relaciones.

En el terreno agrícola y alimentario, la abierta posición de México es apoyar el multiateralismo. Pensamos que la FAO debe fortalecer sus programas. Ajustarlos en la medida en que respondan mejor a las aspiraciones y necesidades del mundo en desarrollo y del logro de un orden económico internacional más justo y equitativo, como lo expresa la Resolución 3/75 aprobada por esta Conferencia.

En lo que respecta al consenso, coincidimos en que es el camino deseable para llegar a conclusiones y establecer recomendaciones; pero de no alcanzarse tal consenso, el sistema de votación previsto por la Constitución de la Organización es el camino democrático apropiado y aceptado universalmente para resolver controversias y promover el avance.

En suma, el consenso es deseable pero en tanto no conlleve a un sistema de veto abierto o disfrazado.

Quisiéramos sólo recordar, que, desde ahora, apoyamos la idea de establecer matrices de presupuesto por programa. Los fondos presupuestarios para el bienio 1988/89, sin considerar la fuerte devaluación de la moneda norteamericana, sólo aumentaron en 24 millones de dólares, y en cerca de 150 millones de dólares si se incluyen los fondos extrapresupuestarios aportados por organismos multilaterales de financiamiento. Particularmente, América Latina ha sido la región más afectada con esos ajustes, ya que de las cinco regiones en las que la FAO distribuye sus apoyos, es la única que tiene una asignación menor a la del bienio pasado.

Esta situación se suma a la tendencia descendente observada desde 1982, de la asignación de los compromisos oficiales de asistencia externa destinados al fomento del sector agropecuario de la Región. En el contexto de estrechamiento de los flujos financieros hacia América Latina, tanto por la vía de la asistencia técnica multilateral como por la vía de la inversión extranjera directa y el deterioro de sus términos de intercambio, América Latina hace un llamado a los países industrializados para que fortalezcan sus programas de asistencia externa para el desarrollo de uno de los sectores básicos de la economía regional: el sector agropecuario.

El Gobierno francés, a nombre de su distinguido representante François Guillaume, ha hecho pública una propuesta al respecto que valdría la pena considerar.

A nivel regional el CMA, el BID, el CASAR y los gobiernos de algunos países de América Latina, celebraron hace un año en Buenos Aires, Argentina, la III Reunión Ministerial de Consulta sobre Políticas y Estrategias Alimentarias, en la cual se promovió la iniciativa de crear un tratado de asistencia regional para emergencias alimentarias, que implica el compromiso de los países latinoamericanos de asistir a quienes de ellos afronten una situación extraordinaria de desabasto.

El bienestar de una nación es responsabilidad soberana, por lo que la solución de los problemas alimentarios es, ante todo, una cuestión nacional. Sin embargo, la magnitud del problema y las posibilidades actuales de alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria, tienen que ver con cambios profundos en los patrones de desarrollo económico hasta hoy seguidos, como también con la complementación de esfuerzos entre nuestros países.

La política exterior de México, ha pugnado siempre por la autodeterminación de los pueblos, la resolución pacífica de las controversias, la no intervención y la cooperación para el desarrollo. Por esa razón, nuestro país confía en la instrumentación de una estrategia conjunta que trascienda del contexto meramente económico, y logre auspiciar la renovación del multilateralismo fincado en un esquema que tenga la capacidad de redistribuir los beneficios del desarrollo con mayor justicia y sentido humanista.

Sólo así, podremos avanzar en la solución de los graves problemas que enfrenta la humanidad.

Richard LYNG (United States of America): Mr Director-General, Mr Chairman and fellow Ministers; It is a distinct pleasure for me to address this 24th session of the FAO Conference. I want to congratulate the newly elected officials, and commend the Secretariat on the thoughtful preparation of documents for this meeting.

The United States strongly supports the FAO. We believe it provides a useful forum in which to discuss trade, and the economic and technical issues related to agriculture. We appreciate FAO's efforts to remain within its technical mandate, and commend its staff for their implementation of FAO programmes.

The United States will continue to be a major supplier of development assistance to other parts of the world. As we wrestle to control our budget deficit, however, it becomes increasingly more difficult to maintain our current level of support.

Developing countries need to adjust to a more limited flow of external resources in the future. It is also probable that assistance will be increasingly channelled to countries that make the greatest effort to establish national economic policies which provide incentives to unleash human energies and responsibly to harness national resources.

The United States has long recognized the importance of the agricultural sector in promoting overall economic growth around the world. Unfortunately, the debt problems of developing countries, combined with depressed agricultural export earnings, have severely inhibited both regional and global economic recovery.

The problems and disarray facing the world today in agricultural production and trade are largely the result of government policies that interfere with the economic process. These policies have too often provided incentives for uneconomic production, and have curtailed demand and consumer choice.

The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations offers a historic opportunity to achieve fundamental reforms that will bring about balanced growth and improved agricultural performance.

Four months ago in Geneva, the United States submitted a proposal to reform the international rules governing agricultural trade. Our proposal embraces the consensus reached a year ago at Punta del Este -- at the ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development last May -- and at the Venice Summit in June.

Very simply, the United States is proposing the elimination of all direct and indirect subsidies that distort production and trade, and the elimination of all import barriers.

This proposal would not be disruptive. The reforms would be gradually introduced over a 10-year transition period, after which income support measures would no longer be allowed to distort production and trade.

This market-oriented approach will benefit efficient farmers everywhere, instead of rewarding inefficiency.

Developing countries would be among the major beneficiaries. They would have more opportunities to expand the range of products exported and would not have to rely only on traditional tropical commodities. Their consumers will be better able to improve their diets, expanding demand for agricultural products.

However, these benefits can be realized only if all countries -- including the developing countries -- are willing to join the process.

Let me now change focus and comment on some of FAO's activities. FAO has made significant achievements in promoting world agricultural development. Moreover, FAO programmes complement many of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's activities.

We collaborate closely in sharing data, preparing training manuals, eradicating livestock and plant diseases, controlling pests and developing food quality standards. Thus, the U.S. Government and U.S. agriculture receives many tangible benefits from our membership in FAO.

Regarding FAO's future programme direction, we must all work together to identify those areas where FAO can be most effective. No doubt each Member Nation has its own idea of what FAO should be doing.

The United States attaches particular importance to a number of programmes. These include:

The Global Information and Early Warning System;

The Codex Alimentarius Commission;

Forestry activities, including the Tropical Forestry Action Plan;

Disease and pest eradication efforts, especially the work on Medfly and Desert Locust control;

Modernizing data collection, processing and dissemination;

Developing guidance on agricultural policy formulation;

Multi-disciplinary regional studies on Africa and Latin America;

Improving soil and water management; and,

Increased emphasis on remote sensing technologies.

The United States also believes FAO should give higher priority to activities that promote the role of the private sector in agricultural development.

In the important area of plant genetic resources, we are pleased that relations between FAO and the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources are improving, and that FAO is seeking to ensure greater cooperation between itself and the Board.

While positive steps are to be commended, the United States is still concerned that recent FAO initiatives, in fact, duplicate work being carried out by the International Board and other international research centres.

We agree with the Director-General's emphasis on setting appropriate programme priorities to assure that scarce resources are effectively utilized. One important topic is management reform. The United States believes that, after 40 years, a substantive review of FAO's administrative structure, long-term objectives and field programmes is necessary for the Organization to meet the challenges of the future.

Actions taken by this body can lay the foundation for a more effective FAO and better serve the needs of all Member Nations. Appropriate management reform measures will result in an organization governed by fairness and trust — an example to be emulated by all of the specialized United Nations' agencies. The United States will submit a resolution containing specific reform proposals later during the Conference.

The United States encourages all FAO member countries to continue their efforts to modernize, diversify and strengthen their agricultural sectors. Providing incentives for agricultural investment to improve the economy and enhance trade is admittedly a difficult task. However, a renewed commitment to sound economic policies and programmes will be a first step in developing and revitalizing our global agricultural industry.

I commend the FAO for the important and constructive role it plays in these endeavours.

M. Mahbubuzzaman, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair
M. Mahbubuzzaman, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia M. Mahbubuzzaman, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Achinad AFFANDI (Indonesia): On behalf of the Indonesian Delegation allow me first of all to extend my sincere congratulations to you Sir, for your election to the Chair, and also to all the vice-chairmen.

From the outset, I consider that the present conference has a special meaning, due to the fact that the Organization has on its Agenda the election of Director-General. It is important since being now more than forty years of age, the Organization needs to consolidate itself in order to meet the challenges of the ever-changing and complex nature of the world food and agriculture system. Most important of all it needs a strong, experienced, and pragmatic leader.

Within this framework, allow me to congratulate Dr Edouard Saouma for his re-election to the post of the Director-General of FAO. Under his leadership we have seen this Organization become more effective in dealing with special needs of the member countries and in addressing the issues of hunger and malnutrition. Therefore, I am convinced that the need to continuously review particular aspects of FAO's programmes and operations leading to more efficacy and efficiency will receive proper attention during the next six-year term of office.

From the standpoints of opportunities for work and industrial production, agriculture will still serve for many years to come as an important basis for the developing countries. It also takes on increasing significance as a source of export. Therefore, the developing countries have concentrated on expanding the production system of new commodities that have comparative advantages, traditional products for which a market already exists, and those for which a large demand exists. However, due to the policies of several developed countries, agricultural products of the developing countries cannot be profitably marketed in the developed countries, which traditionally were the largest consumer of agricultural products.

Therefore, efforts for improving the world agricultural trade should be persistently pursued. I am glad to note that in its 92nd session, FAO Council stressed that the Uruguay Round of GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations launched in 1986 has provided the framework to give effect to agreed principles concerning the improvement of conditions of world trade and particularly world agricultural trade. The negotiations should lead to improvement in market access of the developing countries and reduce import barriers so as to ensure liberalization of trade in agriculture and provide more favourable treatment for the developing countries.

I consider it very important that technical cooperation among member developing countries in improving food production be seriously promoted. Certain successes experienced by some member developing countries in achieving food self-sufficiency would become a strong base for this cooperation.

In my country, thanks to the direct participation of small farmers in the development efforts, agriculture productivity has significantly increased. Through socio-economic engineering, our farmers became aware of the importance of their own role in elevating their welfare and socioeconomic status. The key to their changed attitude is the dynamics of the farmer's group, as well as intergroup cooperation. Access to production inputs and the creation of a macro-economic environment conducive to production are "conditio sine qua non".

Using the system, Indonesia has been able to reach a stage of self-sufficiency in rice. This achievement has put our position from the biggest rice importing country in the world with the magnitude of more than 2 million tons a year, to self-sufficiency in 1984.

What we have achieved is the fruit of hard work of all concerned carried out diligently based on a realistic long-term development plan. We are aware that our successes have only been an initial one and we must work even harder, in order to sustain our rice self-sufficiency and to achieve self-sufficiency of other food stuffs as well. Based on our experiences, I conclude that for a successful implementation of a programme on increasing food production the following five points are of prime importance.

- (1) Political-will that pushes the nation with a strong determination.
- (2) Solid commitment and involvement of the national and regional leaders.
- (3) A holistic approach to agriculture.
- (4) Operational linkages of the production, marketing, and consumption subsystems.
- (5) The end goal of development should be the human being as an entity, which includes welfare, self-respect, and dignity.

However, we should not allow our legitimate pre-occupation with the present food problem to obscure the overriding importance of protecting national resources on which all our food output is based: soil, water, forests and vegetative cover, plant and animal genetic resources. Therefore, technologies chosen for increasing agricultural production should ensure a sustainable agriculture for future generations.

On the food security scheme, we have been adopting very firm measures to obtain real security for preventive actions. Experience has taught us that unsolved problem of food could become a source for other economic difficulties.

All nations, individually or collectively are committed to have a moral responsibility toward the solution to problems of food and agricultural development. Therefore, it is a matter of urgency to establish an international order of relations based on the spirit of equality, in which all nations act as equal partners with the goal to build a world which ensures common progress, prosperity and justice for the whole of humanity.

In concluding my remarks once again I wish you, Mr Chairman, all success in chairing this Conference. And to our Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, I wish you, Sir, every success in directing this Organization in the coming term of office.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Permettez-moi, au nom du Gouvernement belge, de féliciter très chaleureusement Monsieur E. Saouma pour sa réélection en tant que Directeur général de la FAO. Il connaît, l'amitié que nous lui portons et il sait pourquoi nous l'avons toujours épaulé et soutenu.

La 24ème session de la Conférence de la FAO se situe incontestablement à un moment particulièrement important, pour ne pas dire "angoissant", de son histoire.

Mon pays, la Belgique, se trouvait à Hot Springs en 1943. C'est dire que nous avons porté la FAO sur

ses fonds baptismaux, que nous y avons cru, et qu'après plus de Quarante ans nous croyons encore plus que jamais malgré les difficultés peut-être à première vue quasi insurmontables que connaît notre organisation.

Je dis "notre", Monsieur le Président, parce que je suis convaincu, comme la plupart d'entre nous, qu'une organisation ne vit, ne se développe et ne répond aux interpellations qui lui sont posées, que si ses membres, que si tous ses membres veulent sincèrement et loyalement assumer leurs obligations et oeuvrer à la tâche, qui est une responsabilité commune. Nous avons à relever ensemble d'extraordinaires et apparemment d'impossibles défis: ceux de la pauvreté, de la misère, de la faim, mais aussi ceux des excédents, des égoïsmes nationaux et des refus de regarder en avant pour construire le monde de demain, et non en arrière pour maintenir les privilèges d'hier et d'aujourd'hui.

En ma qualité de représentant du Gouvernement belge, je voudrais évoquer quelques thèmes qui me paraissent essentiels:

Le premier est celui des rapports entre l'agriculture et l'environnement. Dans le Rapport de la Commission mondiale pour l'environnement et le développement ("Notre avenir à tous"), il a été souligné que, je cite, "la récente crise en Afrique nous signifie sur un mode tragique et avec une force particulière comment l'interaction entre économie et écologie peut être destructive, voire catastrophique. Déclenchée par la sécheresse, la crise trouve cependant des causes profondes ailleurs, dans les politiques nationales qui ont accordé trop peu d'attention, et trop tard, aux besoins de la petite agriculture et aux risques et l'explosion démographique".

Je voudrais par conséquent appuyer la thèse que l'agriculture ne manque pas de ressources, mais qu'elle manque de politiques capables d'assurer que la nourriture soit produite là où elle est nécessaire et de façon à fournir aux populations rurales pauvres des moyens d'existence suffisants.

Il y a évidemment d'autres éléments qui aggravent parfois la situation. Le rapport fait référence aux obstacles dressés par les pays riches - mais aussi par de nombreux pays en développement - qui empêchent les pays pauvres de vendre leurs produits à des cours corrects, ce qui ne fait qu'accroître la pression sur leurs systèmes écologiques.

Le second point concerne les petits agriculteurs et je voudrais rapidement évoquer ce thème. Pour améliorer leurs conditions de vie, la FAO, les gouvernements, les différentes organisations nationales et internationales ou les intéressés eux-mêmes ont déjà fourni des efforts impressionnants dans les différentes régions du monde.

Mais le problème n'est certainement pas résolu pour autant. La grande majorité des victimes de sous-alimentation chronique vivent dans les régions rurales des pays en développement, où les petits fermiers sont majoritaires. C'est la raison pour laquelle la Belgique a pleinement apporté son soutien au thème de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation de 1987. Une vaste campagne nationale de sensibilisation a été mise sur pied, en étroite collaboration avec le Département de la coopération au développement, en vue d'informer le grand public de la problématique du petit agriculteur.

A ce propos, je tiens à souligner au sein de la Communauté économique européenne de nombreuses initiatives sont prises, en particulier dans les régions montagneuses et dans certaines régions défavorisées, afin de pouvoir garantir aux petits agriculteurs de ces régions un niveau de vie suffisant, ce qui devrait permettre de sauvegarder un paysage rural en harmonie avec l'environnement naturel.

Il ne conviendrait pas que le Gouvernement belge, qui a opté résolument pour une politique active au sein de la Communauté économique européenne, n'évoque pas brièvement les problèmes de la politique agricole commune d'une Europe des douze désireuse de transcender les prérogatives nationales pour s'ouvrir davantage à un monde que nous souhaitons plus humain et plus juste. Nous avons, au lendemain d'une guerre atroce, réalisé une étonnante performance : Celle de moderniser et de transformer notre agriculture qui, après avoir connu pendant des siècles une situation quasi artisanale, est devenue efficace et performante; la révolution qui s'est réalisée a peut-être été aussi importante que la révolution industrielle du 19ème siècle. D'une situation de pénurie nous sommes passés à une situation d'excédents qu'il nous appartient maintenant de gérer dans l'intérêt bien compris de notre monde rural et de l'entièreté du monde en voie de développement. Ce "challenge", nous voulons l'assumer et nous voulons aménager les aspects critiquables d'une situation souvent critiquée dans cette enceinte. Nous sommes opposés au protectionnisme et sommes fiers de pouvoir souligner que nos pays de la Communauté économique européenne sont les premiers importateurs de produits agricoles et alimentaires en provenance des pays en voie de développement." Nous savons aussi que des excédents doivent continuer à être dégagés pour faire face à des situations conjoncturellement difficiles ou dramatiques dans le tiers monde: cependant nous ne voulons pas que la liquidation des excédents soit de nature à heurter structurellement les agricultures fragiles des pays les moins avancés qui n'ont pas encore réalisé la révolution agricole que certains pays du tiers monde ont déjà menée à bien.

C'est le grand paradoxe de ce monde, et je pense aux pays tant développés qu'en voie de développement, qu'il existe d'un côté de formidables excédents, et de l'autre des centaines de millions de personnes qui souffrent de la faim, parce qu'elles sont pauvres.

Je n'en dirai pas plus, au cours de cet exposé introductif, mais voulais vous assurer de la volonté que nous avons d'assumer les graves problèmes que nous connaissons. Dans le cadre des négociations de l'Uruguay Round, du Gatt, des mesures et solutions appropriées doivent permettre de remédier à la situation du Commerce international en prenant plus particulièrement en compte les intérêts des pays en voie de développement. La proposition sur l'agriculture déposée par la Communauté le 26 octobre à Genève en témoigne. Comme il n'est pas possible d'évoquer tous les points importants, je me limiterai à en évoquer deux qui seront largement examinés et discutés au cours de nos travaux:

Le budget est un bel exemple de maîtrise de la bureaucratie, dont on peut se demander parfois s'il n'a pas atteint ses limites. Il n'est pour nous pas question d'envisager un budget à deux ou plusieurs vitesses. Un budget doit s'établir selon des règles statutaires et sur base des obligations telles qu'elles existent. Il serait pour le moins paradoxal que des projets de réforme soient le substitut aux paiements des contributions. Une organisation dans un monde en changement doit constamment s'adapter, se transformer et se rénover. Le jeu, naturel, de la préparation du programme de travail et de budget, et l'examen des propositions par les organes directeurs, doivent permettre à notre organisation de s'adapter constamment en gardant sa jeunesse et son dynamisme. Nous ne croyons pas aux formules miracles d'un comité extérieur de haut niveau, formules qui focaliseraient les travaux de la période à venir, ouvriraient la porte à d'impossibles dosages et permettraient de devenir un champ d'affrontement au lieu de permettre aux organes en place de trouver les consensus qui ont toujours été la base de nos travaux, depuis plus de quarante ans.

C'est aux organes directeurs qu'il appartient de donner les impulsions nécessaires dans un climat indispensable de confiance et de collaboration, et non d'affrontements et de méfiance. Ma délégation aura l'occasion de préciser sa façon de voir au cours des débats, plus spécialement en Commission II.

La 24ème session de la Conférence a une tâche importante à mener, à l'heure où certains, hélas, mettent en cause les institutions de la famille des Nations Unies. Nous y sommes, nous, Belges, profondément attachés. Nous croyons qu'un monde plus juste et plus humain ne se construira que dans la confiance, l'estime et la solidarité, dans la volonté de mener ensemble une tâche formidable et difficile: mettre l'agriculture au service de l'homme pour réaliser un développement harmonieux et solidaire.

Terepal MAOATE (Cook Islands): Mr Deputy Chairman, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, may I extend to you all the good wishes of the Prime Minister, Government and people of the Cook Islands. It is indeed an honour and a privilege to be here amongst friends, and to be able to address this august body on the occasion of the 24th session of the FAO Conference.

I take this opportunity to associate myself with the previous speakers before me in offering my congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, and your deputies, on your election to the Chairmanship of this conference. I am sure that through your able leadership, the deliberations of this Conference will be both stimulating and rewarding.

I also wish to extend my warmest congratulations to you, Dr Saouma, on your re-election to the distinguished office of Director-General of FAO. My Government will continue to work closely with you in achieving common goals and strengthening inter-regional cooperation.

May I also extend on behalf of the Cook Islands delegation our most sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Italy for a wonderful stay in your beautiful and very interesting country.

With a total land area of 240 sq. Km., the Cook Islands is comprised of 15 islands widely scattered over 2 million square kilometres of ocean territory. Agriculture is the life-blood of our nation and my Government is taking all necessary precautions to develop and promote this valuable resource.

My Government through planned long-term strategies, is placing high priority on developing this sector of our economy. With the professionalism, expertise and guidance of FAO, much valuable assistance is offered, enabling my country to achieve its objectives: self reliance and a higher standard of living for all.

However, much work remains to be done. In the field of marine resources development, my Government is taking bold steps to develop our largest resource, which is the ocean. In the northern group of the Cook Islands, programmes have been formulated to develop our mariculture such as seaweed farming, clam production and the pearl shell industry. Implementation of these programmes has been greatly assisted by FAO expertise and we are confident that our planned objectives in this area will be achieved.

As you are no doubt aware, Mr Chairman, coconut production is a traditional resource which affords my country valuable overseas exchange. However, there is an urgent need to formulate a plan of action to ensure this important sector is revitalised. The control and eradication of pests such as termites affecting this industry is a problem on which we look towards FAO for guidance and assistance.

Further, a formulated programme involving milling, coconut oil and coconut cream production would provide valuable employment opportunities for the people of the Cook Islands. In this context, expert assistance is required to ensure these objectives are realized and FAO's role in this programme is of great importance. My Government is taking the further initiative by promoting a national coconut replanting scheme to form the basis for this programme.

Plant protection within the agricultural sector is also of vital importance. Import substitution of agricultural products is an important stimulus to help promote our growing tourism industry. Though the Cook Islands is geographically isolated in the full context of the world, we are still prone to the ravages of plant pests and diseases. FAO's expertise in this area will greatly assist us in formulating suitable programmes and strategies to combat this problem. Furthermore, my Government is initiating a crop diversification programme geared to promote high value non-perishable produce such as vanilla and coffee. The agriculture research station is taking an active, participative role in this innovative venture to ensure the dangers associated with this programme are minimised.

Banana production has always been a large earner of foreign exchange for the Cook Islands. However, Cyclone Sally struck a devastating blow to this industry by completely wiping out this valuable crop. The total effect in lost man-hours, money and banana plantations amounted to approximately five million dollars. The loss of fertilizers and chemicals has meant that our banana industry will be set back by two years before production levels can be viably achieved. My Government is placing priority in this area, and we are sure that, with the valued assistance of FAO, our banana industry will be re-established.

In the area of animal production, programmes have been initiated to promote what we feel is an important developmental step towards not only promoting an import substitution industry, but also the infrastructure that would be needed to support such an industry. In this context, we appreciate the assistance accorded by FAO towards establishing a slaughterhouse and for initiating appropriate training schedules and programmes involving all facets of this industry.

A small forestry programme was instigated recently by the Ministry of Agriculture with the object of providing timber for milling and housing construction, poles for fencing and, more importantly, to assist with soil and water conservation. Erosion of valuable top soil has meant that important agricultural industries such as pineapples are being affected, and there is an urgent need to take all necessary steps to safeguard this industry. We envisage a programme that would not only involve applied appropriate technology but would also include short-term training of nationals to ensure continuity is maintained. Areas such as watershed management, conservation, forestry and nursery management, we feel, would be conducive to assisting this programme. Moreover, the inclusion of an irrigation programme would complement our diversification initiatives, and FAO's expertise in this area would be greatly appreciated.

Mr Chairman, manpower resources are an integral part of the overall development of our economy. Importance is placed on ensuring that appropriate training programmes are identified that would complement our national development policies. The assistance accorded by FAO in this important area is deeply appreciated. However, we also place great importance on tertiary education to ensure that long-term objectives are realized and agricultural policies and guidelines set to augment this sector of our economy. I am sure you will agree, Mr Chairman, that short-term training components and tertiary programmes are both necessary in ensuring that a strong and sound economic base and support systems are established and maintained.

Mr Chairman, the Cook Islands, like other smaller developing states in the Pacific, have, in most instances, common constraints. We are geographically isolated by vast ocean distances; we are outside of established transport lanes, and at times communication is difficult. Often we find ourselves at the mercy of monopolies. I reiterate what I said at the June 1986 Regional Committee Meeting: regional economic cooperation is one way to overcome those problems associated with small-ness. It helps overcome size constraints; it promotes stable development through widening economic opportunities; and it helps reduce weakness in economic negotiations.

A centralised regional agricultural marketing system, centralised regional processing facilities, and a centralised fertilizer and chemical depot would be one way to help overcome developmental constraints in our area, and I am pleased to report that the Cook Islands along with its immediate small island neighbours, is taking the initiative in setting up such a system.

I feel that FAO has an important role to play in not only assisting the smaller developing island states of the Pacific, but also in promoting the Pacific Way, through regional cooperation.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, may I just say that my Government and the people of the Cook Islands are eager and willing to actively participate and promote the spirit of friendship, cooperation and goodwill with our neighbours.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your patience and kind attention. May God bless you all.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Minister of Agriculture of the Cook Islands for his statement. I find that the representative of Senegal is not present. I further understand that the representative of Czechoslovakia would like to speak later. I therefore invite the distinguished representative of Morocco to present his statement.

Yahya BENSLIMANE (Maroc) (langue originale arabe): Au nom de la délégation du Royaume du Maroc, j'ai le plaisir de présenter à M.Faisal Abdel-Razik Khalid mes chaleureuses félicitations à l'occasion de son élection en tant que Président à cette session de la conférence générale. Ses nombreuses qualités, sa longue expérience sont le garant du succès de cette conférence et nous sommes convaincus qu'il dirigera nos travaux avec compétence.

J'ai le vif plaisir également de féliciter chaleureusement le Dr Edouard Saouma pour sa réélection en tant que Directeur général de notre Organisation. Cette confiance renouvelée n'est que la reconnaissance des nombreux services qu'il a rendus au cours des douze dernières années et une preuve de sa capacité de travailler inlassablement dans le but du développement du secteur agricole et de l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire des pays en développement. Je voudrais exprimer au Dr Saouma notre joie quant à sa réélection et affirmer la volonté de notre pays de nous tenir à ses côtés comme cela fut le cas, dans le but de réaliser ses nobles objectifs.

J'aurais voulu présenter à votre Conseil les résultats des efforts déployés par le Maroc pour développer le secteur agricole, efforts qui font de lui un pays qui rapproche de ses objectifs et de l'amélioration de son niveau d'indépendance en matière de produits de base, à savoir le blé, les huiles, et les viandes. Néanmoins la situation critique que traverse mon pays, après l'invasion acridienne que nous avons connue, et les conséquences néfastes qui pourraient en résulter, m'obligent à me contenter de parier de cette situation dangereuse et de l'expliquer.

(Le délégué du Maroc continue son discours en langue française.)

A mi-octobre, le Maroc subit une invasion de criquets pèlerins de grande envergure. Plusieurs provinces du Sud et de l'Est du Royaume en sont infestées. Des essaims de dimensions variables s'abattent quotidiennement et menacent de plus en plus les zones de culture. La superficie touchée est estimée à 100 000 ha environ (dont la majorité est heureusement constituée de terres arides semi-désertiques ou non cultivées).

Cette invasion résulte de la reproduction estivale qui a eu lieu dans les pays limitrophes et où les actions de prospection et de lutte, modestes, et dans certains cas, inexistantes, n'ont pu circonscrire le danger.

Malgré l'ampleur et la brutalité de cette invasion, le Maroc a mobilisé tous les moyens pour y faire face.

Sur instructions du Roi qui supervise en personne les opérations de lutte, les moyens du ministère de l'agriculture et de la réforme agraire, ont été renforcés par ceux de la Gendarmerie, des forces armées royales, de la protection civile. Les autorités locales et les populations participent à cette campagne.

Mais devant la gravité de la situation, ces moyens se révélant insuffisants, le Maroc a dû faire appel, avec une grande diligence. C'est le cas de la CEE, des gouvernements des USA, du Royaume d'Espagne, de la : RFA, de la France. Il me plaît ici de leur exprimer les remerciements sincères du peuple et du gouvernement du Maroc.

Nos remerciements vont également au Directeur général de la FAO et au personnel spécialisé de cette institution, notamment le Directeur de la production et de la protection des végétaux, qui se sont mobilisés avec un dévouement et une compétence remarquables.

Nous savons que, aussi longtemps que les circonstances l'exigeront, nous pouvons compter sur leur appui et que leur soutien ne fera pas défaut.

Aujourd'hui, au Maroc, si dans certaines zones la situation est relativement maîtrisée, d'autres, notamment la vallée du Sous, zone importante de production maraîchère et agrumicole, demeurent gravement menacées.

En effet, le pire reste à craindre pour les prochaines semaines et les prochains mois, du fait du potentiel de reproduction et de multiplication énorme pouvant intervenir dans les pays intéressés à partir de la mi-novembre.

Plus grave encore, il semblerait, d'après les spécialistes de la FAO, que nous sommes entrés dans un cycle nouveau du développement des acridiens qui risque de s'étaler sur toute l'année 1988.

Et si cette prévision venait à se réaliser - qu'à Dieu ne plaise - non seulement tous les pays d'Afrique du Nord seraient envahis, mais les pays européens Sud méditerranéens comme l'Espagne, le Portugal et l'Italie pourraient également être touchés.

Devant cette perspective alarmante quel est le dispositif de lutte qui a été ou qui devra être rapidement mis en place?

Il est certain que la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin n'a de chance d'être efficace que dans la mesure où elle a lieu, d'abord dans les pays d'origine, au stade larvaire.

Quand les essaims atteignent l'Afrique du Nord, il est déjà trop tard. Il en résulte pour les pays où se produit la grégarisation un rôle déterminant dans la lutte préventive, même si les régions de reproduction se trouvent au nord de leurs zones de culture. Je lance ici un appel pressant à leur sens de la solidarité.

Mais la plupart d'entre eux n'ont pas les moyens suffisants pour mener une lutte efficace et généralisée. Mon pays est persuadé que la communauté internationale pourrait le pallier si tant est qu'une structure adéquate d'accueil des aides des pays donateurs, de gestion et de suivi des opérations pouvait être rapidement opérationnelle.

Voilà pourquoi je m'adresse au Directeur général de la FAO afin de lui demander de provoquer, sous son égide, une réunion de représentants qualifiés des pays les plus concernés pour:

- faire une évaluation de la situation;
- arrêter et adopter une stratégie commune d'intervention à court et moyen terme;
- estimer les moyens nécessaires;
- préciser les procédures de leur mobilisation, de leur gestion et de suivi des opérations.

Nous pensons que la présente Conférence générale pourrait être une précieuse opportunité pour entamer les contacts utiles à une bataille qui pourrait être longue et difficile.

Monsieur le Président, je ne voudrais pas donner l'impression d'être alarmiste. Mais je me dois cependant de vous dire la grande inquiétude du peuple et des autorités du Maroc face à ce fléau dont on ne pourrait venir à bout qu'au prix d'une action rapide et concertée de tous les pays concernés et d'un soutien massif de l'ensemble de la communauté internationale.

Warwick O. FRANKLIN (Barbados): Mr Deputy Chairman, I see the Chairman is now absent, but I extend to him my best wishes and my delegation's pledge of support as you assume the responsibility of guiding the deliberations of this crucial session of the Conference of the FAO. We are pleased to see that the Director-General's mandate has been renewed. Events surrounding both elections are not without significance for the future of this Organization. Our world will only prosper if the sense of moral unity inherent in the Charter of the United Nations and the basic texts of FAO together with the habit of cooperation developed since the founding of the United Nations system of organizations are strong enough to prevail against the forces of narrow selfishness. I hope that I am right in predicting that the history of the past forty years justifies my delegation's belief that the present crisis too will pass and that FAO will emerge in greater moral strength.

I had anticipated that the major concerns of this Conference would be the financial crisis in which the Organization finds itself because of circumstances beyond its control. I note that the question of reform has suddenly become a most pressing matter so perhaps it would be better to dispose of it as quickly as possible.

Over forty-four years ago, the United Nations Conference, meeting at Hot Springs, Virginia, adopted resolution XXIV entitled "Achievement of an Economy of Abundance". That resolution in its operative part affirmed the principle of mutual responsibility and coordinated action. It presented seven principles upon which this unified action would be based. Among these were the promotion of uninterrupted development and the most advantageous use of agricultural and other material resources for the establishment of an equitable balance between agriculture and industry in the interest of all. The governments represented at that Conference, motivated by a determination to achieve freedom from want for people everywhere, hoped to achieve this objective by all appropriate means including the supply of capital, equipment and technical skills. An integral part of this programme was the reduction of barriers of every kind to international trade and the elimination of all forms of discriminatory restrictions thereon as effectively and rapidly as possible.

The Twenty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference comes at a time when many countries are formulating plans for agricultural development which reflect changed circumstances after a prolonged period of economic distress from the residual effects of the world economic recession. But as we seek to find a way forward, a general picture of handicaps emerges. These include high international interest rates fluctuating exchange rates, trade restrictions, protectionism, adverse terms of trade, and scarce investment funds. Slow economic growth has depressed demand for agricultural products including food, leading in turn to lower prices; reduced foreign exchange earnings coupled with heavy debts servicing burdens factors which have affected the capability to import essential to agricultural development. Some countries are still faced with a dark and dismal spectre of famine, with its debilitating and catastrophic consequences for man and beast alike. This is so despite mountains of surplus corn, wheat, butter and other produce in some countries.

The philosophy of Hot Springs as set forth so effectively in the resolution on the achievement of an economy of abundance is surely as valid today as in 1943. Moreover, it is the justification for a strong and efficient functioning organization.

In my view, FAO has reshaped its structure and included in its operations the agreements reached by consensus in its own governing bodies, other international conferences, as well as in the General Assembly of the United Nations on matters relating to its competence. The summary of changes and orientation of strategies included in the paper on reform by the nine developing countries in a document which is before this Conference shows how the Organization has developed and has been adapted to perform in changed circumstances. I find it very difficult, therefore, to accept the concerns expressed over the last two years about the future role of FAO and on such matters as transparency of operations, evaluation, financial and personnel questions, the field programme, and the format and preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget.

Since this Organization has been able so effectively to adapt to changing demands and conditions in the last twenty years as to achieve a consensus on its priorities, programmes, and other aspects of its operation, it is clear that its governing bodies are quite competent to deal with any new orientations that are necessary to meet the needs of member states as we approach the end of this century.

The work of FAO and its imaginative programmes such as the Technical Assistance Programme, with its built-in capacity for international cooperation through ECDC and TCDC, are helping to expand the scope of the cooperation that is possible between member states. Surely this approach was envisaged by the founding members of this Organization. Above all, the Technical Cooperation Programme permits countries to help themselves. My delegation agrees with the Director-General when he states, in the foreword to the document "Agriculture - Towards 2 000", that developing countries themselves bear the primary responsibility for bringing about a further strengthening of their productive capabilities while generating effective distribution among those still short of food. But he is also right when he says that developing countries by their own efforts cannot meet the challenges, for a global problem demands a global solution and the combined efforts of all partners in development. I also agree with him that the international community must play a crucial role in promoting a favourable external environment which will contribute to an equitable and balanced growth of the world food and agriculture economy.

My delegation accepts the link between the solution to the problems confronting economies and, in particular, the agricultural sectors and improvements in the world economy. I only hope that the stock market crash of recent weeks will not slow down or halt the trends pointing to an improved world economy. The consequences of another world recession would be disastrous not only for agriculture but for the economies of the developing countries, particularly those already disadvantaged because of size, geographical location and other factors. In this regard, we must welcome the commitment by the contracting parties of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to make the first major effort towards a greater liberalisation of international agricultural trade; likewise, we welcome the indication that the major economies of the world appear more willing to deal in a concerted way with the major constraints to our economic well-being. I hope that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations will lead to improved and more effective GATT rules, improved market access and reduced trade barriers, and thus greater liberalisation of trade in agriculture. FAO has an important role to play in these negotiations, and it must seek to do so.

This Conference will have to consider the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. That programme of work includes proposals to deal with the diseases which not only ravage herds but inhibit trade in livestock produce. It will seek to bring back into production lands in semi-arid and dry areas through the utilisation of irrigation as well as control of soil erosion. The problems which threatened world forestry and the better economic management of forest and forestry resources will also be dealt with. Work towards the effective implementation of the international code of conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides will continue, for it is essential that there be effective control of the indiscriminate use of pesticides as well as unethical trading practices engaged in by some pesticide manufacturers. The programme of work also provides for the continuation of work by the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

I am not at all happy to note that this Organization has to grapple with the financial difficulties into which it has been thrown due to circumstances beyond its control, thus impairing its capacity to function effectively in the interest of the starving, undernourished and needy of this world. The Director-General is to be congratulated for the skill he has displayed in managing and guiding this Organization through the perilous waters it has had to navigate during the second half of the present biennium.

He has rightly presented a Programme of Work and Budget based on the guidelines set by the Organization's governing bodies and the conditions of the world's food and agriculture situation. He was right to fix the level of the budget on the basis of the contributions member states are legally obligated to pay in full and on time rather than on a projection of the level of contributions the Organization is likely to receive because some countries have indicated an inability to meet their assessed contribution.

I appreciate that economic difficulties can be the cause for the difficulties some countries are facing, but it is not easy to accept the other reasons advanced for the failure to meet these legally binding obligations. The early restoration of the Organization's financial viability is an absolute and urgent priority.

FAO is in a unique position to view food and agriculture in the longer term and to build up a global assessment which systematically integrates detailed projections for individual countries. But gradually we have seen attempts to alter the character of this international Organization. Large and powerful states often succumb to the illusion that they can forego multilateral diplomacy, that they can rely on balance of power, spheres of influences, and a system of alliances to protect and promote their international interests. On the other hand, small states cannot court self-delusion. They must be active participants in the international community; they must be vigorous exponents of multilateral diplomacy and firm supporters of international organizations.

This adherence and active participation cannot be based on any other principle but sovereign equality of states. Capacity to pay must remain the main basis on which the contributions of membership are assessed.

While Barbados is prepared to adapt its views and orientate the remedies devised for resolving our problems to conform with those which attract a consensus of the membership, Barbados would find it difficult and totally unacceptable to have solutions imposed by a select group of countries. It would be unthinkable to replace one form of colonisation by another.

FAO is teaching nations how to increase the use of land, how to recover lands worn out from over-use, how to use fertilizers, how to irrigate lands and control floods, how to increase fish production and how to increase animal production. In summary, it is leading the fight to banish the scourge of hunger and malnutrition from our planet. My country needs its help just like the underprivileged people everywhere but not at any price. What is necessary is the political will to ensure the viability of the Organization in future so that it can continue its efforts to achieve the goals set by its founding fathers.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): La délégation de la République populaire du Congo que j'ai l'honneur et le privilège de conduire s'associe aux félicitations qui vous sont adressées depuis votre élection à la Présidence de notre conférence. Votre grande expérience et votre savoir-faire constituent des atouts remarquables qui ne manqueront pas d'influer sur les résultats de nos travaux.

Ma délégation est d'autant plus certaine de ce succès que vous bénéficiez du précieux concours d'excellents vice-présidents auxquels nous adressons également nos félicitations.

Nous nous réjouissons des conditions qui ont présidé au choix du Directeur général qui six ans durant, aura à conduire les destinées de notre Organisation. Le gouvernement de la République populaire du Congo et son chef, Son Excellence le Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, saluent par ma voix la victoire de Monsieur Edouard Saouma qui, nous le reconnaissons, a depuis son accession au

poste de Directeur général de la FAO déployé des efforts appréciés en faveur de l'Afrique et de notre pays. Nous sommes certains qu'étant donné la situation agricole et alimentaire encore préoccupante de notre région, il continuera à orienter le gros des activités de l'Organisation vers la résolution des problèmes qui accablent cette région. Cet effort est d'autant plus justifié que la communauté internationale entière a solennellement reconnu, lors de la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies en Mai 1986, la dégradation de la situation économique et sociale de l'Afrique.

Le Directeur général élu peut être assuré, demain comme hier et aujourd'hui, du soutien actif de mon gouvernement dans le vaste combat qu'il devra poursuivre pour le renforcement des activités de la FAO sur le terrain en vue d'éradiquer la faim et la malnutrition des populations et d'améliorer les revenus et les conditions de vie des masses rurales pauvres.

Ma délégation souhaite ne pas s'étendre sur les problèmes maintes fois soulevés dans cette enceinte;

- qu'il s'agisse de la situation alimentaire mondiale dont la caractéristique principale reste le paradoxe qui existe entre des stocks alimentaires mondiaux excédentaires et la persistance des zones à pénurie alimentaire aiguë;
- qu'il s'agisse des barrières protectionnistes qu'élèvent les grands pays industrialisés et qui pénalisent gravement les produits des pays pauvres;
- qu'il s'agisse de la poursuite des transferts nets de capitaux considérables des pays en développement vers les pays autrefois exportateurs des capitaux, ce qui empêche les relèvements du taux d'épargne et d'investissement;
- qu'il s'agisse enfin de la nécessaire relance des engagements de l'aide publique au développement agricole des pays à faibles revenus et à déficit alimentaire par un investissement rural approprié. A cet égard nous devons souhaiter un aboutissement heureux des travaux du comité intergouvernemental de haut niveau sur la base financière et la structure futures du FIDA afin que ses conclusions permettent de créer la dynamique nécessaire à la fixation d'un objectif approprié de contribution aux ressources du Fonds; voilà un objectif vital pour les pays en développement surtout en ce moment où les économies de ces pays se fragilisent chaque jour davantage et s'essouffent sous les effets conjugués du lourd service de la dette extérieure qui s'accroît de manière continue et des déséquilibres de leurs balances de paiement nés de l'effondrement des cours de matières premières et de la détérioration des termes de l'échange.

C'est donc au prix des efforts concertés de la communauté internationale que nous éviterons le retour aux tragédies qu'a connues l'Afrique et qui ont ému tous les peuples de notre planète ces dernières années. En effet il serait suicidaire de laisser se poursuivre la baisse de la production agricole par habitant dans une région déjà sous-alimentée et où la croissance démographique reste des plus élevée. Les espoirs de nos ruraux résident dans la nécessité de voir les efforts de la FAO et des autres institutions intervenant dans le secteur agricole ainsi que ceux des donateurs bilatéraux, que tous ces efforts donc s'orientent vers la mise en oeuvre du programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique 1986-1990; celui-ci pensons-nous nécessite la mise en place des mécanismes novateurs plus appropriés et qui ne contribuent guère à exacerber les tensions politiques et sociales des pays endettés de la région.

La République Populaire du Congo qui s'est mobilisée autour du mot d'ordre de Son Excellence le Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Président du Comité central du Parti congolais du Travail, Président de la République, Chef du Gouvernement, je cite "l'autosuffisance alimentaire d'ici à l'an 2000", la République populaire du Congo, disais-je, va réunir dans les tout prochains jours toutes les forces vives de la Nation et singulièrement les petits exploitants agricoles pour réfléchir ensemble, au sein du Conseil national de l'agriculture, sur les meilleures structures à mettre en place pour atteindre dans les délais impartis cet'objectif. Nous espérons ainsi dégager aux termes des travaux de cette instance consultative de notre pays les principales lignes d'orientations pouvant déboucher sur des changements structurels susceptibles de promouvoir le développement intégré en campagne. La politique d'installation des villages centres librement acceptée par notre peuple et qui vise à réduire les inégalités persistantes entre la ville et la campagne viendrait à l'appui de telles transformations en contribuant à fixer les populations en campagne, freinant ainsi l'exode rural, qui constitue à présent une contrainte majeure à un accroissement significatif de la production agricole de notre pays.

Ce faisant, nous avons conscience de la nécessité de mobiliser toutes nos ressources nationales au centre desquelles se situe le petit producteur agricole congolais; voilà pourquoi la stratégie visant à obtenir leur participation, depuis la conception des structures et la définition des objectifs de production, jusqu'à l'écoulement des produits en passant par la planification des projets, leur mise en oeuvre ainsi que leur évaluation nous paraît revêtir une importance fondamentale. Le paysan ne doit plus subir le développement rural, il doit en devenir le promoteur et le principal acteur; Il faut en faire l'élément central, en lui donnant les moyens de peser sur la vie politique, économique et sociale du pays. A cet égard, les résultats de la Conférence mondiale sur la Réforme agraire et le Développement rural de 1979 nous paraissent être une source vivante d'inspiration et la FAO devrait être invitée à intensifier ses efforts pour leur application effective dans nos pays.

Au cours des travaux de notre Conseil national de l'agriculture qui s'inscrivent également dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre du programme prioritaire de l'OUA pour le redressement économique de l'Afrique 1986-1990, les participants seront guidés dans leur réflexion par l'excellente étude FAO "l'Agriculture africaine les vingt-cinq prochaines années" adoptée par la 14ème Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique.

D'ores et déjà, nous sommes persuadés que la mise en oeuvre des programmes qui seront élaborés à partir des résultats de ces assises exigera, en plus des ressources nationales forcément insuffisantes, une assistance complémentaire extérieure adéquate. Aussi voudrions-nous profiter de l'occasion que nous offre cette tribune pour lancer un appel non seulement aux institutions internationales intéressées mais également aux donateurs bilatéraux, pour qu'ils viennent appuyer nos propres efforts dans le combat que mène notre peuple pour venir à bout des fléaux de la faim et de la malnutrition afin que notre sécurité alimentaire nationale soit assise sur l'autosuffisance alimentaire. Celle-ci, nous le savons, ne sera possible que si nos efforts en vue de développer aussi la pisciculture et l'aquaculture sont épaulés par la communauté internationale, et à cet égard la précieuse assistance que nous apporte la FAO est appréciée à juste titre et devrait se renforcer dans l'avenir pour servir davantage les objectifs de développement de notre pays. Dans ce secteur de la pêche, le renforcement de la capacité de capture, de conservation et de commercialisation des petits pêcheurs, tant en zone maritime qu'en zone continentale, ainsi qu'une intensification de leur formation, nous paraissent être les meilleurs moyens d'accroître leur productivité et d'augmenter leurs revenus, afin qu'ils contribuent davantage aux objectifs non seulement de l'autosuffisance alimentaire mais aussi à ceux d'une alimentation équilibrée accessible à tout notre peuple.

C'est de cette façon, et de cette façon seulement, que nous parviendrons à freiner puis à réduire progressivement les importations massives de produits alimentaires auxquelles se trouve actuellement confronté notre pays et qui occasionnent des sorties importantes de devises diminuant d'autant nos possibilités d'investissement en vue d'accroître notre capacité de production, de stockage et de distribution des aliments.

Ce mot d'ordre national d'autosuffisance alimentaire est d'autant plus crédible à présent que l'effort du plan quinquennal qui vient de s'achever s'est résolument tourné vers le désenclavement de l'arrière-pays et l'unification de l'espace national, atout majeur dans l'approvisionnement du pays.

Monsieur le Président, La Forêt qui couvre 52 pour cent de notre territoire national constitue une ressource naturelle importante et renouvelable dont l'exploitation a connu un ralentissement ces dernières années, en raison de nombreuses contraintes y compris l'insuffisance d'infrastructures qui a fait l'objet des préoccupations du gouvernement lors du dernier plan.

A présent, l'effort d'exploitation rationnelle de nos forêts et la mise en oeuvre d'une politique de transformation sur place de notre bois a considérablement réduit le taux d'exportation des grumes au profit des sciages et de contre-plaqués dont la valeur ajoutée est plus importante.

Cette exploitation de notre patrimoine forestier s'accompagne d'une politique hardie de reboisement industriel et de boisement communautaire. La poursuite et le renforcement d'une telle politique qui commence déjà à donner des résultats positifs et qui s'intègre parfaitement dans le cadre du plan d'action forestier tropical de la FAO exige des moyens importants dont nous sollicitons le complément à la FAO et à toute la communauté internationale.

Cette assistance à moyen et long terme que nous attendons de la FAO ne sera possible que dans le cadre des programmes de travail et budget de l'Organisation à l'instar de celui présenté par le Directeur général pour l'exercice 1988/89; voilà qui justifie son examen attentif et minutieux de la part de notre gouvernement. D'emblée qu'il me soit permis de manifester quelque peu la surprise de ma délégation de constater que le niveau du budget qui nous est soumis ne reflète pas l'ampleur des besoins exprimés au cours des différentes conférences régionales et des divers comités du Conseil. En effet si ma délégation apporte son appui sans réserve aux stratégies, priorités et programmes contenus dans ce Programme de travail et budget puisqu'ils constituent des réponses appropriées aux problèmes réels qui sont soulevés dans les différentes instances de notre Organisation, elle reste cependant préoccupée par le niveau proposé du budget qui pourrait laisser croire que la situation agricole et rurale s'est fondamentalement améliorée alors que de toute évidence la FAO sera davantage sollicitée les prochaines années.

Ainsi tout en indiquant que ma délégation ne s'opposera pas à l'adoption du budget, je tiens à réitérer son opposition au concept de la croissance zéro que l'on voudrait ainsi imposer à la FAO, nous considérons en effet que les 0,25% d'augmentation annoncée ici n'ont été réalisés qu'au prix d'une réduction très risquée des estimations des augmentations des coûts, c'est dire que le budget réel pourrait éventuellement avoir une croissance négative, ce qui constitue une grande première sur laquelle il convient d'attirer l'attention des Etats membres et de l'opinion internationale, en raison des répercussions que cela ne manquera de provoquer dans les pays en développement à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire..

Nous n'entrerons pas dans les détails de l'examen de ce budget sur lequel notre délégation aura tout le loisir de s'exprimer au niveau de la commission II, cependant nous tenons à faire valoir dès à présent nos inquiétudes face à la réduction continue des effectifs et des compétences de l'Organisation, avec pour conséquence possible une baisse de la vitalité des activités de soutien de la FAO. En outre si nous nous réjouissons de la petite augmentation de 2,37% imprimée aux programmes techniques et économiques de l'Organisation, nous regrettons que le Programme de coopération technique, dont l'utilité et l'efficacité ont été maintes fois reconnues dans cette enceinte, n'ait subi aucune augmentation.

C'est donc conscients des pressions de tout genre qui se sont exercées sur le Directeur général, y compris de la part des pays en développement qui auront à supporter un poids excessif dans le partage du fardeau, en raison de la faiblesse de leurs monnaies qui ont du subir depuis la dernière approbation du budget de l'Organisation de nombreuses dévaluations que nous voterons ce budget, avec l'espoir que son exécution ne souffrira pas des ajustements semblables à ceux du présent exercice.

Mais si dans ce débat, les pressions exercées par ces pays en développement sont compréhensibles, par contre celles venant de ceux qui ont vu leur monnaie réévaluée par rapport au dollar et qui de ce fait verront leur contribution réelle diminuer, ne nous paraissent pas raisonnable et relèvent d'une adhésion aveugle à un concept irrationnel.

Monsieur le Président, la délégation de mon pays salue l'appui accordé par le Conseil de la FAO à la mise en chantier de l'étude de faisabilité sur l'aide en nature que la 14^{ème} conférence de la FAO pour l'Afrique avait recommandée afin que cette nature d'aide vienne compléter utilement la panoplie des mesures préconisées dans l'étude FAO consacré à notre région. Nous lançons un appel aux Etats membres en mesure de le faire pour qu'ils participent activement à cet effort d'assistance utile au redressement de la capacité de production agricole de notre région. En effet l'étude montre clairement qu'autant que l'aide financière et l'aide alimentaire, l'aide en nature et notamment en intrants peut constituer à maints égards une ressource irremplaçable pour l'accroissement de la production agricole dans une région où l'investissement rural reste des plus faibles.

Ces dix dernières années ont vu notre Organisation adopter et mettre en oeuvre des réformes hardies, fruits d'un consensus de tous les Etats membres. Cela a permis par exemple de:

- lancer et développer une politique salubre de décentralisation qui a rapproché l'Organisation de ses Etats membres et permis à ces derniers de mieux tirer parti des atouts de cette institution;
- créer un programme de coopération technique qui permet à la FAO d'intervenir efficacement dans les situations d'urgence et imprévues; sa contribution dans le programme de relèvement Agricole en Afrique lors de la dernière crise alimentaire agricole a renforcé sa viabilité, prouvé son efficacité et suscité l'adhésion des plus réticents.

Nous pensons pour notre part qu'il convenait, dans le cadre d'une réflexion sur les structures et le fonctionnement de notre Organisation, de renforcer ces acquis tout en continuant à prospecter d'autres voies de progrès dans un esprit de dialogue constructif.

Mais hélas nous assistons depuis deux ou trois ans à des accusations et critiques parfois acerbes dirigées contre le Secrétariat voire contre les Représentants des Etats Membres en développement; le flot de projets de réformes vient aujourd'hui concrétiser ces critiques et exacerber les positions des uns et des autres au lieu de travailler au renforcement de ce qui nous unit et qui nous semble de loin plus utile à tous.

A notre avis la situation actuelle de la FAO ne justifie pas un tel déploiement de propositions visant à revoir de fond en comble le fonctionnement de l'Organisation. Nous sommes prêts à nous atteler à déceler les aspects qui méritent un renforcement pour en accroître l'impact sur le terrain.

Si la Conférence devait se mettre d'accord sur l'opportunité de l'examen de certains aspects de buts et opérations de la FAO, les instances actuelles de l'Organisation restent le mieux indiquées pour servir de cadre à de telles discussions à moins d'élire au cours de cette session un groupe d'Etats Membres qui de toute façon devrait travailler sur la base d'un document préparé au préalable par le Secrétariat, aidé par des consultants extérieurs; et à cet égard ce qui se fait au FIDA nous semble raisonnable.

Le Congo chacun le sait est co-auteur avec d'autres pays en développement d'une réflexion approfondie sur cette question, il reste cependant ouvert au dialogue constructif ainsi qu'à toute initiative visant à renforcer la coopération internationale et à sauvegarder les intérêts des peuples en développement. Mais d'ores et déjà il importe de retenir que notre pays réagira contre toutes mesures qui affaibliraient l'Organisation ou l'enfermeraient dans un rôle académique et réduiraient ainsi ses activités de terrain fort appréciées de nos peuples.

Les mécanismes actuels de l'Organisation nous semblent appropriés pour aider à la gestion de la FAO même s'il est possible de les renforcer davantage en prenant soin d'éviter d'introduire toutes procédures paralysantes comme le consensus, équivalent au droit de veto déguisé pour trancher des questions aussi importantes que l'approbation du budget-programme.

Tel est à notre avis la meilleure façon d'aborder cette question.

Nous comptons sur vous pour éviter que certains pays ne détournent notre attention des vrais problèmes car chacun sait que la FAO n'est pas en crise pour mauvaise gestion. Il s'agit d'une situation née de la volonté de certains Etats Membres qui n'ont pas cru utile d'honorer leurs engagements statutaires vis-à-vis de l'Organisation. La baisse d'activité qui en est résultée ressemble fort bien à celle que connaît le FIDA qui a vu ses activités se réduire au fil des années parce que les pays possédant les capitaux ne se sont pas résolus à aller de l'avant pendant la deuxième reconstitution; il en sera encore ainsi si des changements radicaux de politique n'interviennent pas pour accroître substantiellement l'aide publique au développement qui reste bien en deçà de l'objectif de 0,7% du PNB des pays donateurs puisqu'en moyenne, les pays membres de l'OCDE ne dépassent guère les 0,35% soit la moitié de l'objectif visé depuis plusieurs années. Ce taux serait encore plus décevant si l'on n'y incluait pas la part sans cesse grandissante de l'aide alimentaire en provenance des pays détenteurs de gros stocks qui, à certains égards, voient dans cette forme d'aide un mécanisme d'écoulement de leurs excédents dont la gestion revient cher.

La délégation congolaise entend aborder les travaux de cette 24ème session de la Conférence de la FAO dans un esprit ouvert au dialogue et à la concertation sans affrontement inutile mais avec détermination en vue de promouvoir plus de solidarité internationale et oeuvrer pour le renforcement de l'Organisation. Nous réaffirmons à l'occasion notre foi dans le multilatéralisme et notre attachement aux principes qui la sous-tendent; telle est la voie qui de notre point de vue offre les meilleures garanties vers la création des conditions réelles de paix universelle à laquelle aspirent les peuples du monde entier.

C'est en vous renouvelant notre confiance que je souhaite plein succès aux travaux de la 24ème session de la Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture."

CHAIRMAN: We were to have adjourned at 1:00 p.m. but we have one more speaker. If the House would kindly agree, I should like to invite the distinguished delegate from Iceland to make his statement.

Jon HELGASON (Iceland): May I first of all extend to Dr Edouard Saouma my congratulations on his re-election as Director-General of the Organization. My country has had many years of good cooperation with Dr Saouma, We sincerely wish him good luck and results in his very important task for the next six years as the leader of FAO.

On World Food Day, 16 October a year ago in this room, the President of Iceland, Vigdis Finnbogadottir, delivered a lecture emphasizing the lives and plight of the small fishermen and their role in world food production. On World Food Day this year the Director-General spoke of the lives and the plight of the small farmers and their role in food production.

In this respect the word "small" refers to the size of the production unit, not the producer. Judged from the standpoint of the importance of the role these producers play in contributing to the survival and well being of mankind, these small producers are collectively true giants because food production is the world's biggest and most crucial business.

After we assess the relative value of modern agricultural mechanization, chemical inputs, and the impact of science and technology on agriculture, what remains as the major contributor to the world's output of food is the collective impact of the small farmers and fishermen without whose back-breaking efforts there would never be enough food on our tables.

I have noted with appreciation that FAO has not overlooked the importance of the small holder, the family farm, the individual fisherman, and has pursued vigorous programmes to improve the lot of the rural population with agrarian reforms, pluriactivity, etc.

However, the fact that food production is based on so many small producers contributes to the problem of regulating this production, stabilizing the price structure and avoiding the often disastrous production swings. The provision of adequate food on a regular basis is in fact a very delicate balancing act between food shortages and food surpluses. -Although food surpluses and overproduction can create difficulties in ministries of agriculture and - if not handled properly -can affect the well-being of the small food producer, such problems are infinitely more pleasant to deal with than food shortages and malnutrition.

Food shortages and rising food costs are often the basic causes for political and social unrest.

Reflecting on the period since the last FAO Conference, it is gratifying to realize that the spectre of hunger which had indeed been predicted for this decade has given way to generally adequate food supplies with shortages appearing primarily as a result of local natural catastrophes. It is really remarkable and a testimony to the resourcefulness and hard work of the food producers, combined with advance in technology, that the rapidly growing world population continues to be adequately nourished.

Even my country, of which it is sometimes said that it is situated near the edge of possible human habitation on this earth, is now struggling with the economic and political problems of agricultural overproduction.

This brings me to two major food production issues, on which FAO and the community of nations as a whole must put the highest priority in the coming biennium and in medium-term planning.

One is the quality and wholesomeness of food and the other the protection of our land and agricultural environment.

With the increase in intensity of food production, especially animal production for meat, the problem of food hygiene is becoming more and more acute. Internal parasites and contamination with pathogenic microorganisms, are taking an increasing toll in work abstentions, medical expenses and, most seriously, illness and death on a large scale, especially in young children. And this problem is becoming more and more serious and more difficult to deal with.

This problem concerns food produced and consumed at the local level as well as food in national and international trade. In addition we recently have had the problem of man-made food contamination resulting from nuclear accidents.

FAO has a crucial role to play, particularly through the establishment of international food quality and control standards especially through the Codex Alimentarius Commission in cooperation with WHO and not least to promote the development of efficient ways to suppress food-borne pathogenes and spoilage organisms, using both traditional methods more effectively as well as to promote new more effective technologies.

The planned International Conference co-sponsored by FAO on the Acceptance ♦ Control of, and Trade in Irradiated Foods next year is therefore a timely undertaking.

The second concern is - in view of the great pressure on the soil, water and other environmental resources from intensive food production practices - to put environmental protection at the highest level of priorities. We are witnessing a depletion of our agricultural natural resources throughout the world. Destruction of jungles and forests, exploitation of grasslands and croplands to such an extent that soil erosion and soil deterioration due to salinity and other causes has reached such an enormous scale that - if unchecked - it will threaten the very existence of mankind in the decades and centuries ahead.

We know this problem all too well in my country, Iceland, where we are trying hard to reconcile the use of our limited land resources for animal production through grazing with the protection of the rangelands, other vegetation and the soil.

We firmly believe that the fate of our agricultural lands and environment is in the hands of the small farmers and that the future of our agricultural environment can only be secured through obtaining the understanding and cooperation of the land user. His future and, at the same time, the future of every other man and woman on this planet, depends on maintaining the productivity of our soils and grasslands to sustain adequate provisions of nutritious and safe food supplies for our increasing population.

I would, therefore, urge the Director-General to give these two tasks the highest priority: the fight against soil erosion and deterioration of the agricultural environment, and the assurance of high quality, nutritious and hygienic food supplies.

Towards the end of this century we all hope of course that there will be an end to hunger and malnutrition and that there will be peace among nations. We hope that there will be no poverty and that disease epidemics will be under control. We know that with our present knowledge and the technology at our disposal we could achieve all of these goals. At the same time let us all remember that the advancement of the well-being of our generation must not be at the expense of the well-being of our planet - the only home available to all of us.

Let us remember that we must secure for our children and future generations a healthy and clean Mother Earth with sufficient resources of soil, air, water, plants and animals to sustain their well-being in the eons to come.

CHAIRMAN: Before I adjourn, I should like to thank the distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen who are present here, for their cooperation in very kindly agreeing to sit beyond 1.00 p.m.

I would remind you that our next session will be at 2.30 p.m. when we shall have 16 statements to hear.

I adjourn this session until 2.30 p.m.

The meeting rose at 13.30 p.m.

La séance est levée à 13.30

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.30 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 87/PV/6

Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARY

Vingt-quatrième session
PLENIERE

24° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SEXTA SESION PLENARIA

(10 November 1987)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Leo B. Hertog, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14h.45
sous la présidence de Leo B. Hertog, Vice-President de la Conférence

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas
bajo la presidencia de Leo B. Hertog, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

F, CHUULA (Zambia): Mr Chairman, Deputy Director-General of FAO, your Excellencies, distinguished delegates and observers, ladies and gentlemen, I am aware that instructions have been given that participants given the opportunity to speak should, as far as possible, not indulge in showering congratulatory messages on the bureau. I cannot, however, resist congratulating the Director-General of FAO on his re-election and I wish also to thank him for the excellent preparations that have been made to create an atmosphere which is conducive to our deliberations.

The current world state of food and agriculture as analysed by FAO and other international bodies does not give much encouragement in the short-term as to the revitalization of the level of food production in the developing countries. The food security outlook in many of these countries is of great concern. In Africa, after the slight recovery and good harvest of 1985/86 the drought hit hard again in 1986/87, painting a gloomy picture. In southern Africa, the situation is serious and has been worsened by the destabilizing effect of the apartheid policies of South Africa. The region is already in a food-deficit situation which is aggravated by the refugee problem caused by wanton attacks on frontline states by the South African regime and its sponsored bandits.

The unfavourable terms of trade which have been compounded by protectionist policies of developed countries have greatly hurt the economies of developing countries. The debt problem of many developing countries has worsened.

For developing countries to forge ahead in their agricultural recovery programmes, there is need for a formulation of a financial package by the International Community which will resolve the debilitating debt problem. The package should include conversion of loans into grants, substantial reduction and curbing of interest rates on commercial debts, and that debt servicing on new loans is compatible with the capacity of these countries to pay after taking into account the requirements of sustained growth and development.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as a technical body and adviser on food and agriculture, also in its capacity as a cooperating and executing agency on loan sponsored agricultural and rural development projects has a role to play in influencing policy and on finding ways to resolve and minimize the devastating effects of the debt problem. The other way in which FAO could contribute effectively, would be to involve itself in the overall agricultural and rural development projects in the developing countries which has emphasis on food production.

We believe that the key to quick agricultural and economic growth in Zambia lies in the promotion of small-scale farmers if we are to meet the increased food demand by the increasing population and the provision of employment opportunities for the increased number of unemployed.

In the line with the OAU Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986/1990, Zambia is to implement an adjustment programme based on its own resources, and foreign inputs being used as catalysts to enhance the Programme.

The manpower problem is being tackled by a deliberate National Training Programme, by incorporating a training component in all foreign aided projects and by integrating the Zambians themselves in the running and operating of such projects. The national expert system is being encouraged in all projects and technical assistance schemes with a view to improve and facilitate on-the-job training and the effective transfer of technology to the Zambian people.

We must strengthen this Organization in order to increase its capacity to provide the technical assistance that many of its Member States are in need of, for example, the Tropical Forestry Action Plan adopted by the FAO Conference in 1985 gives us a framework in which a concerted effort is being made to resolve the problem of deforestation and forest degradation in tropical countries whose consequences are drought, desertification, soil erosion with adverse effects on food production. I would like to urge FAO to continue to assist those countries which are making efforts to implement the plan.

The promotion of inland fisheries and aquaculture production are of vital importance to us and other landlocked countries in Africa. As we all know, fish remain one of the cheapest sources of high quality protein in the region and greatly contribute to the fight against malnutrition.

Our country is now giving a lot of emphasis to the development of aquaculture. There is no doubt that further support from FAO and other donors to this sector would enhance its development.

In many parts of Africa the presence of trypanosomiasis, rinderpest, foot-and-mouth diseases, tsetsefly and East Coast fever have prevented rapid progress in livestock production, especially beef production and oxenization. Red locusts in the SADC Region have from time to time reduced crop production. While a lot has been done to contain the situation, more needs to be done. Zambia in particular needs provision of logistics in the fight against these pests. With regard to pesticides my delegation supports the principle of prior informed consent.

To consolidate the development efforts in all areas of agriculture, we propose that the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System for Food and Agriculture should be strengthened and should also cover livestock production and disease control.

Manpower and human resources development are necessary in our various countries if we are to improve in our agricultural output. I wish to congratulate the FAO on the efforts which are being made by the Organization in this respect. Thank you.

Hüsnü DOĞAN (Turkey): At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Chairman on his unanimous election to the chairmanship. His vast experience and well known talents are the best guarantees for a successful outcome of our deliberations on the complex and multi-faceted issues confronting the Conference. I would also like to congratulate Mr Saouma on his re-election as the Director-General of FAO. We are confident that with his experience and abilities he will strike the right balance in leading the Organization to better days.

After 1985, this is the second time that I have had the pleasure of addressing an FAO conference. I feel particularly privileged to express the views of my Government on this occasion, which appears to have an historic importance. Indeed at this particular juncture when the world food and agriculture problems have reached a peak and when multilateral institutions face growing pressures, our conference has the great responsibility of giving the right impulse to FAO so as to enable it to strengthen its role and raise its efficiency.

Let me first briefly touch upon the present state of food and agriculture which entails renewed efforts also on the part of FAO. In the past two years, the international economic environment which directly affects development, and the efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty continued to be beset by uncertainties. The upturn of economies which began in 1984 has not yielded its expected results.

The favourable trend of growth has not been maintained. The developed countries have missed the opportunity to create the conditions for economic growth by still pursuing restrictive policies despite the fall in inflation, drop in oil prices, and relative stability of interest rates. They also stall in effectuating structural adjustments although they are in much a better position to do so. Now developing countries like mine which have embarked upon policies of adjustment and which have undertaken significant reforms in their agricultural policies continue to pay an increasingly higher price for these changes in their policies. International financial uncertainties, unfavorable terms of trade, protectionism, and instability of markets continue to take their toll on the economic and social development efforts of the developing countries.

The pervasiveness of the economic environment has particularly affected the agricultural sector. Unprecedented falls in the prices of most agricultural commodities have further decreased the chances especially of food deficit low-income countries to finance their imports of food and agricultural inputs. The fact that the world enjoys abundant supplies of food and agricultural products at the global level is no relief for most of these countries and their rural populations.

The structural imbalances in the world's agricultural output and trade system still perpetrate the paradoxical situation of embarrassing surpluses and serious shortages.

In this rather gloomy picture another sore point is the external financial assistance to agriculture. Official commitments to this sector are stagnating. It is encouraging to note that low income food-deficit countries have started to receive a greater share of concessional assistance. However, for most developing countries external resource transfers to agriculture still remain crucial. We believe that, especially for middle income countries with adequate potential and absorption capacities, the stepping up of foreign private investments in this vital sector constitutes a fruitful means of compensating for the decreasing official assistance. I believe that the further promotion of foreign private investments in these countries is well justified in the light of declining external assistance to them.

It is fortunate that, unlike the last one, this Conference does not have to deal with the critical food and agriculture situation in Africa. The catastrophe which struck that continent seems to be abating. Although, as of 1986, five African countries still require food aid, the emergency situation has subsided. Some countries have even enjoyed surpluses. However, the longer-term food security of Africa still requires many self-help efforts and concerted international action. The UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development to which FAO provided a large input has laid down the framework for this continent's economic future. The precarious nature of Africa's agricultural and food security situation as witnessed by the recent negative developments in Ethiopia makes it imperative that all the elements of this programme of action should be strictly adhered to.

FAO had to carry out the tasks we entrusted to it during the last biennium in this largely unfavourable world economic environment. Unfortunately, the difficulties inherent in the implementation of its complex and wide-ranging activities were compounded by a mounting financial crisis which peaked in 1986. This unprecedented cash-flow crisis which stems mainly from the delay in payment of contributions, aggravated by the fall in the value of the US dollar and the reduction of income from cash deposits, threatens to cast a shadow on the next biennium. We hope that this Conference will be able to decide on effective measures to avert the recurrence of such situations in the years ahead.

Now let me turn to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium. Turkey approves the strategies, priorities and programmes proposed by the Director-General in his Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. Our support is mainly based on the fact that these proposals reflect and are the result of a long process to which all member countries, including mine, have largely contributed. We consider that, given the present budgetary and financial constraints, the proposals before us seem to be realistic and balanced enough to deserve a consensus, including the budget level which foresees a modest increase, a quarter of one per cent.

We had ample opportunity to express our views on the various sets of programme priorities and priorities in the means of action during the process of the elaboration of these proposals. Here, I would like to emphasize the importance my country attaches to the enhancement of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. Turkey believes that she has attained a level where her experience and means in the field of agriculture can be put to the service of other developing countries wishing to benefit from them. In fact my country constantly increases its participation in ECDC and TCDC activities within various frameworks, not least within FAO. As an example, the results of the TCDC agreement we concluded with the Organization last year concerning livestock and forestry training in the Near East proved to be very satisfactory. We have already taken steps to expand the scope of such activities in the future and look forward to institutionalizing them with the help of FAO.

Allow me now to comment briefly on the proposals put forward by some countries to proceed to a wide-ranging review of FAO's role and activities. Although such a request has almost coincided with the financial difficulties of the Organization, I want to underline that we do not see a direct link between the cash-flow crisis and the necessity of reviewing FAO's work.

As to the reform proposals themselves, we believe that this Conference, as the supreme body of our institution, provides the appropriate forum where all members should be able to freely discuss any idea tending to enhance the efficiency of our Organization. However, in my opinion, the deliberations on this subject should be guided by the following principles and approach:

- strict adherence to the principles and provisions of the UN Charter as regards the decision making process;
- respect for the provisions of the basic texts of FAO;
- respect for the prerogatives of the principal organs of FAO with respect to planning, programming and budgeting process;
- recognition of the need for all Member States to participate in the programme-budget preparation in all its stages;
- respect for the decision-making methods of the Organization, including the priority given to reach decisions by consensus; and lastly,
- recognition of the fact that FAO evolved in its 42 years of existence in response to and in line with the consensus reached at its governing bodies and that this generally satisfactory process should continue to be adhered to.

Having said that, we see merit in the consideration of certain aspects of the proposals which may contribute to the better functioning of this Organization provided that they meet the consensus of Member States, improvements can and should be made. On our part, my delegation stands ready to participate in the debate in a constructive way, bearing always in mind that it is we, all the member countries, which bear the main responsibility for the future of our Organization.

In concluding, I would like to reaffirm my Government's commitment to FAO's aims and activities. Turkey's interest in FAO was illustrated in the past two years by her active participation in the Organization's work within almost all of its organs including the Council, and by hosting two FAO regional conferences for the Near East and for Europe.

My country also takes pride in having hosted various FAO seminars, symposia and regional meetings including the Near East Economic and Social Commission during the same period. We believe that our level of development, agricultural potential, and expanding technical and food assistance schemes are important assets which will allow us to assume greater responsibilities in FAO's work.

I would like to close my remarks by expressing confidence that this Conference will serve to strengthen the effectiveness of this Organization in dealing with the vital problems of food and farmers.

João PEREIRA SILVA (Cap-Vert) (langue originale portugais): Permettez-moi tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, de vous adresser mes félicitations les plus chaleureuses pour votre élection à la Présidence de la 24ème Session de la Conférence. La qualité exceptionnelle des débats que vous animez prouve que nous avons fait le bon choix. Je saisis également cette occasion pour féliciter vivement les vice-présidents et les membres élus du Bureau qui vous aident dans l'accomplissement de votre tâche.

Enfin, je souhaite tout particulièrement m'adresser au Directeur général et lui exprimer mes plus sincères félicitations pour sa brillante réélection à la tête de notre Organisation.

Face à ceux qui veulent changer les règles du jeu à leur profit et au détriment des petits pays, des pauvres et des faibles, nous espérons que le Directeur général maintiendra toujours - comme par le passé - l'indépendance de notre Organisation et son engagement indéfectible aux côtés de nos pays. Des pays qui sont soumis à tant d'épreuves et qui se battent pour se libérer et pour s'intégrer dans un monde où les rapports entre Etats doivent être constamment révisés dans le sens d'une plus grande équité.

Je peux vous affirmer, Monsieur le Directeur général, du plein appui de mon Gouvernement et de sa détermination à coopérer avec la FAO. Soyez sûr que vous trouverez en lui un interlocuteur toujours loyal et ferme, comme ce fut également le cas dans le passé.

Avant de poursuivre, j'aimerais aussi remercier chaleureusement tous ceux qui ont contribué à mon élection à la Vice-Présidence de la présente Conférence. Mes remerciements s'adressent tout particulièrement au groupe africain auquel mon pays est fier d'appartenir.

La Conférence de la FAO est, tous les deux ans, un lieu de rencontre et de discussion privilégié, une occasion unique pour faire le point et pour se consulter sur nos conceptions respectives en matière de lutte contre le sous-développement et de coopération internationale, surtout en matière d'agriculture et de développement rural.

Aussi, puisque le sous-développement demeure l'ennemi principal, tant dans mon pays que dans la grande majorité des pays africains, je vais essayer de vous faire part très brièvement de la manière dont nous entendons le combattre dans le domaine du développement rural.

Plusieurs propositions ont été avancées de façon théorique pour sortir du sous-développement. Ce sont les théories de déconnexions, du jeu de forces du marché, de la coopération au niveau des interdépendances et dépendances. Toutefois, la réalité montre qu'en Afrique le secteur agricole reste très négligé, le commerce extérieur généralement déficitaire et la dette extérieure en constante augmentation (sa croissance a été de 50 % en six ans).

Avec l'internationalisation croissante des économies, associée à une certaine corrélation des forces mondiales, le contrôle du sous-développement devient prioritaire pour l'orientation du développement de l'économie du pays, dans un contexte de dépendance extérieure accentuée et d'insuffisance de moyens matériels et humains. Dans ce contexte, la planification économique devient indispensable, son premier rôle étant, dans mon pays, de réduire au maximum les conséquences des incertitudes liées à la dépendance de l'extérieur, en particulier la pulvérisation de l'aide internationale. Il a fallu procéder à une globalisation des politiques et projets afin, dans un cadre unifié, d'identifier leurs limites et surtout de les hiérarchiser. Ceci a permis d'établir des hiérarchies de priorités et de concentrer les moyens dans la réalisation des actions prioritaires.

En ce qui concerne le développement rural, on peut résumer en disant que, de 1975 à 1985, le pays s'est efforcé à la création de conditions minimales permettant la définition d'une proposition claire de développement après avoir infléchi dans un sens positif les courbes représentant le déséquilibre écologique, le chômage, le manque de cadres, l'inexistence de technologies applicables efficacement, etc.

On prétend que le deuxième PND, qui a démarré en 1986, soit une nouvelle étape de transition eu égard à une plus grande croissance du monde rural et au niveau atteint par notre capacité de contrôler les phénomènes de désagrégation écologique et humaine, n'oubliant pas que notre climat est et sera ingrat, caractérisé par des précipitations irrégulières et de très faible niveau.

Dans cette nouvelle étape, on suivra les orientations suivantes en matière de développement rural:

-Dans la production, l'initiative sera laissée au secteur privé, l'Etat assumant le rôle de créateur dans un système efficace d'appui et de soutien.

-Le développement devra se faire d'une façon équilibrée dans l'espace, étant donné l'inefficacité de certaines tentatives de création de pôles de développement.

-Les populations bénéficiaires du développement devront participer, de façon de plus en plus organisée, dans ce processus, que ce soit dans l'identification des projets, dans l'exécution ou l'évaluation.

-La création de conditions pour arriver à une autonomie du monde rural face à l'Etat. Ceci en incitant son organisation sur les modèles associatifs ou non, afin qu'il soit un véritable partenaire avec lequel on puisse dialoguer, ayant des capacités opérationnelles et revendicatrices et non pas un simple spectateur et demandeur du monde urbain, désirant s'y intégrer, toujours en dernier ressort, même en tant que marginal.

-La croissance des revenus de la population rurale, en proportionnant davantage d'emplois productifs, en favorisant chaque fois plus sa production, en organisant l'approvisionnement en facteurs de production et en pratiquant des prix au niveau des coûts ou même subsidies.

D'un autre côté, nous définissons les objectifs suivants pour la période 1986-90:

-Conservation et reconstitution du patrimoine écologique de façon plus systématique et techniquement plus rigoureuse, équilibrant les solutions mécaniques avec les biologiques et s'initiant en même temps à l'usage productif de ces infrastructures;

-Croissance de la production agro-silvo-pastorale, cherchant à réduire la dépendance de l'extérieur, satisfaisant une partie significative des besoins alimentaires et contribuant décisivement à l'approvisionnement en bois de la population rurale;

-Changement de la structure agraire et des relations de production dans les zones rurales, passant d'une situation semi-féodale, dans plusieurs zones du pays, à l'usufruit complet de la terre par les paysans;

-Elargissement coordonné de la formation/recherche/vulgarisation/extension, en créant des techniques simples et facilement applicables tout en persuadant les paysans de les utiliser. Cette méthodologie implique une grande coordination dans le choix des zones prioritaires d'actions et une approche intégrée, basée sur une philosophie d'autonomisation des communautés paysannes et la non-perpétuation de la dépendance;

- Rôle croissant de la femme dans le développement rural;

- Promotion de circuits de commercialisation transparents.

Ces objectifs, énoncés et discutés pendant la préparation du 2nd Plan National de Développement, seront atteints par l'application d'un ensemble de mesures politiques:

- Promotion de la production, en utilisant les instruments représentant différents états de maturité pour que les paysans les utilisent comme de véritables entrepreneurs, ce sont les prix garantis, le crédit agricole, l'approvisionnement en facteurs de production et un système de liberté de prix de vente.

Comme support de cet ensemble de mesures, nous avons créé un Fonds de Stabilisation et Sécurité Alimentaire, et un Système National de Crédit Agricole en phase d'organisation.

En ce qui concerne les mesures politiques pour la protection de l'environnement, la Loi d'utilisation des sols, la réglementation de la Loi forestière et le Code des Eaux sont des instruments à utiliser pour que le renversement de la tendance se transforme en un pas en avant, qualitativement important en terme de préservation du patrimoine naturel cap-verdien.

Par l'application coordonnée de tous ces moyens, nous prétendons atteindre les objectifs cités et contribuer de façon décisive à une réorganisation correcte du territoire. Les différentes activités seront localisées en accord avec les potentialités locales en se basant sur un principe de décentralisation équitable, pour que la croissance du taux d'urbanisation diminue et que la concentration dans les centres urbains principaux diminue au profit des centres secondaires.

En faisant un bilan extrêmement bref de deux années d'application de ces mesures et orientations, je pourrais dire que l'agriculture capverdiennne donne les premiers signes d'amélioration et de réadaptation à ses contraintes climatiques; le niveau de satisfaction des besoins de base des populations rurales croît régulièrement, le commerce extérieur tend à évoluer dans un sens moins défavorable et notre dette extérieure présente des valeurs supportables pour notre économie.

Malgré l'existence de nombreux problèmes à résoudre pour réaliser les objectifs choisis, la volonté politique et la compréhension de la communauté internationale permettent une grande espérance.

Pour sortir du sous-développement, il faut aussi compter avec la coopération internationale. Avec la coopération bilatérale, bien sûr, mais aussi avec la coopération multilatérale. Mon Gouvernement considère que la coopération multilatérale ne doit pas être moins forte que la coopération bilatérale. Il faut que les organisations du système des Nations Unies puissent disposer des moyens nécessaires pour mener une coopération qui est essentielle pour nos pays et qui doit être complémentaire de ce qu'on fait déjà au niveau bilatéral.

A cet égard, je ne peux que regretter la faiblesse du budget qui nous est proposé pour le prochain exercice 1988-1989. Ce budget est insuffisant pour permettre à la FAO de répondre aux énormes besoins en matière de développement agricole.

La coopération internationale présuppose le respect absolu de l'égalité et de la souveraineté des membres de la Communauté internationale..

Ce principe étant posé, je ne peux que m'étonner de certaines propositions de réforme qui consisteraient, si elles étaient adoptées, à donner à quelques Etats Membres plus de pouvoirs qu'à d'autres. En matière de budget et de programme ordinaire, il n'y a ni donateurs, ni receveurs. Il n'y a que des membres qui, selon des règles constitutionnelles et financières précises versent leurs contributions et décident en commun des activités et des programmes de l'Organisation. Laisser entendre qu'à l'heure actuelle les décideurs ne sont pas les payeurs est une conception fautive et inacceptable.

Je viens à peine d'avancer l'idée, que je n'aurais aucun mal à démontrer, que les pays aux revenus plus modestes font déjà un effort plus important que les pays riches pour soutenir notre Organisation.

Une conception différente introduirait l'injustice et le déséquilibre dans les relations entre Etats Membres et marquerait la fin de la coopération internationale.

Le respect de l'égalité souveraine des Etats n'exclut pas, bien au contraire, une adaptation de la coopération aux besoins et moyens spécifiques de chacun.

L'aide alimentaire est nécessaire pour faire face aux situations critiques, mais elle ne saurait supplanter le problème plus vaste et plus profond de la sécurité alimentaire nationale, surtout dans les pays insulaires comme le nôtre. Nous faisons donc appel plus que jamais à l'action à long terme de la FAO. Cette action, nous la définissons ensemble à cette Conférence, et j'aimerais donc m'arrêter quelques instants sur les points les plus importants de notre ordre du jour. J'ai déjà mentionné la question du budget et fait allusion à certaines propositions de réformes qui n'apparaissent à mon pays que comme une nouvelle tentative d'affaiblir les institutions internationales et le multilatéralisme.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique, nous sommes d'avis qu'il faut le maintenir et le renforcer eu égard à notre expérience très vaste dans l'application de ce Programme. Le PCT nous permet en effet de développer les études nécessaires à la préparation des dossiers indispensables pour la recherche de financement de maints projets identifiés et importants pour notre développement qui, d'autre façon, n'aurait jamais eu de chance d'être concrétisé.

L'étude sur l'aide en nature a mérité toute notre attention. Nous partageons pleinement l'idée selon laquelle l'accès aux intrants et aux moyens de production est un facteur décisif du développement agricole. Il faut donc améliorer l'approvisionnement en produits industriels nécessaires à l'agriculture, améliorer leur distribution, établir des facilités de paiement pour l'achat de ces produits, et s'assurer du soutien technique nécessaire à l'entretien et à la bonne utilisation du matériel. Les propositions de la FAO sont donc d'un très grand intérêt et reçoivent le plein appui de mon pays.

En tant que Représentant du Gouvernement du Cap-Vert, je ne saurais manquer de m'attarder sur le point 16 de notre ordre du jour, c'est-à-dire sur le suivi donné à la Conférence mondiale des pêches. Cette Conférence fut une des importantes initiatives prises par l'Organisation au cours des douze dernières années, une initiative extraordinairement utile et précieuse pour un pays insulaire comme le nôtre. Nous avons pris nos responsabilités et accompli notre part dans l'application de la Stratégie adoptée par la Conférence des pêches de 1984.

Eu égard aux contraintes de temps auxquelles nous sommes soumis, je ne saurais être plus long. Ma délégation aura l'occasion de s'exprimer sur tous les points de l'ordre du jour au cours des débats qui se dérouleront au sein des Commissions.

Je vais donc terminer en vous réitérant nos meilleurs vœux de succès dans l'exécution de votre tâche et notre totale disponibilité de coopération pour que la présente Conférence soit un véritable succès.

Robert SEVCOVIC (Czechoslovakia) (original language Slovak): On behalf of the Head of the Delegation of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Mr Miroslav Toman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Food, I have the honour to deliver his statement addressed to this prominent assembly of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

This general conference is taking place in a period when throughout the entire United Nations system, including all specialized agencies, much thought is being given to the possibilities of increasing their effectiveness and, at the same time preventing growth of administrative expenses in a period when all Member Governments strive to manage their State budgets with austerity, in the most economical way.

Czechoslovakia is one of the 42 nations who signed in 1945 the Founding Charter of our organization. Czechoslovakia fully acknowledges the leading role of FAO in multilateral cooperation in world agriculture, fisheries and forestry as well as FAO's irreplaceable role in rural development. In the most difficult years of the FAO history we have always been fulfilling our duties ensuing from membership in the Organization with responsibility and to the full extent despite the fact that the geographical representation of my country both at headquarters and in field is far from corresponding to the high international qualification level of Czechoslovak experts and institutions, to the tradition of our agricultural, rural and cooperative movements dating hundreds of years back, to our present successes in solving the food problem and in developing modern agrarian structures, thus being far from adequate to the legitimate rights of my country.

I should like to declare from this rostrum that my delegation is ready to support new initiatives for strengthening and further enhancing the effectiveness of FAO's work and to put forward concrete proposals of its own on how to consolidate international cooperation, understanding and consensus in solving essential problems both within the framework of the whole Organization and at the all-European level, being a member country of the European region of FAO.

Having reached agreement to that effect with other socialist countries of the European region we, as a founding member of FAO, shall present our candidature for membership in the Council, and we hope that the other member countries of the Organization will support our candidature being aware of the fact that this group of countries wishes to take in the next period many useful steps to provide for better cooperation both with developing countries associated in the Group of 77 and with the western countries with different socio-economic systems.

Pursuing that objective, we have decided to raise the permanent representation to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization to the level of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. This is another expression of my Government's commitment to the future of FAO and its significance. The Czechoslovak Government has charged the institutions that have the potential to strengthen the activity of FAO as well as the FAO National Committee to study in detail the programme of work together with the medium-term plan of FAO's activities and to propose concrete actions for participation in the development programmes.

In Rome as well as at General Conference of other agencies, we advocate the opinion that agencies would profit from better regional concentration of programmes. If approximately identical priorities of national development programmes are reached at the regional level, it is possible to facilitate both the cooperation with advanced European countries and stimulate TCDC and ECDC and other forms of cooperation and to enhance self-reliance of developing countries strengthening their national sovereignty and faster progress.

FAO, despite all financial difficulties, has enough power and enough authority to deepen and intensify in the field of its activity the coordination of broad international and special cooperation, to contribute to the formation of new approaches not only to the solving of problems of developing countries, but also to the international economic security as a way of eliminating under-development.

In addition to the programmes based on Regular Budget and Field Programme involving contributions by UNDP or funded from other extrabudgetal sources, our Organization should also pay attention to the support of the European cooperation, fruitful exchange of information and experience among all European member countries. We are glad to state that the Regional Conference for Europe organized in cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe, since the regional conference in Reykjavik has become a truly European forum at ministerial level and thus contributing to fruitful dialogue among countries with different socio-economic systems and in this way also with different agricultural policies.

The system of cooperation by means of networks does not burden the budget of FAO but on the contrary, it becomes the basis of out-reaching, follow-up activities and enhances the possibilities of cooperation with other regions, since a considerable part of world industrial and spiritual potential, scientific research, including that concerning tropical and subtropical agriculture, veterinary medicine", animal ,and genetic resources is concentrated in Europe.

Czechoslovakia is assisting the work of FAO in this region by hosting many sessions and international workshops, such as most recently consultations on renewable energy resources for rural development, consultation and international seminars on soya-beans selection systems, a session of the Joint FAO/ ECE 'Working Party on mechanization. For next year a workshop is being planned on remote sensing together with a meeting of the Research Group of the European Commission on Foot and Mouth Disease and this has been prepared and an invitation is being given to hold the next congress of EIFAC in 1990.

In this respect we advocate a greater geographical balance in FAO's planning of training courses, workshops and also the granting of fellowships.

It is in the interests of universality and geographical balance of the Organization to improve the geographical representation in all bodies and functions of the agency. It does not benefit our efforts if some countries, including ours, are very under-represented. In fact, they are not represented at all, oven in the elected bodies.

Czechoslovakia, all socialist countries, and many other countries, are also in favour of a greater rotation of staff. There should be no problem to reduce in the future the number of ongoing or permanent contracts in the new vacancies.

Two highly important branches deserve the attention of our Organization in the medium-term and present-day programme: the relation of the environment to agricultural production, and the development of biotechnologies - the main issue of the development of agricultural sciences for the whole period of the next decade.

This is where the European countries (including my own country located in the very heart of Europe), with their positive results and, also, unfortunate experiences, can contribute to world-wide cooperation on many issues. A revised study on "Agriculture Towards 2000" is presented to this Conference, and we are informed of the suggestion to hold, within the framework of the next Regional Conference for Europe, in Krakow, in August 1988, a discussion on all-European prospects in Agriculture, at least as regards those questions which seem to be of common priority interest both in the East and the West of our continent. The experience of the old continent may be a source of advice in many aspects, and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic supports this idea. However, such basis of discussion cannot be worked out only by the Secretariat; it requires consultation with highly qualified and experienced experts representing the sub-regional groupings. Czechoslovakia is ready to take an active part in these discussions.

The main indisputable priority of our Organization is constituted by technical assistance to the developing countries, primarily African States, but others as well. We support the main directives of the programmes proposed by the Director-General for 1988-1989 together with the medium-term programme. On the latter we have some concrete comments which we shall put forward during the deliberations in the First and Second Commissions of the Conference.

Certain concern is caused by the relatively slow process of approval of the Country Programmes, from which only 60 are either approved or prepared for the Fourth Programme Cycle of the UNDP for the years 1987-1991.

With regard to the UNDP, of which FAO continues to be the main partner during the Fourth Programme Cycle, we have welcomed the feasibility study made by the Secretariat on the possibilities of the so-called Aid-in-Kind, especially as far as agricultural inputs for African agriculture are concerned. In Czechoslovakia, we are studying new possibilities but we assume that especially FAO will use, within the context of UNDP, the accumulated resources stemming from the voluntary contribution of the Czechoslovak Government to UNDP, expressing our good will with regard to Aid-in-Kind system. It is necessary and possible to use these available resources for the material input and technical expertise for the developing countries.

In Czechoslovakia there is one inhabitant to every 0.31 hectares of arable land. According to FAO's World Crop and Livestock Statistics, Czechoslovakia had raised the labour productivity 2.8 times since 1950 in the sectors of agricultural production covered therein, in conditions variable in all ecological aspects. Agricultural, as you can see, has become a stabilized component of our national economy. From being an importing country, we have progressed to become a country with a stable food balance - in fact, self-sufficient in the fundamental foodstuffs produced in the European mild temperate zone. Highly democratized participation of our people (including women) in the management of agriculture has brought success within the agricultural cooperative movement of present-day Czechoslovakia.

Solving the problems of hunger, malnutrition and poverty in developing countries has been seriously delayed by the inadequacy of funds for this humanitarian goal. In this connection, Mr Chairman, once again I would like to draw your attention to the fact that even a part of the money presently being spent by the industrialized countries for armaments could, if transferred to peaceful development activities, resolve the world food problem. Recently, the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development clearly demonstrated the enormous possibilities which disarmament could open up.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic supports this idea and proposes, together with other Socialist countries, to establish an International Fund "Disarmament for Development", from which FAO could profit to finance its many activities for development.

In our view, the final solution of this serious global problem - the eradication of hunger, malnutrition and poverty - does not depend only on periodic donations of external financial and Aid-in-Kind to the developing countries. The basic prerequisite still remains that we must establish a new international economic order together with international economic security as an integral part of the complex system of International Peace and Security. FAO, one of the most important international organizations, has to make its contribution to these noble aims.

Before concluding, I am particularly happy to be able to reiterate the cordial and sincere congratulations my Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture have presented to the Director-General on his re-election to this very high responsibility.

Toivo T. POHJALA (Finland): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Finnish delegation, I should like to congratulate Kuwait on her election to the Chair of the Conference. I am also very pleased to see the Netherlands as a Vice-Chairman of this meeting. The issues on the agenda of the Twenty-fourth Conference are exceptionally important and difficult but I am certain that with your able leadership, Mr Chairman, we will achieve fruitful results.

I congratulate, on behalf of my Government, Mr Edouard Saouma on his re-election as our Director-General for a third period. I assure the Director-General of our full support for his efforts to steer our organization through the challenges it will face in the 1990s.

The main duty of our organization is the fight against hunger and malnutrition. When we take stock of the developments in the last years we see both victories and defeats. The favourable weather conditions in 1985-86 produced better crops in Africa. However, alarming news is again coming from some parts of Africa. This shows that there is no reason for complacency. Tireless efforts are needed both from African countries and from the international community, including FAO, to reverse the calamitous trends on the continent.

It is a fact that hunger and malnutrition are increasing worldwide and their growth has accelerated in the 1980s. It is also a fact that poverty lies at the core of the problem of hunger. The poor are growing in number. Rural poverty is increasing in the developing regions. Some 780 million people in the developing world were estimated to live in conditions of absolute poverty in 1980.

FAO's study "Agriculture Towards 2000" states that agricultural growth generally - but not always - lessens rural poverty. Better agricultural performance generally results in a lower price of food, higher agricultural wage rates and employment and consequently a lower incidence of rural poverty. However, with very unequal distribution of assets, especially land, most of the benefits of growth in the agricultural sector as a whole will largely by-pass small farmers and agricultural workers.

Coming from a country where forestry plays a major role in various fields of life, I emphasize forestry problems. They are most acute in the tropics where the forest cover is decreasing rapidly under the pressure of expanding populations and of hunger for land on which to grow additional crops. In temperate forests, like in Europe, air pollution which is combined with the industrial development has become a subject of major concern: significant areas of forests are being threatened. Thus forestry research has an important role under these conditions.

Finland has traditionally devoted between 10 to 20 percent of its bilateral aid to forest-related activities. Finland shall continue this work. The FAO Tropical Forestry Action Plan will serve as a guiding principle in the planning of Finnish aid.

As regards other FAO actions, the priority should be given to those which FAO is particularly well qualified to conduct and for which there is no other comparable source of support. The emphasis should be given to providing the informational and analytical base necessary to identify what needs to be done. In this respect the inventory of forest resources and planning based on it are of particular importance. Finland welcomes FAO's and ECE's initiative to carry out the assessment of the world's forest resources in 1990 and was very glad to host the preparatory meetings of experts in the last week of October this year.

The political, social and economic environment where our organization operates changes in the course of time. That means that the member countries should from time to time reconsider FAO's policies and priorities, structure and organization. I believe that this kind of review is now needed. We must ask ourselves what is FAO's role in the future. How can our organization serve its members, especially developing countries, in the most effective way?

I recall that at the close of the last Conference of FAO in 1985 the Chairman of the Conference called upon the membership to use the 1985-87 period to examine the role and priorities of the Organization in time for the next Conference. In the light of this and because of the interest my country takes in the development and work of FAO, we have during the present biennium actively been discussing the future activities and structure of FAO. The Nordic Countries have presented their own views in a background paper of this Conference. Finland stands ready to participate actively in the consultations on this issue in order to find a common view.

In order to accomplish its tasks, FAO should have a safe financial base. My Government has followed with concern the difficult financial situation of this Organization.

In the opinion of my government, all organizations of the UN system should strive for maximum efficiency on a stable and reliable financial basis. The former cannot be achieved without the latter. A sound financial basis cannot be established unless all Member States demonstrate their willingness to meet their financial obligations. This concerns also the FAO. Finland has always met punctual with its financial obligations. We expect that all others will honour their commitments towards FAO also in this respect.

Alexi IVANOV (Bulgaria) (original language Bulgarian): Mr Chairman, first of all I would like to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau upon your election to these important posts, and to wish you success in the conduction of the session. I should like to express our most sincere regards to the honourable Dr Saouma on his re-election to the post of Director-General of FAO.

We are all aware of the fact that the issues which stand on the session's agenda are important and topical; we would also like to believe that this session will make one step forward towards the promotion of farming and nutrition - two fields of major importance for mankind:

All of us who do their best to assist the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in the successful performance of its objectives and its role, have been seriously involved in these issues. Here I would like to mention a fact which has been the cause of our growing concern: the continuation of the improper distribution of agricultural production, as well as the need for developing countries to spend more currency for imports of foodstuffs. There is a considerable number of developing countries which can meet their domestic needs in foodstuffs only to a very limited extent; more than half a billion people on the planet are starving in spite of the overproduction in many developed countries.

We understand the objective fact that multilateral cooperation within the FAO framework is one of the factors which could strongly influence the solution of some major issues of nutrition and farming that many countries, and developing countries in the first place, are facing. However, we would like to underscore that the solution of the food issue should not be sought in the development of agriculture alone. It is closely linked with a number of other global issues of our times; all the more so because of the growing interdependence among states. In fact, the food crisis is not only the consequence of natural or climatic conditions, but is part of the major issue of overcoming economic backwardness and dependence resulting from different political, economic, demographic and social factors.

Judging from the experience we have, we consider that no important change for the better could be realized in the absence of some radical and effective structural and progressive socio-political changes, in accordance with the requirements of the developing countries' national economies. Specific steps towards the reduction of military expenditure would not only strengthen international security but would also free considerable resources for the purposes of development, and that means for agriculture and food, too. There is no doubt that all United Nations organizations should make their own contribution to safeguarding peace and preventing a nuclear holocaust. In the world of today, when a new type of political thinking is required, our aspirations - that is, the aspirations of the international community - should be focussed on the promotion of a large-scale, multilateral, equitable, and mutually beneficial cooperation, free from confrontation and tension in relations among states. We welcome with satisfaction the agreement of principle between the Soviet Union and the United States of America for the elimination of a whole range of nuclear weapons; the implementation of this agreement will benefit all mankind.

I take this opportunity to state that the People's Republic of Bulgaria has always shown proof of its understanding for the needs of the population in developing countries threatened by famine, and has assisted them within its possibilities. My Government's consistent policy is aimed at further developing the country's agro-industrial complex, which will facilitate assistance in the future.

We start from the premise that our experience in coping with the problems related to farming and food might be of interest and use to other countries.

I would like to express my country's readiness to share her experience in this field with developing countries in the future. Bulgaria evaluates FAO's activities positively. We consider that regardless of existing difficulties, and owing to the efforts of the majority of the Member States, some

progress has been made. However, the possibilities for cooperation have not been exhausted; the Organization should try to identify all priority fields, in accordance with the needs of developing countries. We believe that a careful study should be made of the experience we have gathered so far jointly, which in turn will facilitate FAO in finding solutions to the issues of agriculture and food.

Other important items on the session's agenda are FAO's plan and budget for the period 1988/89. Our delegation considers that the Organization's efforts should be focussed on the most effective use of the means available, in projects which are most closely related to the needs of the individual Member States.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria assesses positively FAO's Work Plan, and expresses its steadfast readiness to assist the Organization in its implementation. May I underscore the need for supporting those priority projects under the plan which aim at some radical structural changes, or at raising the socio-political and economic awareness of the population. The results of the cooperation between my country and the Organization make it possible for us to state again our readiness to participate further, in a more active way, in the implementation of the Organization's objectives, and to cooperate with the countries that need assistance in this field. The People's Republic of Bulgaria will continue to participate in the international cooperation in fishing and will expand her joint activities with the interested parties.

Let me also mention one important anniversary the world has been celebrating these days, and that is the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution, which paved the way for the establishment of effective conditions for the democratization of international relations and for peaceful coexistence among all nations and states, guaranteeing at the same time their sovereignty and independence.

This year Bulgaria celebrates her 20th anniversary as a FAO Member State. For 20 years now, my country has been coordinating its activities with the noble activities of the United Nations and FAO, in the march for the promotion of farming, and the elimination of famine and undernourishment worldwide.

We have many years of experience in the creation of a planned, large-scale intensified agriculture; we can share this experience with all developing countries willing to do so. Following the consistent implementation of our agrarian policy Bulgaria's agriculture has been intensified. Over the last ten years, the average annual rate of growth of agricultural production and the food industry amounted to 3.2 percent. At present, we use new criteria and approaches for the purposes of a technological renovation of farming. Qualitative changes are also under way in the management and methodology of this branch of the economy.

The new forms of management are accompanied by changes in the credit and monetary relations with the banks. The agricultural units are independent with respect to the introduction of new technologies and to the organization of production; strong centralization of management is not recommended. These processes form part and parcel of deep transformations in Bulgarian farming which bring about positive changes in social conditions.

The housing fund in the villages has been almost completely renovated. Working farmers are entitled to pensions of the same amount as industrial workers.

To conclude, may I express my country's belief that this session of the General Conference of FAO will offer an impetus for the promotion of world farming, and for the successful solution of the food issues.

Thank you.

Ignaz KIECHLE (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): Mr Chairman, I have the honour to congratulate our colleague Mr Khalid on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany on his election to the chairmanship of this Conference. He and his Vice-President can be assured of my support and that of my delegation in their task.

Yesterday, we performed one of our most important duties as the highest body of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in electing the Director-General. To Director-General Saouma I wish to convey the congratulations of the Federal Republic of Germany and also my own personal congratulations on his re-election. For the Organization there is a difficult road ahead. FAO and its Director-General will find in us, as in the past, a reliable partner. We hope for continued trustful cooperation and we wish much success and fortune in fulfilling the important tasks ahead.

We also wish to express our thanks to the distinguished Vice-President of IFAD, Mr. Mensah, for having been prepared to make himself available as a candidate for this important task to the benefit of FAO. We wish to express to him our great respect for his commitment and his personal attitude.

Since our last Conference, the Twenty-third Conference in November two years ago, the economic environment has improved in some fields. Here, in particular, I wish to highlight the Louvre Accord of February 1987 which, despite all the criticism recently expressed, contributes to stabilization of currencies, and also the declarations of the ORCD Ministerial Meeting and the Economic Summit held in Venice in May and/or June of this year, which inter alia dealt with the improvement of world trade relations also in the agricultural sector.

I hope that all this will not fail to have its positive impact on the Uruguay Round of GATT. Negotiating guidelines in this framework have already been adopted by the Council of the European Communities on 20th October 1987. With the other Member States of the European Community, we will continue to advocate multi lateral and concerted action in order to overcome the worldwide crisis in agricultural markets.

Here the Federal Republic of Germany gives its support to a preferential treatment of developing countries, particularly with respect to tariff facilitation and a reduction of the escalation of duties for tropical products. The Federal Government hopes to contribute in this way to the solution of the debt problems of developing countries. In this respect we are also prepared to reduce internal consumer taxes on coffee and tea.

However, we deem it important that developing countries on their part, according to the degree of the development level they have reached, should also assume responsibility within the framework of GATT.

Developing countries have a very good chance in the Uruguay Round of bringing in their interests. The events of the so-called black Monday, the 19th October of this year, reflect the sensitivity with which the world economic system at present reacts, the effects of which we have not yet quite overcome.

In agriculture enormous achievements have been made all over the world over the past years. We need to thank above all the farmers and their families. Today the farmers of the world feed over a thousand million people more than they did only twelve years ago. On 11 June this year the number of human beings amounted to over five thousand million.

Our successes achieved so far in being able to feed more and more people should be an encouragement to us to tackle in a concerted effort of the international community with even greater determination the world food and agricultural problems which despite these successes have unfortunately not yet been solved. My Government makes its contribution to that and will continue to do so with full commitment.

In 1986, as in 1985, the world food situation has further improved. I greatly welcome the fact that developing countries were able to markedly increase their agricultural production with a growth of 1.62 percent. Food security as a whole has gotten greater. Particularly gratifying in 1986 were the positive results in Africa, where there was a 4 percent increase in agricultural production, thus enabling Africa to keep pace with the increase in population.

Less favourable was world trade development. Experts expect losses for the past year and during the first six months of 1987. The degree of indebtedness of many developing countries still remains a difficult and pressing problem which we can only solve together in the long term. The Government of my country will be a reliable partner in this respect.

Subsequent to Resolution 165 of UNCTAD of 10 March 1978, it has already waived in the case of 24 states among the least developed countries, the repayment (principle and interest) of DM 4.2 thousand million. With three other countries which were partly included recently in the United Nations list of the least developed countries, government agreements on debt cancellation of almost DM 200 thousand million had already been concluded newly in 1986. Eight further countries of this category have "received from us non-repayable grants from the very outset. The Federal Republic of Germany accounts for 61 percent of the debts waived by industrial countries, pursuant to the agreement of 10 March 1978, Resolution 165.

We will continue to pursue our successful policy of adjusting debts on a case-by-case basis, and we hope there will be stronger involvement and participation on the part of other countries. Regionally, agricultural production has shown varying degrees of development. Africa and the Near East have achieved increases which are gratifying. Particularly in Africa the clear statements of political will as expressed in 1984 and 1986 begin to pay. It was right to give top priority to agricultural production and to channel 25 percent of all public investment to agriculture in the future.

The Federal Republic of Germany, in its development cooperation programme, has always focused on the principle of aid for self-help. From 1950 to 1986 we have made net contributions of over DM 275 thousand million to the cooperation with developing countries and multilateral organizations, of which DM 112 thousand million within the context of public development cooperation on concessional terms. In 1986, approximately DM 8.3 thousand million were made available for that purpose. As regards private donations to development cooperation, the figure for 1986 is approximately DM 1.2 thousand million.

The net contribution of economy on normal market terms to developing countries increased from DM 4.3 thousand million in 1985 to approximately DM 5.2 thousand million in 1986. We have given high priority to agriculture and rural developments within the framework of that cooperation. In the future this cooperation, according to production progress in individual countries, will have to give greater focus to problems in connection with processing, storage, distribution and marketing, and here we need an integrated system to be devised.

My country is in value terms the world's third biggest net importer of food commodities and per capita of the population the biggest food importer. In the first six months of this year alone we imported worth DM 12.7 thousand million more food commodities than exported. Thus a development in foreign trade has continued in my country which has already been noticed for long.

We have large import surpluses of food commodities. Particularly big is the gap between the imports and exports of food commodities in the trade between the Federal Republic of Germany and developing countries. In 1986 we had an import surplus of DM 10.9 thousand million. In this way developing countries, in the trade with the Federal Republic of Germany, could cover about 80 percent of their trade balance deficit in industrial goods.

The figures which I have just quoted here also show that the often cited increase in agricultural protectionism is as far as the Federal Republic of Germany is concerned out of the question.

In this Conference we will also discuss the question of reform of our Organization. My delegation has stressed time and time again that for us reform in the sense of an adjustment to changing conditions is a natural and on-going process which is tacitly on the agenda. Our main concern must be that FAO makes sure that its work is in line with practical needs. If for this purpose a majority of member states feels it is necessary to have a high-level working group set up, then we are quite willing to support that proposal. One should not forget that FAO also in past years has done professionally qualified, sound work. If we talk about changes, adjustments and improvements, we should also include in this review our participation in the work of FAO.

The study on Agriculture: 2000 submitted for the first time in 1979 to the FAO Conference was revised with success. I cannot only largely agree to the results, but wish to commend the Secretariat for this thorough and helpful work.

I welcome the priorities that have been set in the new draft budget for the period 1988/89. With regard to all programmatic and financial policy decisions we all undoubtedly agree that for all actions the principle of the greatest possible economy must also apply to international organizations. The United Nations family cannot spend more money than it receives.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Director-General and all his staff for the good preparations for this Conference. To the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen I wish good luck in guiding this important Conference. The international community will not measure the outcome of our Conference by the quantity of the printed paper, because paper does not feed people. The 450 million hungry people who need our help so urgently are waiting for our actions.

João Pereira Silva, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair

João Pereira Silva, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia João Pereira Silva, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Kasdi MERBAH (Algérie)(langue originale arabe): Je joins d'autant plus volontiers ma voix à toutes celles qui m'ont précédé pour vous féliciter de votre brillante élection et vous souhaiter plein succès dans la tâche délicate qui est la vôtre, qu'entre l'Algérie et le Koweït, pays frères unis par la solidarité arabe, existent des relations d'estime et de coopération bâties sur la confiance réciproque. Votre brillante élection traduit, outre vos qualités personnelles et professionnelles, la confiance unanime que vous manifestent les pays et constitue un gage pour le succès des travaux de ces importantes assises.

Mes félicitations sont destinées aussi aux membres du bureau qui vous seconderont efficacement, j'en suis sûr, dans l'exécution de votre tâche difficile.

Je tiens aussi, m'adressant à Monsieur Edouard Saouma, à lui exprimer mes vives félicitations pour sa réélection au redoutable poste de Directeur général de la FAO, ainsi qu'à lui formuler nos meilleurs vœux pour la réussite dans l'accomplissement de sa mission noble, mais combien ardue.

Monsieur Edouard Saouma est bien connu de nous tous et avec son expérience, son engagement, ainsi que son dynamisme, notre organisation parviendra à des résultats qui seront, nous en sommes certains, à la hauteur des espoirs que nous plaçons en elle.

Nos travaux, qui porteront sur un ordre du jour particulièrement chargé et aborderont des problèmes graves de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, se déroulent dans un contexte mondial défavorable et inquiétant, dans une situation difficile pour notre organisation qui vit un moment crucial, ainsi que dans un climat peu propice aux efforts considérables, mais limités, déployés par les pays du tiers monde en vue de lutter contre le sous-développement, la malnutrition et la faim, voire la misère.

Ainsi, à l'échelon mondial, nous avons enregistré, ces dernières années, une progression lente de la croissance, particulièrement dans les pays en voie de développement qui ont été encore les plus touchés. De tels résultats ne font, malheureusement, qu'accentuer davantage l'écart qui existait d'une part, entre les pays pauvres, des millions de personnes dans certains d'entre eux continuant à subir les affres de l'insécurité alimentaire, n'ayant même plus les moyens de se procurer leur nourriture, et, d'autre part, les pays riches qui sont toujours confrontés à des problèmes de surproduction et de stocks alimentaires.

La production agricole et alimentaire, d'après les documents qui nous sont soumis, a progressé faiblement dans les pays en voie de développement, puisqu'elle a été en deçà de l'objectif de 4% fixé et qui fut atteint néanmoins au cours des cinq premières années de la décennie.

De même, les exportations agricoles des pays en voie de développement ont accusé une baisse de 9% en 1986.

En ce qui concerne, en particulier l'Afrique, qui se trouve dans la première année d'exécution du Programme d'Action des Nations-Unies pour 1986-90, et dans la seconde, pour l'application du programme de redressement de l'OUA, les chiffres nous indiquent, certes, une légère croissance, en 1986, pour la production vivrière. Cependant, il importe d'ajouter que ce continent vient de se remettre de la sécheresse qui l'avait frappé, ce qui explique en partie ce résultat si modeste soit-il mais positif. En revanche, les indices dont nous disposons nous laissent prévoir une évolution non encourageante ou égard, notamment, aux engagements pris par la communauté internationale, surtout sur le plan de l'assistance bilatérale ou à des conditions de faveur pour relever le défi dans cette région.

Par ailleurs, les bouleversements actuels que connaissent l'ensemble des places financières comportent les prémices d'un désordre économique et social à l'échelle planétaire et nous incitent par conséquent, à une réflexion profonde et partant, à une réaction appropriée.

En effet, une situation aussi explosive relève, pour nous, d'un mal beaucoup plus sérieux dont les origines dépassent les simples considérations techniques.

Tout d'abord, le fardeau de la dette, qui a atteint un seuil intolérable selon les informations dont nous disposons, constitue l'une des causes principales.

Par ailleurs, la détérioration des termes de l'échange, la fluctuation incessante des taux de change et le marasme des marchés mondiaux représentent d'autres facteurs essentiels et nous dictent une démarche conséquente en vue de mettre un terme aux égoïsmes nationaux et aux mesures protectionnistes des pays qui pénalisent sévèrement les pays en voie de développement.

L'insuffisance des capacités d'investissements accompagnée d'une hémorragie de capitaux à partir des pays pauvres, tout cela contraint ceux-ci à des mesures d'ajustement hautement préjudiciables à leurs dépenses budgétaires et aux conditions de vie des populations, ainsi cela, aboutit-il à des restrictions de leurs importations et à des efforts accrus d'exportations dans des conditions de prix faibles ou encore de rétrécissement de la demande.

D'énormes sommes sont consacrées aux armements, et cela au détriment du développement économique et social.

Enfin, les politiques d'agression ou d'apartheid sont une menace pour la paix et un handicap sérieux pour certains peuples dans leur combat quotidien contre la faim et le sous-développement.

Tous ces problèmes et bien d'autres encore ne sauraient trouver valablement leur solution que dans un cadre multilatéral apte à déboucher sur un nouvel ordre économique international plus juste et plus équitable.

En effet, un développement économique harmonieux à l'échelon mondial ne saurait être réalisé sans une approche solidaire qui implique l'interdépendance des nations, sans un climat de paix et de sécurité et une réforme fondamentale des relations internationales qui ne marginaliseraient plus les pays en voie de développement.

Monsieur le président,

Abordant maintenant les activités de la FAO, je voudrais exprimer la position de l'Algérie sur certains points saillants de l'ordre du jour.

Tout d'abord, s'agissant de l'exercice qui s'achève, les documents qui nous sont présentés sont explicites quant aux obstacles de taille rencontrés par notre Organisation et aux mesures prises pour y remédier:

Il s'agit principalement, du non-recouvrement des contributions et des arriérés, qui a amené le Directeur général à des réajustements de programmes de l'ordre de 25 millions de dollars et a avoir recours au fonds de roulement, épuisé actuellement, qu'il faudra donc reconstituer.

A cet effet, je rappelle que l'Algérie, qui s'est régulièrement acquittée de sa contribution et qui, au demeurant en a retiré des dividendes insuffisants, est tout à fait à l'aise pour affirmer que la condition nécessaire et suffisante d'un rétablissement rapide de la situation est le règlement sans plus de délai des arriérés de contribution dont la majeure partie, il faut bien le constater, est le résultat de considérations purement politiques.

Il s'agit, de même, de la fluctuation du dollar qui s'est traduite aussi par un recours au Fonds de Réserve spécial, épuisé également et dont la reconstitution est nécessaire.

Il s'agit enfin de la baisse des taux d'intérêt qui a diminué notablement les recettes accessoires.

Aussi, le programme de travail et de budget, qui est soumis à notre approbation, n'est-il l'objet que d'une augmentation de 0,48 7%, c'est-à-dire négative en valeur réelle.

Toutefois et bien que l'enveloppe soit en deçà des énormes besoins exprimés par les pays en voie de développement, je tiens à faire part, ici, de notre approbation tant en ce qui concerne les objectifs, stratégies et priorités du programme, qu'en ce qui concerne la démarche adoptée qui privilégie les programmes techniques et économiques au détriment des dépenses administratives.

Je saisis cette occasion pour lancer un appel aux pays qui ont émis des réserves, afin de lever celles-ci et de permettre une adoption par consensus du programme de travail et budget de l'exercice que nous entamons.

En second lieu, le point 11 de l'ordre du jour et le document y afférent nous invitent à procéder à un réexamen portant sur l'orientation de base de la FAO, ainsi que sur les programmes de terrain et sur des modifications dans le fonctionnement ou dans la structure de son comité financier et de son secrétariat.

A cet effet, une formule nous est même proposée pour procéder à ce travail,, je veux parler du comité d'experts de haut niveau.

En somme, il est question bel et bien, sous le prétexte des difficultés ou incertitudes financières, d'une tentative de réforme radicale de notre organisation.

Je me dois, à ce sujet, de me joindre au mémoire du groupe des pays en voie de développement pour réaffirmer en particulier ce qui suit: Sur un plan purement formel, la situation que vit la FAO n'est pas due à un problème d'efficacité ou de gestion. Notre organisation dispose d'organes habilités en la matière et toute initiative de créer un comité d'experts de haut niveau ne nous paraît point indiquée.

Une réforme de cette nature devrait, de notre point de vue, découler d'une démarche plus large concernant le système des Nations Unies dans son ensemble et s'inscrire dans le contexte de la définition d'un nouvel ordre économique international.

En ce qui concerne les programmes de terrain, le rôle de la FAO est vital et nous considérons que toute formule tendant à affaiblir ses attributions, au profit de relations bilatérales ou d'autres institutions internationales, ne peut que nuire aux intérêts et aux efforts des pays en voie de développement.

S'agissant enfin des objectifs, stratégies et priorités, nous pensons qu'ils relèvent d'instances appropriées et qu'ils ne sauraient être remis en cause.

En définitive, bien que disposés à examiner toutes propositions allant dans le sens d'une meilleure efficacité ou performance, nous ne saurions souscrire à toute tentative de porter atteinte au principe cardinal du consensus et aux structures de la FAO, c'est-à-dire au rôle premier que joue celle-ci dans l'assistance accordée à nos pays.

Enfin, il m'est agréable de faire part de notre satisfaction quant aux actions menées par la FAO, et qui concernent particulièrement notre continent qui bénéficie d'une priorité dans les activités de notre Organisation.

Monsieur le Président, quant au développement de l'agriculture dans mon pays, je voudrais porter à la connaissance de cette honorable assemblée que l'Algérie poursuit depuis quelques années déjà d'intenses efforts en vue d'augmenter la production agricole.

Notre objectif à moyen et long terme est une croissance de 6 pour cent annuelle, croissance qui permet à la fois de couvrir les besoins nouveaux engendrés par une démographie importante et ceux induits par l'amélioration du niveau de vie.

La place prépondérante qu'occupe le secteur de l'agriculture et de la pêche dans la politique économique nationale, les programmes spécifiques aux cultures et élevages qui visent l'augmentation de la production à travers celle des rendements, grâce à l'amélioration et la modernisation des techniques culturales et de la conduite des élevages, la qualité et l'intensité de l'appui à la production, tout cela a permis d'enregistrer des augmentations de la production agricole sans précédent.

Entre 1984 et 1987, la production aura augmenté en volume de plus de 50 pour cent soit une augmentation annuelle moyenne de 11 pour cent.

Ainsi et pour la première fois, après une longue période de stabilisation du niveau de l'emploi dans l'agriculture, il a été constaté in création d'emplois nouveaux induits par le développement du secteur productif.

Autre effet et non des moindres en cette période où le phénomène de crise internationale affecte les ressources de l'ensemble des pays en développement, et en particulier les pays du continent africain, l'augmentation de la production a permis de renverser la tendance à la hausse du niveau des importations alimentaires, donc de les réduire progressivement.

Nous considérons qu'ainsi nous pourrions atteindre un niveau de sécurité alimentaire en harmonie avec notre volonté depuis toujours affirmée d'indépendance, indépendance politique, économique, sociale et culturelle.

Monsieur le Président, en forme de conclusion à mes propos, permettez-moi de donner quelques précisions sur la nouvelle réforme engagée depuis quelques mois en Algérie.

Dans le souci d'une amélioration de la gestion des terres du secteur public qui constitue le tiers de la SAU, et pour renforcer les droits des travailleurs de ce secteur, une réorganisation a été engagée dont l'objet est la transformation des modes d'organisation et de gestion des exploitations *du* secteur public.

Cette réorganisation se caractérise notamment par une nouvelle distribution foncière des exploitations du secteur public, pour les rendre maitrisables, économiquement efficaces et davantage en rapport avec les possibilités réelles d'amélioration des productions. Ainsi les producteurs auront un droit de jouissance illimitée sur les terres qu'ils travaillent et un droit de propriété sur la surface (immeuble - matériel - cheptel) qui de ce fait deviendront cessibles et transmissibles.

Ainsi, nous espérons et nous voulons imprimer une dynamique nouvelle à notre agriculture.

Je voudrais, pour conclure, au nom de la délégation algérienne réitérer la volonté de mon pays de développer la coopération avec la FAO. Je vous souhaite encore une fois plein succès dans vos travaux.

Josef RIEGLER (Austria) (original language German): Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, permit me first of all to congratulate you, Mr Chairman and your two Vice-Chairmen on your election and to wish you every success in your activities during the Twenty-fourth FAO Conference.

I would particularly address my congratulations to Dr Edouard Saouma on his re-election to this responsible function, and I wish him and all in FAO success in those essential areas of finance and of further developments.

At present we are in a phase of development in agriculture, in agricultural trade, and in the agricultural policy discussions, which are particularly contradictory.

In spite of the great success in increasing food production, particularly in some African and Asian countries, there are still countries and regions on our earth which are fighting as before against the scourge of hunger. On the other hand, in the developed industrialized world, not because of the poverty and exploitation of farmers, nor because of a drastic lack of food, but because of food surpluses which cannot be got rid of, there is a strong demand for agricultural reform. The agricultural system of the industrialized countries does offer food in sufficient quality and quantity. It is no longer, however, in a position to cut the surpluses in the traditional lines of production, to reduce disposal costs, thus easing the public budgets and, at the same time, to ensure farmers' incomes. The agricultural policy of the industrialized countries, therefore, is an almost hopeless dilemma. The classical instruments of market, pricing and structural policies no longer seem to be able to solve the surplus problem.

The costs involved in financing surpluses have increased tremendously. This expenditure item has indeed almost reached its limits, and yet farmers' incomes are going down. On the other hand, due to falling prices, additional pressure is exerted on the agriculture of those regions which have to struggle against inadequate supplies. In fact the worldwide dilemma of agricultural policy is crying out loudly for a solution. We need an international concept for agricultural policy for the 1990s, and here no simple radical remedies can be given such as the exclusive movement of supply and demand. That is no longer enough. It is much more a matter of securing and developing the indispensable functions of agriculture and forestry in all regions of the world to the extent required.

For our country, Austria, which is an industrialized country with considerable tourist trade and a high share of mountain regions, we want to safeguard the following functions also for the future by means of independent rural agriculture and forestry: one, by producing food in order to meet supply crises; two, by way of participation of agriculture and forestry in energy production, but also in the provision of raw materials for the mechanical industry; three, appropriate settlement of population in rural areas, the maintenance of the infrastructure and the landscape (these activities are indispensable for the tourist trade); four, precautions against natural catastrophes in mountainous areas by mountain farming and by sustained forestry activities.

Similar demands on the domestic agriculture and forestry will emerge in most countries. This means that the international division of labour and the international agricultural trade is coming up against natural constraints. We are thus confronted with the challenge to develop an agricultural policy concept which eliminates the economically senseless competition in subsidies in order to dispose of surpluses and, at the same time, assists in maintaining or building up an efficient agriculture and forestry in all regions of the world.

Therefore, I emphatically support those proposals which are aimed at bringing to an end the mutual cutting down of subsidies to agricultural prices, thus giving fair income conditions to domestic agriculture and supporting with part of the economies in these export subsidies to help development of agriculture in seriously under-supplied regions.

It is important thus to bring about an agricultural policy which is tailored to society and which is in harmony with the environment while, at the same time, it tackles the very tight situation which prevails in the agricultural sector. The production of renewable energy and raw materials cannot only help ensure the existence of the farmers' livelihood, but also counteract the depletion of the limited amount of raw material.

I believe that the agricultural policy, mainly that of the industrialized countries, has been reoriented and is following a new trend. The discussions within OECD, GATT and the European Community underline this. The question is now whether to take the path into an agricultural industry, thus putting an extra burden on nature and threatening many farms, or to seek a reasonable way to secure for the future a socially well-balanced rural agriculture. I may perhaps express the hope that FAO, as an international agricultural forum, in the future will give particular focus to these problems.

The implementation of agricultural objectives requires a package of measures. I hope that we will succeed in retaining this comprehensive view in the discussions within the international fora, such as FAO, OECD, the European Community and GATT, in order to avoid being led into another deadlock because of over-hasty reactions.

Austria attributes particular importance to the activities of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN. We fully support the programme priorities proposed by the Director-General of FAO. With satisfaction we have noted that these activities are contained also in the new Programme of Work for 1988/89. In particular, I refer to the further training activities, the improvement of the information systems, the Technical Cooperation Programme, and FAO's activities in the Africa Region.

Austria will make efforts also in the future constructively to support FAO's objectives.

We want to cooperate actively in the activities implemented in the European Region, such as the cooperative networks, energy networks, the training and advanced training in the field of agriculture and forestry. The results obtained are of special importance not only for Europe, but also for other regions. Europe of all continents should, to a greater extent, use its technical knowledge to the benefit of the developing countries.

I would like to emphasize in particular that farming and forest management, in harmony with the environment, will be vital in the future and that this aspect should be more carefully considered in the FAO Programme of Work. Likewise, the activities in extension, research, and experimentation as forward-looking activities, should be included on a larger scale.

Since its foundation in 1963 Austria has supported the activities of the World Food Programme and will continue adequately to contribute to this Programme.

Furthermore, Austria will also fulfill its obligations under the Food Aid Convention and the International Emergency Food Reserve of FAO.

For years Austria has supported selective FAO projects in the seed sector. In developing countries regional and national training programmes were carried out in this field. Advanced training was organized with Austrian assistance in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Moreover, instruction aids were elaborated in cooperation with FAO, which are used all over the world.

Furthermore, training courses in the field of forest road construction and logging in mountainous forests were held in Austria for participants from developing countries. These activities will be further continued under consideration of the latest findings.

Austria agrees to the submitted Draft Programme and Budget of FAO for 1988/89.

We all hope and wish that FAO be as efficient as possible. FAO's activities, therefore, have to be adjusted to the emerging changes, and priorities will have to be set.

The elaboration of strategies for the 1990's is a very urgent issue. Let us, therefore, set to work together. May FAO in its future activities make a valuable contribution to this end.

Gurdial Singh DHILLON (India): Mr Vice-Chairman, Director-General Dr Edouard Saouma, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a matter of privilege and pleasure for me to address this august assembly. At the outset, allow me, Mr Vice-Chairman, to extend to the Chairman my heartiest greetings on his election. I would also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen who, I am sure, will be of valuable assistance in conducting the session.

I may take this opportunity to also extend my warm felicitations to Dr Saouma, on his re-election as Director-General of FAO. His re-election is the expression of international confidence in the essential soundness of FAO's policies and programmes and their efficient implementation. I am sure that under his stewardship, FAO will continue its work with renewed vigour and with the full backing of all member countries. We recognise as stated by him in his speech yesterday that FAO is facing serious financial difficulties. We hope that reasonable solutions to the financial crunch being, faced by the FAO will be found and the effectiveness of FAO to deliver its programmes, to address the massive problems of poverty and hunger, will not be blunted for want of resources.

We are thankful to Prof Jean Meyer, an illustrious son of an illustrious father, for his deeply analysed, wide-ranging and comprehensive McDougall lecture on food and malnutrition. It is true that nutrition should not be seen as a simple corrective measure to malnutrition, but must provide a base for the planning of agricultural production. Intensive research on subsistence crops, the wide vistas opened by genetic engineering, the need for increase in nutrition education for women, the importance of providing access to food to the poor are important issues which Prof Meyer has touched with insight and illumination.

We deeply appreciate the Director-General's statement in which he analysed with clarity the world food situation, the financial position of the FAO, with its dire effects on programmes and personnel, and issues of reform in the organisation. We hope that the process of discussion and debate during this conference will identify appropriate remedies and solutions on the basis of consensus and contribute to strengthening the FAO as an instrument of progress that its founding fathers conceived it to be.

We have gathered here at a time when the problems and challenges in world food and agriculture are both acute and pressing. Between 1985 and 1986, the increase in agricultural production in the developing countries had decelerated by nearly half. A number of countries are reeling under a series of droughts and floods. The terms of trade of developing countries have further deteriorated. There are continuing problems of debt and protectionism. Damage to environment and ecology is continuing unabated. The available food resources are still beyond the reach of a large number of our poor. These trends are a matter of great concern to all of us.

FAO is the world organization dealing with these problems. This assembly of nations is an excellent forum to deliberate on these current problems and find some viable solutions.

The world food and agricultural situation has been outlined vividly and graphically in the address of the Director-General. He has drawn our attention to the decline in the world cereal output this year and some other ominous trends. In the context of an interdependent global economy and ecology, the developed and the developing countries need to work together in the interest of sustained global economic development and growth. At the same time, the developing countries should share their experience and technologies under frameworks for economic and technical cooperation.

In the field of food and agriculture, the most acute problem today relates to poverty and malnutrition. There are pockets both of plenty and scarcity. There is hunger, starvation and malnutrition in the midst of plenty. It is, therefore, imperative that adequate steps are taken to develop both food production and purchasing capabilities of the poor. Before I touch on what we have achieved in India and what we are seeking to do, I should like to express the sincere hope that developing countries attain self-sufficiency in food and that food security is ensured through international and regional cooperation so that people all over the world can live in dignity.

The experience of India in raising its food production and transforming a "ship-to-mouth" existence into a situation of comfortable buffer stocks, despite erratic monsoon behaviour, is well - known. India has to support almost 14% of the world's population and, while well - endowed in many ways, we too have been vulnerable to periods of drought, erratic rainfall or floods, sometimes leading to suffering and scarcity. After independence, our first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, developed a wide infrastructure of irrigation and power, established research institutions and introduced land reforms, thus laying the basis for all-round development. The green revolution was ushered in by our late Prime Minister, Mrs Gandhi, under whom India attained self-sufficiency in food. The break-through was the result of stable political conditions in which government, scientists, technologists and farmers all played their parts. In specific terms, it was the result of a technology package and high-yielding varieties, increase in irrigation facilities, consumption of modern inputs backed by a strong delivery system; and assurances of remunerative prices to farmers. Today, we can say with satisfaction that the production of cereals in India after 1950 went up three times, production of wheat increased seven times and rice three times. It should be not only possible for us to support our growing population but also in a modest degree help some of our friends.

Food self-sufficiency was attained in spite of the effects of recurrent droughts and floods which afflicted various parts of our country from time to time. During the 20 years between 1966 and 1985, we have had seven peak points and an equal number of troughs in food production. Over these two decades, agriculture has, however, been able to develop a certain degree of resilience and inherent strength with its modernisation and rationalisation. The dips in food production in bad monsoon years were consequently not as steep as in earlier years. This is, however, not to say that we have had no problems.

Our average productivity is still low and we have yet to go a long way. There are imbalances in the production and productivity in different regions and in different crops. Although the irrigated area in the country has increased two and a half times over the last 30 years, 70% of the cropped area still remains rainfed and, therefore, subject to the vagaries of weather.

This year, we are facing the third year of successive drought in many parts of the country. It is considered to be the worst in intensity and spread in recent history. Some eastern parts of the country have been ravaged by floods. These calamities have brought our food production under severe strain. Government has, however, taken up a well-planned programme of recovery and assistance to face this grim situation. It is a massive job to mobilise food, fodder, seeds and other relief in

all parts of the country. It also means a severe burden on our resources and economy. The government is, however, doing everything to meet this unprecedented challenge and detailed strategies to insulate our agriculture from the uncertainties of weather are under implementation. Our Prime Minister is personally coordinating and monitoring the efforts in this direction. The increases achieved in production and productivity as a result of programmes geared to this end have helped us significantly in containing the ill-effects of the current drought which is one of the severest in memory.

We have drawn our development strategy for the growth of agriculture in a perspective of the next 15 years. Between 1985 and 2000 we are planning for a 60% increase in the production of foodgrains. Improved technology, better husbandry of our resources, better soil and water management and correction of crop and regional imbalances are some of the highlights of this strategy.

While developing our food production, other areas of farm related activities, like animal husbandry, dairying, poultry and aquaculture, have also been given due attention. Greater emphasis is being given to an "on farm" approach so as to supplement the incomes of the rural families and improve their economies. During the last seven years, milk production has gone up roughly one and a half times. A national milk grid has also been set up to even out regional and seasonal imbalances in milk collection and distribution.

A vast potential in the fisheries sector in exclusive economic zones under national jurisdiction remains to be exploited. There is also much scope for promoting investment and transfer of technology in deep sea fishing for better exploitation of the available resources. Apart from schemes for increasing fish production, schemes have also been framed with their focus on improving the welfare and quality of life of small fishermen. Exports of marine products have also recorded impressive growth, but exports are seriously impeded by non-tariff barriers.

The government has also taken steps to launch a direct attack on poverty and to increase purchasing power in the hands of rural poor. The Integrated Rural Development Programme is the major engine of change in the rural areas. Under this programme, any viable economic activity which is likely to raise the income level of the beneficiaries above the poverty line on a lasting basis, can be taken up for implementation. Between 1980-85, 17 million people were assisted under this programme. There are other employment-oriented programmes to fight rural poverty like National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme. Similarly, there are special programmes to counter abject poverty caused by adverse climatic conditions and degeneration of systems. They include the drought-prone area programme and the desert development programme.

While our paramount national objective was to be self-sufficient and do away with the need to import foodgrains, we also adopted tenancy reforms which gave land rights to millions, thus encouraging people to invest in, and profit from, their farm holdings. Out of 81 million holdings in India, over 72% holdings are less than two hectares in size. The government devised and implemented special programmes for small farmers geared to delivery of inputs to them and modernisation of their farming methods to make their occupation more viable. The government are also devising special programmes for providing alternative employment to, the landless.

Cooperatives have played a dynamic supportive role to agriculture in efficient delivery of inputs and marketing support and have thus contributed greatly to the success of the green revolution in India. Their contribution is envisaged to gain in sophistication and diversity in our future plans for agricultural growth and every effort will be made to provide to them the support to enable them to run on efficient lines consistent with cooperative principles.

The depletion of our forest cover is a matter of major concern to us. A number of schemes have also been framed to increase afforestation in order to preserve the environment, conserve the soil, arrest desertification and promote rural development.

Three-quarters of India lives in its villages and, therefore, alleviation of the lot of the poor, comprising small and marginal farmers, landless labourers and rural artisans is a matter of major concern to us. A number of schemes have also been framed to alleviate rural poverty and generate man-days of employment and also to strengthen social institutions and create infrastructural support in rural areas.

In spite of significant success in agricultural production and building up of adequate buffer stocks, access to food is one of our major developmental aims. A number of schemes for creation of employment avenues for the poor and the landless in rural areas are being implemented such as the national rural employment programme and rural landless employment guarantee programme, to improve food security for the poorer sections of the community at whom these schemes are targeted. A vast public distribution system network has been set up across the country to improve the availability of food everywhere.

May I briefly touch upon the role of women in agriculture and food production. While women have to share in the labour in the field, they have also to bear practically the whole brunt of the household responsibilities. In several agricultural operations such as transplanting of paddy, women play a predominant role. Their role in animal husbandry, cattle management and milk production is also very important. Our Government has taken up a number of programmes for the upgrading of skills of women through various extension activities. Women's cooperatives have also been established in the field of urban banking, dairy, consumer stores, agro-industry etc. The government is also considering a proposal of joint membership for husband and wife in cooperatives.

In so far as the question of reforms in the FAO is concerned, we are of the view that the objectives, priorities and strategies of the FAO are based upon the international consensus which has emerged from the decision of the governing bodies of the FAO and important international conferences having a bearing on the mandate of the FAO. Therefore, any changes in the mandate of the FAO should evolve on the basis of international consensus after careful debate and analysis and keeping in view the quality and extent of change in sister organizations in the UN system. FAO has proved itself to be broadly an efficient as well as a flexible and vibrant organization open to change. If further changes are considered necessary without violating the Basic Texts, these would need to be debated and changes effected on the basis of a consensus on the specific areas needing change. Agreement on the mechanism for studying and effecting such changes is equally important. The present cash flow crunch being experienced by the FAO which was arisen out of factors external to the FAO and beyond its control should not provide the main basis and the justification for the demands for reform.

Suggestions have also been made to provide for a core budget and a supplementary budget. We understand the reasons underlying these suggestions but have serious doubts about the pragmatism and constitutionality of the suggested procedures.

The capacity to meet the challenge in food and agriculture will have a fundamental bearing on the quality of life of millions in the developing world. We, in India, have developed some infrastructure and expertise while meeting these challenges and shall be very happy to share whatever we have with our international brethren. In these exchanges, in the global context, FAO has and will continue to play a very important role. I hope and pray for success in its endeavours.

Adolfo DIAZ SUAREZ (Cuba): Señor Presidente, Señor Director General, Señores y Señoras Delegados e invitados. Quisiera, en primer lugar, felicitarlo a usted, señor Presidente, por su elección para dirigir nuestros debates. Mi delegación considera que, tanto usted como los vicepresidentes y demás miembros de la mesa, serán un pilar fundamental para lograr el éxito de esta Conferencia.

Asimismo, en nombre del Gobierno de la República de Cuba, felicitamos al señor Edouard Saouma por su reelección para continuar dirigiendo esta importante Organización del sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Estamos seguros de que este próximo mandato del señor Saouma estará caracterizado por el dinamismo y la capacidad a que nos tiene acostumbrados.

Nos reunimos nuevamente, convocados por la FAO en este 24 período de sesiones de su Conferencia General, con la esperanza de que los resultados de la misma sean favorables a la solución de los acuciantes problemas por los que atraviesan miles de millones de personas en el mundo, especialmente en los países subdesarrollados.

En períodos de sesiones anteriores se ha descrito el dramático panorama que caracteriza a esta parte del mundo y las sombrías perspectivas a que se enfrenta la humanidad en el caso de que persistan las actuales condiciones que generan esta situación.

La delegación de Cuba considera que, si los problemas que debatimos hoy no encuentran una solución urgente, si continúan ahondándose las diferencias entre países desarrollados y subdesarrollados, si se persiste en políticas torpes que abren más esa distancia, se planteará entonces un enfrentamiento de las sociedades hambrientas y los que medran a su costa.

En ese caso, Sr. Presidente, lo que se reclama hoy en el debate de conferencias internacionales será exigido, como cuestión de vida o muerte, por los millones de personas que rehusan padecer de hambre.

En el caso de nuestra región de América Latina y el Caribe, en nuestros países se enfrenta un período de dificultades sin precedentes, debido a la persistencia de una profunda crisis económica de carácter estructural, que tiene su origen fundamentalmente en factores externos, haciendo evidente la vulnerabilidad y dependencia de nuestros países en sus relaciones comerciales y financieras internacionales. En ninguna otra etapa de su historia han experimentado las economías latinoamericanas mayores desajustes y las perspectivas que se nos presentan son desalentadoras.

La disminución del ritmo de crecimiento, el deterioro del ingreso y el incremento del desempleo y la inflación son elementos críticos que sólo podrán ser superados con enormes y deliberados esfuerzos a lo largo de los próximos años. El deterioro de las relaciones económicas externas de América Latina y el Caribe, y particularmente la problemática del endeudamiento externo, condicionarán de manera determinante las perspectivas de recuperación y desarrollo de la región y acentúan su vulnerabilidad económica.

En tal sentido, el Gobierno de Cuba reitera la decisión de nuestro país de hacer frente a la crisis actual en forma conjunta y solidaria y empeñamos nuestra voluntad para movilizar esfuerzos encaminados a poner en práctica los compromisos y acciones de cooperación necesarios para afianzar la seguridad e integración económica regional.

La deuda externa se ha convertido en uno de los más graves obstáculos al desarrollo regional. El alto costo de su servicio y la pérdida de acceso a los mercados internacionales de capital han transformado a nuestra región en exportadora neta de recursos financieros. Esta es una situación insostenible, pues, de mantenerse, prevalecerán las condiciones recesivas y continuarán precarias las posibilidades de recuperación de nuestras economías.

Podemos afirmar que son innegables los esfuerzos que han hecho los países de la región para hacer frente a sus dificultades económicas. Se han registrado avances importantes en el plano de la concertación política y la coordinación latinoamericana en relación con el endeudamiento externo, pero no se vislumbran aún soluciones duraderas y satisfactorias en este campo.

Por tal motivo, reiteramos la necesidad de que los gobiernos de los países acreedores, los organismos financieros multilaterales y la banca privada internacional asuman totalmente la responsabilidad que les corresponde. Aunque algunos pocos países desarrollados han dado pequeños pasos positivos, la deuda externa ha dejado de ser un asunto referido exclusivamente al pago de su servicio y se expresa como un problema eminentemente político y de asignación de recursos para el desarrollo.

Pero, Sr. Presidente, la situación de América Latina y el Caribe no es única; sabemos que se trata de una situación generalizada en todos los países subdesarrollados donde la grave situación alimentaria es uno de los males fundamentales.

Nos corresponde a nosotros, representantes de estados soberanos, declarar, y así solicitamos a esta Conferencia que lo haga, que los problemas de la alimentación son parte íntegramente indisoluble de todos los problemas que afectan económicamente a los países subdesarrollados.

Es evidente que los problemas alimentarios son un resultado de la crítica situación económica por la que atraviesan numerosos países del tercer mundo.

Nuestros países son víctimas de la aplicación de medidas económicas coercitivas, como la aplicación del embargo, del bloqueo económico, de la congelación de fondos, la suspensión de préstamos y créditos y el entorpecimiento y el boicot a la obtención de financiamiento internacional con fines políticos, así como del uso de la fuerza en las relaciones internacionales y la intervención extranjera en los asuntos internos de nuestros Estados. En ese sentido, mi delegación reafirma el derecho soberano de nuestros pueblos a escoger, en el ejercicio efectivo de la democracia, su sistema económico, social y político en un ambiente exento de amenazas y agresiones externas.

En este contexto, la necesidad de aumentar la producción de alimentos en todas las regiones en desarrollo y de lograr la seguridad alimentaria son realmente imperativas económicas y sociales de Primerísimo orden y seguirán siéndolo al menos mientras vivamos todos los que estamos presentes hoy aquí .

A pesar de los importantes incrementos registrados en la producción alimentaria en algunas regiones y evocadas en los foros internacionales, continúa la miseria en medio de la abundancia.

Por otra parte, los gastos para la guerra, según estudios del tema, ascienden a cifras inimaginables; es comparable con la deuda externa acumulada de todos los países subdesarrollados. El uso de una parte sustancial de lo que se derrocha en armamentos, aplicado al desarrollo, surtiría un efecto altamente positivo en las economías de todos los Estados, reduciría las tensiones y abriría las perspectivas de un entendimiento racional sobre nuevas bases.

El traslado de una parte de los recursos destinados a armamentos para la ejecución de programas de desarrollo, pudiera aliviar en algo la difícil situación financiera de organizaciones internacionales tan importantes como la propia FAO, en la cual tenemos que enfrentarnos al análisis y aprobación de un presupuesto que no puede abarcar todas las obligaciones de la Organización. Sabemos que su incremento, con relación al bienio 1986/87, es simbólico. Sin embargo, teniendo en cuenta el interés de todos los países miembros de que el mismo sea aprobado por consenso, la delegación de Cuba apoya este nivel de presupuesto, aceptando, como es lógico, el Programa de Labores que con él pueda ejecutarse.

En realidad, Sr. Presidente, mi delegación considera que, en medio de la caótica situación de la economía mundial y de la situación alimentaria en particular, es encomiable la labor desplegada por la FAO para tratar de aliviar a los miles de millones de personas que sufren de hambre y malnutrición en el mundo.

A pesar de los escasos recursos presupuestarios con que ha contado la Organización, podemos afirmar que, gracias a una excelente gestión administrativa donde se incluye la debida priorización de las tareas, ha dado magníficos resultados. La labor desplegada para aliviar la hambruna del continente africano, la ejecución de programas eficaces como el Plan de Acción forestal de los trópicos, el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, los esfuerzos por cumplimentar el Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesquero, son una buena muestra de ello.

Sr. Presidente, en medio de todo este arco iris de situaciones y problemas, así como de extensos documentos editados para esta Conferencia, se nos presentan también ideas de modificaciones, reestructuraciones, en fin, nuevas modalidades en el desarrollo de las actividades de la FAO. Son aspectos sumamente delicados e importantes que la delegación de Cuba no puede soslayar.

La FAO cuenta con unos textos fundamentales bien definidos. Cuenta con este máximo órgano: la Conferencia General; tiene el Consejo donde están representadas todas las regiones geográficas, que si bien no es equitativa la representatividad, es portavoz de los intereses de cada región. Funcionan los Comités permanentes y los Comités Técnicos que rinden informes al Consejo y, por su conducto, a la Conferencia.

En fin, ya cuenta la Organización con suficientes instancias, donde también se incluyen las Conferencias Regionales, por lo que nos parece innecesario crear nuevos mecanismos ni grupos de alto o bajo nivel que puedan definir los destinos de la Organización y mucho menos regir sus actividades.

Sin embargo, Sr. Presidente, mi país acoge con agrado la idea de mejorar el trabajo que todos realizamos en el seno de la FAO. Procedemos de un país donde la dialéctica, como esencia de la filosofía marxista, juega un papel decisivo. Por tal motivo, no podemos negarnos a que se realicen cambios en la Organización. Es más, la propia situación por la que atraviesa la FAO, nos obliga a no esperar más por esos cambios. Consideramos que ya es imperante para todos los países subdesarrollados que se efectúen los cambios que significa la aplicación del nuevo Orden Económico Internacional en el ámbito de la FAO, especialmente en lo que se refiere a las posibilidades que tiene la FAO de contribuir a que se operen las reformas convenientes en las relaciones económicas entre los Estados, tal y como fue adoptado por la Resolución 3/75 aprobada por la Conferencia.

Para nosotros, lo esencial de ese nuevo Orden sería poner a uestros países en condiciones de alcan ar la independencia económica real y crear las condiciones ateriales y espirituales para llevar el ivel de vida de la población a la altura de las conquistas ontemporáneas de la Ciencia y aTécnica.

En tal sentido, reafirmamos que el Programa de Labores y el presupuesto de la Organización debe encaminarse a la ejecución de programas que apoyen el incremento de la producción alimentaria y agrícola y la mejora de la nutrición, la garantía de la seguridad alimentaria, las actividades que desde hace tiempo despliega en la esfera de los problemas y políticas de productos básicos, sus esfuerzos para promover reformas estructurales en la agricultura y la estrategia ya aprobada por los gobiernos para el reajuste agrícola internacional.

Para terminar, Sr. Presidente, quisiera expresarle en nombre de mi gobierno, que el reconocimiento de las dificultades a que nos enfrentamos, no debilitará jamás nuestro arraigado y profundo optimismo. Los problemas podrán ser enormes; pero mayor es aún nuestra decisión de buscarles y hallarles solución. Si todos nos unimos, si todos somos capaces de promover el urgente esfuerzo de colaboración internacional a que aspiramos, estamos seguros de que lograremos vencer cualquier obstáculo y seguir adelante.

Laurits TøNAES (Denmark): Mr Chairman, May I congratulate you warmly with your election as Chairman of this Conference, which may turn out to be of historic significance for FAO, because important proposals are under discussion.

I also want to congratulate the Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, on his re-election for the? next period. We sincerely hope for a good cooperation in this great and important task.

The following main points are included in my speech:

Denmark supports this Organization, but it needs better tuning. Wo, the Membership are responsible for FAO's internal policies. This is a great responsibility. Never before has there been a greater need for policy advice to government and authorities. This is valid for all the professional activities of FAO. Denmark wants a shift of emphasis from traditional technical assistance to policy advice, based on profound analysis and statistics and combined with technical assistance of an innovative and experimental character. For this purpose the establishment of a high-level group is necessary for elaboration of proposals aiming at a thorough reform of FAO.

As policy makers being responsible for FAO, it is our task to agree on policy guidelines for our Organization.

The world scenario is dominated by paradoxes. Some member countries must try to increase their productive capacity with due respect to local traditions and values. Others aim at curbing their production, without removing incentives to continue innovation in forestry, fisheries and agriculture.

FAO is unique in combining solid technical skills and profound knowledge of the agriculture and food issues in all Member States. Therefore, in this world of paradoxes it is our responsibility to aim at the optimal use of FAO's capacity.

In my view, optimal use of FAO means shift of emphasis from traditional technical assistance to policy advice with sufficient authority.

There is a need for a reform of FAO, and I believe that there is now a broad consensus in the membership of the need for such a reform.

The next step for Member States is to better advise FAO in priority setting in the new context with the main emphasis on policy advice.

A real dialogue on priority setting between membership and the Secretariat is a necessary step, if a real consensus is to be achieved on FAO's programme work.

Before turning to priority setting I wish to stress the importance of improved cooperation with other parts of the UN system.

Let me take FAO country representation as an example. The concept is good, in particular if FAO country representatives enjoy a true delegation of authority. But the main purpose of FAO representatives should be to promote the service of the entire international system to the benefit of recipient countries. It should not isolate relations between FAO and the host country from the rest of the international setting. Offices and general service could be shared with other UN organizations, as pointed out in the contribution from developing countries to document 87/30.

Turning now to priority setting, I must once more point to the basic issue concerning the indicated transfer of resources without due care for cost-effectiveness. We support the wishes of developing countries to aim at more sophisticated forms of cooperation between FAO and national and regional bodies. This implies more emphasis on policy advice.

In its relations with its partners, FAO should be more open to new ideas, be active in motivations of others and effective in the execution of its own programmes.

The impact of production patterns on environment is an area where we believe that FAO should accept more influence from the outside. In this context I should point to the need for integration of agriculture and forestry in an environmentally more sustainable process. More attention should be given to the double role of forestry in production and in environment protection. Under this heading I could also mention careful water and soil management as well as elaboration of control programmes concerning pesticides and fertilizers.

Environmental aspects should be fully reflected in the individual programmes and in the working methods of FAO, not in new activities. We have noted with satisfaction that "environmental impact assessment" has already been introduced in the programme and planning procedures of several FAO projects.

At the Conference held eight years ago on Agricultural Reform and Rural Development FAO formulated a set of valuable ideas. However, the follow-up seems to have been slow and even somewhat frustrating. Maybe FAO has not paid enough attention to the potential of cooperation with other UN Agencies in this area, for instance by use of joint activities.

Even further, FAO may not have duly recognized, that in the important but also very controversial area of agricultural reforms, member states have a special need for appropriate policy guidelines and advice.

As to the core activities of FAO itself, I am convinced that FAO possesses the scientific skill and the technological capacity to conceive as well as to implement ideas in the areas of agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

We appreciate the new emphasis put in the Programme of Work on innovation. In this context, it is important to stress that the task of FAO is not only to update its knowledge of bio-technology, computerization and sophisticated controls on contamination. It is more important to bridge the technological gaps between high-tech countries and the rest of the world.

It is an important task for the international community to introduce and enhance a spirit of change and an open attitude towards introduction and implementation of new techniques, in harmony with local traditions and values.

I have now come to a central issue: Nobody else but the national governments and authorities can assure that a balanced growth of all sectors relating to food production is achieved.

Only if FAO is able steadily to respond to the requests for policy advice from its members, justification- for its existence can be found. I strongly believe that, showing willingness to engage in a continued reform of its organization, FAO is fully able to cope with this basic requirement.

Servicing of the Membership will be underlined if technical assistance is innovating and experimenting. Systematic evaluation of the impact on and coherence with other development efforts should be taken for granted.

I have devoted a substantial part of my speech to some main guidelines for priority setting. I think FAO deserves this, when we are all calling for a sharper priority setting of the organization.

When it comes to the financial issues, I can be brief.

Denmark does not within the UN system strictly adhere to the zero growth principle. What matters to us is the content of the programme. Regrettably, FAO is in a financial crisis, due to arrears in contributions. This is not conducive to a good atmosphere for a reform of the Organization.

In other words, I must appeal to those countries in arrears that they do not push further the financial crisis of FAO.

Denmark belongs to the increasing number of countries, that consider a thorough reform of FAO to be indispensable and urgent. The aim of our meetings should be to increase our consciousness of each other's problems and of the impact of our own policies on other countries. Only then can we adopt policy guide-lines with sufficient authority in order to support implementation of policies in all member countries.

The world is changing, so are the needs of FAO's Members, and in particular those of developing countries. After some years of few and modest adaptations, it is evident, that we must make our organization, the FAO, better able to cope with those changes. We must give it a competitive edge.

In such a situation, it is normal to select outstanding personalities to initiate, monitor and submit drafting of reform proposals, and to hire consultants for your assistance. This can be achieved in several ways. We and several other delegations are proposing the establishment of a High Level Group to carry out this task. The Secretariat should of course be fully integrated in this process.

I strongly urge the Conference to decide on the establishment of a High Level Group, and in order to facilitate the decision process, the Nordic countries have jointly submitted a draft resolution on the terms of reference for such a group as a basis for discussion.

Finally, Mr President, let me emphasize, that our engagement in the reform process is the best proof of our involvement in the activities of FAO so that it can also in the future provide optimal service to Membership and in particular to the developing member countries.

Tribute to His Excellency Seyni KOUNTCHE, President of Niger
Hommage à Son Excellence M. Seyni KOUNTCHE, Président du Niger
Homenaje al Excelentísimo Señor Seyni KOUNTCHE, Presidente de Níger

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de continuer nos débats, je dois passer la parole au Secrétariat pour une importante communication.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je suis porteur d'une mauvaise nouvelle: une dépêche d'agence vient de nous apprendre le décès à Paris, aujourd'hui, de Son Excellence le Président Seyni KOUNTCHE du Niger.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de continuer nos débats, je crois qu'il est de mon devoir de vous inviter à rendre hommage à ce grand fils d'Afrique, à ce digne fils d'Afrique qui a tant fait pour le développement de la production alimentaire et pour le bien-être des paysans de son pays et de l'Afrique en général; je vous propose d'observer maintenant une minute de silence, et aussi d'envoyer un message de condoléances au nom de notre Conférence.

One minute of silence
Une minute de silence
Un minuto de silencio

SECRETAIRE GENERAL: voici le texte du télégramme adressé à Son Excellence le Ministre des affaires étrangères du Niger: "C'est avec profonde émotion que j'ai appris le décès de Son Excellence le général de division Seyni Kountché, Président du Conseil militaire suprême, Chef de l'Etat. STOP. Je prie Votre Excellence de bien vouloir transmettre à votre Gouvernement, au nom de la vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et en mon nom personnel, nos condoléances les plus sincères. STOP. Haute considération. Signé: FAISL ABDEL-RAZIK AL KHALID, Président de la vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence".

Sahadou BAWA (Niger): Je voudrais présenter à la Conférence, au nom de ma délégation, les sincères remerciements du Gouvernement et du peuple nigérien pour la marque de sympathie dont il a fait preuve en observant une minute de silence à la mémoire de Son Excellence le Général de division Seyni Kountché, Président du Conseil militaire suprême, chef de l'Etat du Niger, décédé le mardi 10 novembre 1987 à Paris. Je voudrais aussi remercier le Président de la Conférence pour son télégramme de condoléances qu'il a bien voulu adresser à mon Gouvernement. J'aimerais aussi informer la Conférence qu'un registre de condoléances sera ouvert à l'Ambassade du Niger, Via Antonio Bninmonti, 10, du lundi 16 au mardi 17 novembre 1987 de 9 heures à 16 heures.

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous reprenons nos travaux. J'ai une autre communication: le Ministre du développement rural du Sénégal ayant dû quitter Rome, le texte de sa déclaration dans le cadre du débat général sera, si vous n'y voyez pas d'inconvénient-, inséré dans le procès-verbal de la séance de cet après-midi. S'il n'y a pas d'objection, la proposition est approuvée.

Colin J. MOYLE (New Zealand): This year's Conference is being held at a time of great change. Global agriculture has made tremendous strides in its capability to feed the world's population but is beset by policies which are preventing supply and demand to balance or allowing realisation of the aspirations of those countries who can produce food competitively. The situation is now shared both by developed countries who live by exporting food and those who have joined them through development of their agriculture.

What I would like to do this afternoon, Mr. Chairman, is to share with the Conference the story of New Zealand. I do this not because I want to make any special case for our country, but because it illustrates the situation which is being faced by an increasing number of nations: those whose 'economies and resources are agricultural and who have the capability to supply world markets with high quality and competitively priced products. Sadly the opportunities are being denied them by doctrines of self-sufficiency, which have long ceased to be relevant. The mechanisms of protection and market management by the bureaucracies and their costs are well known to everyone here today and I don't need to spell them out.

New Zealand is a small country with a population of 3.5 million people. Its land is mountainous and it has been developed from forest, to pasture over the last 150 years. Its success in animal husbandry and horticulture has been based on a high investment in developing agricultural technology and well-educated farmers. In spite of large distances from markets it can produce, transport and market its dairy meat and horticultural products successfully in competition with the world. That is, of course, if it can compete on reasonably level terms. Like many of the developing countries, New Zealand's agriculture is its export industry. We do not have an industrial base and, if you

like, dairy products and meat are to New Zealand what television sets and motor vehicles are to other countries. While New Zealand is small, it is a very significant world trader in dairy products, sheepmeats and horticultural products, most notably kiwifruit.

Following the Second World War, New Zealand had its share of protectionist policies, but in a reverse way to most countries. While they protected their agriculture, we protected our manufacturing industries. This protection did nothing to improve their efficiency and acted as a tax on our farmers who had to purchase their inputs at inflated prices. During the seventies when many developed countries began exporting their surplus food products at highly subsidised prices, the Government of New Zealand at that time attempted to compensate New Zealand farmers, through subsidies, for the costs to them of protecting the manufacturing industries. But to be blunt, these policies failed. They were too costly and they distorted production away from the realities of the international market place in which we operate.

In 1984 my Government decided to dismantle the whole system of intervention as quickly as possible and to endure the pain of reshaping the economy to one in which the market would play a major role in allocating resources. The financial sector was deregulated, import licensing phased out quickly, tariffs are reducing to a common low level and subsidies were virtually eliminated over a three-year period. Many would say such drastic medicine is not politically possible, but I can assure you this is not so, as the recent election returning the Government with an increased majority has demonstrated. Our people recognised that change had to come and were prepared to face the fire when they knew that every sector would be treated equally and there would be no exceptions. It is also true that a new dynamic and enterprising economy is emerging very quickly in New Zealand.

Our farmers are having a tough time. In some cases net incomes halved and land values also but that has happened also in the more protected economies. They are adjusting quickly but I am bound to say our agriculture industries will need real progress to be made in the current GATT round, as well as individual courage and more efficient production and marketing

What are the lessons from all this? First, people will accept change to a more rational economy if it is explained to them and there are no exceptions to the rule. But it requires a great deal of political courage. Secondly, investment will be made, and much more efficiently, when investors operate in a predictable environment and they trust Government not to change the rules. Thirdly, a great deal of attention needs to be given to putting in place a safety net for those who are at risk during the adjustment period. We have been at great pains to ensure that our social policies are based on need and that income policies are not confused with the market. If disadvantaged farming families need income support it is provided directly and not through subsidising product prices.

Mr Chairman, I believe our experience over the last few years has demonstrated that the impossible is indeed possible and the benefits far exceed the costs. People will accept change and if it is to succeed it must take place with a momentum which will carry it through. If the pace is too slow or too gradual the countervailing forces will defeat it.

In many ways the New Zealand experience represents a microcosm of the world at large. Today, I believe, there are leaders and people in almost every country who recognize that we cannot continue the policies which have led us to the present crisis in agricultural trade. We share these views and have entered into a commitment with our people to put our own house in order first. FAO, along with the other international Fora like the GATT, have the opportunity to progress quickly to lasting solutions. I want to thank you, Mr Chairman, for the opportunity to address this Conference, a conference which I hope will be a milestone in progress towards a better and fairer deal for all the world's farmers, as well as security and certainty in quantity, quality and variety for the world's consumers. We are convinced that if the doctrine of comparative advantage is allowed to flourish consumers and producers will both benefit and the gulf between the developed and developing world will at last begin to close.

Lincoln MYERS (Trinidad and Tobago): I wish, in the first instance, to convey on my own behalf, and on behalf of the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago, warmest congratulations to Dr Saouma on his re-election to the post of Director-General of the FAO. We trust that the Almighty will give him health and strength, and guide him in this most difficult task, as Head of this Organization, over the next six years.

This Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference is meeting at a time of multiple crises. In the worldwide agricultural economy, fundamental changes are taking place in the distribution of agricultural output, incomes and productivity. There is doubt and uncertainty about the nature, scope and future direction of multilateralism; in this regard, the very role and functions of this Organization, FAO, are called into question. Can we ensure continuation of its relevance, its effectiveness in the pursuit of the elimination of poverty and hunger in the world through the most efficient exploitation of global human, agricultural and other material resources?

More recently, a further crisis has manifested itself in the global economy; the financial crisis of Wall Street which has sent spasms through London, Tokyo and Hong Kong, is already having a negative effect on the resources of FAO via fluctuating exchange rates. There is, however, the broader issue of the effect on the level of investment which will be forthcoming to the agricultural sector.

Agriculture, one of mankind's oldest activities, has provided the basis for the rise of civilization. Its products and the way in which these are produced, are determined by social and economic forces as well as by technical parameters. Within countries, land tenure, social structure and entrepreneurial motivations probably influence the level of agricultural output as much as improved techniques and the availability of finance.

World food production, both in absolute and per caput terms, has increased steadily in recent decades, albeit with wide discrepancies in achievements between the various regions of the world. Regretfully, however, this happy process of growth appears to be faltering; the situation is not the result of limits imposed by technical factors or by acts of God, but by man himself.

It is necessary to guard against policy decisions at the national and international levels such as would diminish the availability of resources, both human and material, in the application of science and technology to food production and rural development. It is the responsibility of the significance and the actual implementation of a macro-economic policy environment, and the appropriate institutional framework, which is conducive to the achievement of a dynamic, diversified agricultural sector programmed for authentic development.

However, with the passage of time, we have all learnt the lessons of recent economic history, all of us, large and small nations, the powerful and the weak, that substantial and sustained benefits from expanded agricultural output require access to markets. Recent years have witnessed serious contortions and malfunctioning of market forces in trade flows between continents and economic-cum-regional groupings of nation states. They continue to proliferate and become even more complex and comprehensive.

Against this scenario, the less developed countries are faced with serious and complex policy issues for agricultural development; for example, pricing policy in major agricultural commodities. In many instances, if we are serious about achieving higher levels of domestic food production in the developing world, we must accept that, in some cases, food prices may have to rise and that some degree of protection for a finite period of time is necessary against highly subsidized food imports from the developed countries. Indeed, if we in the developing countries are not prepared to accept this, we may as well abandon agriculture entirely and import all our food and raw materials. Of course, the cost of living will in all probability be somewhat higher than it would be without protection. On the other hand, there will be the benefits in an improvement in the balance of payments, a stronger and more diversified economy and a higher level of productive employment.

However, our ability, as individual developing countries or regional trade and production groupings of such countries (e.g. CARICOM, Central American Common Market; Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración) to accomplish all or part of this, is entirely dependent on access to the international market place.

Unfortunately, access to this market place is becoming daily more and more restricted for the products of the developing world, be they primary commodities, intermediate goods or finished manufactures.

Protectionism in the developed countries has been allied to a stagnant (and even declining) demand for raw materials because of over-production or changes in the production function leading to declining levels of raw material use per unit of output. These two forces have given rise to a secular fall in the real prices of agricultural commodities which may be expected to continue into the foreseeable future, barring wars, natural disasters or other such exigencies. The resultant worsening in our terms of trade with the developed world has brought many of us into structural disequilibrium in our balance of payments, drastically reduced our ability to repay past debts, and hence our creditworthiness and ability to contract new debts, and sent our national economies into recession with all the attendant negative social economic and political consequences. The downward spiral is self-reinforcing inasmuch as the productive base of most of our economies is linked with the developed world for food, spare parts and capital equipment. As these run down and remain without replacement, the productive and hence the earning capacity of our economies is progressively reduced.

Recent events have shown that failure to orchestrate supportive policies for national economic development, even among the most powerful of nations, such as the seven which recently met at the Venice Summit, can lead to serious consequences. We hear of the October crash, threat of a repeat of the 1930s! There is an inter-dependence which cannot be ignored.

Mr Chairman, as we see it, the developed countries, in the interest of their as well as our economic well-being, must guard against underestimating the significance of promoting and supporting development within the developing countries.

The world is essentially one economy: poverty, decline and depression in any of its constituent parts, reduce the growth of output and income in all its sectors, including the most advanced. Within the global economy, it would not be too misleading to say that the developing world constitutes the primary sector. the deterioration over time in the terms of exchange between this sector and the global manufacturing and service sectors curtails global demand for manufactures and services and hence global output and incomes. Action to reverse these trends is, therefore, dictated by elementary self-interest on the part of the developed world.

I say, therefore, that this is the real issue before us at this Conference and in any other forum in which international agricultural policy is debated in the foreseeable future: international agricultural adjustment. How are we to so order things as to secure an orderly and continuous increase in global agricultural output and incomes without indulging in beggar-thy-neighbour policies, with a minimum of social upheaval and distress in either the developed or developing world?

It is in this context that I wish to remind this audience, indeed the world, as I recently did in my closing remarks at the Ottawa meeting of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture, that the major problems which affect the level of utility of global physical resources are for the attention of all of us - indeed, the responsibility of all of us.

Desertification in Africa, dying forests in Germany, deforestation in the Amazon or in Asia, drying up of the headwaters of the Nile, drought in Africa! Which corner of the globe, Mr Chairman, which nation state, can sit smugly with the feeling that the negative effects of such resource degradation will not reach them, will not affect their own well being at some time?

Mr Chairman, I can tell you that the answer is None! We must all eke out a living on the same planet, in the same global village; at least, for the foreseeable future! We, all of us gathered here, have a shared responsibility for mankind's common heritage.

Mr Chairman, in the last few days, perhaps months, those of us connected with this Organization have witnessed a kind of tension as we inched towards November 9th. However, as so many speakers said yesterday, democracy prevailed. But, Mr Chairman, there is a force even more powerful in world affairs than the vote. It is the spirit of men of vision.

We need only to recall the now famous Bandung Conference when true men of vision from so many continents came together. I refer, of course, to Nehru, Nkrumah, Mao-tse-tung, and others. They, no doubt, were inspired by even earlier men of vision such as Bolivar and Marti. Whatever these men's shortcomings, they sought to give a voice to the weak, downtrodden, poor and voiceless of the world whom some had come to regard as the wretched of the earth. Let us strive in this Organization to ensure that the voice of the majority is never lost.

Mr Chairman, this world is never devoid of great minds. My appeal, therefore, is to all Heads of Delegations, and, through them, to their sovereign states, to ensure that this Twenty-fourth Conference signals a new upward thrust in the affairs of FAO. To maintain divisiveness, and to fail to capture the wealth of ideas which must evolve from the many fertile minds which will be at work in the Plenary and in the Commissions over the next few days will only leave us - all of us - in a position which future generations will find difficult to forgive.

In this regard, I also wish to emphasize that the meeting of minds to which I refer must be in the context of mutual respect. Bigness and/or comparative global wealth today - and I emphasize today, because we can never be certain for all time - must not suggest nor lead to a pattern of behaviour such as gives the impression that soundness of ideas is the enshrined preserve of the few, or, worse yet, that it is significantly correlated with the level of contributions to aid programmes or the financial upkeep of international organizations.

My own country, Trinidad and Tobago, is a small twin-island state. We belong to the Caribbean family of small island nations. We, therefore, see no reason why the size of small states, given their dimensions or comparative poverty, is to be used as an indicator of the quality of our contribution of ideas in the global family of nations. In fact, we exemplify real advantages. We are satellites of no global power; we have no hidden agenda. Our ability, therefore, to mediate when complexities arise has no equal and that, Mr Chairman, is a tremendous resource which we will always endeavour to use wisely.

It seems to me that in this present situation of stalemate and arrested development in the global agricultural economy to which I referred at the beginning of my address we must see the proposals for review and reform of the Organization in their true perspective. We are in the presence of a conflict in philosophies: unilateralism versus multilateralism. But the global economy is inextricably intertwined and interdependent. We can no longer remain, if ever we could, unaffected by one another's decisions. There can be nothing to be gained - and there is everything to be lost - by moving from a situation in which the Organization's programme, budget and policies are decided by consensus of the members to one in which, as in George Orwell's "Animal Farm", some are more equal than others - a situation which I daresay exists in other branches of the UN system.

We must be mindful of the principles embodied in Resolution 24 of the Founding Fathers of FAO to which the distinguished Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries of Barbados drew our attention: "the principle of mutual responsibility and co-ordinated action... and the reduction of barriers of every kind to international trade and the elimination of all forms of discriminatory restrictions as effectively and as rapidly as possible".

Unless we have agreement on this principle and co-ordinated action towards its achievement, we shall fail to start the agricultural economies of the developing world on the path towards agricultural diversification and food security. That is to say, the movement away from the present pattern of world production and trade relations in which the centre absorbs and transforms, at the same time adding value to, agricultural raw materials produced in the periphery which it re-exports to the periphery in the form of manufactured goods. These come together with food, which the structure of production and existing factor costs in the periphery as well as massive production subsidies in the centre, causes to be cheaper than domestic food production in most parts of the developing world. I submit most strongly, Mr Chairman, that in the present international economic order, a certain degree of agricultural tariff protection is essential if developing countries are to be enabled to become more self-reliant and increase our ability to feed ourselves from our own resources. The process of trade liberalization will therefore require the application of a different calendar in the North than in the South as well as as the retention of a differential in favour of the South for a certain period of time.

A major item on the agenda for this Conference relates to reform, the relevance of a high level group of experts. The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is not convinced, as some Member Nations seem to be determined, that there is an urgency for review and reform of FAO. In fact, all the available evidence would seem to suggest that it may well be one of the most efficiently managed of the UN Organizations.

We are very much concerned with suggestions relating to possible changes in the goals and priorities, the basic strategy for development of FAO. Mr Chairman, we plead for complete resistance to any changes in the Organization which will leave agricultural and rural development subject to a higher degree of bilateral sanction! We advocate continuation of an increasing focus on field activity and, therefore, are fully supportive of the Technical Cooperation Programme, especially its flexibility in response capability.

At the same time, however, my Delegation recognizes that any organization, especially after many decades of existence, ought to be able to benefit from properly structured evaluation and review. It is important, however, to have real balance in the selection of any evaluation team - if we agree to a review! This is, however, not a matter for either the developed or the developing countries by themselves. The exercise must be thorough, and there must be full understanding and cooperation by all the participants.

Above all, the work of FAO, as mandated by the Conference and the Council, must go on uninterrupted. We have given Dr Saouma a new mandate, and he must be allowed to act, at least for the next two years.

Mr Chairman, the matter of reform may, or may not, be necessary. We as Member Nations, must not be afraid of change. If, therefore, an evaluation and review exercise, executed to our satisfaction, calls for reform, my government will support such reform measures, only as they do not alter the fundamental objectives of the Founding fathers of FAO; and such as would ensure greater progress in agricultural and rural development, more so as it applies to the Third World.

The Trinidad and Tobago delegation will therefore support a review of "certain aspects of FAO's goals and proposals", including the need for reform, if necessary, in the programme budget process if it is carried out in the context of the need for initiating and managing the orderly process of international agricultural adjustment which I have described.

The need now is for a novel and imaginative approach to these burning issues of global production and trade in the agricultural sector. This will no doubt require changes in the institutional framework for policy formulation, negotiation and implementation at the global level in the same way as many of us have realized it to be at our respective national levels.

I must say that we must eschew outdated ideas and notions that protectionism is better than free trade. Indeed, to adapt a well-known English political nostrum, I submit that while protectionism may be of benefit (nay, even considerable benefit to one country or group of countries) for some of the time, it is clearly bad for all countries not only some of the time, but indeed all of the time. For, in the medium and long term it condemns all of us on this planet to a lower level of output and incomes than could otherwise be achieved. In these turbulent times when torrential difficulties are cascading upon the Organization, it is my earnest hope that we may all collectively seize the opportunity so as to act for the greatest good for the greatest number. Let us seize the opportunity to undertake action which will assist in bringing into being a world in which peace, justice and prosperity reign. I thank you very much.

Abbas Ali ZALI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): In the name of God, the beneficent, the merciful, Mr Vice Chairman, on behalf of myself and the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to express my congratulations to you and the Chairman elected for the Conference. My deep desire is for the success of this conference to be of much more help and assistance to the oppressed and deprived nations of the world.

Here I would also like to seize the opportunity to extend my sincere congratulations for the reelection of Dr Edouard Saouma. I am fully convinced that under his genuine guidance and leadership the Organization would gain ever-increasing success and prosperity in its future programmes.

Throughout the history of mankind, provision of food as the most important necessity of life has always been faced with great difficulties and shortage of food has continuously threatened the vast majority of human communities. No doubt up to this date remarkable achievements have been gained to enhance the production of food commodities, but still much is left to proper extermination of hunger and its ominous effects.

As you may recall, in 1974, the Food Conference was held to investigate into the severe crises of food. The significance of food in the Third World countries was of prime priority in this Conference. During that period food prices were soaring and the stock of cereals that could be transmitted was at its lowest level. Millions of people were suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Unfavourable fluctuations in climate and continual growth of population had caused great fear and worry of confrontation with yet again the harsh problem of hunger and its threatening aftermath.

Fortunately, that critical situation has now been alleviated to some extent. But does this mean that the Third World should ignore the significance of the problem? Most of the countries reject this question emphatically, and as a result they consider both economic independence and provision of food as their prior objectives.

It is worth mentioning that in the developing countries consisting of two-thirds of the world population, the percentage of their production remains at less than 40% while the developed countries either hinder the growth in productivity of food commodities in the developing countries, or destroy their surplus production just to support the stability of prices. Frankly speaking the life of the oppressed is under the manipulations of a handful of main food producers who do not render food commodities unless their colonial policies are being properly fulfilled.

On the other hand, exclusive trade of food commodities by only a few companies poses another problem to the needy countries since the developed countries and those multi-national companies affiliated to them, while having 70% of food trade and 96% of cereals trades under their control, in order to dominate the needy countries they would be enticed to utilize food as a political weapon and to us, this conception is to be condemned.

According to the data available, more than 60% of chemical fertilizers, 78% of agricultural, and 93% of harvesting machinery is under the employment of the developed countries, whereas the developing countries are obliged to produce the preliminary raw materials needed to boost the industry of the developed countries in order to facilitate the provision of foreign exchange required for purchasing their demands. As a consequence, following drastic changes in the surroundings, deterioration of natural resources, and diminution of soil fertility in their agricultural areas, their poverty and destitution are made worse ever-increasingly. The problem of inflation weakens also the purchasing potential of the Third World countries which themselves do not have the faculty for the production of agricultural machinery and inputs.

For the time being, considering all these points, it is natural that the capacity of production and economy of the Third World countries would be orientated towards manufacturing series of unnecessary goods, and their creativity to accomplish their indispensable needs if deviated. As a result the struggle of people who are suffering from hunger and malnutrition would lead to deepening their poverty and to boosting the prosperity of the developed countries.

Now we are witnessing that under such conditions if a country determines to meet its demands by utilization of divinely gifted resources and to sever its dependence, it would vividly be invaded by some producing countries. The hostility and enmity posed to the Islamic Revolution and irrational presence of foreign vessels in the Persian Gulf express obvious examples of such aggression.

A remarkable statement says that:

" He who possesses water and land and still feels needy definitely be deprived of divine blessings. "

This is what we have exactly experienced throughout the years. By wide publicity the domineering countries tried to persuade us that Iran was not an agricultural country because of lack in potentials; as a consequence we are switched over to a consumptive country which by reality we could be a productive one. Now after our Revolution we proved this belief by demonstrating a boom in the volume of our agricultural products from 30. to 43m. tonnes during the course of 7 years.

It should also be mentioned that our population has an annual growth rate increased over 3.67%, which indicates an increase from 36m in 1979 to 50m. in 1986.

In-order to achieve success to surmount the problems we have scheduled our plan into two categories.

First, utilization of existing potentials. The comparison of our potential and actual possibilities reveals clearly that out of 51m ha arable lands, only 18m ha are under cultivation, both irrigated and rainfed. The same situation can be extended to our water resources, of which almost one half of our capacity is left unemployed. Our natural reserves in fisheries amount to more than 635 thousand tonnes annually out of which only 50 thousand tonnes were harvested in 1977 and although this figure is over 170 thousand tonnes these days, still 73% of all the potential remains untouched. Concerning the capacity of our pasture lands only 25% of all the capacity is grazed and utilization of the rest is to be contemplated. further.

Therefore, as you can pinpoint very clearly, there exists a great gap between what our potential and what our present and actual capacities are. This fact would support our main objectives toward reaching self-sufficiency in the medium run.

Secondly, preservation of food commodities and controlling the wastage. Following investigations being carried out on this topic we found that the amount of this wastage totals 30%, which would suffice the nutrition of 12 million people of our population.

Since it is more feasible to control the losses imposed in this regard, it is unwise if we do not concentrate part of our activities on rescuing this wastage. We have presented several projects for implementation hereof.

Briefly speaking, our country - Iran, with the extent of 1 648 000 Sq. Km. and consisting of 63 000 villages which provides occupation for 33% of job-holders and meets the principle nutritional needs

of 50m population, is definitely capable of achieving self-sufficiency in food necessities. This objective is to be fulfilled by the implementation of extensive and comprehensive programmes which have mainly focussed on the better utilization of water and land resources, the application of the results of research in different fields of agriculture, the imposition of the just principle of exploitation in concomitant with the employment of human and technical potentialities.

We have great confidence and faith in the directions and principles of the Holy Qoran which enhance our internal motivations and orientate us towards our main objectives, independence, self-reliance, and freedom.

The following are some verses from the divine laws narrated from the Holy Qoran which I hope can be regarded as a guideline for all believers.

19. And the earth - We have apread it forth and made in it firm mountains and caused to grow in it of every suitable thing.
20. And We have made in it means of subsistence for you and for him for whom you are not the suppliers.
21. And there is not a thing but with Us are the treasures of it, and We do not send it down but in a known measure.

The Rock (Hijr)

7. And when your Lord made it known: If you are grateful, I would certainly give to you more and if you are ungrateful, My chastisement is truly severe.

(Ibrahim)

Taking into consideration all those points together with the following objectives, we have paid deep attention to present a ten-year plan for implementation towards self-sufficiency. First, agriculture is regarded as main axis to the country's programme for development. As a consequence efficient steps are taken towards the extension of legality and justice among the society out of which 43%, are residents of villages and have always been deprived of the privileges of life in the past.

Secondly, the high value of each unit added in the section of agriculture require half the investment in comparison with other economic sectors.

In case of increase in per capita income, a boost in daily food consumption is, under present conditions, much higher than the growth in production.

Finally the conception of the sacredness of agriculture in Islam has once again been revived after decades of the imposition of misjudgement and contempt for this divine activity. Today throughout our remote villages we are witnessing revolutionary mottos in favour of holiness and the significance of agriculture and our Government is implementing proper activities concerning price policy, guaranteeing the purchase of surplus production and the insurance of agricultural products in order to support this oppressed section of society who have been under dominance for many years.

I would like to reiterate that in the preparation of our 10-year plan to promote our agricultural output we paid proper attention to the following points:

essential observation of soil and water preservation and controlling their wastage and destruction;

rational utilization and implementation of natural resources, both potential and actual',

enhancement of productivity per unit of acreage, employing proper methods of cultivation, the development of second cropping and using high yield cultivars;

improvement of efficiency in production and better utilization of skill and ingenuity in the agricultural sector through the provision of added value to productions and inducement of banks in participation with agricultural enterprises;

providing sensible orientation to the programmes in order to create a balance of living between urban and rural areas; and finally,

deep appreciation of agricultural research and training and acknowledging these points as a safeguard to the success and prosperity of the proposed objectives.

Let me focus on this very important point that all these items of breakthrough have been achieved while we have been facing the tragic outcome of seven years of continual imposed war, in such conditions that several of our very rich and fertile provinces have been destroyed; food production factories have been bombarded; our natural resources have been threatened by destruction and blasting fires; waters of the Persian Gulf, which are the chief source of fish and which provide occupation for hundreds of thousands of people, have been exposed to heavy pollution; many villages which are the main producers of food commodities have been savagely invaded and as a result thousands of hectares of lands have been either devastated or unutilized. No doubt, to compensate for these losses much time and energy and enormous amounts of money are required.

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the valuable programmes being undertaken by FAO and UNDP in order to campaign against hunger and poverty. I would also like to acknowledge the close cooperation of these organizations with us. I sincerely plead for assistance and help through international organizations and those who have a conscience to encourage governments to pay much more attention to all these divinely gifted riches and condemn all sorts of misuse or the threats which are imposed upon these natural blessings. As God the Almighty states in the Holy Quran:

And He it is who has made the sea subservient that you may eat fresh flesh from it and bring forth from it ornaments which you wear, and you see the ships cleaving through it, and that you might seek of His bounty and that you may give thanks.

The whole world now is witnessing the aggression to the Persian Gulf which has driven our nation to extremities. Owing to this military expedition the safeguard of fishing has been intimidated and during this year several ships belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran and some other countries have been unmanly assaulted.

Now under these conditions we are talking about food production and food security. We therefore would heartily plead with the participants at this Conference and with the aware international conscience that they condemn the invasion of this marine region and state their disapproval and objection towards such plans which are being scheduled every now and again by domineering countries to fulfill their own benefits and put under pressure and restrict the productivity opportunities in countries such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nicaragua, Palestine, Lebanon, Southern Africa, and Latin America.

Fernando Faustino MUTERA (Angola)(langue originale portugais): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Messieurs les Ministres Illustres délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs: Permettez-moi avant tout Monsieur le Président de profiter de cette occasion pour vous féliciter de votre élection ainsi que de celle des autres membres du bureau. Nous sommes confiants qu'avec la collaboration de tous et sous votre orientation, notre assemblée générale parviendra à résoudre certains des problèmes les plus graves auxquels est confrontée l'Organisation, et permettra ainsi que l'aide qui nous est fournie soit de plus en plus efficace.

Je profite également de l'occasion qui nous est offerte pour adresser mes vives félicitations au Directeur général pour sa réélection et en même temps formuler des vœux de collaboration de mon pays et exprimer le 'souhait que l'aide fournie par la FAO à la République populaire d'Angola s'intensifie.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, malgré les attaques permanentes et successives que subit mon pays par la faute du régime de l'Afrique du Sud raciste, qui sème la mort parmi les populations pacifiques, détruisant de vastes zones frontalières, malgré les constantes actions destructrices menées quotidiennement par des groupuscules rebelles angolais dans les zones rurales, causant l'insécurité parmi les paisibles paysans, c'est avec grande satisfaction que, à cette tribune, je puis aujourd'hui affirmer notre situation agricole et alimentaire évolue de manière favorable depuis la dernière assemblée générale.

Les orientations adoptées lors du deuxième congrès du parti du travail, définissant la petite exploitation agricole familiale et son organisation en association de paysans, comme élément déterminant de l'augmentation de la production alimentaire, commencent à donner des résultats très encourageants.

Lors de la dernière campagne qui s'est terminée en août de cette année, les résultats de la récolte, notamment des céréales, ont été quelque peu supérieurs à ceux qui avaient été obtenus les années précédentes, bénéficiant d'un appui direct de l'Etat, des semences, des instruments de travail et des engrais chimiques. Nous avons tenté de travailler durement, dans les régions où la tranquillité est garantie, pour créer une autosuffisance alimentaire de base en gérant des excédents permettant de minimiser les pénuries existant dans les zones urbaines et ainsi de diminuer les besoins d'importer.

Par ailleurs, ce principe d'appui préférentiel aux petits producteurs se fait sentir actuellement dans les zones environnantes des grands centres urbains. Il est certain que la pratique suivie est correcte, et nous permet, dans un bref délai, de surmonter la situation de pénurie dans laquelle nous nous trouvons. Cette situation, je le répète, est le résultat de la situation d'instabilité menée à l'extérieur et à l'intérieur du pays et qui limite les possibilités de liaison entre les centres producteurs et les centres de consommation, empêchant ainsi la fourniture de tous les moyens de production indispensables.

Il me semble également opportun de relever un aspect d'une importance capitale et qui peut contribuer de manière décisive à l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire de mon pays.

Dans certaines régions, l'amélioration significative de la sécurité par la fuite des groupes à la solde du régime de l'Afrique du Sud raciste, a comme résultat le retour dans les régions d'origine des populations déplacées dans d'autres zones où installées aux environs des principaux centres administratifs. Ces populations cherchent avec enthousiasme à reprendre la production et à garantir, dans une première année, leur subsistance.

Avec ces possibilités, mon gouvernement a toujours appuyé ces populations et les cas échéants a recouru aux fonds d'urgence des Nations Unies pour que les moyens disponibles et limités soient complétés par des dons de la communauté internationale, notamment en ce qui concerne les outils de travail et les semences.

Les aspects que je viens de décrire, à savoir le développement des cultures de base par les paysans, l'accroissement de la production de produits vivriers dans les zones aux alentours des grandes villes et le retour des populations dans leurs régions d'origine, ne sont pas les seuls facteurs positifs à souligner. Cependant ce sont ceux que nous considérons comme fondamentaux dans le changement de la grave situation dans laquelle nous vivons.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, en ce qui concerne l'ordre du jour de notre assemblée, je voudrais me référer à certains aspects que je considère comme très importants.

En premier lieu, il est évident que nous nous préoccupons de la situation financière actuelle en ce qui concerne les liquidités dont dispose l'Organisation, déterminée par le non-paiement de contributions du principal bailleur de fonds, ainsi que par des retards de liquidation des arriérés de certains Etats Membres, et principalement par le retard avec lequel ces contributions sont versées.

En maintenant une telle situation, la liquidité et la solvabilité de l'Organisation courent de sérieux risques et affectent entre autres non seulement l'image de l'Organisation face à des tiers, mais met également en cause la viabilité d'exécution de son programme de travail.

C'est dans cette optique que nous considérons le budget proposé comme "un budget possible" et de loin ce qui serait un budget souhaitable, capable d'appuyer d'une manière significative le développement agricole des pays en voie de développement et notamment de ceux qui, pour des raisons naturelles, se trouvent dans une situation plus grave. C'est ainsi que nous approuvons en général le budget proposé, conscients que la situation actuelle ne présente pas d'autres possibilités plus favorables.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, nous ne pouvons pas laisser passer cette occasion d'exprimer notre satisfaction à l'inclusion dans le Programme de travail et budget de 1988-89, de la prévision d'une étude relative aux faits négatifs de la politique d'Apartheid de l'Afrique du Sud sur la situation alimentaire et le développement agricole de l'Afrique australe et concernant également les conséquences de l'occupation par Israël des territoires arabes. Ces études, pour nous, représentent une importance capitale. C'est pourquoi nous proposons qu'une solution adéquate soit adoptée à cette fin.

En ce qui concerne le programme de coopération technique, nous ne pouvons que regretter que les ressources qui lui sont destinées soient de moins en moins importantes. La Conférence pourra discuter des points relatifs à la réforme au sein de l'Organisation, en ce qui concerne notamment sa structure et ses méthodes de travail et ses capacités de décision. De toute évidence, mon pays estime également qu'il convient d'évaluer de manière permanente tous ces aspects, de les rendre appropriés face à la situation nouvelle, et d'en rendre l'efficacité accrue. Nous approuvons la position adoptée par le Groupe des 77 sur le fait que les réformes à entreprendre doivent être entreprises d'une manière progressive, afin d'éviter les risques de paralysie, ou la réduction de l'efficacité de l'Organisation.

En ce qui concerne le Programme d'action présenté à la Conférence, je voudrais dire que celui-ci mérite notre accord d'une manière générale. Il est extrêmement important en ce qui concerne le continent africain.

Je vois avec grande satisfaction que les deux grandes lignes de force présentées, la formation, la connaissance et l'utilisation des ressources naturelles, définies comme élément stratégique dans mon pays, occupent une place de choix puisque leur importance la justifie.

C'est précisément dans ce cadre que se placent un ensemble de projets que nous chercherons à développer avec la FAO dans le nouveau cycle du PNUD qui commence maintenant.

Pour nous, la formation, notamment de vulgarisateurs ruraux, dans le cycle qui durera jusqu'en 1992, assume un caractère déterminant, puisque une grande partie de notre politique agraire se fonde sur l'augmentation de la productivité de la terre. La vulgarisation comme forme d'enseignement informelle et de formation des paysans constitue une composante indissociable de la réussite de cet objectif.

Par ailleurs, l'organisation des paysans en associations, constituant un aspect inséparable de la modernisation progressive de l'agriculture, la formation des cadres qui serviront ces associations, en plusieurs domaines, et surtout dans celui de la gestion, apparaît comme fondamentale pour garantir une vie propre satisfaisante, une possibilité de développement pour ces paysans.

Dans le domaine de l'inventaire et de l'usage des ressources naturelles, nous attribuons une importance particulière à la création d'un service de statistiques et à des enquêtes agricoles ainsi qu'à une étude pédologique. Nous croyons aussi que la gestion des ressources disponibles, la comptabilisation des différentes aides internationales l'évaluation des principaux domaines à développer seront nécessairement plus efficaces si nous pouvons compter sur l'aide, le conseil et l'expérience des organismes qui se consacrent à ce genre de problème.

Enfin, nous continuerons, je l'espère, à bénéficier de l'appui de la FAO dans des domaines fondamentaux comme celui de la production de semences et de vaccins afin de réduire notre dépendance vis-à-vis de l'extérieur, en ce qui concerne la protection des plantes, pour réduire les pertes causées par les fléaux et les maladies.

Avec toutes les difficultés que connaît un pays en voie de développement vivant dans une situation de guerre non déclarée mais qu'il est obligé d'affronter, nous venons de commencer une nouvelle campagne que nous envisageons avec optimisme.

Les principes adoptés par le deuxième Congrès du Parti seront traduits et amplifiés dans la présente campagne selon nos possibilités, renforcées par l'assistance internationale, bilatérale et multilatérale. Entre temps, de grandes modifications de la vie économique se préparent dans notre pays. Son Excellence, le Président de la République, José Eduardo Dos Santos, a récemment annoncé au pays et au monde qu'à partir de janvier 1988 entrerait en vigueur un ensemble de mesures qui sont intitulées: Assainissement économique et financier.

La situation actuelle des travaux et la durée limitée de notre intervention devant cette auguste assemblée nous permettent seulement d'affirmer qu'avec cet ensemble de mesures nous chercherons à revitaliser l'économie, à garantir la reprise du pouvoir d'achat des travailleurs, à parvenir à l'équilibre interne entre l'offre et la demande, en un mot à créer une situation économique saine et progressive et une situation financière stable.

Nous croyons qu'avec de telles mesures le monde agricole en général et les paysans en particulier bénéficieront de ce qui sera effectué puisque leurs produits seront vendus à un prix plus juste et leurs conditions de vie en seront améliorées grâce à la possibilité d'accéder à un vaste marché capable de satisfaire leurs besoins. Ils seront également encouragés à déployer de nouveaux efforts pour atteindre l'objectif que nous souhaitons tous atteindre ardemment: l'autosuffisance alimentaire en produits essentiels. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

Murlidas DULLOO (Mauritius): Mr Chairman, Colleague Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, may I first congratulate you Mr. Chairman upon your election and for the remarkable way in which you have been presiding upon this conference - and may I also thank all those who are staying here stoically despite the late hour, and who have blessed me with their presence notwithstanding the many cocktail parties and dinners which are being thrown in our honour.

Mr Chairman, may I also congratulate the Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, on his reappointment as Director-General for a third term of office. Mr Saouma's two-terms of office have already left their imprint on the Organization and I am confident that during his third term of office he will lead the FAO to new heights. The Director-General can be assured of the full support of Mauritius for his third mandate.

I must here add that Mr Moise.Mensah, though not elected, does not deserve less of our appreciation; and Mr Saouma's election assumes an even greater dimension by the mere fact of having had such an able opponent running against him.

I have no doubt that with his usual foresight and sagacity, Mr Saouma's commitment to Africa shall not waver in the least and that on the contrary he will redouble his efforts to help Africa along with the rest of the Third World out of the present food crisis.

We are meeting here to consider the major world trends and policies in food and agriculture and, while considering the activities and the general organization of the FAO, to determine how best our organization can play its role.

In the context of the McDougall Lecture we have already been gratified with a comprehensive and staggering picture of the world situation by Dr Jean Mayer and I would like to thank and congratulate him I agree in substance with all that Dr Mayer has said. I should also thank the Director-General for his report, especially for his vibrant appeal to the international community both to redress the food supply situation and to support the FAO.

After what I have listened to so far, and after discussing with many of my colleagues, I am just wondering whether the right of access to food should not be established as another fundamental human right. Should we not think in terms of a legal international regime on food which would govern the use and distribution of food-producing sources, the overall supply of food and the quality of food available, international agricultural trade, agricultural prices to producers and the price of food, and even social and economic realities to establish a guaranteed and coherent set of living standards.

Food should therefore be our first priority. Nobody can escape the need for food. It is the most basic human need and is vital for each individual. But can the questions relating to the production and availability of food be left to each individual or his dependents? We have moved a long way from the time when unless man produced his food through his personal efforts he could not survive. The general trend now is that the consumer commands purchasing power and he obtains food for his need when and where he needs it. Unfortunately, this is not yet the case for millions living in some areas of the Third World, where unless you grow all or most of your food, you will not eat to satisfy your hunger.

Food production and food availability therefore can no longer be a matter left to individuals. They are and should be the concern of governments. But food self-reliance is still a distant dream for many nations. Food self-reliance is not measured in terms of production totals or attainment of production targets. The real criterion is: do all the people of the country have access to an adequate amount of food? Many countries, especially of the Third World have failed to achieve this objective due to many combined factors, including wrong socio-economic structure or wrong priorities within the national economy; lack of adequate resources and support to agricultural development, especially the for "i's that is incentives, inputs, institutions and infrastructures; continued adverse climatic conditions, over-exploitation and degradation of an extremely fragile environment; and above all, a hostile external economic environment and an extremely unfavourable international agricultural trade aggravated by growing protectionism. With the heavy external debt burden and the already heavy commitment for military spending some countries seem to be beyond redemption.

Others speaking before me have indicated to this forum how the Green Revolution has been successful in the major parts of the world like Europe, North America, Asia and some parts of Latin America. It is clear that the low-income food deficit countries, especially in Africa, will never be able to recover on their own national efforts. Some of them are already engaged in an epic struggle and have embarked on wide structural social, managerial and technological reforms. The help and support of the international community and international agencies and regional bodies is vital.

From being an essentially individual and national concern, food therefore has become above all an international affair. But we should be careful not to reduce international cooperation to the mere import of massive food aid (except in emergency cases) or to large scale introduction of foreign methods, expertise and technologies alien to the social organization or natural environment. Abrupt structural adjustments and application of stereotype prescriptions prove more disruptive than productive.

We should not forget that the promoter of the famous Marshall Plan once said: "Food is an important factor in our foreign policy".

Some time later Senator Hubert Humphrey had this to say: "In a world of want and hunger what is more powerful than food and fibre-" and he also added further, "I have heard that people may become dependent on us for food. I know that was not supposed to be good news. To me, that was good news, because before people can do anything they have got to eat. And if you are looking for a way to get people to lean on you and to be dependent on you, in terms of their cooperation with you, it seems to me that food dependence would be terrific." That was said in 1959.

The generally deteriorating world food and agriculture situation requires from us full support for the concept of world food security and the urgent need to maintain a higher rate of growth of food production in the deficit areas. The national administrative set-up should provide the framework for regional food security schemes and international early warning system. While devoting our effort to food production, we should concentrate more on increasing access to food resources by different groups of people.

Despite the World Food Conference of 1984 which placed more emphasis on the egalitarian distribution of food, the various programmes have remained focused essentially upon increased production and food aid. We should devise ways and means to solve the problems both of agricultural surpluses and shortages. This does not mean that the food producing nations should keep the rest of the world on permanent food welfare. On the other hand, a food warfare is what I dread if the present situation is allowed to aggravate.

This is why at the outset I said that right of access to food should become one of the fundamental human rights. A duty should be imposed upon states, individually and collectively, to improve and enhance the overall supply of food and the quality of food available.

This is why I add my voice to ail those who have been appealing for an urgent reform of all trade-distorting agricultural policies, both domestic and international. We should all assume our responsibility in this direction at the Uruguay Round of GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations. We should derive the maximum benefit from the FAO's participation in the work of the agriculture and tropical commodities "groups.

To improve the quality of food, especially in the Third World countries, we should improve the quality of life of the rural population and of women generally. In Third World countries women participate in a major way in food production. In recognition of their active participation in production, every effort should be made to study carefully their role with a view to making their task less tedious.

Exploitation of the resources of the sea is of paramount importance to developing nations, for the sea can offer a plentiful supply of relatively cheap protein.

However, we know of many countries having large maritime resource potential but deprived of the means for this exploitation. The FAO has been making much effort in this direction. In my country, the FAO is currently engaged in financing projects for the development of our fisheries resources. Simultaneous efforts should be directed towards the protection of such resources, particularly as many small island countries with sizeable Exclusive Economic Zones are not in a position to exercise surveillance over such zones, since it would be beyond their means to organise any meaningful and effective surveillance. There should be proper husbandry and management of the maritime resources which are far from being infinite. We should also stop the process of converting the sea into a huge garbage can.

Nearer the land, the lagoons of many countries are being choked by the action of man. Industrial effluents and human waste, indiscriminate removal of sand and corals, the flow of harmful chemicals washed down by inland waterways, all have damaging effects on marine life. And the experience of Mauritius - which has known a rapid pace of development - is a case in point. Today, life in our lagoons is literally disappearing and this has become a cause for concern to all Mauritians. We have called for expertise from many friendly countries to help us combat this problem which was brought more into focus in the course of the recent International Ocean Festival held in Mauritius, wherein all the major nations of the world, Australia, China, France, India, Japan, U.K., U.S.A., participated. A concerted effort is required to combat the pollution of the sea. The need for an international coordinating body cannot be over-emphasized, because experience gained elsewhere should be shared, especially with small island states like Mauritius.

Lately mankind has become very conscious of his environment and the grim picture painted by some is food for serious thought. Already atmospheric imbalance is having serious effects on our forests around the world. The elementary lessons we learnt at school that the trees provide the much needed and vital oxygen for us should lead us to be more conscious of our forestry resources.

The rate at which forests have been cleared by far outstrips any re-forestation efforts. The results manifest themselves in the form of droughts, soil erosion, drying up of waterways and the progression of the desertification process, thus narrowing further the world's agricultural production possibilities.

Mauritius is trying to cope with the situation by providing enough food for its population, integrating the womenfolk in her development effort, managing and developing the fisheries resources, protecting its environment and preserving its' forestry resources.

Following the 14th FAO Regional Conference on Africa, the Government of Mauritius has pursued its policy to diversify its agriculture away from sugar and to produce as much food as possible. Though I should emphasize here that sugar is a food item and cane sugar is a tropical product. Vegetables, maize, groundnuts and other short-cycle crops are produced in sugarcane interrows, and we have, in a number of crops, achieved self-sufficiency, while in others sensible progress is being made. We are realistic and we know we cannot achieve self-sufficiency on all fronts especially as regards rice and wheat, though they form the basis of the Mauritian diet.

At the level of our national budget, 15 percent of investment is allocated to agriculture. And the National Budget on Agriculture ranks in priority with Education, Health and Social Security. The Mauritian Government has also continued to promote the four "i's" through various schemes under which producers are given incentives, and have access to quality inputs. Mauritius is at present producing 60 percent of its seed requirements and all its fertilizer requirements. We are even exporting some to our neighbours.

Infrastructures and irrigation are being expanded to cope with the present level of production.

Due attention is also being given to the consolidation of institutions engaged in research, post harvest technology and marketing of produce.

Over the last few years FAO has been instrumental in establishing a number of regional bodies. For example, in the South West Indian Ocean FAO has launched a Regional Fisheries Management Project which has helped to initiate development programmes at national and regional levels and has provided regular technical support to these programmes. It has also made available on-the-spot advice to a number of our specific problems.

The Government of Mauritius, being fully aware of the hazards of environmental degradation, especially in small island ecosystems, has during the past decade set up institutional and legal frameworks to protect its natural resources. The forest resources of Mauritius, although limited in extent, play a vital role in soil and water conservation.

New legislation has been enacted to provide better protection to our forests in general and to our native flora and fauna in particular. At the institutional level, a Nature Reserves Board, has been created. A Standing National Committee on reforestation, involving public, private and voluntary organisations was launched in early 1985 to promote tree planting and to protect existing forests. The Government distributes plants freely to organisations willing to join in the reforestation effort. 75% of the number of plants earmarked for free distribution have already been issued.

The Government has, in the field of conservation, listed a number of major projects, short and medium term, to be executed with the participation of international organisations like the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the World Wildlife Fund, the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Council for Birds Preservation.

Why have I dwelt so long on the conditions prevailing in Mauritius? It is because Mauritius, given its unique position, can serve as a laboratory in many fields. Projects can be fully monitored and the results and findings made readily available in the short term for the benefit of other potential users.

Food production, development of fishery resources and the protection of forest resources have not received an adequate level of attention from many developing countries. In some cases because of lack of full awareness of these problems, in others through resources being devoted to other areas, though not priority ones; in others yet through the lack of adequate specialised knowledge. Mankind would stand to gain if developed and developing countries join hands to coordinate food production to meet demand and supply and thus avoid wastage of scarce resources.

It may prove more worthwhile to give to deserving countries agricultural inputs adapted to their environment and their needs as aid in kind since the results would be more lasting than direct food aid, which no doubt should continue as emergency aid in cases of natural disaster or calamity.

The FAO has been assuming the role entrusted so far to it fully. It has to face new challenges in helping to promote agricultural production, to ensure food security and the right of access to food and to guarantee a reasonable nutritional level for everyone. It is, therefore, opportune that we consider a review of certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations including the need for reform in the Programme Budget process. In so doing we should preserve the spirit of multilateralism, the sovereignty of each member state as expressed through the democratic process of equality of roles. I have no doubt that the FAO will live up to our expectations.

Before ending let me express the pleasure of the Government of Mauritius at having been chosen as the venue for the forthcoming FAO Regional Conference for Africa to be held from the 26 April to 4 May next year. The Government of Mauritius, and myself in particular, would be only too pleased to welcome the Director-General, the staff of the FAO, and all my colleagues and other delegations who would be participating in that conference.

Famara Ibrahima SAGNA (Senegal): Il nous est donné, à nouveau, et pour In 24ème fois consécutive, l'occasion de nous retrouver en vue d'échanger et de concilier nos points de vue sur la marche de l'organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, notre Organisation, à qui ses pères fondateurs, il y a 42 ans, assignèrent le mandat de lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition, d'aider à développer l'agriculture, l'élevage, les forêts et les pêches du monde.

L'ambition d'un tel mandat, n'a d'égale assurément, que la complexité des facteurs d'influence du trinôme: production, consommation, commercialisation, inhérents aux produits alimentaires.

Alors qu'il apparaît indispensable, ici, pour sauvegarder l'agriculture, de décourager les fermiers à produire davantage, autrement dit, de primer les producteurs pour ne pas avoir produit, ailleurs la préoccupation fondamentale est de réunir les instruments d'incitation pertinents afin qu'il soit produit davantage.

Ce sont là les deux faces d'une même réalité, qui me donne l'occasion de réaffirmer combien mon pays, le Sénégal, reste attaché à la FAO, cet instrument indispensable que nous avons bâti ensemble, pour permettre à tous les pays, aujourd'hui plus que jamais, de partager leurs expériences et leurs réflexions dans leur lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition.

Je saisis cette occasion pour vous transmettre le salut ainsi que les encouragements de son Excellence Monsieur Abdou Diouf, Président de la République du Sénégal et Président en exercice du CILSS, pour que de nos travaux, la FAO sorte encore plus forte et plus résolue face aux innombrables défis qui ne cessent, chaque jour d'interpeller nos campagnes et nos consciences.

Monsieur le Président, souffrez que ma délégation se réjouisse du choix qui a été porté sur votre illustre personne pour présider à nos travaux. Ceci en constitue assurément un gage de réussite.

Nos félicitations s'adressent également à votre prédécesseur, son Excellence Monsieur Jean Baptiste Yonke, Ministre de l'Agriculture du Cameroun, pour l'efficacité et la chaleur avec lesquelles il a su conduire, de main de maître, la session de notre Conférence, qui consacrait le quarantième anniversaire de la FAO.

Nos félicitations vont aussi aux Vice-Présidents élus, à Monsieur Edouard Saouma, dont ma délégation tient ici, encore une fois, à louer les mérites personnels et professionnels, de même que son engagement indéfectible pour la cause du tiers monde en général et de l'Afrique en particulier et tant que Directeur général de la FAO. Nous lui réitérons tous nos remerciements.

Nous lui donnons l'assurance qu'il pourra toujours et déjà compter sur le soutien effectif du Sénégal dans l'accomplissement de sa lourde mais exaltante et noble mission.

Permettez-moi enfin, de rendre hommage aux membres du Conseil et des différents comités de notre organisation, dont le travail pendant les intersessions de la Conférence, si utile au déroulement de nos débats, permettra de parachever les actions nécessaires et de préparer l'avenir.

La session qui nous réunit en cette fin d'année a été marquée par l'élection du Directeur général de notre organisation. Or qui dit élection, dit renouveau, qui signifie revue de programmes, de procédures de méthodes.

C'est sans doute ce qui a amené le secrétariat, avec courage et lucidité à porter à notre jugement l'examen des objectifs et des opérations de la FAO, aidé en cela par nombre de pays et de groupes de pays qui ont fait des propositions des plus pertinentes allant dans ce sens.

Or, ce fut en 1945 que la communauté internationale prit l'engagement de favoriser l'expansion de l'économie mondiale et l'éradication de la faim, de la malnutrition et de la pauvreté.

De même, en 1974, la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation, prenait l'engagement d'éliminer le problème de la faim dans un délai de 10 ans.

Aujourd'hui, la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture est faite de paradoxes et reste marquée par des approvisionnements pléthoriques, certains pays ne sachant que faire de leurs excédents, tandis que d'autres se trouvent confrontés à de graves pénuries.

Globalement, l'abondance de l'offre a certes renforcé la sécurité alimentaire mondiale d'un côté, mais l'a affaiblie de l'autre. En effet, le bas niveau des prix des produits de base sur les marchés mondiaux, la montée du protectionnisme et l'alourdissement de la dette extérieure, ont beaucoup aggravé la situation des pays en développement qui, faute de ressources financières, arrivent difficilement à importer la nourriture dont ils ont besoin ou les intrants indispensables au développement de leur agriculture.

En effet, la croissance de la production alimentaire et agricole, qui avait presque atteint l'objectif de 4 % au cours des quatre premières années de la décennie a ralenti dans les pays en développement. En conséquence, la production vivrière des pays en développement par habitant, exception faite de la Chine et de L'Inde, ne s'est que très légèrement accrue.

En Afrique, le secteur agricole s'est bien remis en 1985 et 1986 des effets de la sécheresse qui avait ravagé au début des années 80. En effet, la FAO estime qu'au milieu de 1987, sept pays de ce continent avaient des excédents exportables de céréales secondaires sur la récolte de 1985-1986 et cinq pays avaient des excédents locaux exceptionnels.

Le volume des excédents non écoulés tient au manque de débouchés, à la faiblesse du pouvoir d'achats dans les villages à déficit vivrier et à l'insuffisance des infrastructures pour approvisionner les zones déficitaires.

Dans le même temps, sept pays d'Afrique souffraient de pénuries alimentaires graves. Ainsi, malgré une nette amélioration globale, l'Afrique doit continuer à faire face à de sérieux problèmes alimentaires.

Le taux de croissance de la production vivrière dans la région en 1980 n'a été que de 2,9 % par an contre un taux de croissance démographique d'au moins 3 %. Entre 1987-1977 et 1983-1985, les disponibilités caloriques par habitant ont diminué dans 21 des 38 pays d'Afrique subsaharienne étudiés par la FAO.

Au terme de ce rapide survol de la situation alimentaire et agricole qui prévaut dans le monde, force nous est de constater que malgré des progrès appréciables, mais dans l'ensemble limités, les objectifs que j'ai rappelés naguère sont loin d'être atteints, pourtant les éléments explicatifs d'une telle situation ne sauraient, à notre avis, reposer ni sur la fausseté des diagnostics, ni sur la méconnaissance des voies de solution, encore moins sur l'absence de volonté politique de nos Etats.

En effet, et en nous référant à l'Afrique, il y a deux ans, les Chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement de l'Organisation de l'Unité africaine approuvaient le programme prioritaire pour le redressement économique de l'Afrique 1986-1990 qui a inspiré le programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique 1986-1990.

Dans ces programmes, les gouvernements des pays d'Afrique s'engagent à réformer leur politique agricole et la communauté internationale à fournir plus du tiers (soit un apport de 9 milliards de dollars par an) des ressources financières nécessaires pour l'exécution du programme d'action des Nations Unies, estimées à 128 milliards de dollars pour la période 1986-1990.

Ce programme donne la priorité au secteur agricole et alimentaire dans une stratégie africaine de développement socio-économique.

Malgré les coûts et risques sociaux et politiques, beaucoup de pays africains se sont attelés à entreprendre les réformes précitées. Ainsi, selon la banque mondiale, 25 pays africains mettent actuellement en oeuvre un programme d'ajustement d'un type ou d'un autre. Rien qu'en 1986, selon des données du Fonds monétaire international, 20 pays africains n'ont pas hésité à recourir à la dévaluation de leur monnaie de 10% en moyenne par rapport au DTS.

Il s'y ajoute que la FAO, dans son sixième rapport sur l'ajustement agricole, trouve surprenant que l'Afrique, la région où la production agricole a augmenté le plus lentement, ait vu progresser le plus vite les dépenses publiques en faveur de l'Agriculture, quand bien même cela ne fait que correspondre aux engagements pris dans Le cadre des programmes que nous venons de citer.

Il y a deux ans, nous avons eu le privilège de vous présenter amplement les principaux axes sur lesquels repose la nouvelle politique agricole au Sénégal, approuvée en avril 1984, par le Chef de l'Etat du Sénégal, le Président Abdou DIOUF et nous n'y reviendrons pas.

Depuis lors, le Sénégal, avec l'appui de la FAO et de nos autres partenaires a affiné ses stratégies, plans et programmes relatifs au secteur agricole et les a présentés à la communauté internationale, qui les a approuvés en juin 1986.

En mars de l'année en cours, le Sénégal a également présenté avec succès la deuxième phase de son programme d'ajustement à la communauté internationale.

Le Sénégal y réaffirme la priorité donnée au développement du secteur agricole auquel il assigne les objectifs fondamentaux suivants:

- atteindre à l'horizon 2000, un taux d'autosuffisance alimentaire de 80%;
- contribuer par l'exportation à l'équilibre de la balance commerciale et de la balance des paiements;
- créer des emplois en attendant la relève par les secteurs secondaires et tertiaires.

Toutes les réformes précitées reposent, pour l'essentiel, sur des incitations à la production par le biais de la politique des prix, par la transformation des institutions touchant l'agriculture et par l'encouragement de l'initiative privée à jouer un rôle plus actif dans le secteur.

Or la FAO, notre organisation, citant des estimations récentes de l'OCDE, établit que l'aide publique au développement, à tous les secteurs en Afrique subsaharienne avait atteint en 1986 11 milliards de dollars, soit 16% de plus qu'en 1985, ce qui, compte tenu de l'inflation et de la dévaluation du dollar, représente certainement une réduction.

Selon la même source, les apports de ressources multilatérales à des conditions de faveur ont augmenté d'environ 800 millions de dollars, soit de 25%.

Le volume de l'aide bilatérale à l'Afrique subsaharienne a certainement diminué en 1986, du fait de la réduction de l'aide d'urgence.

S'agissant plus particulièrement des apports de ressources extérieures à l'agriculture africaine, la situation ne prête guère à l'optimisme. En effet, tandis que les apports de capitaux privés à l'Afrique ont pratiquement cessé au début des années 80, les engagements multilatéraux à des conditions de faveur ont baissé en 1986.

Les engagements multilatéraux sans élément de libéralité ont certes augmenté, mais au seul profit de quelques pays à revenu moyen. En mettant, en balance les efforts soutenus que nous venons de décrire, avec l'assistance extérieure escomptée, il nous faut malheureusement constater avec regret que l'aide internationale au développement diminue sans cesse pendant que les obstacles aux négociations globales et aux échanges internationaux deviennent plus complexes au détriment de l'esprit de concertation devenu encore plus nécessaire que jamais.

Il existe, certes, quelques motifs d'espoir reposant sur des initiatives récentes qui pourraient améliorer les flux de ressources dans l'agriculture.

Il faut citer au nombre de celles-là:

- la reconstitution des ressources du Fonds spécial de l'IDA pour l'Afrique, au niveau de 1,2 milliard de dollars et qui est devenu opérationnel depuis juillet 1985;
- la reconstitution, au niveau de 300 millions de dollars des ressources du programme spécial du FIDA pour l'Afrique sub-saharienne touchée par la sécheresse;
- la huitième reconstitution des ressources de l'IDA au niveau de 12,4 milliards de dollars et qui sera opérationnelle de juillet 1987 à juin 1990;
- l'objectif du Fonds africain de développement, de reconstituer ses ressources pour la période 1988-1990 au niveau de 2,5 à 3 milliards de dollars.

Il convient également de citer parmi ces motifs d'espoir les progrès enregistrés dans le cadre de l'Uruguay Round du GATT, où il est proposé d'abolir, en dix ans, toutes les subventions qui ont un effet sur le commerce agricole, d'éliminer tous les obstacles à l'importation et d'harmoniser les réglementations sanitaires.

Ni le Sénégal, ni le Sahel, ni l'Afrique n'attendent de miracle et savent qu'ils doivent compter d'abord sur leurs propres moyens, car ils savent que tous leurs efforts seront vains sans une croissance élevée et sans un développement durable des forces productives qui sont le fruit d'un meilleur respect des règles du commerce international, d'une meilleure garantie de la stabilité des monnaies, d'un meilleur financement au niveau mondial de leurs plans de développement.

Nous restons convaincus que les moyens et les capacités existent à l'échelon mondial pour édifier, en commun, des économies solides pour nos pays et éloigner de nos populations le spectre de la faim. Voilà pourquoi nous espérons et attendons que la communauté internationale qui a déjà démontré toute la dimension de sa générosité, ainsi que de ses immenses capacités de mobilisation aille enfin jusqu'au bout de ses intentions car nos sorts sont liés, pays créanciers et pays débiteurs, nous voulons dire, pays développés et pays en développement.

L'objectif à atteindre est, tout en s'appuyant sur les plans de financement contenus dans les programmes cités auparavant, de privilégier et d'augmenter l'aide publique au développement et de s'entendre dans les meilleurs délais pour apporter au problème de la dette et de son service contraignant des solutions justes et équitables.

Monsieur le Président, comment, au moment où les Etats entreprennent des réformes profondes de leurs économies, au moment où les groupes économiques et le monde s'ajustent pour demeurer, s'étonner que des voix, des pays, se font entendre pour apporter au mode de fonctionnement et de gestion de la FAO une toilette qui leur paraît nécessaire?

Nous pensons qu'il importe que cet élan de réformes respecte les principes qui ont guidé à la création de notre organisation. Dans un monde où la recherche de consensus s'avère difficile, les réformes envisagées doivent préserver et respecter les textes fondamentaux de la FAO, en premier lieu.

En deuxième lieu, les principes démocratiques sans lesquels rien de grand et de durable n'est faisable, qui sous-tendent les mécanismes de prise de décision dans tous les domaines, doivent être préservés.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, ma délégation a analysé avec intérêt et avec la plus grande attention, le programme de travail et de budget soumis à notre examen.

S'agissant des différents programmes et malgré les difficultés financières actuelles de l'organisation, ma délégation note avec satisfaction que les programmes techniques et de coopération ainsi que la priorité accordée à l'Afrique continuent à occuper la première place.

Quant au projet de budget soumis à notre approbation, il accuse un taux de croissance relatif de 0,25 %, soit 1,1 million de dollars en valeur relative par rapport au biennium 1986/1987. Ma délégation, consciente des difficultés énormes de trésorerie auxquelles les pays en développement se trouvent confrontés, souhaite que l'on procède à des études préalables pour toute mesure tendant à augmenter le niveau des contributions.

Monsieur le Président, nous ne saurions conclure sans adresser nos encouragements au Programme Alimentaire Mondial, qui n'a cessé d'apporter la preuve de l'efficacité de ses méthodes et procédures d'intervention, ainsi que de la pertinence de ses options.

En effet, l'aide alimentaire sous forme de céréales a atteint le chiffre record de 12,5 millions de tonnes en 1984/85. Depuis que des conditions pluviométriques plus clémentes ont prévalu en Afrique et dans le Sahel, elle est restée supérieure à 10 millions de tonnes en 1985/86 et 1986/87.

Nos encouragements vont également à la FAO, à notre organisation qui a su si heureusement conduire l'importante étude sur "L'agriculture africaine: les 25 prochaines années".

Les premières actions qui ont donné suite à cette étude ont trait à un programme d'aide en intrants en nature à l'Afrique.

Dans ses premières conclusions, et sur la base des études de cas entreprises dans quatre pays africains, dont le Sénégal, le document qui nous est soumis établit que dans les quatre pays étudiés, il est déjà répondu aux besoins les plus évidents d'intrants agricoles importés soit par une aide au titre des programmes soit par une aide bilatérale en nature. Les propositions qui y sont faites concernent essentiellement la satisfaction de besoins supplémentaires modestes.

Pour le cas du Sénégal, ils portent sur:

- l'approvisionnement en urée;
- le soutien au secteur de l'arachide par la fourniture de nématicides et d'injecteurs;
- la fourniture de tracteurs et d'équipement associés destinés aux zones irriguées; et
- la fourniture d'équipement de forge pour l'entretien du matériel agricole de traction animale.

Ma délégation, tout en se félicitant de ces résultats, réitère les observations qu'elle a déjà formulées à Yamoussoukro l'année dernière. Il ne nous paraît pas exact d'assimiler la demande solvable en intrants agricoles dans le Sahel aux besoins tels qu'ils ressortent des différents plans et programmes de développement agricole, les derniers dépassant de loin la première.

L'aide en intrants en nature devrait permettre, à des conditions de faveur, de distendre les rigidités pesant sur la demande finale. Il nous paraît essentiel, par le biais du programme d'aide en intrants en nature, de renforcer la coopération régionale, qui doit permettre d'améliorer les conditions de fonctionnement des unités de production et de commercialisation des intrants déjà installés.

Toujours dans le domaine des intrants, ma délégation a étudié avec la plus grande attention le document traitant de l'état d'avancement de la campagne contre les criquets et les sautériaux.

C'est pour nous l'occasion de renouveler à l'ensemble de la communauté internationale nos remerciements et toute notre gratitude pour l'appui diligent et solidaire qu'elle a apporté à mon pays, à l'ensemble du Sahel, ainsi qu'à toute l'Afrique pour maîtriser et conjurer le péril acridien qui continue de nous menacer. Au cours de ce combat contre l'adversité de la nature, deux pionniers qui avaient avec abnégation laissé dans leur douce patrie leurs familles pour se porter à la ligne de front de combat ont payé de leur vie 1/.

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais qu'avec moi, nous tous leur souhaitions que la terre leur soit légère. Je vous remercie.

The meeting rose at 19.30 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.30 horas

1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C**C 87/PV/7**Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARYVingt-quatrième session
PLENIERE24° período de sesiones
PLENARIA**SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
SÉPTIMA SESION PLENARIA**

(11 November 1987)

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 heures
sous la présidence de Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Président de la
Conférence

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 10 horas bajo la
presidencia de Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Presidente de la
Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Before we begin our Session by calling the first speaker on the List for today, I would like to mention a question raised by the delegate of Italy yesterday. He would like to ask a question in order to elucidate something which concerns his delegation. I ask him to put his question now, and beg him to be brief and very clear.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): My minister left out a word from his speech yesterday, so I have received a request for clarification from a number of delegates concerning a passage in his address with reference to the decision not to claim the cash on hand from FAO. May I make it clear that this is a reference to the cash surplus. The word, "surplus" was omitted. This means that Italy relinquishes into the hands of the Organization its quota of the cash surplus for 1984/85, i.e. \$ 1 575,000. I hope very much that the relevant appeal from the Council will be heeded by other countries.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I am grateful to the delegate of Italy for pointing this out. Without doubt there are other delegations who wanted to understand this matter relating to the surplus. We would appreciate it if other countries who have surpluses would relinquish them for the benefit of FAO.

Gerrit J.M BRAKS (Netherlands): Mr Chairman, please accept my congratulations on your appointment. I regard it as a privilege to address this meeting under your chairmanship.

Mr Saouma, I congratulate you on your re-election. I am confident that in the coming years you will lead the Organization with the same energy and commitment as in the preceding period. May I ask the representatives of the Secretariat to pass on to the Director-General that he may count on the support of the Dutch government.

Mr Mensah, the Netherlands would also like to express its warm appreciation of your commitment to the work of FAO and for the professional quality and energy you have demonstrated to us. We look forward to continuing our close cooperation with you and with IFAD.

"Hunger amidst abundance" is the title of a report of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). The report describes the effects of the liberalization of trade in agricultural products on developing countries. This title clearly indicates the food situation in the world.

Overproduction in the developed world and hunger in the developing part of the world is a situation we cannot accept. One-third of the population in Africa is undernourished. In large parts of Latin America the situation is worsening and the shortage of food is increasing. In Southern Asia there are a number of positive trends, but even there, one fifth of the population does not have enough to eat. This means that half of all undernourished people in the world are living in that region.

Fortunately, the situation in China has clearly improved, as I had the honour to see this during my visit to China last week.

All in all, the situation in large parts of Africa and Asia still gives reason for grave concern. The contrast is sharp with the over-production of the industrialised world.

Large stocks of cereals, sugar, dairy products and beef have been depressing prices on the world market for years. The United States of America and the European Community for instance, compete on the world market with the help of high subsidies, making the threat of dumping a very real one. This means not only a heavy burden on the budgets of exporting countries, but it also deprives those countries that cannot afford to subsidize exports of the chance to sell their products at profitable prices.

This is a situation that we cannot honestly accept for the future, especially for those developing countries which depend on exports to keep the engine of their economy running, for instance a number of countries in Latin America and Southern Asia. Many of these are heavily in debt, and with world market prices as low as they are at present, it is almost impossible for them to improve their position.

But in the longer term this situation could also prove unfavorable for those developing countries which are net food importers, and whose agriculture is insufficiently developed, because it impedes the implementation of policies aiming to encourage farmers to increase their production. In those countries prosperity can only grow if the buying power of their large rural populations can also grow. The increase in buying power depends to a large extent on a rise in the level and stability of the prices of farm products. Both developed and developing countries will therefore benefit from higher and more stable prices for international trade in agricultural production.

It is true that higher prices can be a disadvantage; in the short term. However, this advantage is more than offset by the benefits of a more developed and prosperous farming population. This development will have to be stimulated by substantial technical and financial support from the developed world.

We in the Netherlands are well aware of this. One and a half percent of our net national income is allocated for development assistance. A substantial part is spent for agricultural and rural development.

The question is, ladies and gentlemen, how can we achieve an improved world market situation with higher and more stable prices? Various studies, by OECD, the World Bank and IIASA, have shown that it can only be done if the trade in agricultural products becomes more liberalized. I, too, am convinced that liberalization is necessary. The Netherlands supports the objectives of the Uruguay Trade Round.

Targets for new GATT agreements in these negotiations are: more access to markets; reduction of subsidies, internal as well as those for export, and the dismantling of non-tariff barriers. In our view this is the only way in which the goal of higher and more stable world market prices for agricultural products can be reached, and the only way the balance between supply and demand restored. The chances for this change have never been so good.

The proposals in the GATT negotiations presented so far - by the United States of America, the European Community and the CAIRNS Group - are, in our opinion, constructive. However, this is a process which may take years. Some measures have to be taken in the short term. That is why I support the recent proposals of the European Commission, for dairy products and cereals.

Further, I would like to make a few remarks on the importance of structural adjustment in the developing countries themselves. Eroding the agricultural sector in favour of other sectors is counterproductive. Fortunately, this is more and more recognized.

Furthermore, farmers both men and women should be involved in policy-making. Rural organizations, such as production, credit, marketing and processing cooperatives, are excellent means to help agriculture to progress.

Recognition of the great importance of agriculture implies close attention to the environment. For instance, uncontrolled deforestation and insufficient re-forestation cannot be justified. Obviously, the adjustment process requires intensive guidance. FAO will have to be closely involved in the drafting and implementation of agricultural adjustment programmes.

With these remarks, Mr Chairman, I have come to the role which FAO should in the opinion of the Netherlands play in this development process.

Without neglecting technical programmes, I feel that FAO will have to focus more on advising countries on matters of agricultural and rural policies in close cooperation and dialogue with multilateral financial institutions.

A primary task for FAO, in my view, is the translation of the results of field experience and agricultural research into socio-economic and rural policies. This is vital for the quality and feasibility of the structural adjustment programmes. For this reason closer involvement of FAO in the Consultative Groups of the World Bank and in the Round Tables of the UNDP is needed. The Development Assistance Committee of the OECD shares this view.

Together with FAO, the UNDP should coordinate donor activities, at country or at regional level, in order to improve the planning and implementation of projects and programmes, many of which are, we know, implemented by FAO.

Mr Chairman, a fair proportion of the agenda is devoted to the re-orientation of FAO - in our opinion with good reason. Together we must outline the strategy for the future.

This should, in the opinion of the Netherlands, be done against the background of the necessary adjustments in the agricultural policies of both, developed and developing countries.

My Government feels that, if FAO is to perform its important task effectively, essential reform will be imperative. I am pleased that this need for reform was also recognized by Dr. Saouma in his important statement to the Conference the day before yesterday.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, together, let us work towards appropriate reform, so that a strong FAO can in the future better serve a threatened world.

Ernesto FIGUERAS (Argentina): Señor Presidente, señoras y señores: Permítame, en primer término, felicitarlo por su elección a la Presidencia de este importante período de sesiones de la Conferencia. Estamos seguros de que, bajo su conducción, lograremos alcanzar los acuerdos que todos deseamos. Mi delegación compromete ya su cooperación.

Es, asimismo, particularmente grato para la delegación argentina felicitar al Director General por su reelección y ratificarle nuestra confianza en que, con su experiencia y dedicación, la FAO continuará siendo un instrumento insustituible del desarrollo agrícola y de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Coincidimos con el Dr. Saouma en que los distintos factores de incertidumbre y perturbación que caracterizan el actual contexto internacional han influido negativamente en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas y en la FAO como parte de ese sistema. Estamos, sin embargo, seguros de que la comunidad internacional no escatimará esfuerzos para superar los problemas que hoy le afectan, dentro de un clima de cooperación y respeto.

Paso ahora a referirme a la situación del sector agropecuario argentino y a su relación con la situación internacional en la *que* ella se enmarca.

La Argentina entiende que la modernización y diversificación de la agricultura constituye un elemento central en su estrategia de desarrollo y reactivación económica.

En tal sentido, es necesario destacar el esfuerzo desplegado por los productores rurales, quienes respondieron a la llamada del Gobierno y de la sociedad en su conjunto para satisfacer crecientes necesidades de recursos.

Si bien este convencimiento de la necesidad de incorporación de nuevas técnicas y ese denodado esfuerzo de los productores rurales argentinos permitió incrementos importantes de la productividad y producción agrícolas, estos empeños han sufrido el embate de una sumamente desfavorable situación internacional.

La importante contribución argentina a la seguridad alimentaria mundial, lograda merced a importantes índices de crecimiento de producción agrícola durante los años 1984-1985, ha venido sufriendo desde entonces, como contrapartida, un notorio y creciente desmejoramiento de los términos de intercambio internacionales.

Este deterioro de la situación internacional de comercio de productos agrícolas determina, como consecuencia inmediata, una significativa disminución de los ingresos de divisas.

Esta disminución de ingresos contribuye a hacer más agobiante la situación de la deuda externa de nuestro país y más difícil de sobrellevar los procesos de ajuste; en particular, para la población de menores recursos, tanto sea esta urbana como rural.

Sus consecuencias trascienden el marco económico y constituyen factores de desestabilización política y social. El pueblo argentino, en un ejemplo de paz y solidaridad, está realizando un gran esfuerzo para consolidar definitivamente la democracia en nuestro país.

Esta situación está evolucionando en medio de contradicciones, como los enunciados de naciones que afirman apoyar la concreción de regímenes democráticos, por un lado, pero que, por otro - con medidas fuertemente proteccionistas -, dificultan sensiblemente el afianzamiento de las democracias incipientes.

La República Argentina valora adecuadamente los resultados de la reunión ministerial de GATT en Punta del Este. En la medida en que han dado una base sólida a las negociaciones sobre comercio agrícola, se consideran, además, positivas las declaraciones de los países de la OCDE, en relación a una reforma de sus políticas agrícolas y a una normalización de sus prácticas comerciales.

Pero es necesario señalar que estas determinaciones, que consideramos positivas, no se compadecen con la persistencia y un agravamiento de sus prácticas proteccionistas.

La Argentina, productor eficiente de bajo costo, se ha visto desplazado de algunos mercados tradicionales, aun en América Latina, a través de ventas subsidiadas de trigo, carnes y, más recientemente, de aceites vegetales. El panorama se hace aún más sombrío si las amenazas de aplicación de nuevos aranceles a la importación de estos aceites se llegara a concretar.

Por tal razón, insisto en la necesidad de dotar de mayor transparencia al mercado internacional de productos agrícolas como una mayor contribución de la comunidad económica internacional a un desarrollo armónico de las economías; en particular, de las menos desarrolladas.

En este sentido, no puedo dejar de señalar que son precisamente los países en desarrollo los principales perjudicados en un enfrentamiento o guerra comercial entre las principales naciones industrializadas de Occidente. Se da la paradoja de que el aumento de "stocks" y la caída de precios a niveles sin precedentes no ha mitigado el hambre en el mundo, sino que ha contribuido a acentuar más las desigualdades entre los países pobres y ricos.

En este contexto, resulta alentador saber que la propuesta de los Estados Unidos en el marco del GATT tiene como objetivo el desmantelamiento total de las políticas proteccionistas en un plazo determinado.

Nuestro país, conjuntamente con los demás países que integran el grupo "CAIRNS", ha presentado al GATT una propuesta que, además de buscar una reforma estructural profunda del comercio y la producción agropecuaria a largo plazo, incluye decisiones y medidas con efecto a corto plazo, que alivien la situación de los productores agrícolas de los países que no subsidian sus exportaciones.

Por lo tanto, podemos decir con esperanza que la propuesta de Estados Unidos, las medidas propuestas por la Comunidad Económica Europea, más las del mencionado grupo CAIRNS, señalan evidentemente un consenso universal de rechazo a políticas proteccionistas.

Ante este cuadro de situación, y con el objeto de moderar el efecto negativo de la crisis sobre la estructura productiva de nuestra agricultura, el Gobierno argentino está llevando a cabo una serie de medidas:

En el sector agrícola, implementando sistemas de canje de semillas, fertilizantes y combustibles que permitan al productor alejarse de los sistemas financieros convencionales; implementación de ventas de cereales a futuro y acuerdos con semilleros; reformulación de los sistemas tributarios para dotarlos de mayor equidad; otorgamiento de facilidades tributarias y crediticias a productores perjudicados por contingencias climáticas extraordinarias; eliminación de retenciones a la exportación de diversos productos agrícolas.

En el sector pecuario, incentivando la ganadería ovina, mediante la reducción de las retenciones de exportación de lanas y otorgando créditos; beneficiando la actividad lechera, mediante la eliminación de retenciones a la exportación; mejorando las expectativas de rentabilidad de la ganadería bovina, que traerán aparejada una mejora en el "stock", sensiblemente deteriorado por la negativa influencia de políticas proteccionistas de la Comunidad Económica Europea en particular.

El desarrollo pesquero de nuestro país se encuentra actualmente en una etapa de reactivación y crecimiento, como resultado de una política activa, coherente y firmemente orientada a dichos objetivos, cuyos resultados iniciales han podido ser claramente materializados. Dicha política procura la conservación de los recursos, tanto en la zona económica exclusiva como en las áreas adyacentes, sea a través de buques de la propia flota pesquera, sea mediante la cooperación internacional. Ella incluye, en particular, el desarrollo de la actividad pesquera nacional y el mejoramiento de los ingresos de los trabajadores en dicha actividad.

En lo relativo a la política forestal, nuestro país dispone de importantes masas forestales nativas y está empeñado en acrecentar sus masas forestales cultivadas, para lo cual dispone de una oferta ecológica adecuada en varias regiones.

Es una preocupación de la Argentina lograr una explotación ordenada y a perpetuidad de sus recursos nativos y aplicar técnicas de avanzada en los bosques cultivados, para lo cual son aportes sensibles los que puede realizar FAO a partir del Programa de Acción Forestal de los Trópicos, por ejemplo.

Nuestro país, que, como dije antes, ha contribuido con productos agrícolas crecientes a la seguridad alimentaria mundial, se ha visto en la necesidad de acudir, con planes especiales, a dotar de recursos alimentarios a sectores de su población carenciados. El Programa Alimentario Nacional (PAN), aprobado e implementado por el Gobierno constitucional, atiende en la actualidad a un millón de familias y está dirigido a paliar una situación injusta en materia de distribución de recursos.

Debe sumarse a este programa el de comedores escolares e infantiles, el cual atiende requerimientos de 715 000 niños y el programa materno-infantil, que involucra a 600 000 personas, entre mujeres embarazadas y niños menores de dos años; cifras que adquieren particular relevancia dentro de la escasa densidad demográfica de nuestro país.

Asimismo, como una importante contribución a la seguridad alimentaria a nivel latinoamericano, nuestro país, conjuntamente con la hermana República Oriental del Uruguay, ha venido impulsando el Tratado de Asistencia Regional para Emergencias Alimentarias (TAREA).

Esta iniciativa, que prevé la asistencia alimentaria recíproca entre los Estados partes del Tratado en caso de Emergencias Alimentarias sobre la base de donaciones, préstamos entre los bancos centrales y créditos de emergencias, constituye un aporte efectivo a la cooperación Sur-Sur.

Este Tratado ha sido rubricado a nivel técnico en la última reunión del CASAR y se encuentra a la firma de los señores Presidentes de la República Oriental del Uruguay y la República Argentina.

Nuestro país está dispuesto a compartir estas experiencias con aquellas naciones en desarrollo que lo requieran.

Con motivo del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, se creó a nivel nacional una comisión "ad hoc", integrada por organismos gubernamentales y no gubernamentales, que organizó jornadas técnicas de discusión sobre el tema propuesto por FAO para este año: El Pequeño Productor Agropecuario.

El trabajo de esta Comisión será replicado por otras similares en diversas regiones del país, analizando la problemática específica de cada una de éstas.

Los resultados de toda esta tarea serán un insumo importante para la implementación de políticas sectoriales.

Deseo, señor Presidente, por fin, destacar dentro del programa de labores, el P.C.T. (Programa de Cooperación Técnica de la FAO). Este programa ha sido de gran utilidad para los países en desarrollo y, a nuestro juicio, debe mantenerse y, en la medida de lo posible, fortalecerse.

Con relación a los recursos volcados por la Organización en los distintos programas, considero que deberían incrementarse los que se imputan al área de América Latina y el Caribe.

En el final de mi Intervención, señor Presidente, deseo reiterar el espíritu de colaboración para con la Organización y sus autoridades que anima a la Argentina. Este espíritu de colaboración nace de una adecuada valoración de la importancia de la Organización en el crecimiento de nuestro país y en su capacidad efectiva para el logro de los objetivos fijados en su carta constitutiva. Pero la responsabilidad de los organismos internacionales de cooperación no reemplaza ni diluye la responsabilidad primaria que le corresponde a cada uno de nuestros gobiernos para encauzar las relaciones económicas internacionales en términos más justos y equitativos. Nosotros estamos dispuestos a participar activamente en ese esfuerzo.

Jean-Claude PIOT (Suisse): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs, Excellences, avant-hier matin, nous avons réélu notre Directeur général, M. E. Saouma, pour un nouveau mandat de 6 ans. Cette confirmation est une marque de reconnaissance pour son activité à la tête de notre Organisation. Nous vous adressons nos plus vives félicitations, M. Saouma, et nous avons entendu avec intérêt et satisfaction votre déclaration d'investiture, qui vous engage personnellement pour les six prochaines années.

Dans le préambule de l'acte constitutif de la FAO il est écrit que notre organisation est constituée par des Etats qui sont résolus à développer le bien-être par une action particulière et collective, afin d'élever le niveau de nutrition et les conditions de vie de leur population; d'améliorer le rendement de la production et l'efficacité de la répartition de tous les produits alimentaires et agricoles; d'améliorer les conditions de vie des populations rurales; et, ce faisant, de contribuer à l'expansion de l'économie mondiale et de libérer l'humanité de la faim.

Voilà les engagements auxquels nous avons tous souscrit. Malgré le soutien formel de tous les pays membres à ces résolutions, nous sommes aujourd'hui, plus de 40 ans après la création de la FAO, encore loin d'avoir libéré l'humanité de la faim.

J'aimerais aborder trois points principaux dans ma déclaration. Je commencerai par les réformes souhaitées dans le cadre de la FAO; je ferai ensuite quelques commentaires concernant les problèmes du commerce agricole mondial et je terminerai avec des remarques sur le programme de travail et le budget proposés pour le prochain biennium.

Pourquoi des réformes?

La lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition est la principale raison d'être de la FAO, et nos déclarations, résolutions, engagements et pactes doivent donc se traduire par des résultats plus concrets, plus tangibles que ceux enregistrés jusqu'ici, car un habitant de notre planète sur 10, voire même sur 8, est encore sous-alimenté.

Le temps presse, car si nous savons que plus de 80 pour cent des personnes les plus pauvres vivent dans les campagnes du tiers monde, nous savons aussi que demain ils viendront rejoindre ceux des villes. Si nous perdons la bataille du développement rural, nous perdons aussi la bataille du développement tout court. Je suis donc très satisfait que l'on ait choisi les petits paysans comme thème de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation 1987 et j'espère que ce choix marquera l'orientation future de notre Organisation.

C'est précisément pour mieux cibler cet avenir que la Suisse partage l'avis exprimé par de nombreux pays, savoir qu'il est temps de procéder à un examen en profondeur de notre Organisation, notamment en ce qui concerne son rôle et sa stratégie à long terme. Nous appuyons également la proposition selon laquelle la Conférence, à cette vingt-quatrième session, devrait envisager la constitution d'une Commission consultative temporaire d'experts de haut niveau, représentatifs des régions, qui serait chargée de conduire, en étroite collaboration avec le Secrétariat, un tel examen et d'en faire

rapport au Conseil et à la prochaine Conférence. Je tiens à souligner: il ne s'agit pas de remettre en question la FAO. Il ne s'agit pas d'une révolution, comme le laissaient entendre certaines positions prises hier dans cette salle. Il s'agit simplement de rendre la FAO plus efficace. Nous voulons, comme nous l'avons toujours souligné, une FAO plus forte, plus compétente et plus écoutée, ainsi que le souhaite notre Directeur général lui-même.

Mon pays a activement contribué à la discussion sur la nécessité de réformes lors de la dernière séance du Conseil. Nous avons formulé des propositions écrites qui figurent dans le document C 87/30 de cette Conférence et qui précise notre intention. Elles portent en particulier sur les trois points suivants:

1. La FAO devrait jouer un rôle plus marqué dans l'analyse et les conseils en matière de politique agricole dans les pays. Les spécialistes de la FAO qui sont chargés de ces tâches doivent jouir de l'indépendance nécessaire pour mettre en évidence les problèmes clés et proposer les remèdes correspondants. C'est ensuite à chaque concerné d'en faire le meilleur usage possible dans le cadre de sa souveraineté nationale.
2. Le programme de terrain devrait être l'objet d'une attention plus marquée des Etats Membres. A cet effet, nous proposons la création d'un "Comité du programme de terrain". Parallèlement, les comités des Finances et du Programme pourraient être fusionnés en un seul afin d'éviter un organe additionnel.
3. Les agriculteurs, au premier rang des utilisateurs des services de la FAO, devraient avoir plus directement voix au chapitre. Aussi proposons-nous d'examiner si un comité existant pourrait être transformé en un "Comité des organisations paysannes".

Dans l'aide au développement, on a trop longtemps mis trop exclusivement sur les transferts des connaissances techniques. On a hésité à donner des conseils en matière de politique, craignant qu'ils puissent être ressentis comme une ingérence dans la souveraineté des pays. Il n'en reste pas moins que des politiques inadaptées sont, à elles seules, un frein au développement dans de nombreux pays. L'étude de la FAO sur l'agriculture africaine présentée il y a une année a été claire sur ce point. Trop de projets, trop d'investissements sont restés sans effet durables et n'ont malheureusement pas permis d'obtenir d'autres résultats qu'un endettement croissant, parce qu'ils n'ont pas été suffisamment intégrés dans une conception globale de la politique agricole nationale. Ce vent de réformes ne remet pas en cause, à notre avis, les grands objectifs, les buts généraux de notre Organisation, mais devrait permettre de mieux orienter encore son action.

J'ai donc noté avec satisfaction les propositions pour une nouvelle approche de la FAO dans le domaine de l'analyse et des conseils en matière de politique agricole, propositions qui ont été formulées dans le rapport d'évaluation du Programme d'assistance pour la sécurité alimentaire (PASA), soumis à cette Conférence. Ces propositions vont tout à fait dans le sens de nos préoccupations et nous nous réjouissons de voir qu'elles ont été bien reçues par le Directeur général.

Quand nous parlons de la nécessité de réformes à la FAO, nous sommes bien conscients que les problèmes ont, pour une bonne part, leur origine dans la diversité des expectations, des 'espoirs *des* pays membres. Chacun doit veiller à ne pas demander à la FAO des activités et des services qui la poussent à éparpiller ses efforts et à affaiblir l'impact de son action. Il faut savoir choisir des priorités, tant par le Secrétariat que par les pays membres. Ceci est un processus difficile qui demande des sacrifices de part et d'autre; mais si nous réussissons, la FAO en sortira grandie et les pays en développement seront les premiers à en profiter. Les réformes sont une affaire à régler entre pays membres; c'est à nous de faciliter le travail du Secrétariat et d'en tirer le meilleur usage, car ces réformes visent avant tout à renforcer notre Organisation, qui sera alors mieux en mesure de participer à une meilleure harmonisation des relations Nord-Sud. J'ai noté avec satisfaction que M. Saouma compte pouvoir apporter sa contribution pleine et entière à cet effort de réflexion.

Le commerce mondial

Les problèmes du commerce agricole mondial sont bien connus.

Dans les pays développés, la production a augmenté plus vite que la demande: par le progrès technique et le soutien des prix dans le contexte d'un ralentissement de la croissance démographique. Les pays industrialisés doivent donc adapter le volume de leur production tout en maintenant le revenu paysan.

A l'opposé, pour bon nombre de pays en développement, le service de la dette leur impose d'augmenter leurs exportations vers les marchés saturés du Nord, quelquefois au détriment de l'approvisionnement de leur propre population. Pour les pays en développement, l'accès de chacun à la nourriture et l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire basée sur la production indigène doivent pourtant rester les objectifs prioritaires.

Il serait simpliste de croire qu'en éliminant le protectionnisme, les problèmes de l'agriculture mondiale pourraient être résolus d'une manière satisfaisante. La plupart des paysans du Sud, en raison de leur situation particulière n'ont pas encore pu participer au progrès technique. Ils seraient donc les premières victimes d'une ouverture des marchés de leurs pays aux importations à bas prix.

Dans les négociations actuelles du GATT - l'Uruguay-Round - il faut donc chercher à concilier deux objectifs:

- d'une part, assurer à chaque pays la possibilité de maintenir une agriculture dans des proportions raisonnables et correspondant aux objectifs légitimes de sa politique nationale;

- d'autre part, garantir un meilleur fonctionnement des marchés agricoles internationaux.

Sachant qu'il est nécessaire d'assurer des marchés sains pour les pays en développement, mon pays étudie actuellement les possibilités d'augmenter leur part dans nos importations agricoles. Notre marché est parmi les plus ouverts - la Suisse est auto-suffisante à 65 pour cent seulement. Si notre marché pose des exigences qualitatives élevées, nous avons un taux net d'importation de produits agricoles le plus élevé d'Europe.

Programme de travail et budget:

J'aimerais dire encore quelques mots sur le programme de travail et le budget pour les 2 années à venir.

La structuration et la présentation du programme de travail et du budget ne laissent pas ressortir clairement les priorités du programme.

Il serait souhaitable que la programmation soit basée sur un choix de priorités et une stratégie bien déterminés, et qu'elle soit mieux coordonnée avec les activités des autres agences du système des Nations Unies. Les processus actuels de programmation et de budgétisation sont peu transparents et méritent d'être examinés en vue d'une réforme. Ni le Comité de programme, ni le Comité financier n'ont su apporter des modifications notables aux propositions du Secrétariat. Pourtant la constitution de la FAO assigne à ces deux organes un rôle actif dans le processus de décision.

Pour ce qui concerne le montant du budget proposé, mon pays en accepte le niveau, tout en soutenant le principe de la croissance réelle zéro. Nous pensons cependant qu'il importe au premier chef d'améliorer l'efficacité et l'impact de l'Organisation en favorisant une croissance qualitative plutôt que quantitative.

Quant à la situation financière précaire de notre organisation, notre position ne laisse planer aucun doute: les pays membres grands et petits se doivent de régler leurs contributions dans les délais normaux.

Monsieur le Président,

Permettez-moi de réitérer tout l'attachement de mon pays à la FAO et au rôle important qu'elle doit jouer dans le monde. Si nous souhaitons, avec d'autres et dans un proche avenir, une simplification

de ses structures, des priorités plus marquées et plus de transparence dans ses activités, c'est pour la rendre plus efficace et pour renforcer son rôle de chef de file dans la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition. Nous partageons pleinement ses objectifs, dans le cadre d'une attitude certes critique, mais entièrement constructive.

Nous adressons au Directeur général et à son équipe du Secrétariat nos vœux les meilleurs dans l'accomplissement de leur lourde mais belle tâche, et les assurons de notre soutien.

Elijah Wasike MWANGALE (Kenya): On behalf of my delegation may I take this opportunity to congratulate you and the three vice-chairmen on your election.

I assure you of my delegation's full co-operation and have the confidence that our deliberations will be fruitful.

I also take this opportunity to thank the members for the trust and confidence in my delegation and country for electing us to the bureau.

Permit me also to extend our very sincere congratulations to the Director-General of FAO, Dr Edouard Saouma, on his re-election for a third term of office.

I wish to assure the Director-General of the willingness of the government and people of Kenya to co-operate with him and other members of this Organization in their arduous task of running this organization. Since Kenya became a member of FAO, we have developed a constructive working relationship with the Organization. We hope that this cooperation will continue to be cemented and enhanced even further.

Mr Chairman, this particular conference is unique since it has come at a time when the global economic situation is at its worst. Poverty, hunger and malnutrition continue to plague the developing countries where an estimated 800 million people live below the absolute minimum poverty line, while on the other hand the industrialised countries are accumulating food surpluses through major agricultural support programmes and in some instances, through deliberate taxation of imported commodities from the developing countries. Also protectionism, large subsidies, tariffs and non-tariff barriers, and discrimination of Third World commodities through various legislations and sanitary regulations are now more prevalent than ever before.

The Third World countries are faced with major external debts and debt servicing, declining development assistance and unfavourable export prices for their traditional commodities, while they are increasingly dependent on imported goods and services at higher costs.

In addition, natural disasters such as droughts and floods have continued to compound these problems.

Civil strife, increasing population growth and meagre domestic resources for development are common features in many developing countries.

In our sub-region of eastern Africa, a number of countries are once again facing unprecedented food problems. We appeal for international attention and support to the needs of the sub-region and further seek for lasting solutions through support of our development programmes.

One major scourge which must be singled out for condemnation by this Conference is the apartheid regime of South Africa which has continued its aggressive and destabilizing acts against the frontline states in southern Africa, thereby incapacitating their agricultural and economic development efforts. These states need both international support and FAO's increasing attention.

Mr Chairman, we note that the Uruguay Round of multilateral negotiations are now under way and the tropical products will be included in the negotiations. Furthermore, we are informed that some of the industrialised countries are taking some remedial steps to improve terms of trade with the developing countries as resolved during the Venice Summit in June of this year. We welcome these developments and urge that they be accelerated.

The FAO has a very significant role to play in reversing the present global situation facing food and agriculture, and in the implementation and realization of the priorities set out a decade ago by the World Food Conference. FAO should, through its programme of work, address itself to the critical problems of the developing countries in line with their set priorities.

The FAO however, cannot achieve much if its financial foundation is not healthy. We are therefore, deeply concerned that a number of member nations have not honoured their obligations to this organization. We urge those members to ensure that the Organization is set on a firm financial footing.

Mr Chairman, this Organization is now celebrating forty-two years of existence. As we enter the year 2,000, the challenges facing food and agriculture will be more diverse. Time is therefore ripe for a management review to prepare for these challenges. During the 23rd Conference the Chairman of the Conference, the Honourable Minister for Agriculture of Cameroon, called for a review of the FAO with a view to enhancing its efficiency and performance. We believe that member nations of this Organization have a right to propose changes which can help to improve its functioning and operations without compromising the sovereign rights and equality of member nations, regardless of their size, population, wealth or political beliefs.

We are aware that there are certain areas requiring urgent action within the United Nations system to institute austerity measures and improve financial management and priorities. The process of setting such adjustments should be instituted by the management within the existing mechanisms with the participation of the member countries.

We are also concerned that attempts have been made to dilute the multilateral principles and to introduce mechanism that would disadvantage the developing countries. It was only early this year, Mr Chairman, that some countries wanted a merger of the UNEP and HABITAT, thereby reducing the number of UN bodies in the developing countries. Such pressures are not healthy for international inter-dependence and multilateral co-operation.

Mr Chairman in the view of my delegation, it is imperative that the holders of the top posts in the various United Nations agencies should not stay more than two terms and that the principle of rotation for these posts should be respected.

The 1988-1989 biennium budget and programme of work appears inadequate in the face of the problems that the Organization has to tackle. We would have wished a significant growth over the previous budget. However, under the present circumstances, we urge that the budget as presented by the Director-General be adopted.

My delegation would nevertheless have wished to see greater emphasis in the following areas:

Increased research, to develop suitable technology for the development of drylands.

Emphasis in research programmes that reduce the extensive environmental degradation taking place in many developing countries.

Increased emphasis on traditional food crops which play a very important role in the diets of many.

Water is a vital resource in the rural development process and therefore greater focus on watershed management and afforestation, should be encouraged.

The FAO should take a leading role in reducing post harvest losses, which in Africa alone are estimated at over 7 million tonnes of cereals, enough to feed more than 45 million people.

Greater resources should be made for the development of fisheries and forestry in the developing countries.

The tropical region is the natural habitat to a wide variety of plant and animal species which over the years, have been eroded. Plant genetic work and the introduction of gene banks in these regions should be accorded priorities to help preserve the genetic diversity at its natural habitat.

Mr Chairman, the FAO has the added benefit of providing technical co-operation programmes, and in the administration of the UNDP and trust funds. This development assistance should result in net flow benefit to the recipients. I would like, Mr Chairman, to point out that in a number of developing countries, there is a need to graduate from the heavily external expert-oriented approach to more of the national expertise. On this particular issue, Kenya will stand firm on the UN General Assembly Resolution 3405 (XXX) of 1975, which among other things, underlines that the basic purpose of technical co-operation should be the promotion of self-reliance in developing countries by building up their productive capability, and their indigenous resources, and by increasing the availability of the managerial, technical, administrative and research capabilities, required in the development process.

Many developing countries are accumulating considerable expertise which is available for utilization under technical co-operation. The FAO should assist in further development and deployment and provide regular progress reports.

The TCP, Mr Chairman, needs to be reviewed to facilitate a greater input by the Member Nations on its allocation and distribution. It should furthermore be allocated in such a manner that the recipients can incorporate the resources within their overall development strategy.

The UNDP resources should remain the exclusive responsibility of the governments of recipient countries, responding favourably to requests for meeting the most urgent and critical needs of each developing country, while taking into account the importance of reaching the poorest and the most vulnerable sections of their societies and in enhancing the quality of their life.

Technical co-operation for that matter should be seen in terms of output and the results achieved rather than in terms of inputs; and where possible, appropriate equipment and material resources should be provided under a more liberal policy towards local cost financing and in the requirement for counterpart personnel.

The programmes should increasingly entrust the governments and institutions of the recipient countries with the responsibility for executing projects. Where the projects are agency executed then the use of national project coordinators and national project professional staff should be preferred. This would have the advantage of greater cost effectiveness, easier collaboration with the national institutions and easier communication with the target group as well as better understanding of local situations and social attitudes.

Mr Chairman, one area to which my delegation attaches great importance is the code of conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides. We appeal once again for its application and respect.

Mr Chairman, I wish now to say a few words about agriculture in Kenya.

We in Kenya believe that no meaningful development can take place in any country where there is no good leadership, peace and stability. In this regard, we owe immense gratitude to our president, His Excellency Honourable Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi, for his wise leadership.

Kenya emphasises family farm units in order to achieve the objectives set in the policy guidelines on food security and economic management.

The policy setting tries to balance the need for increasing food production for self-sufficiency, while ensuring that the high value commodities which earn the much needed foreign exchange are encouraged.

The Land Use Policy lays emphasis on productivity per unit area, production techniques, high input use, efficient extension services, supported by applied and basic research and better marketing channels.

A mechanism has been established to monitor the national crop and food situation in order to ensure that adequate food supplies are available throughout the country; and we are building our storage capacity and handling facilities to ensure that a national reserve is maintained at all times.

These efforts inevitably call for large capital infusion, for which we are seeking international assistance.

The Kenya Government, Mr Chairman, supports regional co-operation as demonstrated by our participation in the preferential trade area and in the inter-governmental authority on drought and desertification.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I would like to reiterate the critical importance of political stability, peace and unity of purpose in all human endeavours. In Kenya, we have the "harambee" spirit which has become the prime mover in mobilizing our resources for economic development and social justice under the able leadership of our president.

Sheikh Ibrahim Dauje AL-SABAH (Kuwait)(original language Arabic): In the name of God the Almighty, Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to extend to you my personal congratulations for your election to chair this Conference. I wish also to extend the congratulations of my country, and I am fully confident that you will steer its activities with the efficiency and wisdom you are so well known to possess. Your election to chair this Conference is, no doubt, an evidence of the appreciation of the Member States of the efforts of the State of Kuwait to consolidate international cooperation.

I take pleasure, in seizing this opportunity, to extend my sincere congratulations to the Director-General on his re-election for another term of office. I would like to make special mention of the important role played by the Organization, under his management, and of the great achievements realized in the interest of the greater part of the world community during that period.

Despite the great achievements realized and the relentless efforts exerted by the Organization to this day to alleviate the problems of food shortage, malnutrition and famine, large portions of the world are still suffering the scourges of famine. It is therefore inevitable that resources are mobilized and cooperation intensified, at the international level, in order to help developing countries overcome their difficulties related to the development of their agricultural sectors.

There is no alternative but to strive tirelessly to provide the basic food needs for various countries and regions particularly African (Sub-Saharan) countries which are now facing an economic crisis that calls for urgent action.

We feel that the Organization which has made such enormous contributions to the solution of many problems related to food and agriculture, has still an important role to play in order to enable developing countries to make optimum use of their resources, particularly in the adoption of technologies suited to their economic and social conditions.

In view of what the Organization has done in order to achieve its objectives and in view of its technical potential, we believe that the Organization is able to help countries to develop their agricultural policies and to set priorities under changing circumstances in order to enhance the efficacy of the activities of the Organization and to raise productivity. Therefore there is a need for close cooperation among all Member States and the Organization in order to achieve these objectives.

There is also a need to obtain the necessary funds to enable the Organization to play its part, especially in the coming period which will be a period that will require intensified efforts to combat hunger and poverty.

I should like to mention here the development aid that is extended by the State of Kuwait to many developing countries in several sectors, including the agricultural sector. This aid still exceeds by far the levels set by the United Nations. We call therefore on the industrialized countries to increase development aid, for this step would help developing countries to overcome the crises they are facing, and would enable them also to finance their projects that deserve priority.

Mr Chairman, Kuwait, despite the rarity of natural resources needed for agricultural development reform, has spared no effort in this respect to enable it to contribute more fully to food security.

Since fish resources are a major source of protein, Kuwait is developing its fisheries. Water and sea surveys are being carried out at present. The fishing fleet is being developed, and work is being done on legislation to protect fishing resources and to encourage Kuwaiti fishermen. In addition, a plan to expand palm tree plantations has been set in motion despite the unfavourable climatic conditions, the salinity of the soil and the rarity of rainfall.

We attach great importance to agricultural development. However, it requires technical assistance in order to raise productivity. This is in keeping with the policy of the State of Kuwait, under the leadership of His Highness the Emir of Kuwait. This is a policy which aims at higher food production in order to cover a larger share of our consumption through close cooperation between the public and private sectors. Kuwait is not unaware of the effect of coordination and cooperation among countries on the status of food security. A high level of food security is what all people aspire to.

Christopher PATTEN (United Kingdom): I am pleased to be able to address this Conference today as Britain's Minister for Overseas Development.

In the last few years no issue has roused the world to louder argument, greater compassion, or more generous action, than how to relieve and prevent starvation. In Britain, the African catastrophe of 1984 and 1985 stirred up a wide new constituency, both young and old, concerned with development. People are more aware of the problem; they want to know how it can be solved; and they want to do something about it themselves. Most of all, they want our governments, and the institutions we support, to act fast and effectively on their behalf.

This wider concern stems from almost instant, if selective, access to events through the vast spread of television, - and from ability to respond personally through electronic channels to the challenge. We saw both in the spectacular fund-raising success of Band-Aid which followed the horrifying news reports from the Sahel.

It would be nice to think that this Conference might arouse the same kind of attention among ordinary people. It could perhaps do so, if what happens here is seen as directly confronting the problem of hunger.

In fact, the agricultural story in developing countries is far from being a failure. For more than 40 years FAO and other donor institutions have worked hard with member governments to bring about a greater command for individual men and women over their environment. The spread of irrigated farming, the development of new high-yielding strains which created the Green Revolution, the upgrading of livestock, and the improved exploitation of fish and forests - all witness to what has been achieved.

But these successes have brought their own problems. Salination in many areas threatens to outpace new irrigation. The search for new crop strains is far behind for many staples, and concentrates on very few species. Increases in livestock and associated cultivation risk degrading marginal land, and so a return to square one.

Our ability to exploit forests and fish has outpaced our wisdom to conserve them: we are making the wealth of nature increasingly scarce for our children, and their children's children.

The Brundtland Report sets new challenges and standards for sustainable development. All countries have responsibilities here; but especially those who receive and who give aid. We are challenged to reflect environmental concerns throughout our activities, in a way which enhances, rather than hinders, development.

On the surface, the agricultural scene since the last FAO Conference is not too discouraging. In Latin America, agricultural production and exports have grown strongly despite the 1986 drought. This has brought some relief to those facing the most serious payments difficulties. But there are problems, too. There is, for example, justifiable public concern about what will happen if the continent's vast forests continue to be ruthlessly exploited without regard to the ecological and economic consequences.

In Asia, the great progress made over recent years was widely sustained in 1986, despite falls in tea, jute and cotton production. Here again, there are environmental warning lights which we must heed. But we can also see that India and Bangladesh are even now confronting very serious natural disasters much more successfully than they could have done a decade ago.

In Africa there have been striking advances in many countries, encouraged by important policy changes, but still precarious because of dependence on the weather.

Nevertheless, despite the progress undoubtedly made, the harsh truth is that in every region millions are still near the borderline of starvation, and that the underlying peril is worst in Africa. I believe that there are three main reasons.

First come the uncertainties of the world's climate. Its fuller understanding and prediction may be the major challenge of the 21st century. Its impact on the vast swathe of farmers and pastoralists who depend year by year on rain at the right time is only too clear from FAO's regular reports.

In parts of Africa, rainfall has declined over the last 25 years, as global ocean surface temperatures have changed. There are admittedly areas where rainfall still favours agriculture. But here topography, too, often imposes poorer, acid soils. While these cannot be continuously cultivated, a growing population is forced to attempt the task. More and more people are moving into semi-arid areas. But sustainable farming systems for their improvement have still to be found. Since we cannot change the physical factors, there is clearly a crying need for a better understanding of the social, economic and physical forces which must be harnessed if development is to be sustained. This must then be matched by practical technological advances, if countries so dependent on rain-fed agriculture are to meet the challenge of maintaining social stability into the next century.

Second, there are the external constraints imposed all too often by the policies of the industrial nations and the more advanced developing countries. Agricultural protectionism deliberately robs more efficient producers, often in poorer countries, of their comparative advantage and their chance to earn a living.

Subsidies not only overload our own budgets and create food mountains, but also rob those same poorer producers of their export markets in other countries. Food aid still all too often means dumping surpluses under the cloak of charity; inducing dependence on imports which the recipient cannot then afford to buy; and undermining markets for voiceless peasant farmers in the growing towns and cities of their own countries.

This is why we in Britain are so anxious that the GATT Uruguay Round, to which the Kenyan Minister has referred, on agriculture must succeed. This is why we have made it one of our chief aims to

tame the tiger in own own back yard, along with our European Community partners. This is why we have already worked successfully to achieve major reforms in the Community's own food aid. Unless we live up to our own responsibilities we have small right to prescribe to others.

The third group of factors lies within developing countries' own control. I class these chiefly as policies, resource choices and institutions.

"Policies" include setting a macro-economic climate which makes it worthwhile for small farmers to invest more effort and take greater risks- a realistic exchange rate; the offer of prices which reflect export receipts or import costs; freedom from bureaucratic and often grossly inefficient restrictions on marketing. They include difficult social changes such as land tenure rules which take full account of custom, but provide security and incentives for both production and conservation.

"Resource Choices" means steering what is available, often in a reduced budget, away from inefficient State business and unproductive sectors, and towards supporting agriculture and those basic social services that will encourage change and create human capital in the countryside.

By "Institutions" I mean giving priority to reviving agricultural research and farm support services of all kinds, in such a way as to identify and answer the problems that rural people know they have - not those that the authorities think they have. This means giving people an effective voice in their own development and paying much closer attention to management and to efficiency in all these services.

There are encouraging signs that these lessons are rapidly spreading, especially in Africa. Many governments have taken very courageous and difficult steps to try to put things right. These steps would often be hard for the most advanced countries, with the most sophisticated administrations. Structural change is painful. For many it will be a long haul. Yet it must succeed if there is to be any longer-term hope. The whole international community must face up to this challenge -especially the donor nations and institutions.

We ourselves are doing what we can. Last year alone Britain provided about £550 million of aid to Africa, directly and through multilateral channels. Nearly £70 million of our directed aid went to projects for renewable natural resources. This year we intend to spend well over £20 million on research alone, to provide better crops and agricultural practices. We still continue our very large technical cooperation programme in agriculture.

In confronting these issues FAO is itself in a unique position. We have a right to expect much from it. It supplies less than 2 per cent of the world's aid to agriculture and food production. But that 2 per cent is largely in brain power, which ought to have a far wider impact. It has some unparalleled comparative advantages. These should be reflected in its choice of priorities.

For instance the global information and early warning system has been improved. It has now alerted us all to the risk of a new famine in Ethiopia - in time, I believe, to allow the world to help prevent it.

FAO's other main priorities should be global and continental predictions on land capacity; regional pest control and water management; land tenure; the development of rain-fed agriculture; identifying subjects for priority research; the food hygiene work covered by the Codex Alimentarius; collecting relevant statistics, and improving statistical services for agriculture in developing countries.

But FAO must face up to two vital tasks.

The first is carefully thought out and enthusiastic cooperation with other international agencies and donors, without encroachment into activities which they, or the private sector, can do much better. FAO has begun to coordinate implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan in exactly the right way. But unfortunately not all its work follows this excellent example.

The second area is policy advice. FAO needs to play a more effective part in helping to determine the new agricultural priorities of countries facing adjustment within a single reform strategy supported by all donors. This means bringing major policy advice right down to individual country level.

FAO should be helping the World Bank to prepare the agricultural side of the country strategies which its members adopt to achieve adjustment with growth. FAO should then harness all the instruments in its field programme to provide technical follow-up, in coordination with UNDP and all other donors. This country focus is now lacking. So the opportunities for more effective FAO influence are not being consistently grasped.

It is time in my judgement to re-examine whether FAO could be better organized to achieve its aims in the most effective and efficient way. After over 40 years it is not surprising that such an examination is needed, especially when profound changes are going on in its beneficiary members. This challenge was-raised at the last Conference, not least by its distinguished Chairman. Since then, disappointingly, FAO management itself has failed to respond to it. Many Member States, too, have still to see the implications for FAO of what they are actually doing themselves back home.

But radical rethinking is now spreading right across the UN system. It cannot be stopped at the Baths of Caracalla. This Conference should now rise to that challenge and approve proposals that will take FAO to reconstruction and a more positive and central role in the 21st century. Failure to act means consigning FAO first to the periphery, and finally to the fate of the dinosaur - an over-large beast which became irrelevant in a changing environment.

Britain therefore stongly supports the Nordic proposal that the Conference should launch a high level independent study, associated with a professional management review. I want the Conference to know how strongly we feel about that issue. We hope this will lead to a much stronger country focus, and a clearer identification of priorities in the budget and the programme of work. We also want continuing access for all members to evidence that what we all provide gives the Organisation full value for money. We want management and manpower structures and procedures overhauled, to improve service delivery, raise staff morale and make financial efficiency transparent. These are constructive ideas. We press them with even greater conviction because we ourselves - like so many others here - have been through the same process. It can be uncomfortable; it is always challenging; but we know that it works.

FAO also faces financial problems caused by the late payment of subscriptions. These must be made good. But for many countries, especially the poorer Members, their subscriptions are clearly a growing burden. The budget put to this Conference, together with proposals for extra assessments for working capital and special reserves, asks us all to find over \$510 million, as against \$427. million these last two years.

The case for so large an increase is far from convincing, when so many Members have to cut back what they spend at home. Other international agencies are making much more determined attempts to live within their means. FAO should do exactly the same.

My vision for FAO, however, is not based on a concern to save candle-ends. I see, rather, an FAO which better fulfils the humanitarian zeal of its founders. The world needs an FAO which is increasingly respected, not just - as now -for its professionalism and the depth of its analysis, but for guiding its Members, with clear advice and energetic support, through the difficult maze of policy choice and social and institutional change. We need an FAO which sets an example, by its impact on the ground, by the leanness and strength of its management, and by the enthusiasm of its cooperation with others. We need an FAO which combines the ability to keep track of global trends, the capacity to lead the fight against famine and pest, and the inspiration to find detailed solutions to farmer's problems. Finally, we need an FAO whose name calls forth instant recognition and gratitude among those to whom its work has brought both harvest and hope.

FAO was founded because nations realised that we must act today to feed the hungry of tomorrow. The responsibility for tomorrow's hungry rests with this Conference. FAO was born of a dream: it is time for that dream to be rekindled.

Sr. Jaime WHEELOCK ROMAN (Nicaragua): Señor Presidente, señores Ministros y Jefes de delegación, señores observadores, señoras y señores:

En primer lugar, nos congratulamos por la acertada elección de su excelencia el Ministro de Kuwait, Sr. Al-Khaled, para que presidiera nuestra XXIV Conferencia.

Permítanme también saludar con entusiasmo la elección del Dr. Edouard Saouma y expresarle a esta Asamblea que debemos felicitarnos por haber acertado los Ministros de Agricultura del mundo en confirmar, con la elección del señor Director General, la ratificación de los principios y políticas que rigen a este organismo multilateral, que ha servido fundamentalmente a los países en vías de desarrollo, a los países más pobres de la humanidad. Estamos seguros de que el Sr. Saouma continuará el mandato general de esta Asamblea, de canalizar la cooperación solidaria multilateral de las naciones desarrolladas hacia la solución de los países que demandan más ayuda y cooperación.

Nicaragua está situada en el centro del istmo centroamericano, constituido por seis naciones entre las más pobres del continente americano. Con 500 000 km², casi treinta millones de habitantes, Centro América se ha caracterizado por su economía agrocomercial altamente dependiente, por su atraso económico y por profundos contrastes sociales; tan extremos, que la gran mayoría de la población, tradicionalmente rural, vive en la miseria, no tiene tierras, padece de altas tasas de mortalidad infantil y analfabetismo. En contraste, una minoría privilegiada, como en el caso de Nicaragua, tenía monopolizadas más del 50 por ciento de las mejores y más productivas tierras.

La crisis centroamericana es una expresión de ese potencial explosivo que atiza con desesperación un pueblo marginado y hambriento. Ese es precisamente uno de los factores originales más hondos del conflicto.

Pero Centro América también-y, dentro de ella, Nicaragua-ha sido víctima de intereses geopolíticos de dominación extranjera que, ya sea por el control de su envidiable posición geográfica o por sus riquezas naturales, ha sufrido numerosas intervenciones militares foráneas y, sobre todo, la imposición de dictaduras brutales, como la que sufrimos los nicaragüenses por casi cincuenta años. Un modelo impuesto desde el exterior de sociedades tiranizadas y empobrecidas es el legado que tuvimos que sacudirnos los nicaragüenses en 1979.

Desde entonces, el Gobierno revolucionario de Nicaragua despunta, inaugurando en el área centroamericana un histórico e inédito proceso de cambios en la base económica y social, que se dirigió centralmente a atacar las injusticias que pesaban sobre el pueblo. En estos años, la reforma agraria ha beneficiado a 103 000 familias campesinas que constituyen el setenta por ciento de los pobres del campo; ha entregado gratuitamente a ellos el 40 por ciento de las tierras bajo cultivo; se ha alfabetizado al pueblo y se han desarrollado campañas de salud preventivas y curativas que, entre otras enfermedades, ha erradicado la poliomielitis.

Mientras tanto, las grandes mayorías de campesinos y trabajadores, así como la mujer, anteriormente marginadas, han sido dignamente reivindicadas y hoy constituyen masivas y sólidas organizaciones gremiales, que son la garantía y el instrumento de una formidable participación popular para todas las decisiones de trascendencia nacional, desde la formulación de las políticas económicas y sociales hasta la formulación de la propia constitución política de la nueva República.

Las bases injustas de aquellas sociedades que todavía son comunes en muchos de nuestros países se han venido modificando estructuralmente en Nicaragua, en un período relativamente acelerado. Nuestra idea central para el cambio radica en que es la justicia social la puerta de entrada al ámbito de una real democratización política de la sociedad. Donde no hay democracia económica no puede conseguirse una genuina libertad política.

A partir de 1981, sin embargo, como en otras épocas de su prolongada lucha por la soberanía y la independencia, vuelve nuestra nación a ser agredida por una nación poderosa. Hoy sufrimos casi siete años de guerra destructiva dentro de nuestro territorio, que ha ocasionado 43 000 víctimas y 2 800 millones de dólares en pérdidas; 270 000 habitantes de zonas rurales han sido desplazados por este conflicto; hemos sufrido daños severos en la infraestructura productiva, en las cosechas, así como un deterioro grave del hato ganadero nacional.

Estos, entre otros, son los efectos de una guerra injusta y cruel sobre un pequeño país de apenas 3,5 millones de habitantes; guerra causada por aquellos que, despreciando los exhortos de paz de Nicaragua y de todos los pueblos y gobiernos del mundo, continúan violando los principios esenciales de no-agresión, de no-injerencia, de respeto y autodeterminación de los países, que constituyen los fundamentos que rigen la convivencia internacional.

En medio de la agresión, y dando respuestas a las reivindicaciones históricas de orden social más sentidas, el Gobierno revolucionario, paralelamente, ha enrumado al país hacia un inequívoco y esencial curso de democratización política: .

Primero en 1979 cambiamos una tiranía política dinástica de cincuenta años, legalizando inmediatamente todos los partidos políticos.

Segundo: en 1984 convocamos al pueblo a celebrar elecciones generales, con voto secreto y directo para escoger Presidente y Vicepresidente de la República, lo mismo que a los miembros del Parlamento nacional.

Tercero: en 1986 sancionamos, con la participación de toda la ciudadanía y el consenso de seis partidos de oposición, la constitución política de Nicaragua, primera Carta en nuestra historia republicana que consigna el pluralismo político, la economía mixta, que asegura el acceso a la propiedad por parte de todos los ciudadanos, lo mismo que del Estado, las asociaciones cooperativas y las empresas extranjeras, incluyendo cuarenta de capital norteamericano que operan normalmente en nuestro país. El principio de no alineamiento también lo consignamos en nuestra Constitución, entendido como el derecho soberano de nuestro país a apoyar, sin dependencia extranjera, las causas justas por las que lucha la humanidad, sobre todo los pueblos oprimidos, explotados y marginados por causa de su color o su credo, y por los que todavía en el Medio Oriente y en Africa, conservando una identidad nacional, carecen aún de un territorio en el mundo para completar su derecho a tener patria.

Nicaragua impulsa un esquema de desarrollo socioeconómico basado en un adecuado equilibrio entre justicia social y democracia participativa que respeta plenamente el derecho político de las minorías y su oposición constitucional a disentir. Nicaragua tiene un objetivo central en su estrategia económica que es la consecución de la autosuficiencia alimentaria como prioridad de corto plazo, mientras se transforma, en el mediano plazo, la obsoleta estructura dependiente de exportación de nuestras materias primas, por una estrategia inversionista basada esencialmente en la extracción racional y transformación industrial de nuestros recursos naturales: pesca, madera, minas y productos agropecuarios.

Nicaragua no amenaza a nadie más que al hambre, a la opresión y a la dependencia. Como lo afirmó recientemente el Presidente Daniel Ortega "Nicaragua nunca representará, ni ha representado amenaza a los intereses de seguridad de los Estados Unidos ni de ningún país ...", al contrario, al crear un modelo de desarrollo basado en la solución a los problemas gravísimos de las grandes mayorías, se están construyendo las bases de un auténtico proceso democrático que con un progreso económico proporciona la estabilidad social que es precisamente lo que hoy es la causa de inestabilidad y crisis en muchos países del área centroamericana.

Queremos aprovechar esta oportunidad que se nos brinda para exhortar a nuestro vecino del Norte e invitarlo precisamente a que juntos podamos reunirnos en esta tarea de reconstrucción nacional y social que hemos emprendido en Nicaragua. Esto es posible. Más bien es necesario. Mejor todavía: ¡vital para el futuro de todos!

América Latina progresa, madura y construye con vocación propia sus instituciones democráticas y Nicaragua necesita tiempo, comprensión, apoyo y sobre todo respeto. ¡Apenas nuestra joven democracia comienza !

Recientemente, los Presidentes centroamericanos han concertado el acuerdo de Esquipulas, comprendiendo con visión de profundidad la importancia de concertar la paz indispensable para afrontar los graves problemas de una herencia prolongada de pobreza y marginalidad, traslapada esta pobreza y marginalidad ahora por la crisis económica que ha revertido según datos de la CEPAL las economías centroamericanas a los niveles de 1970.

Nicaragua en esta ocasión ha dado pasos concretos para honrar sus compromisos, aún cuando arrecia la voluntad externa de destruirla militar y económicamente. En medio de un adverso clima de hostilidades y peligros, estamos cumpliendo con la paz.

El 7 de noviembre recién pasado en la Sede de la OEA, la comisión internacional de verificación y seguimiento para establecer la paz firme y duradera en Centroamérica, integrado por 13 ministros de relaciones exteriores de América Latina, por los secretarios generales de la ONU y la OEA, realizaron una primera evaluación del cumplimiento de los acuerdos de paz que entraron a regir simultáneamente este 5 de noviembre pasado, es decir a los 90 días de firmado el acuerdo histórico de Esquipulas. Se constató efectivamente que Nicaragua había cumplido en sustancia todos los pasos:

- 1 Integración de comisiones nacionales de reconciliación
- 2 Establecimiento del diálogo con la oposición política interna
- 3 Emisión de decretos de indultos y amnistía amplia
- 4 Acciones para concertar el fuego con fuerzas irregulares por medio de emisarios
- 5 Levantamiento de limitaciones a los medios de prensa aún en la situación de guerra
- 6 Firma del tratado constitutivo del Parlamento Centroamericano
- 7 Impulso al proceso de repatriación voluntaria de refugiados
- 8 Declaración de impedir el uso de su territorio para agredir otros Estados

Sin embargo, el llamado de los Gobiernos de Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala y Nicaragua a que cese el apoyo externo a las fuerzas mercenarias que operan desde territorios fronterizos no ha sido recogido por el Gobierno que continúa financiando entrenando y dirigiendo esos grupos mercenarios, la política agresiva y continua obstaculizando y de hecho sabotando los esfuerzos de paz de los cinco Presidentes centroamericanos.

Debe respetarse el acuerdo soberano de los 5 gobiernos y hoy exhortamos, demandamos y exigimos que cese la agresión y que se respete y se deje en paz a Nicaragua.

Señor Presidente: un programa de paz es indispensable para afrontar los problemas de desarrollo. Sin paz no puede haber desarrollo pero correspondientemente, sin desterrar el atraso y la pobreza, es decir, sin verdadero desarrollo, no puede conseguirse una paz estable y duradera.

Para apoyar nuestros esfuerzos de paz es indispensable que los países desarrollados, los organismos multilaterales, toda la Comunidad internacional debe levantar concomitantemente un programa de ayuda y cooperación especial para Centroamérica el cual debe contemplar y abordar los siguientes seis puntos:

- 1 La condonación de la deuda externa de todos los países centroamericanos
- 2 El establecimiento de un programa para el financiamiento de proyectos de riego, infraestructura y mecanización para impulsar la producción de alimentos
- 3 El otorgamiento extraordinario de un trato preferencial a las exportaciones agropecuarias y manufactureras de los países centroamericanos
- 4 El establecimiento de un programa integral de créditos y de inversiones extranjeras para fomentar el desarrollo agroindustrial y promover nuevas formas de complementariedad que viabilicen y dinamicen el comercio de Centroamérica con el del mundo
- 5 Establecimiento de una acción multilateral y bilateral para socorrer a los miles de campesinos: productores agropecuarios y población en general afectados por la guerra que carecen hoy de medios de trabajo, techo, semillas e incluso alimentos y medicinas para subsistir, y
- 6 Finalmente el fortalecimiento y ampliación de los programas y acciones de asistencia técnica y cooperación, cuyo valor ha sido significativo durante estos últimos años.

Señor Presidente:

Queremos aprovechar la oportunidad para augurarle a usted, a todas las delegaciones asistentes, al personal de FAO y particularmente al Dr. Saouma, Director General, el éxito de esta Conferencia.

En los últimos años la FAO ha ganado prestigio, eficiencia y fuerza en su lucha contra el hambre y la desnutrición en el mundo.

Consideramos que su estrategia, sus objetivos y estructuras continúan vigentes. La FAO es un instrumento multilateral de cooperación al desarrollo y de asistencia emergente por desastres en los países de mayor vulnerabilidad. Ya para finalizar Presidente, Nicaragua está convencida de que los

problemas globales del hambre, de la pobreza y del subdesarrollo, sólo pueden ser resueltos con el establecimiento de un verdadero orden económico internacional más justo y más equitativo que modifique, en favor de los países en vías de desarrollo, el desequilibrio en el intercambio comercial, causa de la deuda externa; que modifique el proteccionismo y la política de subsidios; y que nos permita recibir un flujo adecuado y sostenido de recursos financieros y técnicos.

Cualquier propuesta de cambios en la FAO debe coincidir con el establecimiento e implementación de este nuevo orden.

Estamos de acuerdo con que siempre debemos estar abiertos a los cambios. Sin embargo, creemos que mientras no se modifique sustancialmente el orden injusto internacional que nos golpea hoy, y se continúen utilizando los alimentos como arma de presión política, tal como ha ocurrido en Nicaragua, y ahora recientemente contra Panamá, tenemos que conservar, consolidar y fortalecer la FAO, que hoy contribuye, en medio de las grandes desigualdades del mundo, en asistir en forma multilateral a las naciones pobres de la Tierra.

Leo Hertog, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair

Leo Hertog, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia, Leo Hertog, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Tome KUZMANOVSKI (Yugoslavia): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

It is indeed my pleasure, on behalf of the Yugoslav Government and in my own name, to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election. May I kindly request you, Mr Chairman, to convey our congratulations to all high officials of the Conference.

I do not need to cast many words to praise the collective wisdom of this Conference in re-electing Dr Edouard Saouma as the Director-General of our Organization. Dr Edouard Saouma has earned our unreserved confidence through his unmatched dedication to the noble cause of this Organization; his abundantly proven capacity to face complex and frequently difficult challenges with objectivity and courage, and his impressive working energy. Such outstanding qualities are, today, needed more than ever before.

In today's world, agriculture cannot but share the fate of the overall socio-economic environment. This decade has opened with a grave global recession which has provoked the sudden reversal in resource flows, thus causing an unprecedented and deepening debt crisis in most of the developing countries. The recession has evolved into well-known evils: slow growth, progressive monetary instability, deepening trade imbalances, souring protectionism - especially fierce in agricultural markets. Indeed, Mr Chairman, it is difficult to imagine a worse external scenario for the developing countries. Furthermore, there has been no real attempt on the part of the big economic powers to face the serious structural problems of the global economy. The lukewarm, palliative measures undertaken to date are by far inadequate, in particular, with relation to the unsustainable debt crisis.

The process of economic restructuring imposed too schematically and with obvious disregard both to internal circumstances and to the enormously hostile and deteriorating external environment, could not but lead to stagnancy in economic growth, galloping inflation and worsening of living conditions. This is the glaring visible picture in a large part of the developing world, most particularly in Africa and Latin America. Could it possibly be argued that this situation is sustainable? No, Mr Chairman, the global economy cannot be revitalized without sustained growth in the developing world.

Agricultural sectors of the developing countries have fared surprisingly well, despite the tempests of the 1970's and the 1980's. The record is, however, unfortunately very uneven. Negative per capita food production in Africa and in the least developed countries, in general, is continuing. The number of those suffering from chronic hunger is, at best, stagnant. Indeed, it is paradoxical that millions and millions of hungry people exist in a world flooded with commercial food surpluses.

In many respects, the present food situation is disquieting. Again, Ethiopia is facing a major food crisis. The food situation is reaching critical proportions in Mozambique and Angola, mostly as a result of foreign aggression. Bad weather has revisited the Sahel and parts of West Africa. A late and erratic monsoon is affecting production in Asia.

Mr Chairman, the progress reports on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, on International Agricultural Adjustment and the study, *Agriculture: Towards 2000*, make it possible to view the set of closely interrelated problems and issues from different angles. The conclusion emanating from the documents is that despite progress in production, the targeted objectives have not been achieved.

The fact is, Mr Chairman, that most developing countries attach increasing importance to agriculture in their efforts aimed at general socio-economic development and have allocated more resources to agricultural production and to the social components of rural development. However, these actions have been considerably weakened by the crisis in development at large, the restructuring which has been imposed, the external debt burden, and the unfavourable terms of trade.

There is well-founded concern that crises in global economy can have far-reaching negative effects on the agricultural development of many developing countries during the next decade, especially in the social field. Far more consideration should be given to the fact that there is a limit to which one can go, in terms of restructuring, which has already been reached in many cases, which can be to the detriment of the most vulnerable strata of the population. The social milieu of the rural areas has not shown any substantial change, as the status of the rural population remains unequal in every respect, particularly that of women. The fact that the status of women in rural areas has been dealt with in an action-oriented manner is noteworthy.

Improvements in nutrition in general, and amongst the needy in particular, are being made very slowly. There are still many palliative programmes for the poorest, but they have not had a major effect due to the slowdown in the overall socio-economic development of the developing countries.

Some progress has been made in world food security - spontaneously rather than as a result of a concerted effort. There has been an increase in food aid during this decade as a result of the vast and growing reserves in the developed part of the world and the food crisis in Africa at the beginning of the decade. However, the development potential of developing countries, including that for agriculture, has been on the decline over the past years which, coupled with persisting general unfavourable developments, is a trend which causes concern.

We welcome the main recommendation of the feasibility study on Aid-in-Kind for Africa in agricultural inputs, as an indispensable instrument for revitalization and further growth of agricultural production of this continent. It has been shown, persuasively, that without an increased and stable use of inputs, the tendencies prevailing in food production cannot be reversed, nor can the resources of Africa be sustained.

Mr Chairman, may I briefly refer to Yugoslavia's post-war agricultural development and the actual problems related thereto.

With an average growth of production of nearly 3%, and a per capita production growth of approximately 2%, Yugoslav agriculture gradually managed to eliminate the pronounced deficit in supply, which was a problem in the fifties and early sixties. Since the production exceeded domestic demand, exports amounting to about 10% of the final annual agricultural production were relatively stabilized.

However, in spite of the accelerated growth of agricultural production, the economic position of Yugoslav agriculture has seriously been deteriorating over the past few years. Economic difficulties, caused to a large extent by global recession, a high debt servicing ratio and a high rate of inflation at home, impede the sale of our agricultural produce in the world market. Domestic prices of agricultural products have registered a dynamic rate of growth due to the increase of input prices and very high rates of interest.

A policy of growing production and exports offers realistic economic prospects for Yugoslav agriculture. However, our major problems are on the export side. Our exports encounter increasing protectionism, with the highly subsidized agriculture of the developed countries. Nevertheless, Yugoslavia has always been and remains to be both an exporter and importer of agro-products. Therefore the basic postulate for the future development of Yugoslavia's agriculture is to strive for a further increase in production and to maintain its competitiveness both in domestic and foreign markets.

In the international field, my country, within the scope of its capacities, directs its efforts towards more intensive development of agriculture in developing countries through extending economic and humanitarian aid, both at bilateral and multilateral levels.

Against this background, Mr Chairman, my delegation believes that the necessity to further liberalize trade in agricultural produce and reduce protectionism in the developed part of the world should be incorporated in the official documents of this session, as well as the need to alleviate the debt burden of developing countries, since these are the basic premises for new advances and further prosperity in world economy.

The medium to long-term for agriculture and food in the world, particularly its social aspects, hardly give any encouragement in the current unfavourable general international conditions.

Among so many outstanding issues, this Conference is also facing the so-called reform process in FAO. Indeed, Mr Chairman, one could not but ask the question why have some countries recently started voicing concerns over the wide range of FAO's work? Such a question seems legitimate since we are not aware of any indication or evidence that the Organization is suffering from any major deficiency.

Mr Chairman, a renewed sense of consensus in relation to all the basic aspects of FAO's orientation and work is imperative. However, this objective can only be achieved through a constructive debate, a debate based on facts and evidence, and free from purely political pre-conceptions and pressures. Therefore, Mr Chairman, may I appeal for objectivity and fairness, for an atmosphere of tolerance and conciliation, and for a sincere and collective effort towards a renewed consensus. All this has to be done through the existing bodies and with the full involvement and cooperation of the Secretariat.

As for the Programme of Work and Budget, our judgement is based on the merits of the programmes rather than on any preconceived budgetary theory. The budgetary restraint is now almost a universal phenomenon and FAO could not but follow the same pattern, despite the increasing demands for its services. -The proposed budget is in line with this principle and thus merits general support. Let me add that this delegation is generally in agreement with the medium-term objectives and priority setting. We welcome further persistent shifts in resources from administration and general support towards substantive programmes.

As a member of the UN family, FAO is facing a serious and worsening liquidity crisis which is, in fact, under prevailing circumstances, transformed into an equally serious financial crisis. However, it has nothing to do with the orientation and efficiency of FAO. We highly regret all this.

Mr Chairman, this Conference is far from being a routine one. In conclusion, may I note with satisfaction that from most of the Plenary speeches it has transpired that there is both concern and goodwill for the future of our Organization. I welcome, in particular, the statement of Italy, which opened the debate, and which set a tone and spirit which we hope will ultimately prevail in the interest of us all and, most particularly, in the interests of all those millions still suffering.

Jean-Jaques NOREAU (Canada): Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Distingués délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, je me joins aux orateurs qui m'ont précédé et j'offre à Monsieur Saouma nos félicitations pour sa réélection à un troisième mandat de six ans au poste de Directeur général. J'en profite aussi pour féliciter Monsieur Mensah pour la vigoureuse campagne qu'il a menée, et les idéaux qu'il a mis en avant.

Je saisis cette occasion pour vous réitérer que toutes les recommandations que nous avons faites, et que nous continuerons de faire, ont pour seul but d'améliorer la performance de la FAO et sont soumises dans un esprit constructif. C'est maintenant le temps, croyons-nous, de nous tourner vers l'avenir et d'investir toutes nos énergies dans la solution des problèmes auxquels nous sommes confrontés.

Monsieur le Président, je serai bref, et je limiterai mes commentaires à deux sujets essentiels: d'une part la nécessité de poursuivre des réformes pour améliorer l'efficacité de notre Organisation, et d'autre part le défi qui confronte la communauté internationale sur le plan du commerce agricole.

Dans ses remarques d'ouverture, le Directeur général a exprimé son anxiété à l'égard de l'avenir, tout particulièrement la détérioration de la situation économique qui affecte tous nos pays et les répercussions malheureuses qui en découlent pour le système des Nations Unies.

Le Canada croit fermement que le mouvement de réforme, ou le mouvement d'adaptation aux nouveaux défis qui se retrouve ici comme dans d'autres organisations du système des Nations Unies ne risque pas d'affaiblir la FAO. Au contraire, l'objectif ultime de ces réformes est de renforcer la FAO, de façon à ce que l'Organisation soit mieux en mesure d'accomplir son mandat essentiel.

Monsieur le Directeur général aura, bien sûr, ses idées sur cette question; mais ce que nous recherchons, et souhaitons de tout coeur, est un échange de vues ouvert et constructif entre pays membres de l'Organisation. C'est à nous collectivement de discuter de la nécessité et de la nature des réformes appropriées pour notre Organisation.

Ceci dit, nous savons qu'il n'y a pas de solutions faciles pour les problèmes complexes auxquels la FAO doit maintenant faire face. Il est donc d'autant plus nécessaire d'arriver à un consensus le plus large possible sur les priorités et mécanismes de réforme, (continue en anglais) In the context of seeking that consensus, let me share with you the objectives which we would wish to see explored: we believe that we should all benefit from a greater clarity in the substance and process of priority setting; we believe that this organization should become a dynamic forum for the exchange of views on the problems that face world agriculture; we believe that our agency should be most appropriately organized to achieve the priority objectives that we establish; we believe that our council and committees should play a more effective role in governing the activities of our Secretariat and in allocating our limited resources; we believe that the FAO's daily management functions should be achieved with the benefit of the modern managerial concepts and tools that are now available to us; we believe that our programming process should more properly reflect the increasing need to lower costs while enhancing impact; and finally we believe that the FAO should assume its full responsibility as a cooperative and integral partner with the broader United Nations systems.

Mr. Chairman, while this may seem a daunting list, it should not be cause for insecurity. It is in our common interest, and it is our continuing responsibility to adjust our Organization to ensure that it best serves our shared goals.

Mr. Chairman, time is too short to take up too many issues of substance in these remarks, but there is one other issue which bears special mention, that subject is agricultural trade and the obscene paradox of over production of agricultural products on the one hand, and continuing hunger and malnutrition on the other. We very much welcome the supporting work that FAO has been doing in this area.

Canada has been a leader in keeping agriculture prominent in the current GATT round. We are pressing other nations to help us find solutions to agricultural problems and to implement change quickly.

Canada has put forward a proposal to GATT to work toward eliminating all trade-distorting subsidies and access barriers. The Cairns Group of agricultural exporters, to which Canada belongs, has also advanced a number of constructive proposals. Canada is among those nations urging liberalized trade on all, all fronts. We are part of the international community that has agreed on the need to reverse restrictive trade practices. We need to reform agricultural policies in order to strengthen the world trade system.

This position was reflected at Punta del Este at the OECD ministerial meeting, at the Venice summit, and in other fora. It was again put forward these past months at the Commonwealth meeting at the Francophone summit and at the Inter American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture which were all hosted by Canada.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, our delegation will be participating actively and constructively in the three commissions of this conference over the next few weeks. We should like to join wholeheartedly in seeking cooperative solutions to the many problems that face world agriculture, including those that fall most especially to FAO's attention. As the 4th largest contributor to the UN system, Canada can do no less.

Fotis G. POULIDES (Cyprus); Let me first express my sincere congratulations to you for your election to chair the present Session of the Conference. You have, no doubt, a difficult task before you, but I am sure that with your wisdom and patience and with the assistance of the elected Vice-Chairmen, whom I would also like to congratulate, you will be able to achieve your task successfully, and lead us to fruitful conclusions.

It is also my great pleasure to express on behalf of my Government and in my name, our heartfelt congratulations to Dr Edouard Saouma, for his re-election to the post of Director-General of FAO, and to wish him every success in his duties in the forthcoming term.

It is obvious that the overwhelming support the 24th Conference has given to him is not only a proof on how he has managed FAO over the last twelve years, in a world affected with natural and other disasters, seriously interrupting agricultural production, but it is evident that all the Regions of the world approve of his own programme over the next six years.

Finally, with such overwhelming support, he will be able to lead this Organization with his well-known dynamism and renewed vigor, in a period when in general international agencies are threatened by a process of growing weakening and the so needed multinational cooperation is weakened.

The changes he introduced to the operation of FAO during his service have been far reaching and have enabled the Organization to come closer to Member Nations.

The introduction of the Technical Cooperation Programme enabled the Organization to provide direct assistance to the developing countries for training or in cases of emergency.

The appointment of the FAO Country Representatives resulted in decentralisation of FAO's activities and brought the Organization into the member countries.

The operation of the Early Warning System has also enabled the Organization and Member Nations to foresee forthcoming calamities, and to provide the response in order to help endangered fellow human beings.

We are sure that he will continue to provide the Organization with new ideas, keeping up the action oriented policies of FAO and that he will achieve an even higher image to the one enjoyed presently which, undoubtedly, puts FAO ahead of all other UN Agencies.

Mr Chairman, the 11th of July 1987 was celebrated in the UN Headquarters as the day in which the population of the earth reached 5 billion. A few more million people have been added since then, most of them in the developing countries.

Production of foodstuffs on the other hand, is also increasing. World statistics speak of record levels of production on a global level. While this is a positive indication, persisting malnutrition and famine is also a characteristic of the present world situation. As has been said many times, we are observing a great paradox characterised by vast quantities of surplus food in developed regions and food deficit in most developing regions. It is obvious that the situation is far from satisfactory. If one attempts to analyse this situation, one will soon realise, that the problems associated with it are deeply rooted and complex in nature. But I believe that the major problems are the present economic situation and the trade environment.

Regarding the economic situation, it is accepted that the economic recovery of many developed countries achieved during the last years had little effect on developing countries. On the contrary, many developing countries are still facing critical economic difficulties. The debt servicing problem remains central to the economies of many developing nations but especially those in Latin America and Africa.

Depressed agricultural prices also result in reduced foreign exchange earnings for most of those countries. The result is easy to understand. If we speak about a food deficit country which is obliged to import basic foodstuffs, even at the low international prices prevailing at present the food security for its people is in jeopardy.

Foreign exchange shortage is also negatively affecting any effort for development, since the most

critical of the inputs of production, capital, is not available. This situation has therefore to be corrected and capital should again flow to developing countries if they are to come out of the difficulties they are now facing. We have noted and welcomed recent efforts in the international capital centres to either renegotiate loans to developing countries or find ways to secure new loans for them, but efforts should be intensified for results to be achieved.

Turning to trade problems, the situation again is far from satisfactory. Issues involved in international trade are highly complex and conflicting on many points. At the level of the individual country, policy formulation should aim at securing an acceptable income level for the farmers but at the same time to provide food to the consumers at reasonable prices. Exporters must be able to compete on international markets and importers must be certain of a regular flow of supplies. Any policy formulation must take into consideration all these factors and try to solve them all simultaneously.

It is true that decisions in one country or a group of countries affect others. Subsidisation of production or the introduction of trade barriers in one part of the world to help domestic producers or consumers will automatically result in difficulties somewhere else. There is much talk about liberalization of trade. What we see, unfortunately, is that protectionism is increased rather than eased. The fact that multilateral trade negotiations do take place is an indication that the international community is worried about the situation. Let me stress however, that the present trade environment results in a heavier burden placed on the developing countries. These countries mainly rely on their agricultural sector for any foreign exchange earnings and do not have other resources to subsidise agricultural production or exports. The opposite rather is the case, namely, that the agricultural sector is expected to provide surplus capital to be invested for industrial development. The competition therefore to which the agricultural produce of developing countries is exposed when competing with subsidised products from the industrialised countries is enormous, and the results in many cases are disastrous.

On the other hand, inefficient producers are sustained in developed countries, producing more and more to get the benefit of subsidized prices. The result is the production of surpluses which are being stocked so that they enter the international market with new subsidies. This is a purely inefficient use of resources from the international point of view.

It has been pointed out many times that FAO is not the responsible organization for trade negotiations, and that discussion on this issue should be left to the appropriate fora. Given the nature of the problem however, and its effect on food availability and security, I believe that it is the duty of the Conference at least to express its concern about the present trade environment and call on the appropriate bodies to try and find solutions to remedy the situation.

Allow me now, Mr Chairman, to make a few comments on the major items of the Agenda of the Conference, the Programme of Work and Budget and the subject of reform. Although this is not the occasion for a detailed examination of these items, I would like to point out some areas and aspects that we consider to be of particular importance.

We find the proposed Programme of Work to be in line with the basic purpose of FAO, of promoting food production and increasing food security. We are pleased with the selected priorities and I want to welcome the continuing efforts of the Director-General towards shifting resources from the administrative to the technical and economic programmes. The fact that among all the technical programmes only the TCP does not receive any increase is a cause for serious concern, but for the sake of unanimity we are prepared to accept it.

Regarding the level of the budget, let me point out that considering the pressing needs of the developing countries, the proposed slight real increase is, indeed, the minimum required.

A lot has been said about the need for the opening of four new FAO country representations, both positive and negative. I want to point out in this respect that we consider the role of the FAO representatives to be useful both for the Organization and the country in which they are posted. Their presence in the field brings the Organization closer to the Member Nations, and vice versa. We are in agreement with this proposal.

The falling financial resources available to our Organization is an area of great concern. This fall is attributed to many reasons, of which the most important is the withholding of payments to FAO. I believe that all of us should make all efforts to fulfill our responsibilities to the Organization, at the earliest possible, to enable FAO to implement its programme of work in full.

With reference to the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Objectives, let me welcome the assurance of the Director-General expressed in his statement to this Conference on Monday afternoon, regarding the openness of the Secretariat to any new ideas and initiatives.

Nobody can claim to be perfect, no matter how efficient one may be. Caution, however, has to prevail as to what changes we want to introduce to this Organization.

The basic goals and objectives of the Organization have to remain as they are and FAO should basically aim at the alleviation of hunger and malnutrition. We will have more to say on this matter when it is discussed in Commission II and thus I will not expand on this item now.

Before closing my statement I wish to express the hope that Dr Edouard Saouma with the full support of all Member States and the valuable help of FAO's staff, will succeed in realizing the full potential of this Organization in strengthening the spirit of unity and fulfilling its ideals, namely freeing men from hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

Idriss JAZAIRY (IFAD): First let me extend my condolences in the name of IFAD to the delegation of Niger on the death of President Seyni Kountche.

May I say how pleased I am to extend my congratulations to all the members who have been elected at this Conference and in particular to Minister Faisal Abdul Razzak Al-Khaled. I am also very pleased to extend congratulations to the Director-General of FAO on his re-election.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development is marking the 10th anniversary of its founding this year. During this period its goal has been towards the implementation of poverty alleviation schemes in more than 90 countries in the world.

In 1987, 25 loans totalling about \$170 million and about twenty technical assistance grants of more than \$10 million have been scheduled to be approved under the regular programme. At the same time, we are proceeding apace with the implementation of our special programme for Africa, and we have already extended six loans of \$50 million in mounting the finance which goes with it, which is about three times as high, and providing also about \$4 million in grants. These figures represent the way IFAD is adjusting its operations to accomplish more with less money, less than at any time in the past, in the context of shrinking agricultural resources. These resources were reduced by 5% in 1983 and by another 1% in 1984.

Development assistance to sub-Saharan African countries in particular has stagnated in real terms. There have been substantial shortfalls in the overall availability of external resources to support the external requirements of the African Recovery and Development Programme under the United Nations Programme of Action.

The need of smallholders - for example, traditional food crop development - have not attracted much support in the past from external assistance flows. The bias has been further sharpened by the diversion of resources towards export crops out of concern for external balances. I would hope that some of the savings that could result from what I hope will be a balanced reduction of subsidies on agricultural exports by industrialized countries could be gradually channelled towards an appreciable increase in international developments assistance to agriculture.

Be that as it may, IFAD's response to these shortfalls, has been to increase its efforts to mobilize additional resources from other external donors for the co-financing of IFAD-initiated projects. Co-financing for these projects rose from about US\$160 000 000 - those are the IFAD-initiated projects - in the first five years of IFAD's existence to about US\$525 000 000 in the last five years. In 1987 IFAD has even been able to mobilize more in terms of co-financing in support of the projects it had initiated itself. It was able to mobilize more than the amount which it itself contributed to its own projects. This co-financing also helps to attract other donors to the rural poverty alleviation process, encouraging them to do more of such financing on their own.

With the back-drop of these difficulties facing sub-Saharan African countries the Fund has further strengthened its resource mobilization outside the replenishment framework. Through its special programme for sub-Saharan African countries affected by drought and desertification, IFAD has succeeded in raising substantial resources which would not otherwise have been available in the context of its core resources of its traditional replenishments. These resources are being invested for the recovery of smallholder agriculture, particularly in the severely damaged food sub-sector. They are also being channelled in support of longer-term activities geared towards sustained growth in food crop production, through land and water conservation and institution building.

The Fund has been closing in on the target of US\$300 000 000 which was assigned for its campaign since we have been able to mobilize so far US\$230 000 000. A burst of additional effort can see us to the target's fulfillment in time for what will be our peak year of commitments under the programme in 1988. Already in 1986/87 the Fund has scheduled investments of over US\$100 000 000 in technical assistance grants. If the few industrialized countries which have yet to contribute to the special programme would consider doing so, and if those countries which had initially indicated their willingness to make further contributions, if such industrialized countries which have not yet participated decided to join, then I think that the objective of US\$300 000 000 could be very rapidly attained.

The Fund was the first international financial institution to announce its intention to cooperate with the Africa Fund of the Non-Aligned Movement in its rural development initiatives for the frontline states of Southern Africa. To this end, IFAD is prepared to devote up to US\$50 000 000 from its own resources to complement the Africa Fund Programme. In fact, I have pleasure in informing you that the Fund has already concluded negotiations for a joint operation in Mozambique with the Government of India's contribution to the Africa Fund.

Whilst taking special urgent measures to deal with the situation in sub-Saharan Africa involving special programme resources, the distribution of our core resources proper under the regular programme between regions has remained unchanged. This has permitted us to continue to fight increasing landlessness in Asia to combat the poverty of the marginalized Indian populations in Latin America and, in general, to get more deeply involved in the elimination of pockets in this region. It has also given us an opportunity to show how smallholders and agro-pastoralists in the arid and semi-arid regions of the Near East and North Africa can contribute to reversing the preoccupying increasing trend towards rising food deficits *in* this region.

In ten years, IFAD has made substantial progress in improving its resource use. However, international economic circumstances prevailing today, which affect in particular the developing countries, members of IFAD who are oil producers and who make a substantial contribution to the replenishment of its resources, these international conditions prevailing today are, of course, as you know, substantially different from those which prevailed at the time when IFAD was created. That is why the Governing Council of IFAD has decided to establish a high-level committee to review the future financial basis and structure of IFAD in order to assure future replenishment on a more stable and predictable basis. I have pleasure in informing you that this Committee has already achieved positive results in so far as in particular the industrialized countries have accepted the principle of matching in different ways contributions not only of oil producing developing countries of category II but also of those developing countries of category III. I take this opportunity to extend to you in the name of IFAD, to the Conference, to the Council of IFAD also, our warmest thanks for the support which you have expressed to us in the course of the process of the second replenishment, which very much contributed to increasing public awareness of the issues which were at stake and which fortunately we were able to solve.

It is extremely important that the Fund's resource availability is continuously assured so that it can respond appropriately to the increasing demands for assistance by its member recipient countries. Many of these countries are undergoing at present painful processes of structural adjustment. The budgetary constraints in these processes have further affected IFAD's target groups. Through its targetted efforts the Fund has succeeded in gaining increased recognition of the need to attenuate the harsh short-term impact which structural adjustment may have on the rural poor. To date, IFAD has funded four projects-- in Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe and Zambia-- which are specifically designed to cushion the shock of adjustment measures.

This has offered us an opportunity to develop a new kind of working relationship with the World Bank. I have, on the other hand, also sought to strengthen the Fund's cooperation with regional and sub-regional lending institutions based in the developing world. This facilitates a more intimate targetting of our beneficiaries and closer geographical links to their specific needs and circumstances. The number of cooperation arrangements with such institutions in the third world has increased by 70 percent between the first five years of IFAD's existence and the second five years.

I am also pleased to inform the Conference that IFAD's Executive Board has recently approved a proposal further to enhance the development of cooperation with non-governmental organizations by allowing us to provide up to US\$350 000 a year to fund experimental pilot projects by the NGOs, and I hope that interested countries, members of FAO and IFAD as well as NGOs, might consider matching these resources to give them further impact.

An effective working partnership has developed over the years between IFAD and FAO. There are many areas in which our two sister organizations have worked together. While the Fund has agreements with many development institutions and consulting firms for the identification and preparation of projects, we continue to give preference to the FAO Investment Centre for project development work.

We hope that the Fund's collaboration with FAO may have been helpful in sharpening the focus on smallholders. We therefore welcome the choice of "small farmers" as the central theme for World Food Day this year. In this connection, I would like to suggest that such clear demonstrations of close interaction can be extended by making World Food Day an occasion on which the heads of food agencies in Rome could jointly express - and I say jointly express - their common resolve to work together to tackle the problem of food and agriculture in an effort to eradicate hunger in developing countries.

My earnest hope is that this partnership between IFAD and FAO will see its scope further extended and expanded in future years, having in view the communality of our objectives and the complementarity of our actions.

In conclusion, let me again express my appreciation for having been given this opportunity personally to inform distinguished delegates to the FAO Conference of IFAD's work. I take this occasion to extend to the Director-General of FAO an invitation likewise to address IFAD's Eleventh Governing Council which will commemorate our Tenth Anniversary at the end of January 1988.

Hussien AL-AMRI (Yemen Arab Republic) (original language Arabic): In the name of God the most gracious and merciful. Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Distinguished Delegates and Heads of Delegations, please permit me, Mr Chairman, at the outset to express to you my sincere happiness to see you in the chair guiding the work of this important meeting. The Chairman's wisdom and ability are known to be characteristics of the people of Kuwait. Your unanimous election is evident proof of this Conference's confidence in your wisdom and its willingness to depend on you to lead it to positive results. This is a reflection of the contribution of the people of Kuwait to the causes of justice and peace, and in appreciation of the generosity of Kuwait towards the cause of international development and co-operation.

I have the pleasure of congratulating through you, Mr Chairman, on behalf of my Delegation and on my own behalf, Dr Edouard Saouma, on his re-election to the post of Director-General of this organization, as he will continue to make the achievements which he has already fulfilled. There is no doubt that this constitutes a solid basis for this organization during the remaining years of the century, enabling it to fulfil such noble objectives as the eradication of hunger, and bridging the gap between those who are suffering from the iniquities of hunger and the victims of wealth and exaggeration.

This Session has been convened a month after having celebrated the day in which the population of the world reached five billion. The mass media was extremely pessimistic as to what it called "the demographic explosion", which carries with it food shortages for the Third World, since these countries have been suffering from grave food deficits for a very long time. What will become of the world at the end of the twentieth century, when the world population will have reached six

billion? Despite the fact that we are not as pessimistic as those who continuously remind us of the "Malthus obsolete theory", we are fully aware that the food security problem is one of the most important problems which the developing world is suffering from. My country is awaiting with concern the developments in this field.

In view of the fact that the indications on food security show continuous deterioration, we see that the number of those suffering from hunger is rising. The deterioration of natural resources is also increasing. In addition, there are difficulties arising in the face of those developing countries, hindering them from achieving self-sufficiency, such as the problems of drought, desertification, natural calamities, agricultural pests, diseases and locusts - if this situation continues, it will lead to grave consequences if we do not cooperate amongst ourselves to avoid it. We live in an ever-increasingly small world, where interests are interdependent. In this field, we would like to support the efforts made by the Organization in dealing with such problems in both the short and long term. Increasing assistance and improvement of its effectiveness are the prerequisites of peace and human progress.

Thus, we stress the importance of fulfilling our obligations towards international organizations, especially FAO. Here, we feel that it is important to increase the resources of the Technical Co-operation Programme, and the World Food Programme, in view of the vital assistance they provide for developing countries. We would also like to reiterate the importance of supporting IFAD, in view of the role which it plays in helping poorer rural communities.

On this occasion, we would like to express our appreciation for the efforts which have been made by these organizations, under the leadership of our brother, Dr Edouard Saouma, in assisting the developing countries, and in making joint efforts to mobilize resources and to solve the problems of food and agriculture on an international level. We would also like to thank the Organization for the efforts it makes in our own country, and its contribution towards implementing agricultural development projects. On behalf of the Arab Republic of Yemen, I would like to express our thanks to all those who have provided such generous assistance to my country: brother countries, institutions, whether they be international or Arabic - this in fact is a model of serious and faithful co-operation between the members of this Organization, which certainly enables us to achieve welfare for all in the future.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, please permit me to speak to you about the developments which have taken place in my country. The Arab Republic of Yemen has witnessed great developments in the field of agricultural development and cooperatives, such as irrigation and the exploitation and the utilisation of water resources. We have provided services such as extension credit, agricultural research, and integrated rural development. We have been able to achieve surpluses in production, such as the production of vegetables and fruits. We have been able to establish the necessary infrastructure for the development of the agricultural sector. We have also been able to achieve an improvement in the standard of living in the rural areas, where we have in fact spread our development efforts so as to cover all these regions in a balanced manner. We have been able to achieve this through political stability, in an atmosphere of democracy. The political leadership of our country has enabled us to fulfil our noble objectives through planning and programming. We have found a great deal of enthusiasm and motivation among all the various categories of our people. Due to the importance of the agricultural sector in our national economy, our Third Five Year Plan, 1987/1991, has given it first priority. The Plan puts emphasis on the rational utilisation of water resources, in view of their scarcity. It caters for agricultural investment, in both the public and the private sectors, providing them with incentives to invest in the agricultural sector as well as the agro-industrial sector. This will certainly enable us to achieve food security and self-sufficiency.

In view of our limited financial resources, we are still however sure that we will be able to receive support and assistance from brother countries, through bilateral and multilateral co-operation. We hope this will continue for all.

Finally, before I conclude, I would like to assure you, Mr Chairman, of our support for FAO's programme for the next biennium, in the hope that the necessary resources will be provided to implement this programme. We hope that the Conference will succeed in establishing positive decisions, contributing to solving the food problem, and bridging the gap between the developing world and the developed world, and thereby achieving the welfare of mankind.

Hirisnel SUCRE (Panamá): Señor Presidente Faisal Al-Kaled, Ministro de Comercio e Industrias del amigo pueblo de Kuwait, nos sentimos complacidos por su escogimiento como Presidente de este Vigésimo Cuarto Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación.

Igualmente Panamá manifiesta su complacencia por la reelección del Doctor Saouma, como Director General de esta Organización, por un tercer período. El Gobierno de la República de Panamá desde el primer momento lo consideró el candidato mejor dotado para orientar la FAO en estos momentos de crisis.

En los actuales momentos en que es evidente la drástica reducción de las corrientes externas de capital hacia los países emergentes; en que disminuye sensiblemente la ayuda internacional en el campo agrícola y para la cooperación y el desarrollo; en que se observa una marcada tendencia en contra del multilateralismo y de los organismos que lo practican, el Gobierno de Panamá reitera ante esta máxima tribuna de la actividad agrícola y nutrición mundial, su plena identificación con los principios y objetivos fundamentales que regulan el sistema de las Naciones en general y en particular objetivos fundamentales de la Constitución de la FAO.

Nuestro Gobierno expresa asimismo su convencimiento de que las orientaciones, estrategias, prioridades y estructuras de este Organismo responden cabalmente a las aspiraciones y exigencias de nuestros países, constituyendo una garantía para el desarrollo y el bienestar común de la colectividad internacional.

Por todas estas razones la Delegación de Panamá ratifica su convencimiento de la validez indiscutible del mandato de la FAO y de sus organismos rectores, de su constitución y sus reglamentos, apoya, asimismo, vigorosamente las actividades que ejecuta para el mejoramiento y fortalecimiento de sus programas en el marco de la solidaridad y en el reconocimiento de una realidad pluralista.

A la luz de este orden de ideas, Sr. Presidente, nuestra Delegación, sin descartar la posibilidad de un diálogo constructivo que tenga como finalidad mejorar la eficacia de este Organismo y adecuarlo a las exigencias de un determinado momento, manifiesta su decidida oposición a cualquier intento de utilizar la actual crisis financiera de esta Organización como un pretexto y marco para efectuar reformas en la FAO, máximo cuando esta crisis financiera es creada con fines políticos por el principal contribuyente. La Delegación de Panamá cree firmemente que cualquier reforma que se quiera introducir a la estructura de la FAO debe ser considerada sin precipitud y mucho menos con fines de debilitar el multilateralismo.

Dentro de este contexto la Delegación que me honro en presidir estima conveniente efectuar algunas consideraciones relacionadas con el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el Bienio 1988-89. En primer lugar, la Delegación de Panamá considera que la denominada "teoría del crecimiento cero", así como el decrecimiento en el nivel presupuestario de esta Organización, tiene fundamentalmente motivaciones políticas por parte de algunos de los principales contribuyentes. Los problemas actuales de la agricultura y la alimentación, así como las necesidades crecientes de los países en vías de desarrollo, unido al desperdicio de miles de millones de armamentos, invalidan la denominada "teoría del crecimiento cero" y los decrecimientos presupuestarios. No queremos pensar -como bien lo señala el actual Director General en el documento Programa de Labores y Presupuesto- que las actuales limitaciones presupuestarias impuestas a esta Organización, lo que persiguen es el predominio de una anarquía multilateral.

Consideramos meramente simbólico el aumento real propuesto para el presupuesto de 0,25 por ciento sobre la base presupuestaria actualizada, lo que le da un nivel al presupuesto de unos 492 millones de dólares para el bienio 1988-89. Si bien en aras de la unidad y el logro del consenso apoyamos el nivel del presupuesto, consideramos que el mismo se queda muy por debajo de las necesidades de los Estados Miembros en vías de desarrollo.

Panamá apoya asimismo la creación de cuatro nuevas Representaciones de la FAO en los países, esperando que una de ellas sea en nuestro país.

Al Gobierno de Panamá le gustaría, Señor Presidente, pronunciarse sobre varios temas importantes, pero comprendemos que sería difícil tratarlos todos en tan breve tiempo. Por tal motivo limitaremos nuestra intervención a aspectos sustantivos.

En Panamá, al igual que en muchos países, la situación de la Agricultura ha tendido a deteriorarse, especialmente a partir de 1979. En lo que va de la presente década, los niveles alcanzados por los indicadores del desarrollo revelan una situación de crisis. El crecimiento de la agricultura y de la economía en general ha estado por debajo del crecimiento de la población. Situación a la que han contribuido, en gran medida factores externos que escapan a nuestro control y a las cuales nos referiremos más adelante.

Señor Presidente: contrariamente a la imagen que algunos desean proyectar, Panamá no es sólo un Canal. En nuestro país existe una realidad agraria que se refleja en el hecho de que un 40 por ciento de la población total es rural y que el 80 por ciento de ella deriva su sustento de la agricultura. Sin embargo, nuestro Gobierno se siente plenamente responsable por garantizarle al mundo el funcionamiento eficiente y permanente de la importante vía de la navegación mundial el Canal de Panamá. Dentro este orden de ideas, los recursos hídricos en Panamá tienen, además del uso normal para la agricultura, el de mantener el funcionamiento de esta importante vía interoceánica. Al respecto basta señalar que la Cuenca Hidrográfica del Canal de Panamá, actualmente produce unos 2 800 millones de galones de agua diarios, de los cuales 1 624 millones (o sea, el 58 por ciento) fluyen a través de las esclusas al mar. Cada barco que atraviesa el Canal, demanda un consumo de 52 millones de galones de agua dulce que van al mar y que no se pueden recuperar. Es un recurso natural que mi país pone a disposición de la humanidad.

Además es válida la oportunidad para declarar en esta tribuna mundial que Panamá pone todo su empeño en la conservación de la cuenca del Canal de Panamá, que representa 3 400 Km², más del 4 por ciento de su territorio. Por 77 años, esta vía ha funcionado ininterrumpidamente, y el Gobierno y el pueblo de Panamá han decidido que así seguirá funcionando para beneficio del mundo.

Señor Presidente, el rol primordial del sector alimentario y agrícola en el crecimiento económico y en la mejora de la nutrición es innegable. Podemos afirmar, sin temor a exagerar, que este sector es esencial para el mantenimiento de la paz y la tranquilidad social de nuestros pueblos, en estos momentos en que la situación económica mundial continúa siendo desfavorable para el crecimiento de la economía y el comercio.

Por tales motivos, la Delegación de Panamá concede una particular atención a los temas de esta Conferencia relacionados con el estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, el reajuste agrícola internacional y el informe sobre la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y el Desarrollo Rural. Para nosotros, la eliminación del hambre y la malnutrición continúa siendo el objetivo fundamental al que debemos hacer frente los responsables de las políticas relacionadas con la alimentación y la agricultura.

Nuestra responsabilidad inmediata es, sin lugar a dudas, la de intensificar la capacidad de producción de nuestros agricultores. Sin embargo, nuestro desafío primordial consiste en lograr, por lo menos, la nutrición básica y permanente de todas las capas sociales de nuestros pueblos, garantizando, además, a los más pobres el acceso a los alimentos mediante la elevación de su poder adquisitivo. Para ello, es entonces esencial promover conjuntamente políticas de producción y aquellas dirigidas a la intensificación de los esfuerzos para el logro de una agricultura rentable, especialmente las encauzadas al incremento de los pequeños agricultores y de los agricultores marginados, así como a ampliar las oportunidades de trabajo para los campesinos sin tierra. Así lo establece el Plan Quinquenal de Desarrollo Agropecuario que mi país ejecuta a partir de 1987.

Pero la triste realidad, Sr. Presidente, es que en el mundo persiste la inadmisibles tragedia de la expansión del hambre y de la malnutrición. Y, lo que es aún más grave, hay que hacerle frente en un ambiente internacional sumamente adverso. En efecto, factores tales como un alarmante descenso de los precios reales de la mayoría de los productos básicos; el descenso de la demanda de las importaciones agrícolas; el trastorno del comercio agrícola, como consecuencia del aumento del proteccionismo y de las subvenciones a las exportaciones en muchos países industrializados; el deterioro de la relación real de intercambio; la disminución de las corrientes de capital externo; la pesada carga del servicio de la deuda externa, que nos ha convertido en exportadores netos de capital, y las imposiciones de políticas de reajuste estructural, que vienen a exacerbar a los sectores populares, hacen extremadamente difícil afrontar tan delicado problema.

Debemos detenernos un poco, Sr. Presidente, en los efectos de la deuda externa y los reajustes estructurales en la agricultura. Tal y como se acepta en el contenido de diversos documentos que discutimos en esta Conferencia, cuatro han sido sus efectos principales en la agricultura: el aumento de los costos de los insumos importados y de los bienes intermedios para la producción agrícola, los mayores costos de los créditos, subsidios más bajos y una importante reducción de la inversión pública en el sector agrícola. Todos estos aspectos, no hay duda, contribuyen a hacer más precaria la situación financiera de este sector.

Estas y otras consideraciones han llevado al Gobierno de Panamá a sostener la necesidad de una solución política al problema de la deuda externa de nuestros países.

De lo anterior se desprende que la responsabilidad de intensificar la capacidad de producción, generando contemporáneamente una demanda efectiva entre los sectores de la población que carecen todavía de alimentos suficientes, no puede ser afrontada sólo por los países en desarrollo. Está comprobado que el problema es global, y exige soluciones globales, con los esfuerzos combinados de todos los sectores de cada país que intervienen en el proceso de desarrollo; pero también exige la participación decisiva, enérgica y activa de la comunidad internacional, por cuanto que los países en desarrollo no controlamos las causas externas que influyen desfavorablemente sobre tal situación.

Por otro lado, en muchas ocasiones, estas situaciones son utilizadas como arma de presión para el logro de importantes concesiones de carácter político y económico, por lo cual su solución, en gran parte, depende la voluntad política de quienes ejercen esta presión.

Para terminar, señor Presidente, permítame reiterar lo expresado por mi Gobierno en la última Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, en el sentido de que somos portadores de la representación de un pueblo amenazado y herido, así como la de una nación a la que se quiere humillar y que viene siendo agredida. Todo esto, en violación de claros principios de la autodeterminación de los pueblos y la no injerencia en los asuntos internos de otros Estados. Así, por ejemplo, el Artículo 32 de la Carta de los Derechos y Deberes Económicos de los Estados establece que "ningún Estado podrá emplear medidas económicas, políticas o de ninguna índole, ni fortalecer el empleo de tales medidas, con el objeto de coaccionar a otro Estado para obtener de él la subordinación de sus derechos soberanos".

Panamá, señor Presidente, es víctima de la violación de estos principios por parte de los Estados Unidos de América, con las consecuencias que este tipo de agresión tiene contra el desarrollo rural y agrícola y la seguridad alimentaria de mi país.

En efecto, se nos amenaza, por parte de esta superpotencia, con suspender la compra de azúcar, sirope y melaza, así como de otros productos agropecuarios. Se ha suspendido en forma arbitraria la asistencia bilateral de créditos debidamente pactados, que eran suministrados a través de la Agencia de Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo (AID), y que tenían que ver con los importantes aspectos de la transferencia de tecnología, formulación de políticas agropocuarías, morcadeo y créditos dirigidos fundamentalmente a pequeños agricultores organizados en cooperativas. Por ello somos víctimas actualmente de esta agresión moral y económica.

Es por esto que Panamá denuncia ante este foro, que reúne las más connotadas autoridades de la agricultura y de la alimentación mundiales, estas agresiones de que viene siendo objeto por parte de los Estados Unidos de América, socio nuestro en el Canal de Panamá, que bien sabemos pretende incumplir los Tratados Torrijos-Carter relacionados con la administración del Canal de Panamá y extender su presencia militar en nuestro país, la cual debe finalizar, conforme los estipulados en los Tratados, al mediodía del 31 de diciembre de 1999. Muchas gracias, Sr. Presidente.

Ms. Gunhild ØYANGEN (Norway): Mr Chairman," Mr Director-General, Ministers and distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Norwegian delegation I would like to congratulate the Chairman and the Vicechairmen upon their elections. I would also like to congratulate Mr Saouma upon his re-election and express my sincere wishes for a constructive cooperation in the next 6 years.

During the last few years, the importance of the agricultural sector both to ensure food security and to generate economic growth has become very clear. The food security situation is still very vulnerable, and hunger and malnutrition remain one of the most important problems that we have not been able to solve.

There is, however, increased recognition in developing countries, as well as among bilateral and multilateral development assistance organizations, of the important role agriculture has to play in national development.

Another problem which is recognized as a serious obstacle for development, is the level of debt service of many developing countries. This problem can most appropriately be discussed in other fora, but we are aware that initiatives have been taken to alleviate the situation. Norway has, for instance, established a special ODA fund of NOK 195 mill. for international debt relief operations.

Concerning trade in agricultural commodities, the UNCTAD Session this summer gave some positive general results, and the new GATT round offers hope for improvement. We intend to take active part in these negotiations, and hope, among other things, that additional preferences for the LDC's will be achieved.

With regard to the fisheries sector, this Conference gives occasion to note the steps taken to implement the strategies and programmes of action agreed by the 1984 World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. In this connection I would like to draw special attention to the recently published thematic evaluation report of aquaculture undertaken jointly by UNDP, FAO and Norway. The conclusions in this report point towards the need to revise the strategies adopted for aquaculture development.

Mr Chairman, I would use this occasion to especially highlight one issue of major concern to all of us, namely the critical global environmental situation. The report from the World Commission on Environment and Development, headed by prime minister Ms Harlem Brundtland, was presented in April this year. It is expected that the UN General Assembly this month will adopt a resolution on the follow-up of the report both in the UN system, other international organizations and among governments during this month.

The overriding message of the Report, entitled "Our Common Future", is that the environmental crises can only be properly managed through a comprehensive programme for growth with sustainable development incorporating the environmental dimension. That is to say, economic growth that enhances the resource base rather than degrades it.

A crucial point in the Report is that while economic development up to now has often been regarded as a danger to the environment, the environmental effects are now in the process of endangering economic and social development itself. Sustainable growth is needed because it can create the capacity to solve environmental problems, and in this way mass poverty may be alleviated.

The analyses as well as the recommendations should inspire and provide guidance to the international community. It is now up to the national governments as well as international organizations to review and analyse their policies in light of the recommendations of the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development.

In this context FAO has an extremely important role to play. The Report should be regarded as a basic document when the organization revises its policies. In a FAO-context it shows the need to further emphasize the problem-areas of deforestation, desertification and erosion control.

The challenge to create sustainable development and ensure food security for all, calls for a strengthening and improvement of international cooperation. It is indeed a paradox that at a time when the need for a strong UN system is greater than ever, the resources to the multilateral system are stagnating or decreasing. Norway has always been a strong supporter of multilateral cooperation. In the present situation my Government gives special importance to a strengthening of the UN-system.

Ensuring resources to the multilateral organizations is one important factor in improving the abilities and performance of the system. However, as members of the United Nations family, we must always be prepared to discuss how the available resources can be used as effectively and efficiently as possible. At the same time, an effective and efficient United Nations is perhaps the best argument for increasing the resources available to the system.

It is in this perspective that Norway during the present biennium has been actively involved in discussions about the need and scope for reforms in the United Nations system. The central role of the agricultural sector in future development efforts, underlines the importance which must be given to the main United Nations organization responsible for this sector. It was, perhaps, such considerations which led the Chairman of the 23rd Session of the FAO Conference in 1985 to call upon the membership of FAO to use the 1985-87 biennium to examine the role and priorities of the organization.

Norway has therefore, in close cooperation with the other Nordic countries, been actively evaluating the future structure and activities of FAO. Our aim has been to contribute to an open and constructive discussion on how to increase FAO's ability to serve its member countries. The preliminary conclusions from this work have been shared with members and with the Secretariat.

These issues are already under discussion in the Conference. Let me therefore just briefly mention some points which I believe should be central in this continued discussion:

The mandate of FAO is still valid, and gives the broad guidelines for the organization's work. However, when discussing in more details the goals and objectives of FAO, it is important to realize that FAO operates in an everchanging environment. Issues that were at the top of the agenda yesterday, may have to be replaced by new priorities today, while at the same time ensuring appropriate stability and continuity. A prerequisite is that the main priorities are clearly defined and that they are worked out on the basis of what we might call the comparative advantages of FAO.

The Report from the World Commission on Environment and Development refers to the fact that while the world produces more food per caput than ever before, more than 730 million human beings do not have enough to eat. The Report recommends that food should be produced where it is needed and in a manner that sustains the livelihood of the rural poor. The conclusion represents a challenge to the industrialized countries' export policies for agricultural commodities, which may have an adverse impact on developing countries' ability to develop their own food production and compete price-wise in international markets. An improved trading environment together with sound national agricultural policies are prerequisites for a sustainable growth.

In addition to collection and dissemination of statistical and other basic information, FAO has a special role to play in the area of policy development and advice, given the Organization's mandate and comparative advantages. Accordingly, FAO's analytical and norm-setting functions should be strengthened.

The technical assistance provided by FAO is limited in quantitative terms. Thus, FAO's technical assistance should be closely linked to planning and policy development in the recipient country, and be characterized by high quality.

FAO is part of the United Nations family, and operates in a field where a number of multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental organizations are active. These organizations have specific mandates and comparative advantages, and ideally their work should complement and strengthen each other. The present situation is not ideal, as coordination and division of work has not been given sufficient attention. In the case of FAO, we are especially concerned about the insufficient coordination with the United Nations resident coordinator at country level.

FAO cannot adapt its goals, objectives and strategies in a dynamic and flexible way without active participation from its member countries. For the member countries to be able to do this, it is essential that the information and material we receive from the Organization is presented in a clear and transparent manner, which clearly shows the link between priorities and allocation of funds. In this field we should do the utmost to improve practice. Further, for FAO and the member countries to be able to assess the impact of activities, independent evaluations are essential.

The purpose of evaluations and reviews is to learn from experience to improve future performance. FAO should aim at being the lead organization on agricultural issues in international debate, including, in cooperation with UNEP, environmental issues related to agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and in cooperation with WHO, nutritional questions.

Today's environmental crisis calls for an interdisciplinary approach. To FAO this means that the Organization will have to review the present fragmentation between forestry, agriculture, livestock and fisheries. Further, a greater reliance on local resources and improved farming systems calls for renewed initiative and participation. This is also the case in such areas as soil conservation, agro-forestry and people's participation, including the role and need of women.

I would like to emphasize very strongly, Mr Chairman, that a major part of the work in agriculture is carried out by women. The situation of the women is very often the most difficult in the developing countries. Women also feel a very strong responsibility for the next generation. It is, therefore most important that we channel resources in an effective way to serve the needs of women and children and that women are fully integrated in the development process.

FAO's ultimate aim when setting priorities is not so much to create the field programme itself, as to make governments in recipient countries, bilateral donors, NGO's and other multilateral organizations take into account FAO's overall views.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to stress that the purpose of our proposals is not to reduce the development activities of the Organization, but that its resources be channelled as efficiently as possible.

Our main interest, therefore, when discussing the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, will be to sharpen the focus of the Organization along the lines I have indicated.

In light of the challenges ahead, and the financial constraints that FAO faces, I believe the time has come for us to stand back and consider the day to day activities in a wider perspective. The Nordic countries have suggested that this could most appropriately be done through the Conference establishing a High Level Group to consider future priorities and functions of FAO.

The task of considering how FAO should work to better serve the people of its member countries is large and complex, and will require efforts and resources both from the Secretariat and from the member countries. However, if we are willing to meet this challenge, our decisions at the 25th Session of the Conference will result in a strengthened FAO with improved ability to meet the challenge of the 1990's. I think FAO is far too important not to make this effort.

Ham LEENANOND (Thailand): It is indeed an honour for me to have the opportunity to address this Conference. I would like, first of all, to associate myself with the previous distinguished speakers in expressing our congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the high office of this Conference. I am fully confident that with Your Excellency's able guidance, our deliberations will produce a very fruitful outcome. I wish also to congratulate the three elected Vice-Chairmen.

On behalf of my Government, I would like to congratulate Dr Edouard Saouma on his re-election as Director-General of FAO. During the past 12 years, Dr Saouma has contributed significantly to the work of FAO, thus improving our overall capability to deal with increasingly difficult problems in food and agriculture. With his dynamism, dedication and tenacity he will lead the Organization towards its long-term goals and objectives.

I take this opportunity to mention that on 15 October 1987, at the FAO Regional Office, Bangkok, His Excellency, the Prime Minister of Thailand, General Prem Tinsulanond, kindly presided over the World Food Day Celebration. It was also on this occasion that a FAO publication was released entitled "The King and Agriculture in Thailand" which covers His Majesty's concern and continuing efforts to uplift the Thai people's standard of living. At the same time, outstanding farmers from different countries of the Asia-Pacific Region were selected to receive FAO awards and certificates.

Since the last FAO conference, it appears to me that the world economy, especially food production, has shown some improvements, though the record in terms of growth rate is still relatively low. The decline in oil prices, real interest rates and rates of inflation failed to stimulate world economic growth to a satisfactory level. The world economy showed a marginal improvement in 1986 compared to that of the previous year. The volume of world trade, especially agricultural commodities, expanded only moderately mainly because of protectionism and trade-distorting measures especially by the industrialised countries, prevalent throughout the year, while exporting countries' agricultural supply and stocks remained at high levels.

At present, many developing countries which are exporters of agricultural products and agro-industrial commodities are facing long-standing problems of subsidies, surpluses and distortions in both agriculture and industry. It is gratifying to note that these difficulties have increasingly been acknowledged. There are welcome signs that reforms are being seriously considered by major industrial countries but we think these are still insignificant in the concept of cooperation, interdependence and multilateralism.

With the start of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, agricultural trade problems will be fully addressed for the first time. We believe that through such negotiations, we can reverse the present crisis and build a more effective and equitable trading system. Our areas of special interest include trade in agriculture and tropical products, dispute settlement, subsidies and countervailing measures, and safeguards.

We urge that all countries in the Uruguay Round adhere strictly to the standstill and rollback commitments undertaken in the Ministerial Declaration.

We hope that all necessary efforts will be taken by governments to maintain the momentum and to speed up the process of negotiations.

The recent review made by the Group of 14 Nations, or Cairns Group - the non-subsidizing exporters of agricultural products - pointed out that as a result of the major industrialized countries' agricultural policies, the loss of export earnings by the fair-trading countries continued to affect severely their economies, and that commodity markets remained critical.

The Group of 14 Nations felt strongly that the current crisis warrants immediate action to halt the escalation of agricultural subsidies and intensification of import restrictions, and that the major industrialized countries be encouraged to give leadership in commencing a process of ceasefire and subsequent progressive reduction of subsidies at an early date, coupled with measures to cope with the high levels of surplus stocks of major agricultural products which are currently flooding the market.

Thailand, being a member of this Group of 14 would like to propose that this Conference considers and supports the above recommendations as part of our efforts to stabilize the world food trade.

We believe that FAO has a significant role to play in improving and strengthening the trading system of agricultural commodities and in increasing food production, through its own capacity as well as by supplementing the activities already underway in the other international organizations such as GATT and UNCTAD.

My delegation would also like to request this Conference to re-examine the proposed budget for the Technical Cooperation Programme. Thailand has attached great importance to this Programme since its inception in 1976. As a representative from a recipient country, the Thai delegation would like to reiterate that TCP is an important mechanism enabling FAO to respond promptly to urgent requests for assistance from Member Governments. The TCP also helps in filling the gaps in technical assistance which have not been done by other donors. The Thai delegation, therefore, would like to appeal to this Conference to consider seriously and positively the need to increase the budget allocation for TCP.

Another important item at this Conference is the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals, and Operations, including the need for reform in the programme budget process. In this regard, my delegation concurs with the idea that, after more than 40 years of existence, it is timely to pursue a comprehensive review of the Organization with special reference to its long-term objectives and strategies. But we need more time to study and consider all the views and suggestions submitted by member countries as contained in document C 87/30. However, at this Conference my delegation would like to suggest that we should accept the idea proposed by the group of developing countries relating to the principle of budget allocation; that is, FAO should allocate at least 17 percent of its total Regular Programme to the Technical Cooperation Programme for the next biennium and beyond.

My Government is satisfied with the work which has been accomplished or is being implemented by FAO in food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Notable achievements are many, but the more recent ones worth mentioning are the World Fisheries Conference Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development, and its associated Programmes of Action, and the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

I believe that the preparations for the organization of global meetings of this nature cannot be carried by any body other than FAO. Furthermore, its programmes of work are responsive to the needs of developing countries. Therefore, we must ensure that FAO receives adequately and promptly the financial support necessary to sustain its important work especially in alleviating hunger and poverty throughout the world.

The meeting rose at 13.45 hours

La séance est levée à 13h45

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.45 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 87/PV/8

Twenty-fourth Session

PLENARY

Vingt quatrième session

PLENIERE

24° período de sesiones

PLENARIA

EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA

(11 November 1987)

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Leo Hertog, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de Leo Hertog, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la octava Sesión Plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la
presidencia de Leo Hertog, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION

DEBAT GENERAL

DEBATE GENERAL

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATION

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES

Hari NARAYAN RAJAURIYA (Nepal): At the outset, allow me, Mr Chairman, to extend, on behalf of the delegation from the Kingdom of Nepal and on my own, our heartfelt congratulations to you for being elected as the Chairman of this very important Conference being held in this historic city of Rome. Please accept our full assurance of cooperation during the course of the Conference. We earnestly hope that the Conference will be very productive and will be able to achieve fully its objectives. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Edouard Saouma for being re-elected as the Director-General of this Organization for another term. The Organization has made several outstanding achievements in the past during his previous terms despite the hardships faced by it. We are confident that his continued leadership of this eminent world Organization will result in further impetus to its activities.

In accordance with the noble wish of His Majesty the King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, to fulfill the basic needs of all the people by the year 2000 A.D., a major thrust is laid in all our development efforts from the current fiscal year of 1987-88 toward achieving this goal. Food, clothing, shelter, primary health care, education and security have been identified as the key elements of the basic needs basket. Based on the past trends and future potentials, specific targets have been set for each of the basic needs commodities and services such that the objectives of fulfilling all the basic needs of the entire population by the year 2000 would be adequately met. Among the basic needs identified above, food is no doubt the most essential item. Hence foodgrain production has been given top priority in our development plans and programmes. Foodgrains production target for the year 2000 has been set at 8.6 million metric tons which is almost twice the present level of production. Similarly, production targets have been set for potato and other supplementary food items such as fruits, vegetables, meat, milk and fish.

Main strategies to be adopted for achieving these targets are: (a) expansion and intensification of irrigated areas, (b) wider coverage of improved seeds, (c) increased application of fertilizers, (d) broader use of plant protection measures, (e) reorganization of agricultural research in order to make it more responsive to the farmers' problems, (f) strengthening of the agricultural extension service through the provision of production teams and by establishing service centres in each district, (g) improvement in the delivery mechanism for production inputs and services, (h) easy access to agricultural credit, (i) provision of remunerative price and marketing, (j) reduction of post-harvest losses, and (k) effective programme supervision, monitoring and evaluation. In addition, strategies to be pursued in the livestock sector include (a) expanded adoption of improved breeds, (b) wider adoption of better husbandry practices, (c) effective delivery of veterinary services, and (d) adequate provision of animal feeds, fodder and pasture.

Mr Chairman, in our commitment to the fulfillment of the basic needs in the food sector, we recognize that the efforts of the government alone will not be sufficient. Hence we have adopted the policy of encouraging the participation of the cooperative and private sectors in activities such as delivery of production inputs including the production and distribution of seeds, seedlings, planting materials, fish fingerlings and improved livestock and poultry. The cooperative and private sectors will also be involved in irrigation and water management, and in providing veterinary services, processing industries and marketing of agricultural products.

In order to ensure active participation of all the sections of the population in identifying, prioritizing, formulation and implementation of development plans, His Majesty's Government of Nepal has adopted decentralization as a major policy strategy. Decentralization, which has been in vogue for the past three years, emphasizes the importance of local level planning based on the felt needs of the people and local potentials. The district serves as a focal point in carrying out all the development activities where the local political body, line agencies and the beneficiaries jointly work together in sharing the responsibility of achieving the set goals and targets.

In view of the predominance of small and marginal farmers in the country, our development strategy lays main emphasis on benefitting this vulnerable segment of the rural population. In this regard, the Small Farmers Development Programme has been recognized as a major vehicle toward uplifting the

general welfare of these people. Our experience in the development of small farmers in terms of organizing them into small self-help groups and engaging them in agricultural and other income generating activities has been very encouraging. This programme has now been expanded to benefit nearly 70 thousand small and marginal farm families throughout the country. In fact, it stands out as an evidence to the possibility of institution building at the local level to uplift the welfare of the specific target groups. We would be delighted to share this experience of ours with other friendly countries and international cooperating agencies.

In the fisheries sector, substantial progress has been made in generating appropriate technology for pond fish culture. However, due mainly to the resource constraint, we have not been able to tap the benefits of riverine fisheries despite its vast potential in the country's abundant rivers. We are therefore very eager to seek external assistance to develop riverine fisheries.

In the cooperative sector, the village cooperatives (sajhas) have been made more responsive to the needs of the small farmers. This is in line with our constitutional mandate that the cooperatives will serve as the economic linchpin of the Panchayat policy.

Mr Chairman, His Majesty's Government of Nepal has duly recognized the role of women in the development process. Women's-participation in agricultural development activities is all pervasive and crucial. Women need opportunities for learning better skills and access to new technology to make their participation more productive and rewarding. In this regard, my country has taken positive steps by creating a conducive institutional environment to facilitate better involvement of the women.

It gives me pleasure, Mr Chairman, to share with you that we have just concluded the Summit Meeting of the Heads of States or Governments of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), held in Kathmandu recently. One of the resolutions of the Kathmandu Declaration of SAARC is the proposal to establish a Regional Food Security Scheme for the seven member nations. I am confident that this regional scheme will serve as a pioneering work in our effort to establish a similar food reserve not only in the Asia Pacific Region, but also in a global context, under the aegis of FAO.

Mr Chairman, I hope that you are aware of the resource constraints faced by us in carrying out the challenging tasks we have committed ourselves to. While these commitments appear to be rather ambitious, given our meagre resource base and geophysical setting, we believe that we have no choice but to face this challenge in order to be able to provide the basic necessities of livelihood to our people. In this endeavour, we need generous support and assistance from friendly countries and international agencies to supplement our national effort in fulfilling the challenging task that lies ahead. In this regard, let me register our appreciation of FAO's continuous support and assistance which has been extremely fruitful. We look forward to the continuation and further expansion of this cooperation. We are also thankful to other international agencies and the governments of friendly countries for their cooperation and assistance.

Let me also mention here that the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), which was established eight years ago in Bangladesh with active support from FAO, has made encouraging progress in carrying out research, training and information exchange activities related to rural development. We would like to see that support to this centre from FAO and other cooperating agencies will continue to be further strengthened and expanded in future.

A large part of Nepal and much of the territories in the Asia and the Pacific Region comprise high mountains and semi-arid or arid zones where farming is largely based on rainfed conditions. It is usually in these areas that the most vulnerable segments of the population struggle to eke out a living in the agroclimatically harsh and environmentally fragile condition. There are very few national and international agencies addressing themselves to this problem. As a consequence, very little research work and technology innovation activities have been carried out, leaving a wide gap in our knowledge regarding the constraints and potentials of those areas. The recognition of this problem had prompted us to propose to the international community some years ago the establishment of an International Centre for Hill and High Altitude Agriculture in the Region. I am happy to note that a modest beginning has been made in this regard by establishing the Regional Network for High Altitude Pasture. I urge the international community once again to broaden the scope of this Network to cover other aspects of agriculture in the high mountain region.

I am happy to report to this distinguished gathering that His Majesty's Government of Nepal has given top priority to the management and conservation of natural resources. To this effect, a long-term Master Plan for the forestry sector is being prepared in line with the Tropical Forestry Action Plan prepared by FAO. The main feature of this Master Plan will be the identification of the long-term policies, strategies and programmes for the forestry sector. We are also in the process of finalizing the Conservation Strategy for Nepal which will incorporate measures for a holistic management and conservation of the natural and cultural resources of the nation.

His Majesty's Government of Nepal continues to promote the participation of the local people in managing local forests through the expansion of the community forestry programme. Rules governing the transfer of management responsibility of forest lands to local communities have been simplified. We have made significant headway in the establishment of national parks and wildlife reserves by allocating seven percent of the total land area under the protected area system. Similarly, we plan to continue our programme for maintaining ecological balance in the hills and mountains through the expansion of watershed management activities.

Allow me now, Mr Chairman, to divert your attention to the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89. First of all, I share fully the Director-General's concern about the budgetary and financial problem faced by the Organization. Despite this difficulty, the Director-General has proposed to reallocate the Organization's resources to the technical and economic substance of the Organization's work by judiciously cutting the administrative expenditure. We fully endorse this proposal. At the same time, we would also like to urge the Member Nations, particularly those with developed economies, to be more generous in their resource commitment to enable the Organization to pursue its goal more adequately.

We appreciate the Director-General's proposition for reorienting parts of the Organization's programmes to respond to priorities arising from new scientific developments and events in the world at large. Furthermore, the proposal to promote applied research, training and TCDC in biotechnology both for animal reproduction and for feed resources to improve livestock production and health is highly appreciable. The Organization's emphasis on fulfilling the requirements of small-scale producers and disadvantaged rural groups including women is very much consistent with our own national priority and is hereby endorsed. We also appreciate the Organization's concern for environmental problems and its efforts to be in a better position to advise countries in establishing or strengthening their own mechanism for incorporating environmental components in developmental projects. We thus agree fully with the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I am very glad to have this opportunity to lead my country's delegation to this Conference. I sincerely wish success to this Conference under your able Chairmanship and hope that the Organization will be able to forge ahead with its noble objective of eliminating hunger and malnourishment among the vast majority of the rural population of the world.

Muhamroed GADO NASKO (Nigeria): I consider it a great honour and privilege for me and my delegation to participate in this crucial 24th Session of the FAO Conference. Mr Chairman, I wish to congratulate you on your election and that of the other members of your Bureau. We are confident that under your wise guidance the conference will come to successful and fruitful conclusions of its deliberations. I would also like to associate the Nigerian Delegation with the congratulations expressed by previous speakers for the re-election of the Director-General.

Mr Chairman, we have just received the shocking news of the death of the President of Niger. Late General Seyni Kountche will be remembered for his valuable contributions to agricultural development not only in his Country but also in the Sahel region. The Nigerian delegation wishes to express our heartfelt condolence to the delegation of the Republic of Niger. May his soul rest in perfect peace.

The session is crucial because of a number of far-reaching decisions that have to be taken not only for the much-needed strengthening of the administration of this Organization itself, but also for the fact that the global community of nations that constitute its membership especially to the Third World countries have been going through some serious economic stock-taking and structural adjustments which have very significant agricultural sector implications.

Mr Chairman, in the early part of last year, the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), produced Africa's submission to the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Africa's Economic and Social Crisis. This document was based on the earlier articulated Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) which was adopted by the OAU's Head of State and Government. The central role of agriculture was highlighted prominently in both documents and in the final presentation to the United Nations at the Special Session which approved "The United Nations Programme for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAERD). May I, Mr Chairman, use this opportunity to solicit international support for this programme.

The broad areas of the agricultural programmes focused upon (i) increased food production (ii) arable land development and land improvement (iii) livestock and animal product development, (iv) mechanization (v) storage and marketing (vi) agricultural research and extension (vii) water resource management and low cost irrigation schemes, (viii) reafforestation programmes, drought and desertification control. The document also stressed the recognition of the rural peasant farmers and especially women food producers as genuine economic factors and beneficiaries.

Today, Mr Chairman, these areas are as relevant as they were then. I am glad to say that in Nigeria all efforts have and are being made to keep these programmes our goals. As a first step, we have formulated and produced an agricultural policy to last till the year 2000. The strategies and programmes to implement this policy have also been put in place. The present administration in Nigeria has been placing necessary focus on the small farmers through various government programmes which have more impact at the grassroots. Government has now accorded priority to food security programmes and has accordingly given increased support to on-farm storage programmes for small-scale farmers, a national buffer stock storage programme, and a strategic grains reserve programme. Another major approach to solving the food production problem in Nigeria is the deliberate attempt by the Government to encourage private sector participation in production, processing, storage and marketing. This approach has also led to a considerable improvement in export revenue from agricultural products. An Agricultural Insurance Scheme and a Small Farmers Credit Programme will soon be launched. The scheme will encourage the lending houses, banks, etc to give more loans to the agricultural sector and increase the productivity of our farmers.

With the Agricultural Policy reforms and the strategies to implement them, we have started to make considerable progress in the overall increase in food production. Needless to say, a lot more effort is needed to achieve our ultimate goal of self-sufficiency.

Mr Chairman, at this juncture let me make a few comments on some of the items on the agenda: (i) As a follow up to the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development held in Rome from 27th June to 6th July 1984, as well as the pre-COFI meetings held in May this year, my country has taken bold steps to formulate a fisheries development programme and strategies for its implementation in order to increase domestic fish production. The essential components of the programme are as follows:

- Small-scale fisheries development and inputs' supply;
- Proper fisheries management and development as well as strengthening of inspectorate and policing capabilities;
- Reduction of post-harvest losses with emphasis on promoting roles of women in fish handling, processing and marketing;
- Strengthening of fisheries information service;
- Development of vital fisheries infrastructure at strategic locations especially for small-scale fishermen in rural areas, and Industrial Fisheries in coastal states.

(ii) In the past few years, sub-saharan Africa has suffered enormous losses of food crops and livestock as a result of pests and diseases. Notable amongst these are grasshoppers, locusts, quelea birds, cassava mealy bug, green spider mites and Rinderpest of cattle. Since most of these pests' and diseases transcend national boundaries, there is need for concerted international effort to control them. In the West African Region in particular, the problem of locust/grasshoppers has reached alarming dimension especially since the dissolution of OICMA. My delegation appreciates the current efforts of the FAO to mobilize international support for emergency control measures. I would, however, wish to suggest that efforts be continued not only for emergency control but for a long-term eradication campaign, including the strengthening of Regional Control Organizations. In Nigeria, we have pursued vigorously the Pan African Rinderpest Campaign and throughout this year there has been no confirmed outbreak of the disease. Rinderpest is still a threat as pockets of the disease have been identified in some African countries. We therefore call for continuous support of the Regional Campaign. We have also succeeded to eradicate tsetse flies in an area of 1 500 sq km under a pilot programme using sterile insect technique combined with impregnated screens and traps. The technology will now be applied on a larger scale.

(iii) My delegation supports the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1988-1989. In doing so, we would emphasize continued support for such programmes that will ameliorate the food problems of developing countries, particularly sub-Saharan Africa. In Nigeria, we have found the Technical

Cooperation Programme (TCP) useful and often vital in its catalytic effect. There is the need for Member Nations to provide adequately and timely the necessary resources for the successful implementation of the programme.

(iv) The Ministers of Agriculture at this Conference will be required to deal with very important policy matters such as the review of some aspects of the FAO's goals and operations. The position of Nigeria is that we will support any reforms if they would lead to the overall efficiency in the general performance of the Organization and in the execution of its programmes. The reforms should aim at giving the same high-ranking priority that was being given in the past to developing countries. However, we wish to suggest that the review for the reform should be undertaken by a panel of experts which will reflect the geographical spread of Member Nations.

We believe in the effectiveness of the FAO Country Representatives serving in designated member countries. It is through these offices that programmes are jointly executed and they represent the progress we have made so far in implementing the decentralization of FAO which we all agree is a good thing.

At this point, Mr Chairman, it is necessary to draw the attention of the World Community once again to the heavy debt burden of the African countries, which is making it extremely difficult for the affected countries to implement the structural adjustment programmes necessary to turn their economies around. An appeal is hereby being made to the industrialised countries to pay fair and just prices for the agricultural commodities of these countries and to remove all kinds of protectionism and trade barriers so that the developing countries can get easier access to the markets of the developed nations and improve their foreign exchange earnings.

In conclusion, I wish to join other delegations in expressing profound gratitude to the Government and the very good people of Italy for their warm hospitality. Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, I thank you for your patience and attention.

Joo Ho KIM (Republic of Korea): It is my pleasure to have this opportunity to share and exchange views with member countries on the world food and agricultural problems on this occasion of the Twenty-fourth FAO Conference. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, my delegation wishes to extend congratulations to Your Excellency Faysal Abdel Razik Al-Khalid on your election as Chairman. In particular, I would like to express my warmest congratulations to Dr Saouma on your third consecutive election as Director-General.

The most serious problem involved in agriculture yet remaining to be solved may be specified as the imbalance of the food supply among regions. It is regrettable for us to note that many developing countries are now suffering from the shortage of food and malnutrition, while some developed countries are trying to manage excess food supply.

In addition to the food problem, the development of the rural sector through the improvement of farmers' income and quality of living has been another major goal of agricultural policy.

Mr Chairman, we fully recognize the FAO has played an important role in improving the world food situation and in developing the rural sector through the exchange of valuable experiences and views with each other. Thus, taking this opportunity, I would like to present the experiences and future direction of Korean agriculture.

Since the first Five-Year Economic Development Plan in 1962, Korea has placed emphasis on agricultural development with considerable financial support and development plans. These efforts have shifted Korean agriculture from a traditional farming structure to one of modernized farming. Despite this progress, Korea is still faced with some difficulties in the process of rapid economic development, as most of developed countries had experienced.

To overcome these difficulties, the Korean Government, with financial support of 2.1 billion dollars, launched the new Integrated Program for Rural Development in 1986, focusing on two major goals: improving agricultural productivity and rural welfare.

For the improvement of agricultural productivity, we have expanded investment for farm mechanization, irrigation and land consolidation. The Government established the Rural Development Fund, with an attempt to encourage farmers to expand their farm size by offering land-purchasing loans with low-interest and long-term repayment.

In connection with the expansion of investment in the agricultural infrastructure, I am very happy to report to the Conference that bumper crops have been realized for seven consecutive years. Particularly, this year farmers are able to enjoy an abundant harvest, despite extremely unfavourable weather conditions such as heavy rain-fall and typhoons.

To compensate for the damages caused by the unexpected weather conditions, we are planning to introduce a crop insurance system after 1991 with an experimental stage of two to three years and research from 1979.

Agricultural forecasting services and contract farming systems for agricultural products will be further developed to enhance the efficiency of agricultural marketing, and to ensure price stability with the stabilization fund of 450 million dollars.

As introduced in the 23rd Session of the FAO, the Korean Government has provided active future farmers with financial support and technical assistance. At present, the number of the young farmers who hopefully will develop the rural sector is 40 thousand, one in each village. These young farmers, by transferring their knowledge and expertise to their neighbours, carry out the role of leading Korean agriculture and rural development. We constantly monitor this project to ensure maximum utilization of the most up-to-date technology.

Our Integrated Program is designed to give high priority to development of non-farm income sources and to the improvement of rural welfare in such areas as health care, education, transportation and others.

Recognizing the limit of the increase in farmers income through agricultural production, the Government is trying to raise the portion of non-farm income from 38 percent in 1986 to 50 percent in 1991. For this purpose, more than 100 industrial sites in rural areas will be constructed aiming at the creation of 140 thousand job opportunities.

In addition, in order to lessen the financial burden of farmers and fishermen, the Government has lowered interest rates of farming loans from around 11 to 8 percent which will reduce their interest payments burden substantially.

The issues of the solution to food problems as well as of the foreign debt problems of some developing countries resulting from unexpected insufficiency and poor resource endowment in the course of their economic development process have recently emerged as worldwide concerns.

Free trade is becoming a worldwide trend. Also, there are some concerns about the consideration as to the harmony between the foreign and domestic markets, especially for the lagging sector.

Mr Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to briefly comment on the FAO roles and the direction of its administration. The elimination of starvation and poverty of mankind remains as the major goal of FAO. The main focus of FAO should be on getting rid of the various technical as well as institutional obstacles hampering international cooperation for agricultural production and rural development.

Accordingly, the Conference discussions should concentrate on detailed cooperation schemes for the transfer of advanced technology and capital from developed to developing countries.

In this context, the Korean Government has invited about 150 foreign trainees every year, while Korean experts actively participate in agricultural development of other countries under TCDC Programs initiated by the FAO.

Even though efforts of the FAO have gradually improved the world food situation, the results are not evenly reflected in all member countries, making our collaboration of utmost importance. Thus, it is timely and appropriate that this Conference adopt the Progress Report on WCARRD which suggests

guidelines and makes it possible for each country to evaluate the outcomes of past projects as well as establish future direction.

My Government, has the desire that the report include not only the necessary statistical information, but also the policy direction and means to realize accelerated agrarian reform and rural development.

I believe some change within the FAO budget is necessary for the maximum efficiency of FAO projects. I agree with the proposed FAO budget for 1988 and 1989 in which administration expenditures are reduced while project appropriations are increased. Also, I want to compliment the FAO efforts toward solving the financial difficulties.

Mr Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

Before closing, the people and the Government of Korea wish to express their deepest appreciation to the member countries for their full support for the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games. I sincerely hope all the delegates are able to visit Seoul for the Olympics next year, and to enjoy the Korean traditions and culture.

I look forward to seeing you in Seoul in the near future.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you distinguished delegate of the Republic of Korea, especially, I think, we will take to heart his last words. I would now invite the distinguished delegate of Dominica, his excellency the Minister of Agriculture, Trade, Fisheries and Tourism.

Charles A. MAYNARD (Dominica): It is once again an honour and privilege for me to be given the opportunity as head of the Delegation of the Commonwealth of Dominica to address this Forum, and I do this now particularly conscious of the fact that we are becoming rather accustomed to the fact that there are two Dominicas in this Forum, although sometimes our mail goes to Dominican Republic, and theirs comes to Dominica.

For all of us, this 24th Session of the FAO Conference holds a particular significance in that it allows us the opportunity to take stock of the global situation in agriculture, our own contributions to the development of the sector, to deliberate on the constraints and problems that may occur and to devise strategies and programmes whereby these may be addressed. More specifically we will focus our attention on the role that the FAO has played in this process, and its effectiveness in carrying out the mandates that have been given to it. All of us, large and small, have an important part to play in the proceedings of this Conference and are expected, as we have been doing, to indicate a clear commitment so that FAO can continue to be guided in its future programmes in the development of agriculture worldwide.

May I at this stage, like the other speakers before me, congratulate the Chairman on his election, and also may I congratulate the Director-General warmly on his re-election to office.

The Commonwealth of Dominica belongs to Latin America and the Caribbean Region. Two over-riding phenomena emerge from an evaluation of agricultural progress in this region: production trends and the persistence of poverty. These phenomena, I am sure, are not unique to the region and are common should we say to all Third World developing countries.

In the region, generally, growth has slowed in recent times, from 2.4 per cent in the 1970s to 2.1 per cent in the first five years of this decade. The implications of this are particularly serious in that this growth rate is not enough to meet the demand of a population increasing by 2.5 percent per year.

Mr Chairman the quest ion before us is, how does one stimulate growth in agricultural production of basic foods for domestic consumption and for exports.

Like all developing or under-developed countries, today there exist a number of common factors that need to be recognised and are worthwhile repeating.

In the English-speaking Caribbean Sub-region and in small island states, like the Commonwealth of Dominica, it is clear that the development process, with its emphasis on the development of "traditional" export crops, has left a growth balance of rural poverty. A poverty that is a result, in many cases of factors which are external and structural in nature, and associated with a critical shortage of physical and human capital and limited access to essential services. This is further aggravated by growing populations, an aging farmer population and unemployed youths with no access to past avenues for migration to more developed countries.

We are to survive in a situation where at least two major negative forces are to be overcome in developing strategies for stimulating growth in our agricultural sectors: firstly, the declining prices in the major traditional export crops, and secondly, the growing protectionism and international trade barriers that are constantly being established. This is especially true of the industrialised countries which began to substitute imports from third countries and to generate a surplus exported through the application of subsidies. It is clear that in such a situation, the opportunities for further growth in traditional export development crops are extremely limited.

But still it is expected that this sector be required to perform as the more reliable foreign exchange earner, given the limited natural resources at our disposal. It is considered most urgent that agriculture performs positively in generating foreign exchange and stimulating national growth, especially in the light of the growing external indebtedness that becomes necessary to many of us if we are to provide our people with some of the basic infrastructure and essential services that would bring us into line with the aspirations of our people in this, the 20th century.

The economic strategies followed in our attempts to improve our national well-being have often centred on industrialisation. Strategies that may have been mistakenly introduced by foreign experts from developed countries with little knowledge of the traditional role of agriculture in our economies or by our own professionals who, because of force of circumstances, have been trained in institutions in countries outside our region. These strategies have to a large extent been unsuccessful and have only served to fuel our external indebtedness. It now behoves agriculture to correct this misconceived developmental strategy.

The question of foreign indebtedness must be addressed, however. There is clearly a need for external interventions on the part of the developed countries if agricultural growth is to be stimulated, for there exists pressure that can sometimes be placed by financing agencies that have forced some of our countries to adopt economic austerity policies with the result that trade surpluses have soared, while the level of economic activity has contracted. This in itself has stifled much of the initiatives in development of the agricultural sector.

It is in this disturbing environment we are being asked to stimulate, initiate and accelerate development in our agricultural sectors; that we are being asked to modernise our agriculture and to transform our systems from traditional exports.

While it is true to say that some headway has been made, it should also be recognised and accepted that simple governmental decisions may not be enough, as definite changes in attitude on the part of developed countries may be required in such areas as the external debt and protectionist measures in agricultural trade; for it is clear that we need time, at least a decade or more if we are to effectively transform our agriculture in the manner that is now being demanded of us. Transformation of our agricultural sectors essentially requires the introduction of new technologies, increasing access to credit inputs and the vigorous education of our farming communities. It is here that the role of the FAO is particularly required in this process of rapid development of our agricultural economies.

Technological change will need to be introduced at two distinct levels: change in the traditional systems that have been pursued in export crop development and a change in the system itself with the introduction of non-traditional export crops and farming systems. The first will address the problem of land utilisation and productivity, which are the only logical ways to combat the situation of declining prices and stimulating competitiveness; and secondly, the development of research and appropriate technologies in new crop introductions. Both will require essentially massive investment in research. The transfer of technology will be pivotal to the success of our efforts in realising the transformation and modernisation of our agricultural sectors.

The very spirit of our organisation (FAO) is predicated on the concept that member countries will facilitate the transfer of proven technologies from one situation to another. The evolution of TDC programmes and TCDC networks is as a direct response to this belief. However, we need to ask ourselves how successful have these really been especially for new Member States such as ourselves in the Caribbean.

Short-term transfers of proven technologies, indeed have their part to play, but it is absolutely necessary that this process must foster and sustain the capacity of recipient countries to continue the research work that will obviously be required to be done. Indigenous research is crucial to the continued process of transformation of our agricultural sectors. It is here that we need to assess the sustained impact of TDC programmes and FAO's response to this need.

An intimate knowledge of the resources available, human and natural, is absolutely required if appropriate technologies are to be developed. This can only be achieved if national or sub-regional research institutions (as may be more appropriate in the context of the English-speaking Caribbean) are developed. Research must be essentially a continuous process which can only be realistically achieved if national/regional institutions are established and supported to ensure a sustained capacity output. There is need, therefore, for urgent assistance in developing these indigenous capabilities. This is even more important as a facility for the training of local experts who are themselves the pillars on which the transfer of technology is to be effected.

The development of indigenous research, therefore, requires our most urgent attention. Admittedly, this may be an expensive investment given the facilities and staffing that will need to be supported; however, we cannot dismiss this investment purely on the costs factor for in the long term we will be effectively reducing dependence, and thus costs, on external expertise. I am not here suggesting that we should all "re-invent the wheel" but rather that every country/region should have a definite capacity to conduct its own indigenous research and to train its field technicians if a sustained and effective transfer of appropriate technology is to be developed.

Development of this professional capacity in research and technology transfer is a primary area of concern. In regions such as ours, there is a scarcity of trained manpower to perform these essential tasks. Training of personnel to professional levels of competence, is therefore crucial. I wish to stress "training to professional levels" and not the short-term exposures as may be suggested in the outward approach to technology transfer. There clearly must be the trained professional staff to absorb the information being transferred if networking systems are to be fully successful.

It is here, Mr Chairman, that the FAO will need to pay particular attention, as it has already been doing to facilitate, through its own programmes more extensive training of locals to professional levels if it is to effectively assist in the process of generation and transfer of technology. The FAO through its member countries should be well placed in promoting formal training programmes for sub-professionals in countries such as ours.

We recognise the numerous programmes that the FAO has already in place for technology transfer but because of our scarce skilled/trained manpower, we believe we are still unable to utilise these opportunities to the full. I should, Mr Chairman, make it clear that I am not here advocating the suspension of technical cooperation programmes and networks - they have served us very well -but rather a parallel programme in developing the absorptive capacity of our technicians to more meaningfully be able to participate in these important exercises, and to participate in these important developments.

I have spoken of the urgent need for the development of capabilities in technology generation in our countries, and of some of the requirements essential in making us more efficient recipients of external technology transfer, but we need perhaps to qualify the type of technology that we would wish to develop and make available to our farm communities. We have stressed that the technology must be appropriate to our local institutions, but further than this, we have been asked to transform and modernise our traditional farming systems. It is not accidental that the term "modernised" is being used here. "Modernisation" to us implies a radical change from the traditional attitudes to agriculture, a removal of the drudgeries that have been associated with farming and the introduction of appropriate mechanical aids and production inputs that will increase the efficiency of our farm labour and generate greater economic returns for our efforts.

If we are to stimulate the growth required of us, then we must urgently find ways to continue to attract our young people to farm work and to stem the growing numbers of unemployed now so common in their ranks. The speed at which this modernisation process will proceed is also dependent on the efficiency with which the transfer of technology will take place. Given our limited trained manpower resource, our extension services are already overstrained. High farmer-to-extension-officer ratios make a sustained farmer-contact difficult. This situation is even further aggravated by the small farming multiple cropping systems being pursued in our countries. Extension must be given the essential support it requires. If it is not possible to increase the number of its staff because of financial constraints, then appropriate teaching aids must be made available for its use.

Before I conclude, may I say a few brief words on the question of reform. It is essential that whatever reform takes place must be done in such a way as will protect the institution of FAO. Any reform must have regard to the one country, one vote concept, which is the essential basis of any international forum. It is also essential that we make this reform in tandem with the governing bodies of FAO. We would like to support the programme and budget of the Organization.

In closing, I am reminded of the tasks we have set ourselves in the alleviation of rural poverty in our countries, and in the development of our economies, as is so clearly articulated in the document, "The Peasant's Charter". We wish to thank FAO for the work it has already done for our people in the relatively short time we have been members of this Organization.

John Charles KERIN (Australia): There are four issues which I briefly address today. They are: international agricultural trade reform; food security and food aid; the role of women in development; and reform of FAO.

Access to international markets for low cost producers in developing countries is the key to their economic development. They are currently denied this access by the protectionist policies of some of the major developed countries. Aid and special deals on market access are not solutions, but economic crutches for economies crippled by lack of access to the major markets of the world. Rural poverty can only be resolved through the development of economically viable, independent self-supporting farming communities, capable of implementing sustainable farming systems.

Mr Chairman, this Conference is an opportunity to give further impetus to the international campaign for agricultural reform. FAO has an important role also in broadening the base of support for reform by increasing the emphasis, in its ongoing work programs, on policy aspects of agricultural adjustment and development.

FAO has done a great deal to improve the productivity of world agriculture, particularly in the developing countries. That achievement, however, has been increasingly undermined by the effects of agricultural protectionism. Developing countries are being deprived of export opportunities and foreign exchange on a scale which far outweighs development assistance expenditures from all sources. We need to get that message through at every opportunity if we are to build public awareness of, and support for, the agricultural reform issue.

Dr Jean Mayer commented on problems of net capital outflow from the developing countries, at a time when net capital inflow is urgently needed. The Director-General referred to the direct cost of the agricultural assistance policies of the United States, Japan and the European Community exceeding the total agricultural export income of the developing world. The figures involved in these statements underline the real issues and imbalances arising from the current agricultural marketing situation.

FAO can help the reform process with hard data on true costs of agricultural protectionism to the developing countries. To take some simple examples: how much income are farmers in developing countries being denied by agricultural protectionism? How much are food prices to consumers in developed countries being artificially inflated? What are the levels of foreign exchange earnings being denied to developing country exporters and potential exports? To what extent are the economic growth rates of developing countries diminished by foregoing those potential levels of foreign exchange earnings?

FAO and OECD and the international financial institutions have developed some useful methodology for measuring such direct and indirect costs of agricultural protection. It is now time to put that methodology to work and to debate and to publicise those costs at every opportunity, in order to develop informed and broadly based support for agricultural reform.

It is clear, Mr Chairman, that agriculture policies are not working in the major developed countries. The objectives of agricultural support policies are asserted to be food security, stability of markets, reasonable prices to consumers, and maintenance of rural communities and fair living standards.

Food security has lost its relevance to the EC, the international market is not stable, consumers in the EC and Japan pay unnecessarily high prices to maintain supplies they do not need, rural communities are not being maintained in spite of subsidies; most support goes to the largest farmers; rural outmigration continues in response to technological change and the consequences of economic growth. Despite massive subsidisation, farm bankruptcies have continued.

The extent of the corruption of world agricultural markets, is illustrated by examples from the World Development Report for 1986. In Japan, farmers received eight times world prices for rice, sugar and butter. In the United States, farmers received three times the world prices for sugar and butter. In the European Community, farmers received between two and three times the world prices for sugar, beef and butter.

In these ways, Mr Chairman, the agricultural protectionism of a few has generated a crisis of global proportions.

Resolution of this crisis fundamentally required a significant attitudinal change, supported by analysis and exposure of the causes, so that political leadership can prevail over those self-interest groups which profit from agricultural protectionism.

Those of us who have leadership responsibilities in our own countries know that reform can only truly succeed if there is broadly based support for it.

Internationally, the process of attitudinal change towards agricultural reform will be complex and lengthy. It is, however, now on the international agenda.

Earlier this year the OECD Ministerial Council took stock of the damage being caused by excessive levels of agricultural support in some countries. OECD Ministers endorsed a set of principles for agricultural reform, surplus stock disposal and the decoupling of income support from production, with action to be based on a progressive and concerted reduction of agricultural support.

The thrust of the OECD approach was subsequently endorsed by the Heads of Government participating in the Venice Summit.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Vancouver last month also agreed, in the Vancouver Declaration on World Trade, on the crucial need for reform of all trade distorting agricultural policies, both domestic and international.

Agriculture is firmly on the agenda of the Uruguay Round of the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The United States tabled its negotiating proposals for agriculture in July, and the European Community did so last month.

Unlike previous GATT Rounds, these major powers are being engaged by a new Group - the Cairns Group of Agricultural Fair Trading Countries. The Cairns Group accounts for one quarter of world agricultural exports. Its membership embraces countries from the East and the West, from the North and the South.

Three weeks ago, in Geneva, the Australian Prime Minister was privileged to present, on its behalf, the Group's negotiating proposal for the Uruguay Round. The Cairns Group proposal contains three elements:

A long-term objective of the elimination of subsidies and market barriers, within ten years at most; a framework for the rules and parameters necessary during the phase-down period and a set of priorities for change; and immediate relief from the worst subsidies and market distortions.

Unlike the proposals of the United States and the European Community, the Cairns Group proposal focusses in detail on the reform period, and the mechanisms required, to achieve a free and open agricultural trading system. It gives priority to phasing out those measures that most disrupt trade, and provides for the largest distorters to make the largest contribution to the reform.

Mr Chairman, I turn now to the issues of food aid and food security. Food aid is not a panacea to overcome structural food deficits. But it is essential to protect the most vulnerable people during periods of abnormal food shortages and periods of structural adjustment in agriculture. It can, nevertheless, be an effective tool for development.

I would like, in this regard, to commend FAO and its associated agencies for aspects of its work in these fields. In particular, FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture provides a valuable service in alerting the global community to possible or impending emergency food situations. The quality of this service has improved in recent years, with the strengthening of the system through more comprehensive field data collection, and increased use of agro-meteorological data and computer and satellite imaging technology.

Australia has found FAO's crop forecasting an extremely valuable aid in emergency, and other food aid, allocation decision-making.

Equally FAO data bases on global, country, and commodity-based agricultural production and trade are also valuable aids in planning and delivering food aid and food security assistance programs.

We value also the work undertaken by the World Food Programme, an agency closely associated with FAO, and drawing extensively on its expertise.

In the general context of assistance programmes, I would make a special plea for increased FAO technical and other assistance, based on FAO's global experience in assisting small island economies, to be made available to assisting agricultural development in the South West Pacific region.

Mr Chairman, I mentioned earlier the role of women in development. Women are the backbone of the world's agriculture and produce more than half of the world's food. Their role, however, is given far less recognition than it deserves in most of our countries.

FAO is playing a key role in raising that consciousness. For our part, we seek to ensure that our assistance to developing countries takes full and proper account of women's role in development. We appreciate that the problems facing women are complex, and often arise from social and historical factors and attitudes. Our goals must nevertheless remain one of full recognition, and an equal role, for women in the development process.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I turn to the condition of FAO itself. FAO's mandate remains as valid today as it did 42 years ago. As a founding member we have been strong supporters of its work.

There is nevertheless a clear need for a thorough review of the management and financial structures of the Organization. Program objectives and priorities need to be clearly delineated and responsive to changing needs. There must be effective coordination in program delivery.

More generally, Mr Chairman, the task and demands which could fall to FAO are unlimited. Objectives must be clearly defined, strategies agreed, and priorities, targets and methods of measurement of achievement identified, to ensure that maximum progress is made with limited resources available. This process must be coupled with the development of budgetary accounting and reporting processes, which make the operations of the organization clearly transparent and accountable.

Without these changes there is a risk that donor countries, faced with many priorities of their own, and confident of the transparency and accountability of their own organizations will drift to bilateral rather than multilateral programs. We are all faced with demands within high priority programs and services which we cannot meet in our national budgets.

We are concerned also that the draft Budget, does not reflect likely contributions or current deficits; and that countries which have honoured their commitments are being asked to make additional contributions, to accounts depleted by the unwillingness of others to pay.

We see no priorities in the draft Program, no allowance for likely contingencies. We think the Program fails to address current problems and postpones unpalatable decisions. It is incumbent on the Secretariat, in these difficult economic times, rigorously to examine all facets of administrative costs and find ways to prune the Budget, just as the Australian, and other, Governments have been forced to do at home. We cannot, in these circumstances, support the draft Budget.

Mr Chairman, we have elected our Director-General. The campaign was, frankly, extensive, enervating and unsettling. We believe that Heads of UN Agencies should be limited to a maximum of two terms of office. It has, indeed, been the traditional practice of FAO to limit the number of terms. Such a limitation will help to provide stability and predictability for the incumbent, and regular infusion of new ideas and enthusiasms for the Organization. Australia will be proposing appropriate amendments to the Basic Texts for the next Conference.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, it seems to my delegation that our Organization faces real challenges in the next biennium. We hope that it will emerge a more effective and authoritative body. An energetic, vital FAO nourished by a recommitted membership is as important now as at any time in the past 42 years.

Dean Russel LINDO (Belize): Mr President, Distinguished Colleagues, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen: Sir, I wish to congratulate you on your unanimous election to this august global body, a credit to your illustrious self and your great country. May I assure -you of my Government's and country's support to you and your Committee and to the continuing efforts of FAO to resolve the critical food situation not only on the African Continent but also in so many other countries where people are suffering from lack of food, shelter and clothing.

I am most grateful for the opportunity to address my colleague Ministers and officials responsible for agriculture on a number of subjects which I consider to be crucial to the improvement and expansion of the agriculture sector in all countries, particularly in the developing countries where agricultural industries form the base of their economies.

We are all aware that the factors involved in determining successful agricultural production are many and varied. This is a truism for most countries, but particularly so in the third world. Governments in such countries face a never ending struggle dealing with inherent, local and also extraneous problems. These impact negatively and significantly on successful agricultural production.

The scenarios of these problems may differ from country to country, but usually include lack of land, water, credit, agricultural technology, storage and processing systems, and marketing. It is not my purpose to elaborate on each individual problem, for these are legion. But I do wish to single out one which affects most, if not all, third world countries - that is, marketing. Before I proceed to marketing however, I wish to discuss the vicissitudes confronting developing countries in international marketing. Allow me a few words on the all-important subject of post harvest technology.

Mr President, in this same forum two years ago much was said regarding the discipline of post harvest technology, and a considerable number of consultancies have been sponsored on this subject. I wish to repeat my concern about most of these studies: emphasis has been, and is, being placed on only exposing the nature, quality and extent of storage problems. The symptoms and weaknesses having been diagnosed, they stop short of attaining the final objective of assisting farmers at the field level to preserve more crops.

It is important that FAO and other assistance agencies redirect their economic assistance in post harvest technology to activities which culminate in the establishment and utilization of improved storage and processing facilities. May I at this point emphasize once more the need for training of local personnel in post harvest technology? And may I generally extol the virtue and wisdom of training farmers and extension agents in practical aspects of post harvest handling of agricultural produce?

I wish now to turn to the elusive subject of marketing outlining the difficulties experienced by most developing countries. Marketing, particularly in relation to export to developed countries, is commonly conducted in such a way as to provide some protection and preferential prices to goods from developing countries. Commodities such as sugar, citrus, bananas, honey are some of those which fall within this broad category and are often exported under a quota, with a protected or preferential price.

We need to ask ourselves "why is this so?" I am certain that there is no one single answer to the question, since each individual country has its individual problems. However, there are two major reasons which are common to many third world countries. These are: (1) the so-called inefficiency of production and (2) quality control.

It is my firm belief that the lack of export markets, or the need for third world countries to sell in the so-called protected markets, are not caused entirely by inefficiency of production or quality control. On the contrary, restrictive and even prohibitive conditions for importation instituted by some first world countries serve to selectively exclude or even prohibit the entry of agricultural commodities into their countries.

Examples of how this is done vary. They include barriers set up for technical and also for trade reasons. The recent zero tolerance level for ethylene dibromide (EDB) treatment of fresh fruits, and the reduction in export quotas for sugar producing countries are but two examples of these artificial trade barriers. Overwhelming and convincing evidence has been submitted on behalf of exporting countries supporting claims that EDB is not as noxious as it has been reputed to be.

In addition - their competitiveness threatened - third world countries with their small, vulnerable economies, are forced into a self-defensive position to protect their own agricultural production because of policies originating from and adopted by developed countries resulting in the dumping of a wide variety of subsidiary agricultural products from developed countries onto the world market - examples of these being beef, beet sugar, orange concentrate, lamb, grains, butter and other milk products.

Very often, agrochemicals which have been banned in one country are vigorously marketed in another, usually in a third world country. These banned chemicals, when used, end up as residues in meats and crops. They also pollute the environment, causing harm to human and animal life in these unfortunate countries.

Mr President, with the dawn of every new day my country renews its efforts to overcome the obstacles which impede efficient agricultural production and quality enhancement. Efforts are also continuously being made to buffer the detrimental effect on our export of food commodities by actively seeking to remove all the trade barriers imposed by the importing countries. Our task masters however have not made our burden easy.

In this regard, I must say that my country does not stand alone in this struggle, since it has been receiving, and will continue to receive effective assistance and collaboration from international organizations, such as this prestigious one. The Food and Agricultural Organization has been very instrumental in the development of several projects aimed at increasing food production in developing countries.

Besides the several FAO agricultural and commodity networks operating in various countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, there are also the Technical Cooperation Projects. These projects are aimed at addressing specific problems in agricultural development. The success of these projects has not gone unnoticed as more and more requests are made for additional ones.

Belize for its part has only recently become an active participant in the programmes of FAO's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLAC) which is located in Santiago de Chile. This has been facilitated especially through the networking programmes currently in place to address the three main sub-sectors of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The administration of an FAO office such as RLAC must give cognizance to some significant problems caused by language disparity, cultural differences as well as geographical separation among countries and between the Latin American and Caribbean sub-regions. These factors impose significant communication difficulties which are further heightened by different levels of economic and technical expectations inherent in countries with different agricultural bases and standards of living.

My country would wish to highly commend FAO for its efforts to date aimed at putting in place procedures to address these difficult circumstances. We would wish also to request that these efforts continue and in fact be intensified. This could be achieved, for example, by further outposting of technical officers into the Caribbean sub-region as has been done in the case of fisheries and plant protection.

In developing administrative and technical procedures to support Belize, FAO has made certain accommodations to our historical legacy and geographical reality. Thus:

- (i) although located in Central America, Belize is a member of the Caribbean Community Common Market (CARICOM), the only other mainland country being Guyana;
- (ii) though exemplified by a small, fragile economy, Belize is not an island and has not necessarily benefited from lobbying on behalf of small island states;
- (iii) though associated with the Caribbean economically and politically the FAO Representative to Belize is located in Mexico, not in the Caribbean.

Mr President, at the risk of being invidious, I wish to commend the Director-General for the prompt manner in which he responded to my country's request for an official FAO Representative. This request was made to him here in Rome in November 1985. We had our representative in place within two months, and an excellent relationship has developed and been maintained since that time. I also wish to express my appreciation to the Director-General for his visit to Belize in August 1986 and his ready response to our requests for assistance. Over the last two years we have implemented at least seven technical cooperation programmes in Belize and have only recently signed an eighth.

At this point, Mr President, I would wish to express my country's support for the Technical Cooperation Programme, much as I did two years ago in this same forum. Whereas large development assistance programmes can be appreciated by most countries, such programmes require concomitant identification of counterpart funds, personnel and in-kind contributions which, in many cases small developing countries are hard-put to locate. The TCP, on the other hand, takes the form of small projects providing technical assistance and some equipment to address specific technical and structural/institutional problems - to which the FAO and cooperating countries can readily respond. The TCP also offers the opportunity to develop larger programmes for funding from alternative sources - programmes, I may add, which are properly prioritized and developed with participation of the cooperating countries. In supporting the TCP and requesting that it be further expanded, I wish to indicate that I do so not only on behalf of my country but also on a mandate from CARICOM in my capacity as Chairman of the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Agriculture.

It is because of these successes, that it is disappointing to learn that funding for the Food and Agriculture Organization has been drastically cut back through the failure of some member countries to pay their full contributions. This will obviously have a negative impact on on-going and planned projects in many regions. Is it that donor countries do not see it politic to provide funds to the Food and Agricultural Organization for use in the production of food items which may become competitive with their own? One would hate to impute malice aforethought in this connection.

Such a premeditated act, if allowed to come to pass, would cause serious setbacks to the import substitution and crop diversification programmes already undertaken by many Third World countries. Instead of cutbacks in funding, consideration ought most seriously to be given to a real budgetary increase in order to make this Organization more capable of addressing the pressing needs of the developing world which should always be uppermost in the mind of this august body. Indeed, it is only with the greatest reluctance that Belize supports the Director-General's modest cost and real increases to the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for 1988/89.

I am not insinuating, Mr President, that this Organization alone can solve all the problems of underdevelopment in the Third World. Complementary assistance and collaboration is also required from other international and regional agencies and organizations such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the European Development Fund (EDF), the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) of the United Kingdom, the World Bank (WB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the International Development Bank, and so on.

Mr President, if time will allow, I would seek the indulgence of this illustrious body to speak briefly on the subject of development and utilization of forest resources. This is a sector to which my country gives the highest priority encompassing as it does responsibility for environmental conservation. At the same time Belize is one of the most densely forested countries in Central America and the Caribbean.

The forestry problems facing the nations of the Caribbean countries are, as it is in most, if not all, developing territories, many. However, they may be divided into two categories. Those with a relative abundance of timber resources and which, incidentally, possess a small human population per unit area. These would include Guyana, Dominica and Belize. On the other hand the others have a scarcity of timber and a dense population such as Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

In the CARICOM countries, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago produce lumber. However, only Belize and Guyana are net exporters of wood although they have the potential to increase their production substantially provided remunerative markets can be found for lesser known woods. All the other member states are net importers of wood. There is, therefore, a clear indication that Dominica, Guyana and Belize will have to make every effort to expand their forest industries' capacity; Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago must continue to establish plantations for the production of industrial wood in an effort to lessen imports of this commodity.

Another problem area which exists in most countries of the region is a dire shortage of fuel wood, particularly for the domestic needs of the rural areas.

Concurrently during the last decade or so, we have witnessed a significant increase in the awareness of all countries in the region to heed the need for developing long-term policies for environmental protection. Several studies have been conducted which led to the enactment of new legislation and the creation of many national parks and other protected areas. These actions will definitely aid significantly in the fight against possible extinction of the great variety of flora and fauna in the region. However, within the context of environmental protection, the question of watershed management for many areas in the Caribbean and Latin America needs to be further addressed as firmly and as quickly as possible. This would ensure that the denudation of steep terrain is curtailed to an absolute minimum. My country, for its part, has indicated its concern for this area by a recent release of a Wildlife Policy Plan as well as its accession to FAO's Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

My government has placed on record its intention to coordinate institutions involved in all aspects of wildlife management, research and dissemination of information as a means towards achieving the objectives of the plan. One of the key objectives of the plan is the creation of a Conservation Department within our Forestry Department to assist with the administrative and other needs of wildlife activities as soon as government funds and appropriate personnel can be identified.

Mr President, before leaving this subject area I wish to make a special plea to developed countries to join with us in what, I am certain, would turn out to be a mutually beneficial programme for complete utilization of our vast resources of forestry products. While it is a known fact that only a tiny portion of the standing volume of woods in Belize could be classified as primary, such as mahogany, the wealth of our forestry resources is now in the form of lesser known hardwoods which are beautiful but faced with a limited market. At this point I wish to take time out to recognize the considerable efforts of the United Kingdom Government to assist my country in establishing and developing the technology to enter this new market place.

In closing, I would like to indicate that my country, over the last couple of years, has made significant strides towards shifting its agricultural status from one of underdevelopment, towards a more dynamic and progressive one. My government will continue to collaborate with international development agencies and organizations in order to further enhance the developmental process already in place and to ensure such development in partnership with our trading partners and agencies such as FAO. We are therefore as a matter of enlightened self-interest supportive of any reforms to the Organization that would improve its effectiveness and impact, in assisting developing countries in general and Belize in particular. However, what we will not do is to subscribe to reforms that are on the present basic texts of FAO, predicated as they are on the principles of multilateralism, consensus and one country one vote. We will not be a party to any proposal which introduces a hidden form of bilateralism and enables a handful of richer countries to manage or to control the Organization.

I would like finally to thank our host country for their hospitality, and I would like to congratulate our eminent Director-General on his re-election to head this important international body for yet another term. I feel that in our valiant struggle to improve our agricultural economies we can continue to rely on the full cooperation of FAO. During the hard times ahead, may God extend his blessings to this Organization and all member countries.

João PEREIRA SILVA, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair

João PEREIRA SILVA, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia João PEREIRA SILVA, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Belize for his statement. Before continuing our general debate, I have to inform you of a request from the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Ethiopia is not intending to deliver a statement orally but asks the permission of the Conference to deliver this statement in writing so that it will be included in the Conference documents. If there is no objection...it is decided as such. I would now like to invite the distinguished delegate of Japan to deliver his statement.

Sakue MATSUMOTO (Japan): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I am greatly honoured to have this opportunity of representing the Japanese Government at this 24th Session of the FAO Conference and of exchanging views with the distinguished delegates of other member countries.

I should like, first of all, to offer you, Your Excellency, my warmest congratulations on your election as Chairman.

I should also like to congratulate Your Excellency Mr Edouard Saouma on your reappointment as the Director-General.

Japan considers FAO's efforts to solve the food and agriculture problems extremely valuable and effective and strongly supports its activities. It is for this reason that Japan, which is the Organization's second largest contributor, always does its utmost to implement FAO resolutions and decisions agreed upon by consensus, desiring to fulfil its responsibilities as a member. I would like to take this opportunity to explain how Japan is following up on the resolutions and decisions recently adopted at FAO, such as Guidelines for International Agricultural Adjustment.

The Guidelines for International Agricultural Adjustment and the Action Plan adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development advocate a number of important tasks for solving food and agricultural problems in the developing countries.

While I am of the view that the food and agricultural problems of the developing countries are to be solved primarily by these countries' self-help efforts, the role of the international community in supporting those efforts is also important. Believing this, Japan has been promoting cooperation to assist solving agriculture and rural community problems in developing countries by giving such cooperation a prominent place in Japan's official development assistance. One result has been that the amount of Japanese ODA related to agriculture, forestry and fisheries increased from sixty-eight (68) million US dollars to seven hundred and sixty-two (762) million US dollars in the decade 1976 - 1985.

I should like to elaborate on this point now. In order to assist the efforts of food-deficit countries suffering from hunger and malnutrition to attain self-sufficiency in food, as called for by Guideline 2 and the World Food Security Compact, Japan gives priority to cooperation for increased food production. Japan has been providing such agricultural inputs as fertilizer, pesticides and machinery as Grant Aid for Increased Food Production, and is also extending financial and technical cooperation in this sector.

Japan also recognizes the transitional development tool, which targets for food aid as a transitional development tool, which Guideline 11 and the Food Security Compact call for. Japan's KR food aid has for a number of years substantially exceeded the minimum annual contribution, with increased appropriations for African countries. Japan has also been steadily expanding its contribution to the World Food Programme. Japan's food aid is all on a grant basis, with its food aid cereals all being produced by third countries. My country will continue to implement food aid in line with this policy direction.

Responding to Guideline 6, etc., Japan intends to extend cooperation which gives priority to diversification of agricultural production, including upland crops and animal husbandry, improvement of post-harvest technologies, development and upgrading of distribution, processing and marketing and integrated development of agriculture and the rural community. Such cooperation will be directed mainly to the countries which have almost attained self-sufficiency in the main food grains.

Japan has thus been cooperating positively to implement the measures decided by FAO for the progress of the developing world, and is also resolved to further intensify its ODA efforts. In 1985, for example, Japan set its Third Medium-Term ODA Target, calling for the doubling of ODA in seven years and, having been steadily implementing that plan, has recently decided to advance implementation by at least two years. In addition, especially for sub-Saharan African countries and other least-developed countries, we are resolved to provide non-project-type grant assistance amounting to approximately 500 million US dollars over the next three years.

In promoting agricultural and rural development for the developing countries in its intensified ODA efforts, my country will attach increasing importance to maximizing cooperation effect, especially by emphasizing policy dialogue with recipient countries.

Guideline I for International Agricultural Adjustment calls for the agricultural policy of developed countries to aim at the most rational use of resources and to take account of the need to ensure world food security, and the World Food Security Compact calls on the governments of all countries to accept the responsibility for assuring food security.

The principal objective of Japan's agricultural policy is to assure a basic food supply capacity within the country, with appropriate planning for the combination of domestic production with imports. In implementing this policy, Japan intends to improve the productivity of its agriculture to the greatest extent possible and also to reduce price differences between domestic and foreign agricultural products. To this end, my Government has, in principle, not raised the government support prices of the major agricultural products for ten years, and, especially, since last year has, in fact, lowered them. In this connection, Japan has cut the agricultural budget by seventeen percent (17%) over the last six years.

Both the Guidelines and the WCARRD Action Plan call on the developed countries to improve import access for food and agricultural products. Japan has been striving to improve market access to the greatest extent possible, by such means as easing of import restrictions and reduction of tariff rates. For example, under the Action Programme for Improving Market Access adopted in 1985, Japan abolished or reduced tariffs on about 1 850 items, of which 200 items are agricultural, forestry and fishery products. In particular, recognizing that expansion of exports of agricultural products is of great importance to the economies of developing countries, Japan reduced or abolished the tariffs on a substantial number of agricultural products which are imported from developing countries.

Japan, being the world's largest net importer of agricultural products, has been striving to expand and develop agricultural trade by means of such measures.

Moreover, Japan, which hopes most ardently that the GATT New Round will be a success, intends to contribute to participate positively in its negotiations so as to contribute to the promotion of agricultural trade and to the harmonious development of agriculture in every country.

Mr Chairman, I would now like to move on to forestry and fisheries, which are no less important than agriculture.

The shrinking of the world's tropical forests, which account for about fifty percent of the world's forests, has been very rapid in recent years, and it not only affects communities in those countries, but constitutes a global threat. I consider it necessary for the whole international community to deal promptly with this problem.

In this connection, I consider extremely valuable the FAO's leadership shown in establishing the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, and thereby promoting the formulation of country-level action of tropical forests. I am convinced that this scheme can be a very important framework for international cooperation in the years to come, and my country looks forward to intensification of such activities by FAO.

Around two-thirds of Japan's land area is covered by forests, ranging from subarctic forests to subtropical forests. We are making strenuous efforts to promote forestry in order to conserve land and the natural environment and to maintain and develop water resources, while assuring an appropriate supply of domestic timber. My country's experience in the area of forestry management and forestry policy would, I believe, contribute to developing countries' efforts in this sector.

Japan has already adopted the initiative of despatching experts to formulate country-level action plans, which FAO advocates, and intends to extend appropriate cooperation in this field, including financial arrangements.

My Government is also contributing positively to the International Tropical Timber Organization, which started its activities last year, by providing funds for its projects and in other ways.

Mr Chairman, fish resources are, needless to say, a very important source of protein which could be of great help in solving the world's food and nutrition problems. Japan, being the world's largest fishing country and engaging in fishing activity on a world-wide scale, has always been deeply interested in efforts to utilize the world fish resources positively and effectively for the benefit of mankind, while striving to preserve them.

My Government, therefore, earnestly hopes that the preservation and utilization of fish resources will be pursued appropriately, with FAO, playing a leading role. Japan, for its part, is determined to continue to make a positive contribution to such activities of FAO in the future.

My Government highly commends the Programmes of Action for Fisheries Management and Development agreed upon by the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. Responding, Japan has been contributing to the trust fund for the South Pacific Aquaculture Development Project, undertaken by FAO, also providing various forms of technical and financial assistance bilaterally, from both governmental and private resources, in this way, too, cooperating for the promotion of fisheries in developing countries.

Regarding FAO's recent report, which compiled comprehensive data on fish resources in the South-West Atlantic Ocean, my Government promptly took measures to regulate the number of its fishing vessels, with a view to conserving and rationally utilizing the resources in question.

My Government earnestly hopes that FAO will further encourage cooperation between coastal and distant-waters fishery countries to promote the preservation and utilization of the world's valuable fish resources.

FAO has, as I have mentioned, throughout the forty years since its foundation, been continuing concrete activities for the solution of world food and agricultural problems, with the cooperation of member countries. However, many problems still remain to be solved, and FAO is called upon to tackle them efficiently and effectively.

Particularly, it is becoming more and more important for all member countries that FAO shall accurately assess and analyze trends in world food and agriculture, promptly making the results of such analysis available to member countries.

Given the difficult financial situation of all member countries, FAO's activities should, however, be made yet more efficient. It seems clear that the time is ripe for a comprehensive review of FAO's role and its administrative and financial functions.

My Government is pleased to see that this session is taking up this matter as part of its agenda, and considers that it is appropriate for this session to set up a high-level group of experts to carry out such a review more thoroughly.

My Government hopes most ardently that taking account of the importance of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, FAO will continue to play a major role in solving food and agriculture problems. I would like to close this statement by stating that the Government of Japan will continue to participate actively in FAO's activities and will work together with other member countries for the solution of those problems.

Jen. (Hungary) (original language Hungarian): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. It is my great pleasure to convey to this forum the best wishes of the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic and to congratulate the officers elected at this 24th Session of the Conference of FAO.

I should also like to extend my congratulations to the Director-General elected for a third term, a Director-General with whom we have already had a very good relationship. I wish him every success in his future activities.

Mr Chairman, it is with great expectations that my Government looks forward to this Session which I believe is of outstanding importance in the Organization's history. As it is known, on this year's World Food Day attention was focussed on the smallest and most vulnerable participants in food production with whom the farmers in my country are fully at one. The era of landlessness is still in the memories of the Hungarian farmers, and this is why they appreciate the achievements in our country. Among these may I mention the establishment of socialist large scale farms, cooperatives, and the simultaneously growing security of small-farmers. Mutual interdependency of farms of varying size has created new forms, where economic and social security covering each participant is considered as the key factor of permanence. The agrarian policy considering all these elements is one of its most important preconditions.

As chairman of the Group of Eastern European States in the United Nations, the representative of my Government made a joint statement together with some other socialist countries on the 16th October this year on the question of international economic security. The essence of the new approach consists of establishing conditions for constructive dialogue and mutually advantageous cooperation based on respect for one another's interest; this would be conducive to the development of stable and predictable economic relations, and the ensuring of greater equality of equal opportunity at the level of both individual countries and that of the world's economy. I am convinced that political will is one of the determining factors in this process.

Hungary is doing her very best to support basic views with practical deeds. To illustrate this may I state that following our promise made at the last World Fisheries Conference we have opened up the doors of our training institutes, and with the help of international cooperation we have successfully been implementing training under a project with international courses in aquaculture. Within this framework experts from a good number of developing countries can develop their knowledge in this important field. Likewise, it is our pleasure to host professional meetings of the United Nations that are setting good examples for a close inter-agency cooperation. The coordinated activities of FAO and the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations have always played a great role in promoting European agricultural relations which are of utmost importance for us. It gives us great pleasure and honour that the international Symposium on Recent Developments of Biotechnology in Food and Feed production, the first one of its kind, will be held in Budapest in June 1988. In order to arrange for high level expertise and technology to become common property, we are making our best experts available to FAO, and as far as possible we are receiving a large number of experts from developing countries under FAO fellowships.

Mr Chairman, our notion of international cooperation does not only cover the transfer of expertise but it also extends to efforts for receiving it. Hungary, being one of the small Central European countries, has always put great emphasis on adapting the recommendations of international fora to her specific conditions. This is also the case with the guidelines and targets for International Agricultural Adjustment. It is well known that in Hungary we have been self-sufficient for a long

time, and my country has been a net agricultural exporter. Thus the major share of our national economy's resources is directed towards modernization of production structures, to the upgrading of the quality of products, and to improving competitiveness. In our experience the diversification of agricultural production, the strengthening of cooperative movements, the implementation of a well-balanced price and tax policy could be the best vehicle for this end. At the same time we are against exaggerated agricultural subsidies. Our intention is to make producers more interested in efficiency. It is in this spirit that the Hungarian Government has launched its Programme of Work for the years 1988-90, where the guiding principle for the agricultural sector is qualitative improvement. We have, however, to implement this programme bearing in mind the difficult economic and financial circumstances.

Now, as regards the troubles of the Organization. I wish to emphasize that despite all our efforts the tasks before us have become no less urgent. At a time when we cannot realistically count on the availability of more resources, the challenges that we face can only be met through proper identification of priorities and more efficient management. Based on these considerations we support the 1988-89 Programme of Work and Budget submitted to the Conference.

In our opinion the priorities given to training, soil and environmental protection, spreading the results of biotechnology, country and regional surveys on agrarian policy to forestry and fisheries development are absolutely appropriate. We agree with FAO's function as a source of technical and scientific information and with FAO remaining a champion of efforts to make the most recent results of technical scientific progress available to countries possessing less developed techniques and technologies. We deem the Technical Cooperation Programme to be a proper means to this end, too. Therefore, we consider it necessary to maintain the share of the TCP in FAO's budget.

FAO's mandate is not being limited only to implementing its own programme in the narrowest sense. We consider it important that FAO should participate in an advisory capacity in the GATT ongoing Uruguay round. Hungary's interest in the success of the talks is well known. My country is one of the founders of the Cairns Group and, echoing my Australian colleague, I should also like to emphasize that extending the agrarian problems of a country or of a region throughout the world would only result in the escalation of these same problems. This practice is contradicting the new concept of international economic security which has been mentioned.

Before concluding I would like to announce that the Hungarian Government is to make available to the UN/FAO World Food Programme food aid in kind. This will also be in the future.

It is my firm belief that without confidence and deeds we shall have no chance to achieve a better future. As far as deeds are concerned, FAO and its Member States bear a unique responsibility in achieving world food security which is the cornerstone of progress and of international security. Therefore, I wish unity and thus every success to the present Conference Session.

Jackson MAKWETA (Tanzania): Mr Chairman, Director-General in absentia, ladies and gentlemen, allow me on behalf of my delegation to congratulate you on having been elected to chair this 24th Session of the Conference of FAO. I am confident that under your guidance and leadership we will be able to achieve useful results by the end of the Conference.

At this juncture, on behalf of my delegation and of the people of Tanzania, may I congratulate Dr Saouma on his election as Director-General of FAO. I wish to renew our faith and confidence in his leadership of the Organization, and to assure him of our continued support in his work and in the noble task of FAO of freeing humanity from hunger and malnutrition.

In Tanzania, as in many other countries of Africa, agriculture is the backbone of the economy. Agriculture employs 90 percent of our people, and contributes about 75 percent of the export earnings and 50 percent of the Gross National Product. However, in the last decade performance in this sector has not been satisfactory. Consequently, the country could not realize its development objectives. One such development objective in the agricultural sector is to attain self-sufficiency in food, and to increase the production of cash crops. This objective is part of our economic recovery programme which is in its second year of implementation.

The measures taken to increase food production and cash crops, inter alia, include the operation of a timetable for input distribution and application. The timetable indicates when the inputs are to be delivered to the farmers, and identifies the institutions to undertake this task. A programme for the implementation of the national agricultural and livestock policy has been prepared; I am glad to inform members of this Conference that these efforts are beginning to bear fruit.

Similarly, our objective in the livestock sector is to increase meat, milk and other livestock products. To achieve these goals our recovery programme aims at intensifying such things as disease control. In this respect, I take the opportunity to thank donor countries and other agencies for their contributions of equipment, vaccines, drugs and vehicles to be applied in the national campaign against rinderpest.

Efforts are also being made to control environmental degradation including soil conservation, afforestation, modification of water catchment areas, lakes, and the improvement of the fishing industry. Whatever the cost, we must strive to achieve conservation-based agricultural development strategies. Either we do, or we perish.

In spite of the efforts mentioned above, the economy in general and agriculture in particular in Tanzania still face insurmountable problems. Among these are such things as the low level of farming technology, excessive harvest losses, diseases, natural catastrophes and inadequate and insufficient surveys. In addition, the performance of this sector is even further aggravated by an inadequate transport capacity to our rural poor, increased inadequate storage facilities, inflation, both domestic and external, protectionism and debt servicing. Like other developing countries, Tanzania has few resources to solve difficulties caused by immense foreign exchange problems.

Our annual requirement of fertilizer is 180 000 tons but we can produce only 50.000 tons. It is no exaggeration to say that in this regard the developing countries are confronted with a grievous situation. The rural poor continue to suffer from hunger and malnutrition and the general deterioration of the quality of life. National efforts, complemented by bilateral and/or multilateral assistance over past decades, have so far failed to advance the development process. Indeed, in most of these countries, meaningful rural and economic development has stopped.

In order to arrest and reverse this unsatisfactory and unacceptable situation, great efforts must be made. In the case of the developing countries appropriate economic and social policies must be put into force. For the international donor community, there is urgent need for a substantial increase in financial assistance and for improvement in the quality of such assistance.

What I am saying here is that the development process in the developing countries is essentially a cooperative process between those who need the assistance and those who are in a position to provide it. It is a process in which both parties have identified a common objective in the cause of furthering the progressive eradication of hunger, disease and ignorance in the world. To achieve this objective requires a common approach. For the FAO it is not enough to be sympathetic and responsive to the needs of the rural poor alone; it must act adequately and with speed. Budgetary and organizational procedures adopted by FAO must aim at achieving these goals. Any other reforms which seek to impose a specific ideological system are not called for and are a betrayal of the noble principles on which the Organization was founded.

Jorge BUSTAMANTE (Colombia): Señor Presidente, señores Ministros, señor Director General, señoras y señores: En representación del Gobierno de Colombia, constituye para mí un gran honor intervenir ante esta Conferencia, en un momento crítico de la cooperación internacional, cuando una acción dirigida contra el multilateralismo ha afectado considerablemente al funcionamiento de los Organismos Internacionales.

A partir de la mitad de la década de los años setenta, "la coyuntura petrolera, que afectó considerablemente a las economías de muchos países, se reflejó en el decrecimiento de las contribuciones a los programas multilaterales. Desde el punto de vista político, a principios de los años ochenta se inició una campaña tendente a menoscabar los fundamentos mismos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, actitud que se ha mantenido y acentuado, hasta producir la crisis actual, en la que no se vislumbran posibilidades de recuperación a corto plazo.

Además, la actual crisis financiera, puesta en evidencia las últimas semanas, traerá, sin duda graves consecuencias a los países en desarrollo, con la necesidad de un replanteamiento de las cargas y responsabilidades de economías como Japón, República Federal de Alemania. 'los Estados Unidos.

Sin embargo, vemos con relativo optimismo el futuro, al tomar nota del cambio de posiciones de una de las dos superpotencias mundiales, la Unión de Repúblicas Socialistas Soviéticas, que recientemente adoptó una actitud positiva y constructiva con relación al sistema de Naciones Unidas, hecho que podría significar el ingreso de esa gran nación en la FAO, lo cual consolidaría el carácter de universalidad de nuestra Organización.

La FAO no ha sido una excepción de los hechos anotados anteriormente, no obstante la importancia creciente de la agricultura y de la alimentación en las economías de los países en desarrollo.

Frente a esa realidad, el Gobierno de Colombia piensa que la FAO debe renovarse, revisar sus políticas y programas y actualizar sus métodos de trabajo, para reorientar más decididamente su labor en favor de los Estados beneficiarios.

Estos objetivos sólo podrán lograrse con el concurso común de todos los Estados Miembros, cuyos representantes deben estar en condiciones de cumplir una tarea más directa y sostenida, a bravos de la cual puedan influir realmente en la orientación y ejecución de los planes de nuestra Organización.

Los gobiernos de los Estados industrializados deben suministrar los recursos suficientes y los países en desarrollo deben conceder a la agricultura la más alta prioridad y las mayores asignaciones financieras posibles en sus planes nacionales de desarrollo.

Los países del Tercer Mundo vienen haciendo notables esfuerzos. Desafortunadamente, éstos no han sido suficientes; aún dependemos de la asistencia externa técnica y financiera, y en los campos de la agricultura y la alimentación, la FAO sigue siendo la Agencia líder del sistema. Pero sus trabajos no podrán adelantarse eficazmente si se le niegan las aportaciones financieras indispensables.

El Gobierno de Colombia piensa que la liberalización del comercio es factor fundamental en la solución de los problemas de la agricultura y de la alimentación.

Nuestro país pertenece al grupo CAIRNS, en el cual se halla asociado con otros países en desarrollo y desarrollados, en busca de la eliminación de los subsidios y de todas las prácticas que distorsionan el mercado de productos agrícolas.

El Gobierno de Colombia espera que todas las declaraciones y comunicados que al más alto nivel se han producido este año, no sean solamente textos de buenas intenciones, sino que se conviertan en realidad, para que mediante hechos concretos y específicos, particularmente en la Ronda de Uruguay, se logre la progresiva apertura de los importantes mercados de los Estados desarrollados, en favor de un libre comercio que facilite la exportación de nuestros productos agropecuarios.

El Gobierno de Colombia apoya plenamente el nivel del presupuesto para el bienio 1988-89 y pide a esta Conferencia que lo apruebe por unanimidad, como el mejor incentivo que podrá ofrecerse a la valiosa tarea que realiza esta Organización.

Sin embargo, pensamos que la difícil situación por la que se atraviesa exige que se proceda con realismo y objetividad. Si sabemos de antemano que no se podrá contar con todos los recursos del nivel presupuestario propuesto, será necesario e imprescindible que se establezcan prioridades alternativas, que indiquen lo que los Gobiernos desean y eviten así que, como en el bienio que se va a terminar, deban introducirse reajustes en los programas, con lamentables consecuencias para los países en desarrollo.

En el caso de Colombia, no obstante que en los últimos 30 años nuestra población casi se ha triplicado, podemos mostrar con orgullo cómo la producción del sector agrícola ha crecido a una tasa aún mayor.

Por ejemplo, en 1975, cuando la población total ascendía a 24 millones, el Producto Interno Bruto del sector agrícola se situó en 93 mil millones de pesos, con 8 millones y medio de Colombianos en las zonas rurales. Diez años más tarde en 1985, el PIB agrícola fue de 130 mil millones de pesos de 1975, o sea que la producción aumentó en un 40 por ciento en términos reales, en momentos en que la población rural permanecía estacionaria y los consumidores urbanos habían aumentado en 4 millones.

En cuanto a la economía en general, Colombia ha superado la dependencia que durante un siglo tuvimos de las exportaciones del café. Tan sólo hace 25 años el 90 por ciento de las exportaciones colombianas correspondían al café y las proyecciones para 1987 indican que ellas serán únicamente el 28 por ciento, y esperamos que para finales del siglo sean inferiores a un 15 por ciento.

En este año, por primera vez en 100 años, las exportaciones distintas al café y a los minerales, la mayoría de ellas agrícolas, sobrepasarán los ingresos provenientes del café.

No obstante lo anterior, el incremento de la producción agropecuaria de que antes he hablado, proviene en altísimo porcentaje de una minoría de propietarios o de modernos empresarios agrícolas; por eso es imperioso hacer posible que la mayor parte de los incrementos futuros los aporte el sector campesino, garantizándose a los pequeños propietarios y minifundistas un crecimiento de su ingreso. En las condiciones prevalecientes, un incremento de la producción obtenido mayoritariamente por los empresarios trae consigo paradójicamente el empobrecimiento relativo del campesino ancestral y, en oportunidades, su empobrecimiento absoluto.

Los fenómenos anteriores no son únicos en Colombia. Nuestro país considera que la superación de la POBREZA ABSOLUTA debe ser nuestro objetivo prioritario; mientras exista pobreza, su erradicación debe ser la máxima prioridad, la obsesión nacional de cada país.

El Modelo Social que ha puesto en marcha nuestro Gobierno tiende a conciliar el crecimiento y la redistribución del ingreso, como fundamento básico en la lucha por la erradicación de la POBREZA ABSOLUTA.

En la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas del año pasado, el Presidente de la República de Colombia, VIRGILIO BARCO, dijo:

"Entre las múltiples amenazas a nuestro mundo, ninguna ha sido tan permanente como la pobreza absoluta, ningún otro problema requiere más rápida y más urgente acción que la pobreza absoluta."

El Gobierno de Colombia considera que la Alimentación es uno de los aspectos que más influye en la determinación de la Pobreza Absoluta. Pensamos que sobretodo debe preocupar profundamente a la comunidad internacional la nutrición de los niños en su primera edad, cuando comienzan a formarse los cerebros de las nuevas generaciones.

Por ello, en esas actividades, la FAO debe participar: pero de manera realmente activa y eficaz.

Los representantes del Gobierno colombiano seguiremos participando en la FAO y en los demás Organismos de las Naciones Unidas, guiados por principios inmodificables que han constituido la base de nuestra política exterior.

En nombre del Gobierno de Colombia felicitamos al doctor EDOUARD SAOUMA, quien ha sido reelegido en un proceso democrático y le ofrecemos nuestra plena y decidida cooperación en la dirección de esta Organización, en momentos tan difíciles y trascendentales, que imponen la unidad de todos los Estados miembros.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, el Gobierno de Colombia ruega a los distinguidos representantes del fraterno país africano del Niger transmitir a su Gobierno el más profundo sentimiento de pesar por la desaparición del Ilustre Presidente del Niger.

Abdul Aziz AL—MUDBIL (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful, Mr Chairman, Mr Director, the FAO, Distinguished Delegates, it is my pleasure to join the previous speakers in extending my heartfelt congratulations to the Chairman of the Conference, Brother Faisal Al-Khaled, and to his Vice-Chairman, for the confidence placed in their persons by the Conference. I wish to affirm to everybody our cooperation and commitment to spare no efforts in order to render this Conference successful and to reach the resolutions and outcomes that would be beneficial to all our parties.

I also wish to express to Dr Edouard Saouma the heartfelt congratulations of the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on his reelection as Director-General of the FAO.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, the world of today is governed by an unstable economic climate. The economic recovery which started at the beginning of the 1980s has gradually slowed down during the past two years, leaving behind negative effects on the economies of the developing countries. The demand on basic commodities has substantially declined. Prices have accordingly decreased. In

turn this has led to shrinkage in the foreign exchange earnings of those countries. Added to all that there is the indebtedness problem and the declining economic assistance at all levels. This situation has resulted in many difficulties being faced by some developing countries, a fact that weakened some of the development plans and programmes and accordingly curbed their ability to expand in the field of food production, vertically and horizontally, and hampered the importation of food stuff requirements.

In addition to the economic recession and the indebtedness problem, the problem of balance of payment deficits has been quite prominent in some countries and has resulted in turn in deepening the protectionist policies and aggravating the tariff barriers. This led to a further restriction of the commodity flow through international trade channels. This situation also had a negative effect on the efficiency of the principle of relative economic advantage and on the optimum utilization of resources at the world level, and accordingly led to a deviation from specialization in production.

Most of the developing countries have exerted great efforts to absorb economic conditions. They had to tackle variables through the reform programmes they adopted to adjust their economies at the global and agricultural levels. However, in most cases these programmes were not quite fruitful because of the radical and sudden changes that occurred in the strategies of some developed countries. From this forum the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has always called, and is still calling, for achieving self-reliance. We called on developing countries to commit themselves to develop their agricultural sector in order to meet the food needs of their population and to establish their own reserves. Thus they can ensure their food security. They can alleviate the effects of any deterioration of production of major crops in one season or another and have reserves of food and other commodities. In this way they can increase their share in world trade and provide them with the foreign exchange necessary for the implementation of development plans and the employment of modern technology. Accordingly they can increase productivity, decrease production costs and enhance their competitive capabilities. In fact, we were expecting that what has been called for by Saudi Arabia would be achieved through the guidelines included in the document on international agriculture, an adjustment adopted by your Conference held in 1975. Apparently nothing has been achieved. The raw material exports of some countries have been faced with barriers and obstacles and the terms of trade remained stagnant or have even deteriorated.

Mr Chairman and distinguished delegates, in a bid to achieve international integration and solidarity the delegation of Saudi Arabia appeals to the developed countries to increase their efforts to reform the deteriorating economic situation in such a way that would secure the just rights of developing countries. This could be achieved through liberalization of trade and by opening the way for the supply and demand forces to play their role without imposing policies that would aim at impeding the exchange of commodities and would demolish the system of liberal economies.

Moreover, the developed countries should facilitate the transfer of technologies that would increase agricultural production. They should also intensify the flow of financial resources which are necessary for development plans in the developing countries, through the channels of institutions working in this field.

The food surplus countries, and other developing countries, have deployed enormous efforts in order to provide food to the deprived sectors. The volume of food aid has caused a record in 1984/85, which amounted to 12.5 million tons of grains, in addition to the international food reserve for emergencies. However, these great efforts, and that generous trend of giving donations, will not be a radical solution to the problems. Besides, there is no guarantee that this will continue at the same level, because of the policies sometimes adopted which could lead to a decline in the reserves of most of the donor countries. Therefore, the Delegation of Saudi Arabia affirms once again that a radical and lasting solution lies in the economic policies and development plans of the developing countries, which should aim at increasing food productivity, and creating remunerative employment opportunities for their citizens. Thus, they can strengthen their purchasing power, and consequently facilitate their access to food if they are unable to produce it.

Within the context of our call for achieving self-reliance and accelerating development in the developing countries, and out of our firm belief in technical co-operation among developing countries, it may be appropriate to review briefly the results of the experience of Saudi Arabia in as far as self-reliance and food security reserves are concerned.

Despite the limited agricultural resources in both quality and quantity, Saudi Arabia, with the help and advice of His Majesty King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz, and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, we have been able through our serious efforts and sound planning to achieve self-sufficiency in most agricultural commodities, and to have a large surplus for export, thus increasing the food supply in world markets. Wheat production has increased in Saudi Arabia from 3 000 tons in 1975 to 2.5 million tons in 1986. We exported about 1.5 million tons in 1987. The vegetable production, through the use of modern agricultural techniques, has amounted to 273 000 tons. The production of dates also increased from 200 000 tons in 1975 to over 500 000 tons in 1986. In the field of animal production, the animal husbandry farms are greatly developed as a result of an increase in green fodder and the policy of subsidising concentrated fodder. Thus, Saudi Arabia is about to achieve self-sufficiency in this field. The volume of dairy products increased from 1 800 tons in 1975 to 166 000 tons in 1987. Poultry industries have also flourished in Saudi Arabia. Egg production increased from 1 247 tons in 1975 to 137 000 tons in 1986, thus achieving a large surplus which has been exported to neighbouring countries. Likewise, our production of poultry meat increased from 14 291 tons in 1975 to 196 000 tons in 1986. As a result of the studies and systems of supporting small fishermen and the introduction of modern fishing techniques, Saudi Arabia has been able to achieve self-sufficiency in fish, and we do export our surplus of fish to a number of countries.

All these figures illustrate the fact that the experience of Saudi Arabia has been one of great success, and one that has become an example that gives confidence to other developing countries. Saudi Arabia, in co-operation with FAO, has suggested a large number of specialist and developing policy makers in the agricultural sector from over twenty countries, to take account of and to benefit from this successful experience according, of course, to the conditions and resources available to each country. I can see some of these people with us today.

In the field of ECDC, and out of our firm belief in the importance of solidarity with the international community and our deep sense of responsibility towards those suffering from deprivation, Saudi Arabia has always provided financial aid to development projects and plans in many countries throughout the world. This has been done through international financial institutions and the United Nations specialist agencies. At the forefront is the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and our contribution to IFAD today amounts to \$334 million. We also contribute to the capital of many regional development funds, as well as the Islamic Development Bank. We also gave concrete assistance at the level of bilateral co-operation through the Saudi Development Fund, which extended loans to many countries to help develop their agricultural infrastructure and development.

As far as the supply of food and the fight against malnutrition is concerned, Saudi Arabia has constantly contributed to the World Food Programme, ever since its establishment. The total of our contributions to the WFP, until the biennium 1987/88, has amounted to \$275 million, a part of which has been given in the form of dates of good quality produced by Saudi Arabia. Moreover, we have given donations from our wheat surplus to some countries, and we have assisted in alleviating the food crisis in Africa and in many cases of natural calamity in other countries.

Saudi Arabia is following with great interest the achievements of the FAO, and the great efforts which it deploys through the Programme of Work and Budget and field projects for the development and promotion of the agricultural sector at the level of the developing countries, with the aim of increasing productivity and fighting malnutrition and poverty, in addition to the conservation of the environment and the fight against desertification, particularly in some areas which have suffered greatly from desertification. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia hopes that the Organization will concentrate further on assistance to developing countries, so that they may achieve self-sufficiency.

The Delegation of Saudi Arabia has reviewed the Programme of Work and Budget as suggested for the biennium 1988-89, and appreciates the efforts exerted in preparing this document; we believe it is quite appropriate, and we support it in its totality. As for the details, we will discuss them during the different Committees.

Dear brothers, we would like to affirm once again the fact that Saudi Arabia supports the principle of development and renewal of this Organization in such a way that we increase its efficiency and productivity, which in turn would benefit the member countries, particularly the developing ones benefiting from technical programmes. From our own point of view, we believe that this would be realised only through the committees and official organs of the Organization, without having any alien factors which would hamper the achieving of these goals.

Before concluding, I would like to thank you all for your kind attention, and I trust that our deliberations will lead to a successful outcome that would be of great assistance to all those working in the agricultural field in all countries, and especially beneficial to small producers and other deprived categories.

Robin YARROW (Fiji): May 1, Sir, through you, add to the congratulations to Dr Saouma on his re-election, as well as to yourself, Sir?

The Republic of Fiji is one of the most distant Member States of FAO, being situated in the South Pacific, directly on the 180th degree of longitude, the International Date Line. One could perhaps say that each new day begins in Fiji - in fact, as I speak, tomorrow, Thursday, is already dawning. Fiji, as you will be aware, has been experiencing difficult times over recent months. That Fiji is represented here at this Conference is indicative of the high regard which the Government holds for FAO.

Fiji is, of course, a small island state and while the difficulties of such states are known to most, their significance is perhaps not fully appreciated. These difficulties include isolation, fragmentation, small size and frequently a high susceptibility to natural disasters, particularly to cyclones. From those problems spring a number of consequential difficulties, for example a high dependence on a relatively few commodities, fragile economies and a general inability to benefit from the economies of scale. Moreover, because of the relatively narrow economic base of most island states, imports usually constitute a high proportion of GDP. Special measures are required to enable small island states to better contend with their constraints. In particular, assistance is necessary in further identifying and developing markets for commodities and products, for primary sector expansion must be market-led. Support is also needed in yield improvement as well as with processing in order to provide greater added value and employment.

In the marine sector, the island states must be further assisted to assume a progressively greater role in capture fisheries, particularly of the migratory species. For a number of states this sector easily constitutes the greatest resource base.

In the case of Fiji, there are some 350 islands comprising a land area of 2% of an EEZ (exclusive economic zone) of 1 million 3/km². Less than 20% of Fiji's land area is suited to sustained agriculture due to the rugged, volcanic terrain. Furthermore, Fiji is located within the most cyclone-prone area of the South Pacific Ocean and the frequency of severe cyclones over the last century has been 1.23 per year. The damage to agriculture and infrastructure from winds sometimes in excess of 200 km/hr coupled with rainfall intensities which are amongst the highest in the world, can be extreme. Often rehabilitation efforts are still in course when they are overtaken by the effects of a subsequent cyclone within months of the previous disaster.

Agriculture accounts for over 75% of domestic exports with sugar cane as the major crop - good production and processing systems have been developed over more than 100 years and the crop has high cyclone tolerance.

The broad agricultural strategy is to diversify, in addition to but not at the expense of sugar cane, and to strike a balance between import substitution on one hand and export agriculture on the other. In doing so, effort and resources are concentrated on priority commodities at which Fiji is a producer of comparative advantage, for example, tropical fruits. In particular high value, high quality specialised produce is focussed on with processing being adopted as far as is possible and always based on sound and remunerative market outlets.

The forestry sector is also important and comprises both native species for wood and veneer and exotics, the latter based largely on Caribbean pine for chip. Trees are also used as a means of catchment protection and extra effort is needed to reduce erosion and consequential siltation of both drainage/river systems and, of course, lagoons.

In the marine sector, considerable progress has been achieved in the inshore area and utilisation of the migratory tunas and deep water snappers is proceeding well. However, aquaculture is very much in its infancy.

In closing my brief specific references to Fiji, Mr Chairman, may I acknowledge the valuable assistance provided by FAO. Assistance from other organizations, and I quote one as an example, in the area of agriculture research by the Australian Council for International Agricultural Research and from multilateral sources is also recognized.

Mr Chairman, may I now return briefly to the wider subject of the island states in general. There are some 22 such states among the group referred to as the Pacific Islands. They include over 1 200 islands with a total land area of 550 000 km² a sea area of 30 million km² and a population of 5 million. The individual states are all addressing their development problems with considerable meaningful assistance. FAO is well to the forefront in supportive programmes. Despite some good achievements by individual countries, overall progress in the agricultural sector has been disappointing. Productivity is low, food imports are still unacceptably high and cash incomes as well as exports of commodities have recorded only very modest increases, despite great potential.

It might be timely for the world's premier agricultural body to review this situation and to help devise programmes of further assistance to the Pacific Island states, possibly including some special initiatives.

Mr Chairman, I now revert to the Fisheries Sector in more detail because of its great importance and relevance - it is not always recognised that the Pacific Ocean alone exceeds the combined area of all the land masses.

In 1984, Fiji and most other member countries of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency, commonly referred to as FFA, participated in the World Conference on Fisheries. This conference was timely and represented an important step towards improving the development and management of the World's fisheries resources.

Since 1984 FFA member countries, which Fiji currently has the honour to chair, have adopted measures and launched initiatives aimed at achieving the goals set by the Conference, particularly in respect of the 5 action programmes that were designed. I am pleased to report that the South Pacific countries have made considerable progress in each of the programme areas. I would like to briefly touch on each of these and to highlight the ways in which the FFA member countries have sought to improve their individual and collective self-reliance in fisheries, at both the regional and interregional levels.

As you know, Mr Chairman, the South Pacific Island states are heavily dependent on the sea and the need for proper planning management and development of fisheries is a major priority. With the support of FAO and other international agencies the South Pacific countries are improving their knowledge of fisheries biology, enhancing their fisheries legislation and generally developing a deeper understanding of the extent of their fisheries resources. FFA member countries are firmly committed to the technical aspects of improved fisheries management and use. I can assure you, Mr Chairman, that this commitment will remain uppermost in the thinking of South Pacific countries.

Every effort is being made to improve the socio-economic conditions of fishermen and their families, particularly in those island countries where there is little or no scope for agricultural development. To this end fishermen are being assisted to upgrade their skills and more efficient and appropriate gear and technology is being provided. Both the FFA and the relevant International and regional organizations are implementing programmes that will strengthen the position of small scale fishermen in particular. To complement these efforts improved fish handling practices are being fostered and the FFA has embarked on a major marketing study aimed at identifying new outlets for resources which have been lightly harvested to date.

In 1986 a major initiative in aquaculture was launched with FAO implementation and funding by the Government of Japan and is designed to assist S. Pacific countries develop their aquaculture activities. This regional action is timely because most S. Pacific countries are turning their attention increasingly to the opportunities available in aquaculture with both domestic and export markets in mind.

International fisheries trade is an area of prime concern for all FFA member states. A variety of regional and international resources, for example, the FAO/INFOFISH marketing services, are being utilized to assist with obtaining better returns for fish products.

In its most basic form, considerable trade in fisheries products is facilitated by the licencing of distant water fishing fleets by S. Pacific countries, principally those from Japan, Korea, Taiwan and the Soviet Union. These fleets generally enjoy harmonious and cooperative relations with FFA member countries, and this relationship should continue.

Of major consequence in the area of distant-water fisheries was the conclusion earlier this year of an historic fisheries treaty between the FFA member countries and the USA.

Trade in processed fisheries products from the S. Pacific region is progressively increasing. Moreover, FFA member countries are improving their respective stakes in their domestic industries, thereby strengthening their own economic positions.

Concurrent with this progress Mr Chairman, the S. Pacific countries have not neglected the important aspect of assisting to alleviate undernutrition through the provision of lower cost fisheries products, particularly to the more vulnerable groups of the population.

For reasons of geography coupled with the distribution of fisheries resources throughout the S. Pacific, countries regard regional cooperation as the cornerstone of their fisheries development and management strategies. While the record of S. Pacific fisheries cooperation is well known, Mr Chairman, countries in the region also see a need to extend their cooperative efforts more widely to an inter-regional basis. An initiative as recently as October this year has been a conference in the Philippines to discuss close fisheries ties with S. East Asian states and similar approaches are being pursued with some Latin American states with Pacific coastlines. It is these types of initiatives which typify the extent of the commitment of S. Pacific countries to the spirit and goals of the 1984 World Fisheries Conference. Contact has also been established with small island states in both the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I wish to stress that within our limited resources S. Pacific countries are actively pursuing the objectives and programmes set by the 1984 World Fisheries Conference. The generous assistance of international and regional bodies is acknowledged together with assistance provided by a wide range of countries outside the region. With continued assistance of this type coupled with the drive of S. Pacific countries to develop and manage their fisheries resources, I am optimistic that the overall well-being of Pacific Island people will be improved.

Patrick L. McKENZIE (Guyana): I wish to be associated with the congratulations to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and to Dr Saourna on his re-election to the office of Director-General. My delegation is confident that he will continue the excellent management of the affairs of our Organization throughout his new term of office.

Late in 1983, Mr Ernst Stern, Senior Vice-President, Operations of the World Bank, said:, and I quote

"The developing countries obviously need, and will continue to need a substantial amount of external capital. We mustn't become unduly pessimistic as a result of the current difficulties which come at a time of the worst economic stagnation since the Second World War. For the future, it is important that all of us -the international institutions and especially the other lenders, official and private-understand the distinction between the difficulties countries have run into by reason of poor policies and inadequate management and the difficulties caused principally by external factors. My view is that the problems of many countries are due to external factors and that these debt servicing problems will become manageable when growth resumes".

I have taken the liberty to quote this high official of one of our most prestigious international institutions not so much because the general difficulties are not known but to underscore their continuing existence and to bear testimony to the worsening of the position as seen by Mr Stern four years ago.

Again Mr Chairman, this is not new.

- our mounting difficulty in increasing our foreign exchange earnings through export due to protectionist policies;

- our greater competition from many of the developed countries, partly due to advanced technology, partly due to economies of scale, but certainly due to the massive level of subsidisation to their producers by the governments of most developed countries;

- our greatly reduced investment in agriculture and other important sectors, exacerbated by our monumental external debts.

Mr Chairman, bleak as this situation is, we have not given up and particularly for those of us who are agriculturally based, we continue to believe that agriculture is the key to our economic recovery, indeed we dare not believe anything else. To this end, we have done our homework. In agriculture, we have realigned pricing structures; we have improved the incentive framework for investment and innovativeness; we have improved incentives to farmers; we have been seeking advanced and appropriate technology, and we have had fair interest rates for the agricultural sector.

Yet, while we attempt to use the methods used by our friend of the developed world, methods that have brought them growth, we find that some of them now use a heavy political hand to thwart the very efforts they once espoused.

Mr Chairman, what I have said is true of the Caribbean as it is true of Latin America, but as a Caribbean man (using the word "man" in its universal sense) I feel a sense of affront and as a Minister responsible for agriculture, I feel a sense of guilt that as we enter the last twelve years to the beginning of the 21st century, the agricultural sector in the Caribbean is still characterized, as it was 100 years ago, by an over-dependence on sugar and bananas. In Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago, sugar ranges from 54 percent to 95 percent of the total agricultural exports while in Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines, banana exports account for between 22 percent and 82 percent of the total agricultural exports.

While the risk is high enough for one crop to be responsible for as much as 95 percent of the total 'agricultural exports in the case of six countries, and another to be responsible for as high as 82 percent of those exports in four other countries, let me say to you that the dominance is not the only problem; indeed, as an immediate issue, it is not the major problem. The very source of our dilemma is that both of these commodities - sugar and bananas - are, as put by Mr William Demas, Chairman of the Caribbean Development Bank - "produced at uncompetitively high prices of production and therefore depend for their survival on the continuation of preferential market access to the European Community and the United States markets". I need not remind you of the approaching saturation in the United Kingdom market for bananas, nor do I need to remind you of the untenable situation of the sugar industry because of natural and artificial sweeteners developed to supply what initially experts had directed us to believe, that cane sugar was excessively fattening, it was carcinogenic and that like sheep, we had to be led to the fountain of diet foods.

It is in this light of our history and the prevailing imperatives that we seek the modernization and diversification of agriculture. To do this, we need access to technology that would enable us to maximise output of our traditional products more cost-effectively, so as to retain a share of our prevailing markets and to establish linkages in new product lines from these traditional crops. We need to improve the biogenetics of the non-traditional crops so that we can meet the requirements of markets for fresh, processed and manufactured items. We need also to have adequate supplies of agricultural inputs: inputs of landclearing, drainage and irrigation, of land preparation, of harvesting and storage and inputs of packaging and shipping.

Mr Chairman, in the supply of these needs, notwithstanding the significant costs to our people, we have in general not merely paid lip service, nor have we depended solely on assistance from others. I accept that in spite of all we have done, in the low income countries we still have to jump the hurdle of absorptive capacity which in effect points to the lower level of the development of our human resources and those garnered externally.

Many of us have attached high priority to investments in basic and technical education, and in turn the development of the rural sector. My own country, Guyana, is but an example, where at the basic, technical and university levels, education according to our constitution is a right and we have made it free at all levels. These are heavy costs to be borne by such a poor country, but it points to our conviction that education leads to better absorption of technology, which in turn, with adequate policies, will lead to innovativeness and on to sustained growth.

Mr Chairman, each of the groupings of Latin America and the Caribbean has attempted to stem the tide of international difficulties affecting agriculture. ALADI and the Andean Group have had their interventions. CARICOM has developed and is now putting into implementable form a Regional Agricultural Plan; it has encouraged diversification; it has obtained financing from creditor countries; it has lifted trade within the area, and it has negotiated regional projects with international institutions. In spite of some questions on the effectiveness of multilateral action, we have found that it has served us well. Yet, there is a need for us in Latin America and the Caribbeans, as islands and continent, to give effect to the rediscovery of our shared historical ties and interests.

Mr Chairman, while acknowledging that administrative and other types of reforms are perhaps necessary for the health and effectiveness of any organization, in keeping with the need for adjustment to changing demands and a changing environment, my delegation sees no need at this stage for a review of the long-term programme orientation of the FAO.

Indeed, Mr Chairman, administrative and other reforms that are currently in place have impacted in a significant way on the increasing effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization. We have all, no doubt, welcomed these reforms and the continuing thrust in this direction by the Organization. However, my delegation has some difficulty in approving proposals that will undoubtedly jeopardize such reform measures already in place and, furthermore, proposals that will not conform with the essential focus of the Organization. We agree with the draft Programme and Budget and are not opposed to the strengthening of the Field Programme, including the area of supervision. However, we would caution only the approach should be in the spirit of multilateralism.

I now wish, Mr Chairman, to address some brief remarks specifically to the developed countries. Latin America and the Caribbean, as a region, has tried to feed itself, even though we may not have been as successful when taken individually. We have not done this alone; it has been with your assistance. But, particularly for the smaller and the poorer countries, we get the feeling that we run the risk of being taken for granted. It is believed that we will produce or that we can afford to import whatever our needs are. This belief is unfounded, for in many cases we are still at high risk for any change in any cropping season. We ask your assistance in research in training, in investments. We ask your assistance in reasonable or concessional prices for agricultural inputs. We ask for ready access to your markets. In summary, we ask for a helping hand, not a handout.

Mr Chairman, a few nights ago as I sat overlooking the River Tiber in this beautiful and historic city of Rome, I recalled the dialogue of Julius Caesar and Cassius on that very river. As Shakespeare tells it, Julius Caesar requested Cassius to swim across the Tiber, but part of the way Caesar apparently had difficulties so he cried out to Cassius "Help me, Cassius, or I sink". We as developing countries ask that we bridge the present difficulty by swimming together, complementing each other. As the weaker ones we may be faltering and so we cry like Caesar "Help me, or I sink". Only history will judge whether that help came and whether it came on time.

José Michel ANDRIANOELISON (Madagascar): Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de joindre les félicitations de la délégation malgache pour votre brillante élection, à la voix de tous ceux qui se sont succédé à cette tribune. Je suis certain que, sous votre direction, notre session saura affronter avec succès tous les problèmes qui lui sont posés, et soyez assuré que la délégation malgache vous apportera son appui dans la mesure de ses modestes moyens.

Nos félicitations s'adressent aussi au Docteur SAOUMA que cette assemblée a reconduit au poste de Directeur général. Nos meilleurs vœux de succès et notre soutien permanent l'accompagneront tout au long de son troisième mandat.

Monsieur le Président, voilà deux ans qu'au sein de cette même enceinte, dans l'euphorie de la célébration de 40^e anniversaire de notre Organisation, nous avons formulé le vœu de soutenir la FAO, de la renforcer afin qu'elle puisse répondre à ses objectifs essentiels.

Nous l'avions alors dotée d'un budget convenable; nous avons pris de nombreuses résolutions; les principaux obstacles identifiés qui entravent notre progression vers la victoire contre la faim, la malnutrition, le sous-développement semblaient alors moins insurmontables.

Actuellement, nous aurions pu être en droit de commencer à récolter les premiers fruits de notre labeur. Malheureusement tel n'est pas le cas. Nombre d'entre nous n'ont pas respecté le pacte! Dès 1986, les défaillances étaient nombreuses!

Et voilà que, sans doute pour éviter de reconnaître notre tort, peut-être de peur que nous soient reprochées nos lacunes, nous essayons de mettre en cause l'Organisation, lui trouvant tout à coup une multitude de défauts comme si nous cherchions à la punir de notre propre insuffisance.

Monsieur le Président, nous ne devons pas, nous n'avons pas le droit de mettre en péril une institution qui a fait et fera ses preuves.

C'est pourquoi la délégation malgache estime que nous devons écarter toute velléité de réforme de principe, de réforme politicienne pour le seul plaisir de modifier, de créer du nouveau. Dans la situation actuelle de l'économie mondiale, il serait criminel de notre part d'oublier que la FAO n'a pas été créée pour correspondre à nos idées quant à sa forme et ses procédures, mais pour répondre aux intérêts et aux besoins de millions de personnes dans les Etats Membres.

Monsieur le Président, restons rationnels, gardons les acquis de 42 années d'existence, continuons à persévérer dans le sens de l'amélioration des performances de notre Organisation. Consacrons notre temps pour étudier les sujets brûlants de l'heure: comment mettre de l'ordre dans le commerce mondial des produits agricoles, comment activer la mise en oeuvre du Programme spécial des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique, comment mobiliser plus de fonds pour dynamiser l'agriculture dans les pays en voie de développement, comment concrétiser les idées émises çà et là pour résoudre le problème de l'endettement de ces mêmes pays.

C'est en examinant ces questions que nous pourrions ensemble déterminer comment rendre la FAO encore plus efficace, quelles parties de sa structure doivent être renforcées, quels domaines de son activité nécessitent une évaluation.

Nous avons fait évaluer le Programme de coopération technique et nous avons été convaincus de son impact positif.

Au cours de la présente session, nous allons examiner les rapports concernant le programme d'assistance pour la sécurité alimentaire, le programme d'amélioration du secteur semencier, le programme d'action pour la lutte contre la trypanosomiase.

Nous devons continuer dans cette foulée et décider d'une priorité dans l'exécution des travaux d'évaluation pour le biennium suivant. Nous avons aussi à étudier la possibilité de renforcer certains services du Secrétariat, notamment le Centre d'investissement. En un mot, respectons l'édifice en place, restructurons là où le besoin s'en fait sentir, procédons par étapes. Les problèmes de trésorerie du biennium précédent ne sauraient être pris comme prétexte à une remise en cause désordonnée et irréfléchie des règles, des textes organiques que nous-mêmes avons élaborés, signés, ratifiés.

Ces propos m'amènent à évoquer le point 13 de notre ordre du jour, relatif au projet de Programme de travail et de budget 1988-89, ceci dans le cadre de la question fondamentale du financement du développement.

L'aide publique au développement a diminué, la croissance des engagements au profit de l'agriculture s'est ralentie, et le transfert financier des pays en voie de développement à leurs créanciers s'accélère. Les besoins sont connus. Pour la seule région africaine, l'apport extérieur nécessaire est évalué à 45 milliards de dollars de 1986 à 1990.

Face à cette situation, il nous paraît logique et indispensable que la Conférence commence par doter la FAO des moyens suffisants lui permettant de réaliser le programme qui lui est assigné.

Le projet de Programme de travail et de budget qui est soumis à notre approbation ne représente même pas le minimum requis. Avons-nous le droit de tergiverser encore pour son approbation? Encore une fois la recherche du consensus sera-t-elle vaine? Ne devons-nous pas plutôt, recenser les programmes sacrifiés lors du biennium précédent et examiner ensemble dans quelle mesure y remédier?

La délégation malgache estime que notre foi en l'Organisation, notre volonté commune de la soutenir, notre ferme engagement à remplir fidèlement les obligations librement consenties envers elle, constituent la seule assurance de son efficacité dans l'action. Nous devons mettre tout en oeuvre pour que le consensus puisse s'établir autour du projet de Programme de travail et de budget.

L'unanimité, ou au moins la large majorité qui soutiendra le Programme de travail et le budget sera l'expression de notre volonté à tous d'affronter avec succès la situation agricole, économique et monétaire désastreuse que traverse notre planète.

Si je ne suis référé qu'aux conclusions des assises du Comité des produits, il nous faut maintenant constater que, malgré le fait que 1986 ait été la 4ème année consécutive de croissance de l'économie mondiale, les cours des produits de base n'ont cessé de se détériorer; alors que les recettes d'exportations des pays industrialisés, dits à économie de marché, se sont accrues de 15%., celles des pays dits en voie de développement ont diminué de 4,5%.. Et nous savons tous que ces recettes de plus en plus maigres sont principalement destinées à honorer le service de la dette.

On peut se demander si les sacrifices inhumains, consentis par les populations pour que soient réalisées les mesures d'ajustement économique préconisées par le Fonds monétaire International et la Banque mondiale, peuvent empêcher la plupart des pays en voie de développement de s'acheminer vers la cessation de paiement.

La 24ème session de notre Conférence se tient dans ce climat plutôt morose, et j'espère que la contribution de la délégation malgache à nos travaux participera à transformer ce climat, à le rendre plus serein. A cet effet, j'aimerais clore mon intervention sur deux notes plus optimistes.

D'abord, ma délégation ne peut s'empêcher de se féliciter du fait que les négociations sur les perspectives d'un Accord même limité sur les armements nucléaires se poursuivent sous de bons augures, et que les perspectives de réconciliations nationales en Amérique centrale s'améliorent de jour en jour.

De telles mesures, une telle atmosphère, ne peuvent que favoriser le développement, améliorer le flux de ressources vers l'agriculture et faciliter le renflouement financier des Institutions spécialisées d'aide au développement.

Le deuxième point qui justifie mon optimisme mesuré, Monsieur le Président, concerne la situation agricole de mon pays. Conformément aux recommandations du Secrétariat, je serai le plus bref possible. La situation économique et financière de mon pays n'est certes pas brillante, même par rapport à celle des pays africains au même niveau de développement. Madagascar a signé en 1986-87 son sixième accord de confirmation avec le Fonds monétaire international et son troisième accord de crédit d'ajustement sectoriel avec la Banque mondiale. Mes collègues africains et d'Amérique latine imaginent sans peine le lot de contraintes, de tensions sociales et d'humiliation que cela implique.

L'optimisme qui m'habite vient du fait que la situation globale de l'agriculture malgache continue à s'améliorer depuis 1983 et permet d'espérer un niveau de croissance annuelle équivalente à la croissance démographique dans les années 1990.

Les résultats obtenus en 1986 et 1987 dans le secteur rizicole constituent pour nous un prélude à cette situation. L'accroissement à la production, l'amélioration des prix aux producteurs, la stabilisation des prix aux consommateurs pour cette denrée de première nécessité ont été obtenus grâce à la justesse de nos choix politiques, au courage et au travail de nos paysans et à l'appui d'institutions d'aide bilatérale et multilatérale. Je citerai à cet effet le concours inestimable des experts de la FAO dans la mise en place du processus de régulation des prix du riz et l'organisation du département chargé de la Sécurité alimentaire, ainsi que l'apport massif du Programme alimentaire mondial pour soutenir jusqu'en 1990 notre action. Il est utile ici de signaler que cette action est menée conjointement avec la Banque mondiale, le Fonds monétaire international et les bailleurs de fonds bilatéraux.

Le problème du riz à Madagascar montre que la conjonction des mesures nécessaires d'ajustement économique et de dispositions visant à éviter l'aggravation de la pauvreté des populations les plus défavorisées peut réunir les pays et les organisations spécialisées autour du même consensus pour le développement.

Pour clore mon intervention, j'invite chaque Etat Membre à répondre au défi qui nous est posé aujourd'hui comme hier par le courage, la compétence et la solidarité.

Notre préoccupation essentielle devra être d'unir nos résolutions respectives pour gagner toutes les batailles contre la pauvreté, la faim et la malnutrition. La FAO doit rester le lieu privilégié où chacun d'entre nous a le droit et le devoir de s'exprimer et de débattre des points de vue, certes différents, mais correspondant aux aspirations profondes de l'humanité. La coopération et la fraternité internationale restent la condition essentielle du développement. A nous d'y contribuer avec la détermination nécessaire.

Percival BRODERICK (Jamaica): It is incumbent upon me to add my share of the encomiums on your election, Mr Chairman, and that of the three Vice-Chairmen. Through your able guidance I know that you have been doing a good job, and will continue to do so.

Taking literally the comments of the Deputy Secretary-General when he said that if we had an unabridged text it would be very wise to summarize it as we are starting so late, I will attempt to summarize my speech as far as possible, because the evening is far spent.

We in the developing world continue to look to FAO for the provision of leadership in the area of technical co-operation geared towards increasing the level of technology and consequently food production in the developing countries. It is therefore with great pleasure that we welcome the re-election of Dr Edouard Saouma to guide the destiny of this august body over the next six years. His deep understanding of the critical issues related to world food production and world food security, particularly as they relate to developing countries, and his commitment to the search for solutions have been the hallmark of his administration to date. Therefore we are confident that this new mandate conferred on him will allow him to re-dedicate himself to the task and we pledge our firm support to his efforts.

The Jamaican delegation takes this opportunity also of congratulating Dr Jean Mayer on having so eloquently presented the McDougall lecture.

Turning now to a discussion of some of the more critical agenda items, I wish to comment briefly on the world food and agriculture situation and the state of food and agriculture.

The world food situation up to the end of 1986 appears to have significantly improved since we last met here in 1985. At that time cereal stocks stood at a record 431 million tons and the price of most internationally traded cereals had fallen. It is important however, to take cognizance of the fact that while the process of economic recovery has begun for most of developed world and, indeed, appears to be gaining momentum, most of the developing world is yet to experience any significant level of recovery particularly in the case of agricultural development. This view can be supported by the fact that food remains very unevenly distributed. It is estimated that approximately 80% of the world's surplus cereal stocks is concentrated in three industrialized countries. In addition commodity prices, already seriously depressed, fell in real terms by an estimated 17% in 1986, and many stood at 40-year lows.

Many developing countries have therefore been faced with declining export earnings, a position which is further threatened by a growth in protectionism among the industrialized countries. Many countries have been forced to resort to additional borrowing and, in my own region of Latin America and the Caribbean, record levels of indebtedness have been reached. Indeed, we are aware that most countries in Latin America and the Caribbean continue to suffer from the effects of a most protracted crisis. The reasons for this are all well known.

These include: the sharp fall in real net capital inflows; soaring net external payments which rendered the region a net exporter of capital; high real interest rates aggravating unprecedented debt problems; and falling prices of primary commodities which crippled some of the region's main sources of income and foreign exchange.

In many countries within the region, we have had to implement painful adjustment measures often within the ambit of credit arranged within the IMF and which to a great extent focussed on reducing aggregate demand through fiscal measures and increasing the competitiveness of exports by currency realignments.

I am happy to report that in my country, Jamaica, the very painful period of structural adjustment has almost been completed and we now have in place an agricultural sector which is much more efficient and competitive. The objective of this adjustment, was to increase production, productivity and exports of agricultural products. Some strategies utilised included the provision of incentives to the sector to induce a greater level of production and productivity; the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar to make prices of exports more competitive, thus facilitating substantial increases in export of agricultural commodities; deregulation of the marketing boards in order to achieve greater efficiency, to improve their pricing policy, to divest their non-marketing activities to private interests and ultimately to increase production; the divestment of a number of government controlled projects and assets in order to introduce a greater level of efficiency into the operations involved, and finally, a more efficient use of land, including distribution to small farmers.

While the implementation of these policies has been generally successful, I would certainly not wish to give the impression that we have solved all our problems in the agricultural sector and I will discuss some of these under another agenda item.

Still on the agenda item of the world agricultural situation, my delegation wishes to focus at this point on the almost endemic problem which we in the developing world face as we seek to accelerate the development of our agricultural sectors. The persistence of the under-development of our agricultural sectors, raises fundamental questions about the efficiency of the agricultural development strategies being pursued on a global level. In particular it raises questions as to the appropriateness of the assistance being provided at the international level. Throughout the developing world, an ever-increasing number of projects are being designed, financed and implemented with the assistance of the donor community, yet the results are far less than desirable. Is it that we expect to see more positive results? Or is it a question that the technology which is being transferred on a more or less "standard" basis is inappropriate at the level of the individual countries? I would venture to say that it is not enough for us to turn up at conference after conference to bemoan the crises facing developing countries and to call for a wholesale increase in international technical assistance, whether financial or human. We feel that a review of the appropriateness of the type of assistance being given to the agricultural sector in the developing world and the making of concrete recommendations for revising this are deemed necessary. My delegation is of the view that the FAO by virtue of its knowledge and interest in agriculture can and should play a pivotal role in seeking to initiate such a review.

My delegation wishes to refer to another major agenda item, that of the WCARRD report. We are all cognizant of the fact that the WCARRD strategy seeks to involve the rural poor through programmes specifically directed to identified groups of beneficiaries in areas of concentrated rural poverty. We were somewhat disappointed by the FAO report on this agenda item which indicated that although such groups had been identified in most countries, few of them had actually designed and implemented programmes for such target groups. In my country, Jamaica, while convinced of the need to implement structural adjustment programmes we have not lost sight of the need for continuously seeking to identify and find solutions to problems which bedevil our small farming sector, through the development and implementation of appropriate programmes and projects. You will permit me, Mr Chairman, briefly to share with this distinguished gathering developments in our experience which relate to land and its use, a subject which we consider to be the basis to the agrarian reform process.

We have recognized that although successive governments have distributed lands to farmers under various land settlement programmes, the development of these lands were being seriously impeded by inadequate issuance of freehold titles to the land for the following reasons.

Firstly, many small farmers are unable to access loans which have been provided for agricultural development, the lack of titles in many instances preclude the granting of credit, even though we have tried ways of getting around this in the interim.

Secondly, a great deal of time and money is often spent going to court to settle boundary disputes because, without the title, the boundaries are often not clearly marked out.

Thirdly, proper long-term development of the land is often not undertaken because of the difficulties experienced in passing on land to heirs.

We have therefore developed a land titling project which will seek to improve conditions of tenure of agricultural land. The future of the agrarian reform in our country will redound, not only to the interest of the small farming sector, but also to the entire process of agricultural development.

Turning now to the proposed programme of work and budget, my delegation would like to congratulate the Director-General and the staff of FAO on the excellent job which has been done in the preparation of proposed work and budget. I say this against the background of the immense problems which have been experienced in effecting necessary adjustments to the budget and programme for the current biennium, brought about by the continued difficulties being experienced in financing.

We are satisfied that the proposed cost increases were calculated on the basis of the methodology approved by the finance committee and as such are unavoidable. My delegation is also satisfied that the programme priorities reflect the need to focus production effort on food deficit countries and to overall improved management on FAO's resources. In this regard we commend the approach of concentrating scarce resources on the technical work of the Organization and streamlining administrative expenses as much as possible. Against this background my delegation is of the view that the proposed real increase in the budget of 0.2 percent over the recosted budget represents a real effort to be as cost effective as possible without being inimical to the real work of the FAO. We therefore support the proposed budget of approximately US\$ 451 million for the period 1988-89.

In closing, my delegation takes this opportunity of thanking the government and people of Italy for the hospitality extended to us and also the Director-General and FAO Secretariat for the very excellent arrangements which have been made for this Conference.

I must extend a particular thanks to my fellow delegates who have persisted through a very long day and who have sat through this very last presentation of the day. I say thank you to all for staying with us.

Geremew DEBELE (Ethiopia): On behalf of the government of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and that of my own, it is with great pleasure that I express my deeply felt honour for being on the programme of this strategically important Session of our Organization.

Although there remains much to be done to address the world food problem and with no intent to dwell on FAO's past performances, it is with great pride that my Government acknowledges the records of achievement of this Organization, an Organization that has survived for forty years contributing to human well-being.

The honorable Ministers and delegates participating in this Session are fully aware of the present world's food situation and the difficult challenges that lie ahead in making the most of our valuable resources with the aim of promoting food security by ensuring both adequacy in the supply of and access to food for all human beings. In this respect, the usefulness of this august body to examine crucial issues and advance future plans in the light of our experience, knowledge and international efforts cannot be questioned.

Despite our numerous activities in the past to meet successfully the challenges of agricultural development and food security in all developing countries, we are still confronted with critical constraints that require our concerted regional and global efforts. These constraints in agricultural development which are strongly linked to several social, economic and political factors are not unknown to many of us here. In order to assess the regional and global magnitude of these development problems, I would, therefore, simply call to mind the major constraints upon which our efforts have focused to mitigate the problem, in my country.

The impediments to our productive rural economy have caused decline in agricultural yields, occasioning cyclical famine, particularly in the course of the past decade. In the event, many people were placed directly at risk of starvation, many lost their means of production and were forced to abandon their homes. These periods of worst food crisis are times when we found ourselves in a precarious situation and our task was a colossal one, with the constraints outstripping our national aspirations and capabilities.

It would be in order to take time at this stage to pay tribute to the international donor community and other aid agencies for their generous responses to mitigate the worst effects of food shortages in Ethiopia and for the support, currently, in our recovery and development programmes with the aim of effecting a change in the agricultural sector. This, Ladies and Gentlemen, is not overstating the truth.

Here, I also wish to underline our appreciation to FAO's assistance that was combined with our national relief, rehabilitation and agricultural development programmes. We are also grateful to this Organization for its untiring efforts and cooperation in working with us actively in our monitoring scheme to assess the food situation in the country and draw attention of the international community to the findings.

The constraints which have caused the widening food gaps and massive food imports into the country and which eroded the comparatively favourable physical agricultural environment, are largely man-made and legacy of the past system.

The major root-causes which have greatly contributed to the present agricultural problems in the country are well documented. These include:- the vagaries of climate : low technology agriculture decimating the favorable production environment; illiteracy which stood at 97 percent in 1974; the nature of the traditional rural settlements in widely scattered and isolated homesteads and overpopulation in degraded/drought-prone areas; and injudicious use of natural resources, to name a few. Concurrently, one may allude here population policy, international agricultural commodity prices, locust swarms and other migrant pests, livestock diseases, debt servicing and indebtedness, in terms of constraints.

Within the context mentioned above and with top priority to reverse the decline in the agricultural sector by attacking and removing the root-causes, the government of the PDRE spared no effort to adopt the necessary policies and take some bold and imaginative measures, accordingly, to ensure a degree of food security for its people.

The country's agriculture which is given the highest priority, has its policies and strategies clearly identified and formulated in the national Ten-Year Perspective Development Plan and in the Three-Year Food Self-sufficiency Programme, launched in 1984 and 1987, respectively. In the short- and medium-term period we concentrate on key areas, such as attainment of food self-sufficiency, conservation of natural resources, and rural development with emphasis on irrigated agriculture and improved dry-land farming management techniques intensifying the farming practices in both existing and new farm lands in high potential areas.

In connection with irrigated agriculture, Ethiopia has water resource potential capable of harnessing over 3 million ha. of land. But what prevails in the country currently, is almost exclusive reliance on the rains, with irrigated farming very minimal or about 100 000 ha.

As part of our strategy for promoting economic growth through agricultural modernization, the Ethiopian Government has also embarked upon Resettlement and Villagization programmes.

When looking at the set tiennent patterns of Ethiopian farmers, severe land degradation on the highlands resulting from population pressure, over-grazing, exploitive farming practices and deforestation threaten the economic and social development of the country, making increasing numbers of Ethiopians vulnerable to droughts which would be automatically accompanied by cyclical famines. The highlands make up 44% of the total land area of the country. The severity of the drought and famine of recent years in Ethiopia can to a large extent, be attributed to the degradation of the country's highlands where 85% of the human population reside, 75% of the livestock subsist on and 95% of the regularly rainfed cropped lands are confined. The objective of the resettlement programme is to resettle people from overpopulated and degraded drought-prone areas in agriculturally viable lands to ensure proper utilization of natural and human resources for maximizing agricultural production with provision of input packages to attain food self-sufficiency. So far, over 500 000 people are resettled under the scheme. In the light of these considerations it would not be obscure to perceive the need and significance of the programme.

Similarly, the scattered settlement pattern of the rural community in which the homesteads are widely isolated, did not allow provision of basic inputs and social services. Under the villagization programme some 18% of the rural population or 6.5 million people are already villagized in less than three years and are now enjoying social services, such as school, health centres, transport facilities, electricity, grinding mills, credit, marketing centres, water supply to name but a few.

One other important point and laudable achievement in the course of the past decade and which we feel duty bound to report to the world community is our Literacy Campaign. Illiteracy, one of the impediments to increased output, which stood at a high level of 97% in 1974, has dropped to less than 30% now.

The issue of planned population policy is increasingly and rightfully coming to the forefront nowadays in the minds of policy-makers.

A World Bank report points out that in comparison with the fast population growth, the total annual growth of agricultural production in developing countries during the last decade was a little over 3% in Latin America and Asia, but only 1.4%, in Africa. The report further states that in 1986 some 730 million people suffered from a high level of malnutrition. This is shocking to human conscience specially when seen against the fact that there is enough food for everyone in the world, but there are more hungry people today than ever before because food is not easily available to those countries in need. A country's guarantee to withstand this problem is a determined effort for self-reliance to feed its people.

In order to feed the projected growing population and to expand export income in developing countries, it is understandable to conceive that local food production rates must satisfy adequately the growing demands for agricultural products, over time. In this connection one must understand that planned population policy cannot be viewed in isolation of general development policy. Development itself is the basis for an effective solution of population problems.

Particularly in Third World countries well established mass organizations in both urban centres and rural communities, with active participation of the people in the social, economic and political functions have significant power base in facilitating effective implementation of population policies. Moreover, regular censuses on population and housing, integration of population education into the school system and training of maternal/child care contribute greatly in bringing awareness of the values of the right family size relative to resources available to the family and the nation. In this regard Ethiopia has responded to the challenge by laying down the essential base to tackle the problem effectively.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Another impediment that has significant bearing to developing countries is international debt servicing which grew faster than external debts and exports in the 1980s. We know this is not news

but relevant to be raised in this instance in relation to its adverse impact in the economies of poor borrowing countries. We would like to stress at this juncture that it would be sensible for the international financial institutions and industrial countries to consider policy measures that would not be at the expense of the poor, and measures that would revitalize productive base of the poor borrowing countries.

In order to come out of the current food gap, the government of the PDR of Ethiopia is not under the illusion that this problem should be left to the assistance of international donor community. Outside assistance is supplementary to our national efforts, and we will continue our strenuous exertion to overcome the problem.

In this connection, despite the favourable rain during our cropping season of past. autumn, the main rains during the following cropping season last summer have been below normal in both intensity and coverage in most parts of the central and northern highlands. With this in view and threats by locust swarms, we have undertaken to increase the national food security reserve from 50 000 tonnes to a total of 92 000 tonnes, and commercial purchase of 100 000 tonnes of food grains put through for emergency use in 1988.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the face of the present agricultural constraints in developing countries and the difficult problems ahead of us, I would like to stress here that we should give more of what we have given to FAO in the past to help grow more food and improve food security situations at all levels and have a better-fed world.

We have no doubt that as long as the soundness of international judgments exist, the pace for agricultural progress can be accelerated to satisfy our needs.

Concurrently, Mr Chairman, in view of the increasing demand for food which is not in proportion to population growth, food security by ensuring both supply of and access to food for all human beings would continue to be the major criterion by which our Organization (FAO) is measured. In this connection excellence of FAO to meet successfully the challenges ahead becomes more central than ever before to our individual and collective success and for our work to benefit mankind.

In conclusion, allow me to express our concurrence with the proposed FAO work programme and budget and support to the Director-General in his efforts to stimulate indispensable changes in world agriculture. 1/

RIGHT OF REPLY

DROIT DE REPOSE

DERECHO DE REPLICA

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de lever cette huitième séance plénière, je dois passer la parole à la délégation des Etats-Unis d'Amérique qui va exercer son droit de réponse selon la procédure acceptée par cette Conférence lors de sa première séance.

Joan Wallace DAWKINS (United States of America): The United States delegation regrets the inappropriate attack the delegate from Panama has made on the United States. It is a sad day when countries use floors such as the FAO to vent whatever frustrations they may feel at each other for reasons that have nothing to do with FAO and to the business for which we are assembled. Such attacks are not constructive and can lead to nothing useful. They distract us from the true focus of our work. The discussion of food and agricultural issues, important to the people of the world, deserve much more from our deliberations.

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 87/PV/9

Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARY

Vingt-quatrième session
PLENIERE

24° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

NINTH PLENARY MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
NOVENA SESION PLENARIA

(12 November 1987)

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours,
João Pereira Silva, Vice-chairman of the Conference, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45
sous la présidence de João Pereira Silva, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas bajo la
presidencia de João Pereira Silva, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Arieh NEHAMKIN (Israel) (original language Hebrew): Israel congratulates the re-elected Director-General and wishes him success in his important task.

The coming six years will be marked by changes and reforms in the set-up and activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Member countries of the Organization look expectantly to the Director-General of the FAO, hoping that he will succeed in strengthening the Organization and in achieving its universal goals on the basis of unbiased cooperation with large and small countries alike, for the benefit of all.

It is a difficult undertaking which demands the combined efforts of all member countries, together with the FAO management, above political differences.

As in the past, Israel is prepared to contribute its hard-earned knowledge and share with others its experience in agricultural production in desert areas.

Half the land area in my country is desert and our challenge is to turn this desert into a thriving region..Our complicated geo-political situation, with most of the desert regions being on the borders, necessitates the development of agricultural settlements in these regions. This is a national priority, even beyond food production, population dispersion and making the desert bloom.

With your permission I would like to focus on Israel's agricultural strategy towards the year 2000 and our struggle to overcome the very serious problems affecting the agricultural sector all over the world.

Agriculture in Israel is undergoing a transition period, a phenomena which characterizes many countries with small family farms. These changes stem from four main factors which exist in many other economies:

Structural changes in the agricultural sector, which necessitate reforms in agricultural production, such as enlarging the family farm unit and channelling its production to a few specialized, high income branches.

Dramatic changes in world agriculture where food surpluses are piling up in the industrial countries, while deprivation and hunger are the lot of others, with food prices too high for some and too low for others.

A remarkable increase in the demand for capital and the ensuing financial and economic significance. Technological development, while increasing production, increases also the need for capital which in turn raises investment expenses and burdens the farmer with heavy debts.

The acute problem of lack of water, and the efficient use of the meagre resources by recycling, breeding of drought and salinity resistant crop varieties and, most important, developing alternative water resources.

While facing these challenges, Israel is planning long-term solutions:

Reaching a target-income for farmers which will enable them to maintain a standard of living in par with other sectors of the economy. This can be achieved by developing export-oriented, high value crops, particularly important for desert areas far from the main population centres and markets.

Our basic concept is to exploit R & D and develop "Scientific Agriculture" which will, on the one hand, promote labour-saving technologies, thereby reducing the number of people employed in agriculture in the populated areas, while, on the other hand, encourage labour-intensive, high income branches suitable for the arid regions.

This might counteract the negative trend of population decrease in the desert regions and even result in population growth in these remote settlements.

The forming of new, organizational systems which, while maintaining the cooperative framework of the agricultural settlements, will be more suitable for the changing situation and for the need to adapt to modern technology.

The majority of family farms in Israel are organized as cooperatives. This organizational structure helps in the implementation of "Scientific Agriculture" through the community's administration. For example: The planting and tending of new crops require strict professional discipline, closely guided by the R & D extension workers and researchers. With the help of the settlement's management, who are experienced in agricultural, as well as organizational matters, optimal results can be achieved.

Affording the farmer a larger share in the product's final price by reorganizing the agricultural marketing systems and adapting the supporting factors (credit, inputs, etc.) to these changes.

The decisive factor in agricultural production in the year 2000 will probably be the relative advantage of each country in know-how, natural assets and production and marketing ability, and will determine the competition for world market shares. Subsidies will be reduced and limited and allow for free trade between countries. Priority will be given to develop third world nations' agriculture.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in the international agricultural cooperation Israel has tried to practise what it has learned by experience.

With your permission, I would like to list some of Israel's activities in the third world which have started in 1959:-

In Israel this year we have held 25 courses on various agricultural subjects for 600 fellows from all over the world. We also conducted abroad on-the-spot courses with 700 local participants.

This is the first year in which we adopted a new approach, its main principle being workshops on basic agricultural subjects. In these workshops senior experts from 60 countries in Asia, Africa, Oceania, South and Central America, have participated.

This new approach has proven itself and the reports and conclusions might be of interest to FAO and will be sent to any of you upon request.

Another significant development is the deeper involvement of Israeli agricultural research institutes in the scientific-agricultural cooperation programmes, which are joint ventures with Third World countries, based on shared financing. These programmes are devoted to applied research in yield increase and in finding new varieties which are suitable to the special conditions of the recipient country.

I would like to praise the high standard of the third world scientists who participated in the success of these projects.

It is important to note that as a result of these workshops a new approach was adopted in Israel as well as in developing countries, namely that it is imperative to involve private enterprises in the production set-up, so as to free governments from managing alone their national agriculture.

One way is through organizing the small farmers in cooperatives, and it is interesting to note the systems that were formed, like "Satellite Farming Systems". Israel is willing to share the results of this experiment with others.

Distinguished Delegates, Mr Chairman, I hope I have succeeded in convincing you that time is running out and decisive steps have to be taken soon in order to solve the very serious problems we face towards the year 2000.

Shortage of water, lack of capital, marketing problems, and consequently population migration from the arid zones to urban centres, threaten with dangerous demographic changes, for which we have to prepare ourselves in time.

I hope that this Conference will be a milestone for the beginning of a new era in the FAO, and all member countries will join efforts to develop agriculture and eliminate hunger and poverty. And again I would like to emphasize my country's pledge to share with others our experience in turning the desert into a productive land: "I will put the cedar in the wilderness,

The acacia, and the myrtle, and the olive tree;
I will place the juniper in the desert,
Together with the box tree and the cypress. (Isaiah 41:19)"

Let us hope that Isaiah's prophecy from more than 2000 years ago will be realized by the generation of the year 2000.

THAN NYUNT (Burma): I have great pleasure to express our warm and sincere congratulations on your election as the Chairman of this Conference. I am fully confident that your esteemed leadership will definitely lead to a successful conclusion of the proceedings of this session. I wish to assure you of the full support and cooperation of the Burmese Delegation.

I am also delighted to congratulate Dr Edouard Saouma on his re-election to the high office of Director-General. It is well known to all of us that great progress has been achieved in the activities of FAO during the past decade, under his able leadership.

Once again we are here together to examine collectively the problems of the world food situation and to make deliberations for the better understanding and cooperation amongst member countries in pursuing the aims and objectives of the Organization.

During the past decades, substantial progress has been made in all member countries in the agricultural development and in stabilizing food supplies. However, we all recognize that much still remains to be done. In spite of all the efforts made by member countries, the wide gap that existed persistently between the 'developed' and the 'developing' has not yet been narrowed in any appreciable degree. Developing member countries, many of which are heavily dependent on foreign exchange earnings from agricultural commodity exports, are continuing to face a declining share of world agricultural trade. They are also adversely effected by worsening terms of trade, falling commodity prices and an increasing trend towards protectionism. All of these factors hamper their prospects for growth and aggravate their indebtedness. The developing countries experiencing debt servicing problems have already made substantial policy efforts to reduce external deficits through cutting back imports and thereby retarding their growth.

I earnestly hope that, this forum will contribute important remedial measures for the improvement of access to markets for agricultural export commodities of the developing countries.

May I now be allowed to present the Conference a brief account of the agricultural development of our country for the biennium. As the agriculture sector is and will continue to be the mainstay of the country's economy, it is usually accorded highest priority in the national economic development plans.

The performance of agriculture sector during the last two years was satisfactory despite the unfavourable pattern of monsoon. Net sown area at present is around 21 million acres, with the potential of 25 million acres for further expansion. The acreage put under various crops in 1986-87, amounted to 25.69 million acres, including 4.78 million acres of multiple and mixed cropping, surpassing the 1985-86 total sown acreage by 30 thousand acres. The value of net output of the agriculture sector in 1986-87 increased moderately at 2.5 percent. It is planned to increase by 5.4 percent in 1987-88 in consistency with the prevailing international and domestic conditions.

I would now like to touch briefly on the livestock and fishery sector. A review of the growth rates of this sector reveals that the value of net output in real terms rose by 4.2 percent in 1986-87 over the preceding year. It is planned to rise by 5.8 percent in 1987-88.

I will continue my presentation on the forestry sector. In 1986-87, the value of net output of the forestry sector increased by 5.6 percent as compared with that of 1985-86.

With a view to satisfying the conflicting demands of increased extraction of forest products for export and local use on one hand, and conservation of forests for environmental reasons on the other, we have adopted the development strategy of managing the natural forest resources on sustained yield basis.

During 1986-87, 329 square miles of reserved forest areas were extended and 3.6 million teak and hardwood trees were planted on 80 thousand acres.

At present, the basic needs of local population as well as high value timbers for export are mostly met out of natural forest resources which are managed under the Selective Felling System. Since the system has least disturbance to the natural ecosystems of the dense tropical forests, it facilitates to conserve the wild genetic resources of the country, in line with the Tropical Forestry Action Plan of FAO.

I have narrated in brief, on various sectors of our country, and it would be apparent that growth in the agriculture sector needs to be placed on a broader basis. The Government has recognized the need for diversification and maximization of the agricultural crops. This requires expanded production of crops other than paddy, to avoid the uncertainty of relying too heavily on rice exports. The international price of rice, which has exhibited exceptional fluctuations currently, is considerably more volatile than other internationally traded crops.

Implementation of the crop diversification and maximization programmes requires increased supplies of critical inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides, and also greater research and extension efforts to promote improved cultivation practices to cover a much wider range of crops and conditions. It will also require expansion of the irrigation infrastructure to increase the cropping intensity. Investments are being made in conformity with the available internal and external financial resources. With high prices of import and declining export earnings, the invaluable financial and technical assistance of the multilateral and bilateral agencies have great impact on our country's investment programmes.

As a major channel for multilateral assistance provided through the United Nations system, FAO has contributed valuable assistance and services in our endeavours to accelerate the food and agricultural production. .

All the developing member countries of FAO are at present engaged in a determined attempt to achieve a breakthrough in self-sustaining growth. While the results will depend largely on their own efforts, it is recognized that national efforts have to be strengthened by constructive international action. We honestly feel that the highly industrialized countries should take a broader outlook and formulate policies and action programmes to further strengthen the efforts of the developing countries in their pursuit for increased production of food and for economic and social development.

In conclusion, the Delegation of Burma wishes to place on record its appreciation, definitely shared by others, for the significant contributions of FAO towards the advancement of agricultural development of the member countries, and for the tireless efforts of the Director-General aimed at achieving the noble aspirations of FAO. We hope that the earnest endeavours of all member nations through the resolutions and activities of FAO may eventually be rewarded with fruitful outcomes.

M. MAHBUBUZZAMAN (Bangladesh): The members of my delegation and I deem it a great privilege to have the opportunity of participating in the deliberations of the 24th Session of the FAO Conference. We bring to you the warm greetings of the people of Bangladesh.

On behalf of the Bangladesh delegation and on my own behalf I offer you our warmest congratulations on your election as Chairman of the 24th FAO Conference. Your election to this high office is indeed a tribute to your outstanding personal qualities and wide ranging experience and also to your great country, Kuwait, with which Bangladesh has close fraternal ties. As Vice-Chairman of the Conference, for which I am thankful to you all, I assure you Mr Chairman our fullest cooperation in ensuring the success of the Conference.

I would also like to convey our felicitations to Director-General Saouma for his re-election as the Chief Executive of the FAO. I want to put on record our appreciation for his total dedication to upholding the charter of the FAO and his efforts in strengthening the FAO as an instrument for providing succour and assistance to the needy and the benighted; we also commend him for his forthright and penetrating report on the state of world food and agriculture during the year under review.

We stand only 13 years away from the threshold of the next century. The developing countries will then have one billion more people to feed. I feel some anxiety about our preparation for the coming century's demands and challenges, because our world still remains unstable in food production and economic development. We had promised the world that "no child shall go to bed hungry", but even today some 500 million undernourished people await the promised freedom from the indignity of poverty, hunger and malnutrition. Problems of increasing indebtedness and debt servicing together with low savings rates, protracted and continuing balance of payments difficulties, rising import prices, growing protectionism keep the horizon of hope clouded for most of the developing countries. These problems affected agriculture, the most important sector in many of the developing economies. In developing countries, last year food production fell to 1.6 percent from the 4 to 5 percent average growth levels of the 1981-85 period, a trend which characterises the prospect of this year. Little comfort can be derived by the affected individual countries that world cereal stocks remain at the level of 23 percent of estimated annual consumption, because there is shortage in the midst of abundance and access to food for a vast multitude of people continues to be an intractable problem. For them food security still remains unacceptably fragile.

Bangladesh has made some notable progress in food production in spite of periodic natural disasters and unfavourable external forces. From a base of about 9.5 million metric tons in 1960-61 Bangladesh produced 16.5 million tons of cereals in the 1986-87 crop year. Between 1960 and 1986, the country's rice production increased by an annual compound rate of 3 percent. Wheat production increased, from a small base, from an annual average of 36 000 tons during 1960-65 to an annual average of 1.07 million tons during 1980-85. Between 1973 and 1983, wheat production registered a spectacular annual compound growth rate of about 35 percent. Due to various constraints wheat production has now plateaued around 1.4 million tons. The average growth rate of 3.6 percent in cereal production, achieved during the Second Five Year Plan period, was well above the population growth rate. Unfortunately, various unfavourable factors, including climatic factors, forced the growth rate down to 2.8 percent during the last two years.

Bangladesh agriculture has been influenced by important policy changes in the recent years, the full impact of which is not yet entirely clear. During this period progressive privatization of agricultural inputs has taken place and economic subsidy from fertilizer has been eliminated. Consequences of these policy changes will need to be closely monitored to see their effects on agricultural production and productivity in our country where small and marginal farmers preponderate. Government has decided to have a detailed review of the agricultural sector policies and programmes to identify the causes of recent stagnation in agricultural production and to determine measures to correct the situation.

This stagnation in agriculture has been further compounded by this year's floods, which were the worst in the century. Four spates of floods came in quick succession, the first of which came soon after the planting of the major rice crop which began in July. Government took immediate crop rehabilitation measures by providing free rice seeds and seedlings so that farmers could replant as soon as the waters receded. Although farmers replanted about 90 percent of the damaged crop area, considerable yield loss is expected due to late planting and substantial loss of high

yielding varieties. Estimated crop damage rose to over 3 million tons of rice. The country's main cash and export crop jute was also damaged. Agricultural rehabilitation programme, designed to roll into the winter season, will help recover some of the losses. I recall with gratitude the quick response of the international community to the disasters our country faced. FAO and WFP were in the forefront of this response.

Bangladesh is mainly a large delta with a complex river system. The major rivers originate outside its territory. The dry season flow is inadequate and in the wet season rivers often overflow their banks. In this context, it is essential to understand the country's changing hydro-morphological condition. From preliminary analysis of this year's floods it can be assumed that considerable hydro-morphological change may have imperceptibly occurred over time. It appears that both lower flow level in dry season and excessive silt flowing down from upper reaches and consequently large scale deforestation have caused the river beds to rise resulting in reduced water carrying capacity of Bangladeshi rivers. The floods clearly raise a much larger environmental issue. Also, morphological changes in the river systems increase the probability of more frequent recurrence of floods.

Recurrent natural disasters and resultant repeated loss of assets often induce unhappy socio-economic changes within rural income groups. It accelerates the process of pauperization and swelling of the number of landless peasants. Hence, social as well as economic relationships change which has impact on the production system. Natural disasters, such as floods, also bring about agronomic changes, requiring changes in the cropping patterns. All these changes need to be understood, as quickly as possible, for devising effective and implementable production strategies. As extraordinary natural calamities frequently occur in different countries, which may need technical and financial resources to carry out the necessary investigation and analysis, it is essential to build up a system to provide the required quick technical guidance and financial assistance. This will help in quick alleviation of human suffering and rehabilitation of agriculture. To my mind, no other organization than FAO, is better suited to undertake such a task.

In the realm of food and agriculture, Mr Chairman, FAO has played an outstanding role. Its contribution to agricultural development in the developing world remains unparalleled. FAO has provided and catalized assistance in the fields of global food security, rural development, nutrition and conservation of the world's natural resources including soils, forestry and fisheries. Its field programmes have yielded important benefits to member countries, its technical cooperation programme allowed to respond to emergencies, and investment support activities have promoted crucial investment in needy countries. It is important to note that FAO has been able to respond to the changing need of the world in general and the developing countries in particular.

We believe reforms are necessary for dynamism and efficiency of any organization, but we do not believe in reform for reform's sake. Reforms must be viewed in the correct context, reforms must come in response to the felt needs of an organization's clients and reforms must never be induced from any narrow consideration. We must also examine if it has or has not lost its capability for self-reform, a quality any responsible organization inherently maintains. Or else, Mr Chairman, we may carelessly place the objectives, purpose and reason for the existence of the subject organization to jeopardy.

Reform of an organization such as FAO, to which the entire developing world looks for technical guidance, cannot and indeed should not be seen in isolation of the social and economic forces that these countries have to contend with. Over the last six years there has been no real increase in the Organization's budgetary resources. During the same period the economic position of the developing world has, if anything, worsened; population has increased, rapidly in many countries; commodity prices have fallen; merchandise exports have declined; protectionism has grown; agricultural input prices have increased; the flow of concessional funds remain inadequate; external debts have mounted and debt servicing capacity for many has plunged. Despite these, a large number of countries have managed to achieve a modest increase in national incomes. The continuing upheaval in the economies of the developed countries tend to project a grimmer picture than perhaps has been experienced in the past. Consequently, developing countries will require further to adjust to the changing economic realities of the future. These will in turn require adjustment in the technical structure of production, an area in which FAO's assistance has been exemplary. A reform that is not supported by adequate budgetary resources is likely to have little meaning. FAO's budget, Mr Chairman, must reflect the needs of developing countries, not only of the present day but

also of the immediate future and its reform must be in the context of their future problems and prospects.

Mr Chairman, Bangladesh has not only strongly pursued its domestic economic objectives, but, as a firm believer in economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, has, also played and continues to play a vigorous role in regional development through coopération. The establishment of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is the realization of a dream of Bangladesh to see the South Asian countries in the embrace of friendship and economic cooperation. It gives great pleasure that the SAARC summit meeting held a few days ago in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal, has approached the establishment of a 200 000 metric ton food security reserve for the South Asian countries.

It may be recalled that a Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) came into being in 1978 to facilitate exchange of research results, sharing of training expertise and dissemination of information of various aspects of integrated rural development among countries of the region. As a further evidence of Bangladesh's commitment to regional cooperation it hosted CIRDAP which has 11 members. Early this year the Government of Bangladesh hosted a Ministers meeting on Rural Development in Dhaka and provided the site for the permanent headquarters of CIRDAP. For CIRDAP to be fully useful to the Asia-Pacific Region it is essential that more countries become its members and donors provide the required programme support. I appeal to the countries of our region to join the CIRDAP.

Finally Mr Chairman, while there has been some positive development, such as improvement in nutritional status, having taken place on an aggregate level, active pockets of deprivation continue to exist and, as indeed the FAO review "Agriculture Toward 2000" indicates, will persist in parts of the developing world. At the same time resource-needy, least developed countries face new concern stemming from the new instability in the developed economies. Uncertainty about the future may set off depressive reactions in the developing world. This is probably the most critical time for a fresh recognition of the interdependence between the developed and developing countries, economic well-being of the North is intrinsically linked to economic progress in the South. In this context, timely implementation of the objectives of the Uruguay Round of negotiations assumes great urgency.

Times are hard and fraught with uncertainty and problems appear to keep ahead of solutions, but durable hope and progress can come only from striving hard, together, for collective prosperity. The past human achievements give us no room for complacency because our future depends greatly on the present, not entirely on the past, and we have promises to keep.

Iris REZENDE MACHADO (Brazil) (original language Portuguese): I firstly warmly congratulate you on your election to the Chair of this Conference, and we hope under your skillful management we will be able to make a significant contribution to the subjects we are going to discuss in the coming days.

Allow me also, Sir, to join with those who went before me in speaking to say, on behalf of His Excellency, our President Mr Jose Sarney, and on my own behalf, our congratulations to the Director-General of FAO, Mr Edouard Saouma on his re-election to head this Organization. Having been elected for a third term, his Excellency has now become the depository of the trust and hope of all of us, all Member States of FAO. We are sure that his qualities of leadership and sensitivity to the matters which affect international cooperation in agriculture and food will not be misplaced, and once again under the clear and firm guidance of Mr . Saouma I hope FAO may continue to improve its structure and operation, keeping itself active in the building up of a new world economic order to meet the legitimate wishes for progress and social justice in the developing countries.

Mr Chairman, Mr Director - General, Ministers of Agriculture, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a great honour for me to participate, as the Head of the Brazilian Delegation in this Twenty-fourth Conference of the FAO, and this is a unique opportunity where we can examine solutions for the main problems which face the future activities in these vital areas, making it possible to achieve the goals of a stable integration between men of the countryside and between the results of man's work and the food needs of our populations, in particular the weaker sectors.

This is a valuable meeting which offers FAO every two years a possibility of enriching its assets as it has done during the forty-two years of its existence in line with its philosophy aimed at raising the level of nutrition and living standards of its population, improving production and distribution of all kinds of food and agricultural products, and raising the living standards of rural population in particular.

The picture and the outlook up to the year 2000 in the area of food and agriculture, research and production, irrigation, land reform, the position of the worker in the country and of woman's role in rural development, these are all among the important subjects which we are to examine, and they are of vital importance for developing countries in general and for Brazil in particular. For the developing countries - because in their rural areas almost half the population of the world lives, most of them in poverty and a third at least - that is to say more than 8 million humans - in conditions of absolute poverty. For Brazil, which is continuing untiringly in the struggle to vanquish hunger and misery which threatens over 30 million Brazilians, I am sure we will be able to react to these challenges and through FAO we will be able to improve multilateral cooperation to the benefit of food and agriculture in all their aspects, thus assuring for future generations better living standards and social conditions..

On the occasion of this meeting we clearly see signs of imbalance in the international situation and they have effects on different groups of countries facing fiscal, monetary, trade and financial problems which have led to a reduction in activity and increases in unemployment. The industrialized countries, in practising all kinds of protectionism, have brought about a slowdown in the international flow of trade including the field of agriculture, in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean which are together in a region which I now refer to in particular. This has led to a worsening in terms of trade and an increase in foreign debt. This is a very unfavourable picture which has caused a slowdown, in economic growth in the area for the first time after a long period of sustained growth, in fact since the postwar years. So from 1982-1986 there has been zero or negative growth rate in the GNP, a negative growth rate in the per capita income which is today lower than it was a decade ago, and there has been a reduction in investments to levels lower than those prevailing in the 60's. There has been an increase in the inflation rate three to seven times in comparison with the indices in the 60's and 70's; a considerable reduction in employment and real earnings, and in the latter case there has been a decrease of 3.5 percent per year. There has been an increase in the fiscal deficit which restricts the possibilities of vitalizing economies through public investment and spending, an increase in the transfer of resources to service foreign debt which goes hand in hand with the worsening in the terms of trade.

All this has brought about an unprecedented crisis in the balance of payments, and so in 1982-1986 when the crisis worsened, we were led to bring about serious adjustments in our economies having a serious impact on the rural area, and I could stress a reduction in the volume of rural credit and shrinking of subsidies and public investment because of restrictive monetary and fiscal policies. There were also price policies kept under very strict control because of their inflationary effect. There was a worsening in agriculture generally between 1982 and 1986 when we found that there was a major movement of population from the countryside to the towns, and there was a fall of 3 percent to zero, and a decrease also in the value of exports, although the volume did increase, there was a worsening in rural circumstances, and there is only 20 percent of the population living in Brazilian urban areas.

We have not however been discouraged by this very difficult position. We are continuing with the struggle in our regional community associated with other developing countries in a constant search for a more fair world economic order. This is a great struggle but the results have been modest so far.

We have been associated with the Cairns Group set up in August 1976, and in our individual capacity we have, all of us developing countries, sought the liberalization of world trade in commodities and its governing by the rules of GATT, observing the principles of differential treatment and more favourable treatment for developing countries in accordance with the line established by the Punta Del Este Declaration which, in September 1986 commenced the present Uruguay Round of multilateral negotiations.

We are very concerned by the possibility that the outcome of these negotiations may be compromised by the abandonment on the part of participating countries and in particular by the industrialized countries by their commitment to freeze and dismantle the trade protection systems and bilateral

understandings which restrict the capacity of some countries to contribute more, given their considerable levels of potential for producing; and exporting agricultural goods. Also, on account of national: legislation with the purpose of increasing protectionism, contrary to the provisions agreed in GATT.

The results of our efforts have not been successful either, based on the principle of co-responsibility of debtors that there should be a rescheduling of the debt reflecting the need for socio-economic growth in a developing country.

So I cannot but stress that in 1985 the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean became net exporters of capital to an extent of \$20 billion in contrast to being net importers in 1978 to a value of 16 million dollars. We do not see how this picture can continue indefinitely, how the countries of the region can continue in this way, and by the other developing countries which are in the same circumstances. In our hemisphere however, we are sparing no efforts, nor are we being discouraged in trying to make more flexible the payment system to reduce imbalance in the exchange and to move towards our development goals. So we are constantly seeking to make full use of the reciprocal credit arrangements of the Central American Common Market, of the Caribbean Community, of the Andean Pact, and of the bilateral cooperation programmes that are in existence, and even though we do face natural difficulties in the way of a far reaching adjustment process and unfavourable international circumstances, the Government of President José Sarney - being aware of the importance of the agricultural sector and also as an indispensable tool for bringing back the necessary adjustment - on the 14th of August 1986, launched the Agricultural Goal Plan and with this programme we are carrying out integrated planning, protecting the environment with the participation of the communities, favouring the small producer, encouraging cooperative movements, giving technical training, raising productivity without exhausting the soil, and the programme will make it possible for groups of small producers in municipalities and boroughs to programme their work and to carry out conservation work, reforestation, soil management, rainwater management, combating erosion and building roads and infrastructure. The Goal Plan incorporated many year-long agriculture plans based on minimum prices, the availability of credit, and in particular for harvesting and replanning, with a guarantee of the purchase of surplus products which cannot normally be absorbed by the market, and in the modernization of agricultural assurance systems which can protect the farmers against losses due to weather factors. I also stress the establishment, of the Rural Development Fund to an amount of some \$7 billion. The objective is to gather resources for investment in agriculture.

Stress is being laid also on infrastructure. Here I should mention initiatives aimed at increasing warehouse capacities from 60 million tons to 76 million tons by 1989; the recovery and improvement of the road network, ports, railways, and rural transport systems; the strengthening of the north-east irrigation system and the national irrigation programme using resources of some \$12 billion, which will mean that 2 million hectares will be irrigated; the integrated use of micro-basins using some \$2 billion; considering aspects of productivity and the stability of the environment. Apart from government support, all these programmes provide for the participation of private initiative.

In summary, these are some of the contributions that Brazil is making to a new world economic system whereby we all hope that mankind in the not-too distant future, will free itself from the scourge of hunger and malnutrition. Under these circumstances, I urge this Conference to appreciate the role of FAO as a multilateral agency where decision-making both operationally and institutionally is consolidated in accordance with the principles of equality, sovereignty and independence as well as solidarity and respect for differences in political, social and economic systems.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to announce that we are making a payment of \$3.4 million to FAO to meet our contribution for the whole year of 1986 and part of 1987. This is the best thing we can do at present, given the budgetary restrictions imposed on us through a policy of economic readjustment brought about during the financial crisis I have referred to. All members of FAO, however, particularly those who for other reasons have been withholding their payments to FAO, should remember that this is our home here. Let us work together with determination and resolve, and with trust for the future.

Stanislaw ZIEBA (Pologne): D'emblée, permettez-moi de vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Conférence. Je tiens également à féliciter chaleureusement Monsieur E. Saouma pour sa réélection au poste de Directeur général.

Le fait que nous puissions parier, dans le forum de notre Conférence, des deux années successives du progrès dans la production agricole mondiale incite à l'optimisme. Une part considérable dans ce progrès revient notamment à la FAO qui, grâce à son activité, anime la coopération internationale dans le domaine de l'agriculture, de la sylviculture et de la pêche, mettant particulièrement l'accent sur la problématique des pays en développement ainsi que sur le renforcement du système international de la sécurité alimentaire.

Je voudrais déclarer avec satisfaction que les deux dernières années ont également été favorables pour l'agriculture polonaise. Le progrès réalisé dans la production agricole et dans la transformation des produits agricoles a eu une grande importance pour le développement du pays. Cela nous a permis d'obtenir un équilibre entre les importations et les exportations agricoles, d'améliorer la qualité des produits alimentaires destinés à la population croissante et de développer une coopération économique, scientifique et technique avec plusieurs pays ainsi qu'avec les organisations internationales, dont notamment la FAO.

Néanmoins, nous sommes profondément préoccupés par le fait que, malgré le progrès obtenu dans la production des produits alimentaires, le nombre de gens qui souffre de la faim ne diminue point, mais augmente. Les causes de cette situation sont complexes et doivent être examinées en détail. Dans ce contexte, nous voudrions faire noter avec reconnaissance le rôle important de la FAO, notamment dans l'organisation d'une aide d'urgence accordée à la population des pays touchés par la famine ainsi que tous les efforts déployés par l'Organisation en vue de trouver des solutions à long terme susceptibles de résoudre ce problème.

La solution durable du problème de la faim ne pourra avoir lieu sans assurer aux pays concernés les conditions stables de leur développement économique et social. Ceci exige à son tour de transformer, sur des principes justes et démocratiques, les rapports économiques internationaux, de résoudre le problème de l'endettement extérieur et de créer un système international de sécurité économique.

Nous sommes profondément convaincus que l'évaluation positive des rapports internationaux, ainsi que le développement de la science et de la technique contemporaines, nous ouvrent des perspectives réelles permettant d'éliminer la faim et d'assurer un niveau de vie répondant aux aspirations des hommes de notre planète. Dans cette noble tâche, la FAO joue un rôle particulièrement important, et la Pologne est prête à coparticiper à sa réalisation.

Notre Conférence se tient à l'époque des événements importants et des processus réformateurs qui se déroulent dans certains pays et aussi à l'échelle internationale. La question la plus importante est de créer un système universel de sécurité internationale englobant les sphères politique, militaire, économique, écologique et humanitaire. L'obtention du progrès dans ce domaine pourrait avoir aussi une grande importance pour un fonctionnement plus efficace de la sécurité alimentaire en faveur de laquelle notre organisation déploie tant d'efforts. Nous devons être conscients que le fait de pourvoir à l'alimentation de la population croissante mondiale constitue un problème dont la solution dépasse le cadre purement agricole et technologique.

Mon pays rend hommage au rôle croissant de la FAO, qui constitue un forum servant à élaborer la stratégie et la politique susceptibles de résoudre les principaux problèmes de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Nous apprécions également sa coopération active avec d'autres organisations de l'ONU, notamment dans le domaine du développement du commerce des produits agricoles et de la coopération technique. Le progrès scientifique et technique rapide exige que soit développée la coopération internationale. Pour ce faire, il est indispensable d'adapter constamment les formes et les méthodes de cette coopération, y compris celle entre les organisations internationales. Un exemple intéressant et promoteur est ici fourni par les premières consultations globales entre la FAO et l'UNIDO dans le domaine de l'industrie de la pêche qui ont eu lieu récemment en Pologne. Il semble que l'on pourrait avancer considérablement la coopération dans le domaine de l'organisation et de la mise à profit des résultats des recherches scientifiques agricoles, ainsi que nos actions en faveur d'une libre diffusion des informations, expériences et technologies concernant la protection de l'environnement, la production, la transformation et le stockage des produits alimentaires. Cette dernière question a été insérée, à l'initiative de la Pologne, dans la résolution de l'Assemblée Générale consacrée aux problèmes de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Depuis des années, la Pologne, par ses efforts constants, ne cesse de se manifester au sein de la FAO. Nous nous efforçons, dans la mesure de nos possibilités, d'apporter notre contribution à l'action d'aide technique aux pays en développement. Nous étudions également la possibilité de créer en Pologne un fonds spécial, en devise nationale, qui pourrait servir à un élargissement de la coopération avec plusieurs pays sur la base des programmes de la FAO. C'est avec un grand intérêt que nous avons appris que le Secrétariat poursuit des travaux en vue de définir les principes de fonctionnement de formes non conventionnelles du financement de la coopération. Nous sommes convaincus que ceci permettra à de nombreux pays membres d'intensifier leur activité.

Nous attachons une grande importance à l'activité de La FAO dans la région européenne. Elle apporte des avantages concrets non seulement aux pays de la région. Les résultats de cette activité, ainsi que les résultats de diverses expériences, sont aussi très utiles pour les autres régions et notamment pour les pays en développement. Nous considérons que la coopération dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de la sylviculture en Europe a toutes les chances de se développer ultérieurement ainsi que d'être avantageuse pour les différents partenaires.

Dans ce contexte, nous notons avec satisfaction le fait que la 10ème Conférence régionale pour l'Europe aura lieu l'année prochaine en Pologne. Nous sommes convaincus que cette Conférence donnera un élan nouveau à la coopération dans le domaine de l'agriculture et du développement social. Nous espérons que les documents analytiques: "L'Agriculture Européenne 2 000" et "La Protection du Milieu Agricole en Europe", seront une bonne base essentielle à la discussion fructueuse et à la coopération future pour le bien du progrès de l'agriculture dans le monde et pour le bien de notre organisation. Nous accueillerons à Cracovie, avec toute la traditionnelle hospitalité polonaise, les délégations et les observateurs de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe.

Merci de votre attention.

Nzungu LUNTADI (Zaire): Au nom de la Délégation qui m'accompagne et en mon nom propre, je voudrais m'acquitter d'un agréable devoir: celui de vous féliciter, vous-même, Monsieur le Président, ainsi que tous les autres membres du Bureau, pour votre élection.

Nous sommes convaincus que grâce à la clairvoyance de votre Bureau, nos travaux aboutiront aux résultats très satisfaisants, allant toujours dans le sens du renforcement de l'action de la FAO à travers le monde.

Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour féliciter également Monsieur Edouard Saouma, pour sa réélection en qualité de Directeur général de notre Organisation; je lui souhaite tous les vœux de succès.

Que le Gouvernement et le peuple italien trouvent ici nos remerciements les plus sincères pour l'accueil et l'hospitalité dont nous sommes l'objet depuis notre arrivée.

La politique actuelle de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture que mène le Conseil Exécutif du Zaïre vise essentiellement un objectif principal: celui d'atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

En effet, depuis les années 70, les efforts en ce sens ont été en grande partie consentis sous la forme de projets agricoles conçus et mis en place pour accroître la production vivrière et améliorer les conditions de vie des agriculteurs. Il s'agit, en fait, de deux missions principales retenues par le Président-Fondateur du Mouvement Populaire de la Révolution, Président de la République du Zaïre, le Maréchal Mobutu Sese Seko.

Le Conseil Exécutif du Zaïre, conscient de la place qu'occupe le secteur agricole dans le développement du Pays, en a fait un des volets les plus importants du premier Plan quinquennal 1986 - 1990, du développement économique et social du Zaïre.

Et comme nous l'avions indiqué à la 14ème Conférence régionale tenue à Yamoussoukro en 1986, ce Plan est caractérisé par trois niveaux d'intervention: au niveau de l'ensemble de l'économie, par un cadre macro-économique de référence, cohérent et réaliste; au niveau sectoriel, par un choix judicieux des investissements, la coordination intersectorielle, la réhabilitation des infrastructures et outils de production, l'ajustement structurel, l'importance accordée au secteur privé et l'amélioration de la gestion économique; au niveau régional, par la poursuite de la décentralisation, l'aménagement de l'espace rural en tenant compte de spécificités locales en vue de réduire progressivement les disparités.

S'agissant particulièrement de l'aménagement de l'espace rural, cadre des actions agricoles au cours de la période 1986 - 1991, les projets agricoles sont retenus pour jouer un rôle important à court terme.

Ces projets destinés à rendre le milieu rural plus favorable à la production ont été conçus de manière à transférer progressivement les responsabilités aux structures d'initiatives locales telles que les organisations coopératives, les groupements professionnels et le secteur privé.

Les tâches prioritaires confiées à ces projets consistent en: l'encadrement des producteurs; la vulgarisation et le développement de l'utilisation des intrants; l'amélioration de l'infrastructure de communication par la réhabilitation des pistes afin de faciliter l'approvisionnement des producteurs en produits de première nécessité et l'évacuation de leur production; l'aménagement des points d'eau et la mise en place d'autres infrastructures sociales.

A la suite de la Décision d'Etat n° 51 du 29 octobre 1986 issue de la 12ème Session du Comité Central du Mouvement Populaire de la Révolution, notre Parti-Etat, décision relative à la réalisation de l'autosuffisance alimentaire dans un délai maximum de cinq ans, le Conseil Exécutif du Zaïre a renforcé l'effort en cours par un programme d'appui à la production pour l'auto-suffisance alimentaire, en abrégé "PRAAL". Ce programme est conçu pour accélérer le processus de l'accroissement de la production agricole.

En accord avec la mobilisation générale décrétée autour de la réussite de ce programme d'auto-suffisance alimentaire, les autorités politico-administratives des entités décentralisées ont été rendues responsables de la gestion de l'encadrement technique des agriculteurs et du milieu rural pour la réalisation des objectifs de production assignés à chaque Région du Pays.

En plus de l'objectif principal relatif à la satisfaction des besoins locaux en produits vivriers de base que poursuit le PRAAL, le Conseil Exécutif du Zaïre, notre Gouvernement, soutient également deux autres objectifs, qui sont:

- l'approvisionnement, d'une manière satisfaisante, des agro-industries locales en matières premières, en vue de valoriser leur capacité de production;
- l'accroissement des exportations agricoles afin d'apporter au pays les devises nécessaires à son équipement.

Les dimensions de notre pays et les difficultés de transport qui en découlent, imposent le développement de l'agriculture péri-urbaine, essentiellement vivrière.

Cette stratégie conduira d'une part, à la réduction sensible de l'impact des coûts de transport sur les produits livrés à la consommation urbaine et d'autre part, les producteurs agricoles de l'arrière-pays à diversifier leur production et à s'intéresser davantage aux cultures de rente, susceptibles de rémunérer mieux le travail manuel, garantissant ainsi leurs revenus.

La réalisation de tous ces objectifs devrait amener le pays à assurer sa sécurité alimentaire.

Le Conseil Exécutif du Zaïre est conscient que pour atteindre ces objectifs, il devra préalablement lever toutes les contraintes qui empêchent d'atteindre les résultats escomptés.

A cet effet, les actions spécifiques et appropriées sont progressivement mises en place, dont notamment: la modernisation du système cultural paysan; la relance des centres de production des semences améliorées et leur diffusion en milieu rural; la redynamisation des petites et moyennes entreprises agricoles qui contribuent de façon conséquente à l'augmentation de la production vivrière.

Nous sommes aussi conscients que dans cette tâche nous devons d'abord compter sur nous-mêmes.

Dans ce sens, le Zaïre fait un effort considérable pour mobiliser les ressources propres mais reste ouvert à l'apport supplétif en provenance des coopérations bilatérales et multilatérales pour faire face aux besoins financiers importants requis pour la relance et l'accroissement de la production agricole.

Le point de vue de la délégation du Zaïre sur des questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour de notre Conférence vous sera communiqué au niveau de différentes Commissions chargées de les examiner en détail.

Cependant, au risque de se répéter, la délégation du Zaïre pense, elle aussi, qu'actuellement la dégradation de l'environnement économique mondial et la baisse sensible des cours des matières premières affectent négativement la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

En effet, les efforts déployés par de nombreux pays en développement pour assurer le service de leur dette extérieure et pour relancer leur croissance économique sont compromis par l'extrême faiblesse des prix de leurs produits d'exportation, par un accès réduit aux marchés des pays développés ainsi que par la détérioration constante des termes de l'échange.

En ce qui concerne la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, ma délégation appuie sans réserve l'idée qui a été adoptée par la 12ème Session du Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale et aux termes de laquelle l'aide alimentaire devrait être liée aux programmes nationaux de développement et devrait s'y intégrer. Il reste bien entendu que les aides alimentaires d'urgence constituent un cas à part.

La délégation du Zaïre se joint aux orateurs qui l'ont précédée pour remercier la Communauté Internationale de s'être mobilisée pour aider l'Afrique à lutter contre les acridiens. Elle souhaite, néanmoins, que la FAO puisse renforcer la collaboration avec les structures nationales chargées de la surveillance et du contrôle de la situation agricole et alimentaire.

Pour ce qui est du Programme de travail et budget de la FAO pour l'exercice biennal 1988 - 1989, nous pensons, comme l'ont dit les délégations qui ont pris la parole avant nous, que, eu égard aux besoins illimités des pays en développement en matière d'assistance qu'ils sont en droit d'attendre de la FAO, toutes les actions proposées dans ce programme doivent être considérées comme le minimum que la FAO devra faire pour ces pays, au cours du prochain biennium. Ceci est d'autant plus vrai que toutes les priorités des programmes ont été arrêtées, en tenant compte des recommandations et des demandes formulées par la Conférence, le Conseil et les Conférences régionales. C'est pourquoi, la délégation zaïroise appuie le contenu du Programme de travail du prochain biennium. La crise qui ne cesse d'affecter sérieusement l'économie mondiale nous incite à une redéfinition des priorités.

Conscient de la gravité de cette situation, le Conseil Exécutif, notre Gouvernement a choisi l'agriculture en tant que secteur pour lequel le Zaïre dispose d'énormes potentialités pour relancer son économie.

Aussi, notre souhait ardent est de voir la FAO, en tant qu'expression de la solidarité internationale, disposer des moyens adéquats pouvant lui permettre de répondre aux demandes incessantes et justifiées que lui adressent les Etats Membres.

Datuk le Seri Sanusi JUNID (Malaysia): It gives me great pleasure to join other delegates to this Conference in congratulating you on your election to chair this very important session. I would like to congratulate your three Vice-Chairmen who have all the qualifications to assist you. I also would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Eduoard Saouma on his re-election as the Director-General of FAO.

Looking at world poverty as a whole and the existence of relative poverty in Malaysia, this opportunity of revealing our perception and understanding of our national economic in relation to the haves and the lesser haves.

The poor in our country, who are mainly in the rural areas, can be looked at as a class of people living on a higher slope of an arid mountain, depending for livelihood on rain water that falls on the slopes. This rainfall seeps into the slopes and flows down the rivers to the plains meandering through canals and streams, surpluses of which go to the sea. By the process of evaporation, the water, all along the way, evaporates to form clouds in the sky. The clouds are then pushed by the wind to break down as rain whether above the sea, on the plains, or on the slopes itself.

That mountain is political power as the majority of voters are in the rural areas and among the lesser haves, and generally involved in agriculture.

Aridity is poverty.

The rainfall is money, coming out of government expenditure, whether in the form of direct spending or subsidies and other forms of aid. Through trade and business transactions, the money is drained down to the plains, which is symbolic of the cities, and surpluses go to the sea as accumulated funds. Evaporation, like taxation, which generates a lot of heat, causes vapour to rise upward and accumulate to form clouds which is the Treasury. It is the political wind that blows the clouds and thereby determine the distribution of rain, or government expenditure.

On a global basis, things are about similar.

The majority of the world population are in the poorer countries or countries classified as poor. Should there be a voting on a one-man one-vote basis to form a world government, God forbid, it is definitely clear that the poorer people of the world will politically dominate.

They occupy the arid slopes of the mountain.

If world peace is to be in any way related to the development of the world economy, then the 'water' cycle mentioned earlier, should also be valid for comparison on a global basis.

The riches accumulated in the world should be made to recycle through trade in order that there is global peace. In historical perspectives, interdependency between nations is rational, relevant and the only way - for empires and civilisations in Asia, Africa and Europe have collapsed without the leaders of these empires and civilisations, ever forecasting that their future citizens will be participating in the FAO forum today.

Talking of poverty in the Malaysian context, we have now reached a stage whereby we should differentiate between having to:

- eat in order to live without really filling the stomach or getting the satisfaction
- eating for satisfaction without taste nor balanced nutrition
- eating for balanced nutrition with taste and satisfaction

This is probably what is meant when one talks about "starvation", "hunger" and "malnutrition".

It is rather unfortunate that most discussions on poverty today, are made by people who have hardly been poor. While we welcome the better-off, more educated and prosperous individuals for their concern in the problem of the poor, for indeed without their concern, the poor will have nowhere to turn to, we should remind ourselves, now and then of the existence of the differences between the real experience of poverty and the intellectual exercises in poverty.

Poverty as is love, pain, hate and satisfaction, needs to be felt, experienced to understand the seriousness of it. It is beyond literary capability to write on pain and get the same feeling as cutting your fingers with a knife. It is also impossible to read anything on love and have the same feelings as falling in love itself.

No amount of discussion on poverty is as real as to suffer poverty itself. If I remember right, it was Leo Tolstoy in "Anna Karenina", who said that the problems of the rich are all the same and that of the poor differs. We should, therefore, always ask ourselves, are we offering the poor what the poor really want.

For those having to eat in order to live, it is not difficult to plan programmes, for them, as their requirements are basic and very obvious; but the level of poverty all over the world differs.

There are those who are still poor, but not starving, who need a higher standard of living.

There are other factors beside per capita income to take into consideration. There are non-quantifiable considerations. People who are poor in money terms are not necessarily poor spiritually and emotionally; they have a lot of time, and if they are not starving, they have the energy to spend. They are even good looking. The resources of spirit, time and energy of the poor should be used to improve their per capita income. After all, high income and high rank in society is not necessarily what the poor is aiming for.

We have indeed seen more suicides or voluntary deaths, among the better off, for the poor dies, involuntarily. Family breakdowns are proportionately more frequent among the high-ranking. It is certainly true that higher income and higher positions are not the only considerations that add up to happiness (although they are helpful), for I have seen poor farmers in the paddy fields and in the rubber estates much happier than salaried workers who have nothing but money and positions as measures of their value.

We should, therefore, think of the possibility of upgrading the level of happiness of the poor by social and cultural activities and other activities which add up to the quality of life.

Indeed, it is Malaysia's experience that the happy farmer is a more productive farmer. We can, of course, say that this is the responsibility of the other UN agencies; but I must say here that the other UN agencies must also realise the necessity and importance of FAO.

The effort at eradication of poverty on a global basis is an unending process. We will probably not be here any more if the problem of world poverty is resolved. It is ironical to imagine or even suggest that in order for FAO to continually exist, there must be a perpetuation of poverty or the perpetuation of reasons for the obstruction to the solutions to the problem of poverty.

Malaysia is a country which imports about Rgt. 3.2 billion worth of food every year, from developed and developing countries. Although you might have heard so much about Malaysia's export of palm oil and rubber, I would like to state here that the income derived, from all the sales of palm oil is not enough to pay for the cost of our imports of food. We do not intend to be self-sufficient in food production, as we believe that agricultural activity that can better be done by other nations economically, should be done by them, while we concentrate in areas that we can do better.

We also hope that other nations will adopt the same attitude towards us and towards other developing and even developed countries. I do hope that Bismark was wrong when he said that "free trade is the idea of the exporters".

I have been taught that free trade is the best thing that can happen to this world and trade, not aid, is the answer to the economic problems of nations. But I am a little bit confused when I see unfair "misinformation and propaganda" tolerated against our commodities, and commodities of other nations, beyond the tolerance of science, encouraging protectionism, and, therefore, against free trade itself.

I hope I am not hurting anybody by politely saying all these, as this is what freedom of speech is all about. If one is against free trade while preaching it, one should not also be against free speech while propagating it. We should not use the word "freedom" when it benefits ourselves only.

The problem of food security and lack of technical know-how is not just an economic problem and neither is it just a scientific or technical problem. It is also an emotional and human problem and that is why I dwell on the subject in this manner.

Let us look at Dr Saouma's statement which reads: "FAO cannot solve all the food and agriculture problems in the world". On the other hand, Mr Jean Mayer said: "There is enough food in the world today to feed adequately every person on earth, if the food were equitably distributed". He further said, "(This, however, would condemn peasants in poor countries to eternal poverty.)"

This sentence, "(This, however, would condemn peasants in poor countries to eternal poverty)", which is within brackets, is even more important than the whole paragraph of Mr Jean Mayer's speech, as this sentence rationalises the reluctance of nations to sufficiently help the hungry.

I remember reading somewhere about a few philosophers, who on realising that birds fly South to the Mediterranean in late autumn to avoid the bitter winter, provided tents as shelter and food for the birds to eat. After a few years, the views of the philosophers changed and their resources were diminished and they stopped this programme. At the next autumn, the birds came and on seeing that there was no food and no tent, they flew away. Thousands of birds which have been eating for years flew back as they could not cope with the long journey anymore.

These birds died.

The veterinarians discovered that the joints of their wings were swollen - they had been eating free for too long.

However, we are not talking about birds, but man. The philosophers and the rich were equally at fault. The birds didn't ask for help, they were pampered, they had nothing to thank for.

I am, therefore, against helping for helping's sake.

However, in the case of man in extreme poverty, for geographical, climatic and other reasons beyond their control, what they need in order not to be pampered, is to be in the "water cycle" that I narrated earlier. I do hope that while we try to solve the problems of the poor, we do not entertain policies which will bring poverty to those who are trying to help. Members of the Cairns Group should not be pressed to take retaliatory measures.

Malaysia has seen poor nations coming out of the Second World War, becoming rich because of the market available for their products. We have seen companies from rich nations with marketing ability even suggesting to entrepreneurs in the then developing countries of what to grow or to manufacture. When there is an opportunity for profit, more so for survival, positive response will surely come by in developing countries. We should help to install the "water cycle" on a national and global basis.

In order to achieve all this, we have to cultivate good public relations as all those involved in this effort are human. We should control our temperaments and our emotions.

This is the first time I am attending this Conference. But I am worried about the little exercise in democracy that took place on 9th November 1987. I do hope that in the practice of democracy, we shall be able to sportingly accept a majority decision even by one and we should also be able to see goodness even in personalities we do not like, or even hate.

I have heard of proposed changes in the FAO. Even Dr Saouma suggested that. Whatever the change may be, it should be to increase productivity of the FAO. There are small organizations, as small nations, which are inefficient; and there are big organizations, as big nations, which are inefficient. There are also small and efficient nations just as there are big and efficient nations.

Big nations do not just decide to split, or, reduce their size whenever they are inefficient. Indeed, some of them go on and on being inefficient. Scaling up or down the number of personalities in an organization should be done for greater efficiency and not just for pride or vengeance.

Those who are giving should not be too arrogant, dictating and dominating, while those who are receiving should be thankful, sober and not rude - nobody owes us a living.

We should realize that to love and to hate is a matter of decision. It is upon this decision that the future of mankind depends.

Jorge PRADO ASANGUIZ (Chile): Señor Presidente, señor Director General, señor Subdirector Regional, señores Delegados: Quiero, en primer término, felicitar al Dr. Edouard Saouraa, por su reelección en el cargo de Director General. Del mismo modo, quiero saludar y felicitar al Presidente de este período de sesiones, Sr. Faisal Al-Khaled.

Pocas reuniones internacionales tienen, como ésta, tanta importancia en la búsqueda de soluciones para los problemas agrícolas, ganaderos, pesqueros y de la alimentación en general.

Estamos por ingresar al último decenio del siglo XX y nos encontramos aún muy lejos de la solución que permita acabar con el flagelo del hambre y la desnutrición en vastas zonas de nuestro planeta, aun cuando la naturaleza del problema haya variado, ya que de una situación de escasez hemos pasado a otra de abundancia y de distribución inadecuada.

Hoy, como nunca antes en el mundo, se producen tantos alimentos y, también como nunca antes, están tan mal distribuidos.

Los adelantos científicos y tecnológicos creados por el hombre son ahora capaces de producir ampliamente todo el alimento que la población mundial requiere.

Es de amplio conocimiento, además, que la mantención de esta situación de desequilibrio increíble cuesta a los países excedentarios una enorme cantidad de dinero.

Sabemos que la situación actual corresponde a una grave crisis y que para salir de ella es preciso atacar sus causas con la mayor energía y sin demora.

Dichas causas son conocidas y hay conciencia de que se encuentran en las políticas proteccionistas de algunos países desarrollados, que subvencionan sus producciones y exportaciones de alimentos y restringen el acceso a los mercados a otras naciones menos desarrolladas, pero con mayores ventajas comparativas, manteniendo artificialmente bajos los precios internacionales y generando grandes "stocks".

Esta realidad se ha venido analizando en el último tiempo en todos los foros mundiales y especialmente en el GATT, y en todos ellos se ha concluido:

Que la situación del comercio mundial de productos agrícolas es grave y compleja de encarar.

Que las políticas implementadas distorsionan el mercado, impiden la adecuada asignación de los recursos y dificultan el progreso económico de las naciones en menor desarrollo.

Que es de la mayor importancia liberalizar el comercio internacional, de manera que el mercado determine los precios y que éstos constituyan las señales que orienten la producción. Y que el proceso de corrección debe iniciarse cuanto antes, debe ser amplio, paulatino y debe contar con el apoyo de todos los países, especialmente de los miembros del GATT.

Estimamos oportuno y de la mayor importancia reiterar aquí, en esta conferencia, dichos conceptos, así como manifestar nuestra adhesión a los lineamientos generales que en este momento se analizan en el seno del GATT para revertir esta realidad. Estimamos también conveniente la asesoría de FAO en estas materias, cuando ella le sea solicitada.

El mundo en desarrollo ha sido y seguirá siendo el más afectado por la situación descrita.

Mi país cree que más efectiva que los programas de ayuda alimenticia es, para estas naciones, la posibilidad de acceder a un mercado y a un comercio sano y transparente, que posibilite el desenvolvimiento de sus potencialidades productivas.

El desarrollo de la agricultura constituye la mejor alternativa para inducir el desarrollo global y para permitir, al mismo tiempo, aliviar la "situación de endeudamiento de nuestros países.

Lo anterior, según el análisis hecho en la IX Conferencia Interamericana de Ministros de Agricultura, celebrada recientemente y cuyas conclusiones están contenidas en la denominada declaración de Ottawa, deberá lograrse, además, mediante la readecuación de la estructura pública de los países, el incremento de la participación del sector privado, el fomento y la diversificación de las exportaciones y la modernización tecnológica de las explotaciones silvoagropecuarias.

Este planteamiento es similar, en lo medular, con el enfoque que nuestro país definió hace catorce años para enfrentar la entonces caótica situación de la agricultura y de la economía en general y lograr un desarrollo sostenido.

Mi país, al igual que otras naciones latinoamericanas y de otras latitudes del mundo subdesarrollado, luego de décadas de estatismo, aplicación de políticas teóricas y dramáticos ensayos revolucionarios, sufrió una drástica y violenta reforma agraria, que casi terminó con la propiedad privada en el campo, destruyó el aparato productivo y nos sumió en el desabastecimiento, y al agro, en la violencia y el caos.

Sin embargo, gracias a Dios y gracias al coraje y la decisión del pueblo chileno, logramos resurgir de las cenizas cuando todo parecía perdido.

En estos catorce últimos años hemos sido capaces de llegar a ser:

- El primer país exportador de frutas del hemisferio Sur
- El primer exportador y productor de harina de pescado en el mundo.

- Estamos exportando 380 productos silvoagropecuarios a más de la mitad de Los países del mundo, habiendo sido capaces de aumentar nuestras exportaciones agrícolas y pesqueras de 80 millones en 1973 a 1.900 millones de dólares en 1987,
- El volumen de pesca ha aumentado nueve veces, en términos físicos, desde 1973 a la fecha, situándose Chile como el quinto país pesquero en el mundo.
- Prácticamente nos autoabastecemos de los alimentos que el pueblo requiere.
- Hoy día, ya no somos un país monoprodutor y no dependemos solamente del cobre.
- Hemos plantado 1 300 000 Has. de bosques.
- Hemos hecho 280 000 nuevos propietarios en el sector rural.
- Estamos cumpliendo con nuestros compromisos financieros con el exterior y, aún más, hemos reducido apreciablemente nuestra deuda externa.
- Tenemos un índice de desocupación en el campo del dos al cuatro por ciento.
- Hemos logrado detener el proceso de migración del hombre rural hacia los grandes centros urbanos.

Todo ello ha sido posible gracias a que hemos tenido un país ordenado, dedicado al trabajo con seriedad, esfuerzo y con fe en el porvenir.

Todo este inmenso desarrollo silvoagropecuario se debe a que nuestro Gobierno devolvió el derecho de propiedad en todo su imperio y su status jurídico, a que puso en práctica una política económica social de mercado y una política agrícola realista, eficiente y estable.

Debemos confiar en la capacidad del hombre y liberar a la sociedad del mayor numero de trabas posible, de manera que este pueda desarrollar toda su energía creadora, tanto en su propio beneficio como en beneficio de los demás.

El desarrollo económico del sector ya es una realidad. Ahora estarnos de lleno en una segunda etapa, cual es lograr el equilibrio entre éste y el desarrollo social.

Nosotros no postulamos el desarrollo económico como un fin en sí mismo, sino como un medio para el desarrollo social y para el desarrollo del hombre.

Sin embargo, para que éste y la sociedad puedan crecer, es preciso que previamente la economía haya tenido, a su vez, un crecimiento suficiente.

Este es el camino que invariablemente han seguido las naciones que hoy son desarrolladas. No se puede crear bienestar, sin antes haber creado riqueza.

Desde un tiempo a esta parte hemos puesto en marcha un ambicioso plan nacional de desarrollo rural, con el objeto de promover decididamente una mejor calidad de vida para el habitante de este sector. Nos interesa que éste viva bien, que pueda satisfacer adecuadamente sus necesidades, de modo que permanezca en su lugar de origen y participe allí en la generación del progreso y el desarrollo, para que así también el país pueda progresar y desarrollarse en forma armónica.

Creemos que lo mejor es una agricultura eficiente en manos privadas, conjuntamente con un efectivo desarrollo rural.

Chile ha venido recibiendo, desde hace ya muchos años, la colaboración de FAO en favor de sus actividades agrícolas, forestales y pesqueras.

Queremos expresar en esta oportunidad nuestro reconocimiento a la labor desarrollada por la Organización, así como nuestro apoyo a su programación técnica y a las orientaciones de mediano

y largo plazo que estri implementando. Especial mención merece, por su eficiencia y agilidad, el Programa de Cooperación Técnica y el esfuerzo realizado para la creación del sistema de redesde cooperación técnica.

Debo destacar, por otra parte, nuestro interés y apoyo a la iniciativa del Director General de realizar un estudio sobre las perspectivas de la agricultura en América Latina y el Caribe, lo que constituirá un instrumento importante para la orientación futura de nuestros países en la materia.

Quisiera terminar reiterando una vez más la necesidad de que la comunidad internacional y especialmente los países desarrollados, terminen con la práctica del proteccionismo, de manera que pueda establecerse un comercio fluido de alimentos, a fin de que permanezcan en el mercado aquellos países que tengan realmente ventajas comparativas para producir.

Mohamed ABDELHADI (Tunisie): (Langue originale arabe). Il était prévu que la délégation tunisienne soit présidée par Monsieur le Ministre de la production agricole et des industries alimentaires, mais ses engagements au sein du Gouvernement l'ont empêché de le faire. Il m'a donc chargé de présenter son discours à sa place.

Je voudrais tout d'abord exprimer les vives félicitations du Gouvernement tunisien à vous, Monsieur le Président, à l'occasion de votre élection à la présidence de cette vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence. Nous sommes surs que, grâce à votre compétence, les travaux de cette Conférence seront couronnés de succès.

Je voudrais également, à mon nom personnel et au nom du Gouvernement tunisien, adresser à Monsieur Saouma nos vives félicitations à l'occasion de sa réélection. Nous sommes sûrs qu'il poursuivra ses efforts pour consolider notre Organisation et grâce à sa compétence la faire évoluer, avec l'aide de tous les pays membres, pour affronter la situation difficile à laquelle doit faire face l'Organisation actuellement.

La Tunisie est un pays arabe, africain et méditerranéen qui croit au rôle essentiel de pionnier de l'Organisation dans le domaine de l'augmentation de la production agricole pour réduire les différences en matière d'alimentation sur le plan mondial. Notre pays demeure engagé aux objectifs de l'Organisation pour oeuvrer dans le sens de la coopération avec les autres pays afin de faire face à la situation difficile qui concerne toutes les institutions des Nations Unies, y compris la FAO.

La session de cette Conférence générale de la FAO est une occasion importante pour évaluer les résultats de nos travaux dans le sens du règlement des questions essentielles concernant la situation alimentaire mondiale et les plans de développement qui visent essentiellement à mettre fin aux problèmes de la malnutrition dans le monde et consolider les plans de développement pour équilibrer l'action internationale tendant à la stabilité, à la justice et à la paix.

A ce sujet, j'ai l'honneur de rendre hommage à mon nom personnel et au nom de mon Gouvernement, au rôle efficace et continu de la FAO pour jeter les bases d'un ordre alimentaire mondial qui réponde aux besoins urgents et à long terme de la communauté internationale sur la base de relations de coopération, de complémentarité positive entre les pays du Nord et du Sud.

Je voudrais également exprimer ma satisfaction quant à l'ouverture d'un Bureau de la FAO en Tunisie, qui permettra de consolider les relations de coopération privilégiées entre la Tunisie et l'Organisation

La Communauté internationale, au cours des deux dernières années, a été témoin d'un grand nombre d'initiatives positives tendant à mettre sur pied des plans adéquats et complémentaires pour lutter contre la faim et renforcer les projets de développement dans les pays en développement.

Parmi ces initiatives, il faut noter la session extraordinaire des Nations Unies en 1986 concernant la situation économique en Afrique, qui a abouti à l'approbation d'un programme de travail pour le redressement économique et le développement en Afrique. Ce programme se basait sur l'agriculture comme moteur essentiel du développement économique dans les pays africains. La FAO a joué un rôle

très efficace dans la réalisation de ce programme. Le Directeur général a consenti des efforts accrus pour réaliser le programme en question, efforts qui ont fait l'objet de l'estime et de la considération de tous les pays africains, en particulier lors de la Conférence régionale de la FAÜ tenue l'année dernière en Afrique à Yamassoukro en Côte-d'Ivoire.

Si l'on observe la réalité mondiale, on constate qu'au cours des dernières années il y a eu une augmentation de la production, surtout agricole et en particulier de céréales, ainsi qu'une augmentation des stocks alimentaires qui ont atteint des chiffres records pouvant garantir le renforcement des efforts consentis par les différents pays, surtout en Afrique.

Parmi les résultats positifs obtenus depuis la vingt-troisième session de la FAO, nous constatons une augmentation relative de la production agricole dans tous les pays, y compris en Afrique. Mais, malgré cette augmentation, la situation alimentaire mondiale est toujours caractérisée par un déséquilibre entre les pays qui ont un excédent alimentaire, et ceux, très nombreux, qui souffrent d'une insuffisance en matière de ressources alimentaires.

Parmi les causes qui ralentissent la marche du développement, nous constatons la détérioration de la situation économique mondiale, ainsi que la détérioration des termes de l'échange, la baisse des prix des produits de base, l'augmentation des dettes et la poursuite des tendances protectionnistes qui limitent les échanges commerciaux et les exportations. Nous devons également mentionner que l'aide fournie par les pays développés n'a pas augmenté, mais a été réduite par rapport aux dernières années.

Tous ces facteurs nous éloignent donc des objectifs définis par la Conférence de 1974, et limitent l'impact des efforts consentis pour diminuer la pauvreté et la faim, d'autant plus que les politiques d'ajustement adoptées par certains pays en développement contiennent intrinsèquement des effets négatifs pour les couches les plus pauvres de la population.

Pour obtenir une situation mondiale d'équilibre, il faut une mobilisation de toutes les sources d'aide pour que les programmes consacrés à ces problèmes gagnent en efficacité. Je ne puis qu'affirmer la nécessité de renforcer les programmes visant à présenter l'aide sous toutes ses formes pour que les pays en développement puissent couvrir leurs besoins en matière alimentaire, et pour améliorer la situation de ces pays de façon radicale en donnant la priorité absolue au secteur agricole et alimentaire.

La réalisation de cette orientation exige des ressources très importantes, que ce soit sur le plan du financement ou sur le plan du cadre technique approprié à donner à ces programmes qui doivent être élaborés et réalisés dans les meilleures conditions. Nous pouvons mentionner la nécessité d'augmenter l'aide financière et technique afin de réaliser les objectifs à travers des projets agricoles et de développement pour améliorer le rendement du secteur agricole et augmenter les revenus des agriculteurs. Nous considérons que la solution radicale aux problèmes de développement agricole et de lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition ne peut se trouver que dans la solidarité humaine entre les pays en développement au moyen d'un renforcement de la coopération technique et économique dans le domaine de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, en augmentant la production et les possibilités d'échanges commerciaux de produits alimentaires. La Tunisie oeuvre à la réalisation de cet objectif en coopération avec de nombreux pays en développement.

La Tunisie, avec la FAO, a organisé une réunion à Tunis d'un grand nombre de pays de l'Afrique subsaharienne pour étudier les moyens efficaces tendant à réaliser cette coopération technique entre ces pays, qui a abouti à l'adoption de diverses actions concrètes pour réaliser les projets et échanger les expériences, avec l'aide de la FAO et en particulier avec l'aide du Programme de coopération technique.

Nous voudrions rendre hommage aux activités consenties par la FAO dans le domaine de la coopération entre pays en développement en ce qui concerne les études, l'élaboration et la réalisation des projets.

Nous voudrions lancer un appel à la communauté internationale pour renforcer les efforts de notre Organisation visant à améliorer le rendement du secteur agricole et à garantir le bien-être aux populations rurales.

Il est de mon devoir d'affirmer l'importance du rôle qu'attache mon pays aux activités de cette Conférence et aux questions qui vont être débattues au cours de la présente session. Nous espérons que nous aboutirons à des recommandations constructives qui permettront de surmonter les difficultés concernant la liquidité et qui permettront à la FAO de travailler d'une manière satisfaisante pour lutter de manière efficace contre la faim et la malnutrition. Nous voudrions les commenter brièvement. La délégation tunisienne reviendra sur ces questions en détail au sein des différentes commissions.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de travail et budget, la délégation tunisienne approuve totalement les propositions du Directeur général, bien que l'augmentation demandée soit très modeste si nous la comparons au volume des besoins qui seront en augmentation au cours des prochaines années, car nous voyons déjà les prémices d'une crise alimentaire dans différentes régions du monde, et surtout en Afrique.

A ce sujet nous voudrions exprimer notre préoccupation à l'égard de la diminution des moyens d'action de l'Organisation, de la diminution du nombre des fonctionnaires ainsi qu'à l'égard des ajustements que le Directeur général a été contraint de faire figurer au budget actuel qui se chiffre à 25 millions de dollars. Tout ceci a un effet négatif sur les efforts de l'Organisation.

Nous ne sommes pas satisfaits également des sommes allouées au Programme de coopération technique qui n'a pas subi de changement, bien que les besoins soient en augmentation. Mais nous appuyons les propositions du Directeur général, la politique de décentralisation qui a permis à beaucoup de pays membres, y compris la Tunisie, de bénéficier de façon plus efficace de l'aide technique et du Programme de coopération technique.

Nous souhaiterions que la Conférence aboutisse à des résultats positifs permettant au Directeur général de contrôler la situation financière difficile que traverse l'Organisation, afin d'éviter toute perturbation dans l'activité de l'Organisation. Nous pensons que cette situation a pour cause les problèmes de liquidités. Cela ne résulte pas d'une mauvaise gestion administrative ou financière, mais cela résulte du retard de certains pays à payer leur contribution, en particulier le pays qui a la plus grande contribution. A ce sujet, nous exhortons les pays membres qui n'ont pas encore rempli leurs engagements à le faire au plus vite.

Nous pensons que rien ne peut justifier la remise en question des moyens de fonctionnement. C'est pour cette raison que nous nous opposons à toute mesure qui vise à affaiblir l'Organisation et à limiter ses activités et son rayonnement, surtout dans les pays en développement. Nous appelons à un dialogue constructif entre les différentes structures de l'Organisation pour trouver les moyens garantissant le renforcement de l'Organisation et le renforcement des activités sur le terrain, le programme de coopération technique ainsi que les autres programmes, au moyen des propositions qui figurent dans le document présenté par certains pays en développement.

Pour conclure, nous dirons que toute réforme ne peut constituer un but en soi. L'objectif essentiel est le renforcement du rôle de l'Organisation et l'importance des ressources nécessaires à fournir à l'Organisation pour qu'elle puisse adapter ses activités à la situation mondiale et aux critères de travail sur le terrain.

Notre action sur le plan international serait incomplète si nous ne jetons pas les bases adéquates pour donner un essor au développement agricole dans les pays en développement. Dans cette optique volontariste, la politique de développement en Tunisie a été basée sur le secteur agricole qui constitue un champ essentiel pour faire face au défi de l'avenir et qui se concrétise dans la nécessité de répondre aux besoins de 10 millions de personnes en l'an 2000, et d'accéder à la sécurité alimentaire en matière de produits alimentaires stratégiques sans compter les autres conséquences de cette orientation, surtout dans le domaine de l'emploi et de l'installation de la population dans les régions rurales; et la réalisation de l'équilibre régional; le septième plan de développement économique et social, adopté au milieu de cette année a affirmé cette orientation en consacrant près de 20 pour cent des investissements au secteur agricole en comparaison avec 15,5 pour cent au cours du plan précédent.

Un certain nombre de mesures ont été prises également afin de dépasser les obstacles structurels qui ont limité la marche de développement agricole de façon systématique. Nous espérons que le

développement de secteur agricole nous permettra de réaliser l'autosuffisance alimentaire et améliorer la balance commerciale alimentaire. Sur cette base nous pensons que le secteur agricole ainsi que le secteur des pêches réaliseront un taux de croissance de 6 pour cent au cours des prochaines années, en comparaison avec 1 pour cent au cours des années précédentes. Nous avons pris un certain nombre de mesures encourageant les agriculteurs, et ceci dans le cadre des mesures prises sur le plan économique et social afin d'encourager les investissements et de faire régner un climat de confiance.

Ce plan exige de notre part de garantir les ressources essentielles afin de réaliser ces projets et afin de dépasser tous les obstacles que rencontre la marche du développement et le secteur agricole. Parmi les plus importants, nous voudrions citer le fléau du criquet pèlerin qui menace les récoltes et la situation actuelle nous fait remarquer que la lutte est insuffisante dans un certain nombre de pays acridiens d'où l'arrivée de vagues successives de criquets pèlerins en Algérie et au Maroc et nous considérons que la Tunisie est menacée par ce fléau. Par conséquent, les efforts consentis par tous afin de lutter contre ce fléau selon un plan global qui permette de lutter contre ce fléau est d'empêcher la reproduction du criquet pèlerin. Par conséquent, on appuie les recommandations qui figurent dans le discours du distingué délégué du Maroc. Nous les appuyons totalement et nous espérons qu'elles seront prises en considération. En conclusion, nous voudrions exprimer notre satisfaction à l'égard de la réalisation des opérations fructueuses entre pays frères et amis avec les Organisations internationales qui contribuent à la marche de développement en Tunisie, et surtout la FAO. Nous souhaitons que cette opération se poursuive à l'avenir.

Ahmad Ali MUQBEL (Yemen, People's Dem. Republic of) (original language Arabic): At the outset, it gives me pleasure to convey to all of you the greetings of the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen wishing your conference a successful outcome that would contribute to the provision of food and the achievement of food security all over the world and in the developing countries in particular.

It is also my pleasure to congratulate you Mr Chairman on the confidence placed in your person by the Conference by electing you as Chairman of the Conference.

On behalf of the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen we would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr Edouard Saouma on his re-election as Director-General of FAO for a third mandate. We believe that his election is an expression of the member countries' confidence in his leadership capabilities which he proved during the past period. We are fully confident that Dr Saouma will remain a friend to all peoples in Africa, Asia and Latin America which will be in need of the support of FAO for the development of their food resources.

This Conference is being held at a time when the world economic crisis has reached its peak whose negative effects have been reflected on the international community and particularly on the developing food deficit and low income countries which are witnessing the worst conditions in the field of international development and food production. I need not reiterate what has already been mentioned by way of enumerating the reasons behind this world crisis. Yet I would like to stress the fact that the international unstable conditions, the continuous terrible exploitation of people's resources, the eruption of regional conflicts, the aggravated arms race and the enormous military expenditures represent the background of the difficulties that hamper the realization of any progress in development. It has become quite obvious that the solution to the very dangerous economic conditions prevailing in the developing countries will not be possible except through persistent struggle for the achievement of peace, disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war.

We have all listened to the McDougall lecture as well as to the statement made by the Director-General. The lecture made it clear that huge amounts of funds are being spent on the production of destructive weapons of all kinds, at the time when many people are dying from hunger in many countries. The Director-General's statement referred to the obvious imbalance existing in the international economic situation, particularly the existence of food surpluses in some countries and famines in others. It has also been pointed out in the Director-General's statement that the major imbalance in the international economic order does not allow the developing countries to utilize their productive capabilities because of the inability of their commodities to stand in the face of the protectionist policies imposed by some of the developed countries and in the face of other measures that could lead to a general recession for the products of the developing countries. Accordingly, those countries are unable to achieve sustained development and to produce food.

From our own point of view, this situation cannot be overcome unless we halt the arms race and achieve complete disarmament and unless we direct a part of the military expenditures to development in the third world countries to assist them to produce food.

In this context, my country supports the several initiatives declared by the USSR in order to halt the arms race and to get rid of existing nuclear weapons. We call upon the international community to support such initiatives for the promotion of - food production, happiness and the welfare of humanity.

I would like to point out that the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development has shown the great possibilities of achieving an accelerated development under internal stable conditions free of tension and by channelling funds for economic development purposes.

Following the peaceful initiative taken recently by the USSR on the reduction of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, high hopes were raised for the achievement of disarmament. We are all the more hopeful when we hear news of an agreement being concluded between the USSR and the USA in this respect. We hope this will be a first step towards complete nuclear disarmament that will achieve human safety and accelerated development.

My country, the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen, being one of the least developed countries, is facing many difficulties in developing its production under the current world economic climate. The same applies to the food-deficit and low-income developing countries. We have inherited a heavy burden of underdevelopment from the colonial era. Our sufferings were further aggravated by the severe natural conditions which prevailed during the past few years, ranging from torrential rains that destroyed our lands, establishments and crops to waves of drought which made it difficult to provide drinking water in some areas. Swarms of locusts have also damaged many crops despite the enormous efforts we employed in order to control them; with the help of FAO. Despite the persistence of these natural difficulties, the heavy inherited burden of underdevelopment and financial problems, our people and government are still sparing no effort in the field of development, including agriculture and fisheries.

For 20 years, since our independence on 30 November 1967, agricultural and fisheries development have been at the centre of the attention of our Government. We believe that we have taken reasonable strides in the field of agricultural and fisheries development. The agricultural sector has contributed to the GNP at a rate of 13 percent. Our agricultural exports amounted to 35-40 percent of our total exports. The agricultural sector absorbs about 45 percent of total manpower. Agricultural investments during the first and second Five-Year Plans from 1974-1985 amounted to 22 and 12 percent respectively. Despite the modest achievements of the agricultural sector through the establishment of infrastructures, the expansion of cultivated land, the state farms, cooperatives and other government institutions related to marketing, the provision of production inputs and other services and the achievement of self-sufficiency in vegetables, fruit and eggs, the gap is still large between consumption and production, particularly with regard to cereals, oil, meat and dairy products.

The third Five-Year Plan for the period 1986-1990 aims at developing agricultural and animal production so as to meet a greater part of the population's food needs, to develop agricultural export production, and to provide the agricultural raw materials necessary for local industries. The Plan also aims at increasing the value of agricultural production by the end of the third Five-Year Plan by a rate of 30 percent in comparison with the 1985 figures, at the end of the second Five-Year Plan and at an annual growth rate of 5.5 percent. Agricultural investments represent about 15 percent of the total expected investments for the third Five-Year Plan. As far as plant production is concerned, the Plan foresees an increase in cultivated lands through land reclamation. It also aims at the establishment of modern irrigation networks and other vertical expansion measures through modern techniques, the mechanization of agriculture, the utilization of high-yielding varieties and agricultural inputs, the reduction of harvest losses. Research and extension activities, poultry farms and cooperatives are also to be developed in order to secure the horizontal and vertical increase of production. All these measures should lead to an increase in the land with interim crops at a rate of 25.8 percent and in the land of permanent crops at a rate of 7.2 percent by the last year of the Plan compared with 1985.

In the field of animal production, the Plan aims at promoting activities in poultry production, the improvement of sheep and goat breeds, the expansion of dairy production. By the end of the third Five-Year Plan, we are expecting to meet 90 percent of egg consumption needs and 25 percent of poultry meat. Moreover, a number of studies on irrigation, agricultural and animal production will be carried out under this Plan.

As for fisheries, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen has given a great deal of attention to this sector under the second Five-Year Plan 1981-1985. The necessary infrastructure was set up. Two ports for fishing were established. Two plants for fish canning were set up. Modern fishing boats were purchased as well as refrigerated vehicles for the transport of fish. The same degree of attention given to this vital sector of our national economy has been maintained under the third Five-Year Plan of economic and social development. Investments allocated to the fisheries sector amounted to 5 percent of total investments, with the aim of increasing the quantities of fish for local consumption and export. Fishing cooperatives will be supported and provided with the necessary fishing equipment for such trawlers. A greater attention will also be given to the research and extension aspect. Hence we will set up an aquaculture centre and a Fishing Training Institute, in addition to the extension and training projects undertaken in cooperation with FAO. We will also complete the necessary infrastructures, namely the establishment of fishing ports along the coastline and Shukatra island.

Despite all these efforts, our aspirations are being frustrated by the scarcity of financing resources for many projects in the field of animal and agricultural production. The scarcity of foreign exchange does not permit the completion of projects without foreign support and loans. During the past period, the friendly USSR has furnished us with aid and soft loans. This permitted the establishment of many facilities in the agricultural sector which are effectively contributing today to production activities. Other friendly countries have also extended assistance and loans. Besides, international institutions and funds have also contributed to the agricultural development process through loans.

FAO has also extended much assistance and technical advice to us, and supervised the implementation of many development projects and training of cadres in my country.

In order to continue the agricultural development process towards achieving self-sufficiency in some crops we do need further foreign financing. We hope that international institutions, funds and organizations among which is FAO, will give us further support so as to enable us to provide food for our citizens. We would suggest that FAO should help us in setting up a unified mechanism for desert locust control in East Africa and in the Arabian Peninsula; this will intensify the efforts of the countries of the region to control this dangerous agricultural scourge. We would also suggest the setting up of regional mechanisms to control some animal epidemics such as rinderpest and foot-and-mouth diseases.

We have carefully studied the documents of this Conference and we consider them exceptionally important given the present conditions. Our delegations will comment on these issues when discussed in the different committees. Yet I should like to tackle some key questions in my statement. We have deeply appreciated the documents on the eradication of famine in Africa, locust control and WFP activities in the field of development and the generous donations in cash aid, kind and coordination activities with international organs. This was a successful and great example of what international cooperation could achieve in facing hunger in the world.

On the other hand, the documents on "The State of Food and Agriculture" and "Agriculture: Towards 2000" reflect the failure of international cooperation in achieving an increase in food production and raising living standards in the developing world. This was the result of the world economic conditions and the agricultural terms of trade despite the great efforts exerted by FAO. The same applies to the two documents on the follow-up to WCAARD and agricultural adjustment. No progress has been made in following up and implementation except in very few countries at a narrow scale. We fear that successive conferences will project the same negative picture. Yet we are hopeful that the international detente will succeed in establishing peace and create favourable international economic conditions that would lead to development and increase food production in the near future.

Likewise, we hope that despite the disparity in the viewpoints expressed in the document on "Some Aspects of the FAO Objectives and Action", satisfactory solution will be reached. We believe that member countries have the right to make proposals regarding any reform related to the FAO activity, provided that they should be examined in accordance with the general rules of the Organization and the United Nations System. We have full confidence in the long experience of the FAO leadership

and its leading organs to deal with these problems. We believe that the setting up of a high-level committee to examine the reform will only lead to the weakening of the role played by the Organization in terms of extending assistance to the developing countries under the slogan of giving advice in drawing up policies only.

As far as the Programme of Work and Budget is concerned, the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen believes that the long term and medium term objectives and programme priorities included in these documents are sound and reflect the resolutions and recommendations of international leading bodies, FAO Regional Conferences and the interests of developing countries, many of which, including Democratic Yemen, are in need of the technical support of the Organization in many fields. Therefore, we approve of the principles underlying the budget for the biennium 1988-89. We do support the budget level as well as the proposals and recommendations included in documents on financial matters. We hope that these documents will be unanimously approved.

Gustave MENAGER (Haïti): Permettez-moi, avant tout, au nom de ma délégation et en mon nom personnel de vous présenter mes chaleureuses félicitations pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de cette Vingt-Quatrième Conférence Générale de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture (FAO) - laquelle doit s'occuper du problème de la faim et de la misère dans le monde et de proposer les solutions les plus appropriées.

Le maillet que vous tenez, Monsieur le Président, symbolise pour cette Assemblée la sérénité et la compétence qui seront vos guides dans l'exercice de vos délicates fonctions.

Mes félicitations s'adressent également à Monsieur le Directeur de la FAO à l'occasion de sa réélection à la tête de l'Organisation. Ce choix constitue une éloquente appréciation de la valeur remarquable des prestations fournies par le Dr. Saouma durant les six années de son dernier mandat.

La délégation d'Haïti profite de cette opportunité pour présenter ses meilleurs compliments au Président Indépendant du Conseil de la FAO, ainsi qu'au Secrétariat Technique pour sa soignée préparation des dossiers et la qualité des Services offerts par le personnel d'appui.

Cette Conférence qui réunit aujourd'hui d'éminentes personnalités du Secteur Agricole venues de tous les continents revêt une importance toute particulière pour les pays en développement. En effet, ceux-ci avaient nourri l'espoir que le rôle primordial accordé à la promotion de leur agriculture leur aurait permis de s'intégrer avantageusement dans la conjoncture politico-socio-économique de la planète.

Malheureusement, la récession généralisée, l'inflation galopante, le chômage chronique et l'instabilité monétaire persistante s'opposent au développement rapide de l'Agriculture des pays en développement. En outre, la chute des prix des produits de base entraînant la détérioration des termes de l'échange et le protectionnisme outrancier du Nord ont ralenti leur croissance et ont créé des situations insoutenables et des déficits tellement grands qu'il est impossible de les ramener à des proportions acceptables à brève échéance. Ce n'est pas parce que la nourriture est disponible sur certains marchés que les pauvres ont nécessairement plus à manger.

Etant donné que les pouvoirs d'achat individuels ont augmenté dans les classes majoritaires des pays industrialisés - il faut s'attendre à ce qu'elles s'accaparent des quantités de nourriture de plus en plus abondantes au détriment des démunis. Il en résultera, du côté des pays en développement, une plus grande privation, à moins que ces derniers mettent au point des programmes qui leur permettent de subvenir rapidement à leurs besoins alimentaires. Mais dans les conditions concrètes de leur sous-développement, y arriveront-ils? En tenant compte des importations massives des produits alimentaires en provenance du Nord par ces derniers, on se rend compte qu'il s'agit d'un palliatif à court terme; ces importations aggraveront à moyen et à long terme la crise économique et alimentaire du tiers monde. Une telle situation va provoquer la baisse de la production agricole et le découragement des exploitants tout en renforçant le chômage et le sous-emploi.

Cette situation tragique de pauvreté est due à tout un complexe de facteurs liés entre eux: croissance démographique et pression sur les terres disponibles, dualisme flagrant entre ceux qui

possèdent les ressources et ceux qui n'en ont pas, incapacité des structures agraires à s'adapter aux technologies nouvelles et aux systèmes de l'agro-industrie, accélération du processus de dégradation de l'environnement et nombre croissant de paysans sans terre, alourdissement de la dette publique, insuffisance de l'épargne sans compter toutes les contraintes qui s'opposent au fonctionnement régulier du commerce national et international.

Un autre élément négatif de la situation difficile des pays en développement est constitué par la pénurie du bois de feu. En effet, le bois de feu reste la principale source d'énergie dans les zones rurales du tiers monde, notamment pour la cuisson. Le bois de feu est exploité beaucoup plus vite qu'il ne peut se renouveler et si l'on ne prend pas toutes les mesures appropriées, un milliard de personnes pourraient, d'ici la fin du siècle, vivre dans les zones où manque le bois de feu.

A ce stade de mon exposé, n'est-il pas opportun, Monsieur le Président, de signaler la notoire contradiction entre le commerce mondial des armes et l'essor d'un développement réel que l'on pourrait financer avec un investissement de plus de 560 milliards de dollars l'an, selon certaines estimations?

En face de ces problèmes graves et préoccupants, la Communauté Internationale a les yeux tournés vers la FAO, étant donné que cette Institution à vocation universelle est la seule qui soit en possession d'informations et de compétences aussi vastes que variées dans les domaines ayant trait à l'Agriculture. Lourde responsabilité que celle d'aider chaque Etat Membre à lutter contre la pauvreté rurale, cause et conséquence du manque de productivité.

En ce qui la concerne, la République d'Haïti fait confiance en la sagesse de tous les hommes de bonne volonté car elle a compris que pour sauver la planète du désastre, il faut "moraliser" les relations internationales étant donné que l'existence et la persistance de zones sous-développées est à la fois un non-sens et une lourde responsabilité qui pèsent sur l'humanité tout entière dans un monde où plus de deux milliards d'hommes sont en proie à la colère et à la tentation de la violence. Une fois de plus, le Gouvernement de la République d'Haïti réaffirme sa confiance dans les objectifs de la FAO et appuie le Programme de Travail et Budget présenté par sa Direction. Qu'il me soit permis de féliciter la Direction de la FAO ainsi que ses collaborateurs, de la persévérance apportée à la promotion technique, sociale et économique des Etats Membres, comme au renforcement des moyens d'études, de conseils et d'intervention. Le Gouvernement de la République d'Haïti suit avec intérêt les progrès de l'Organisation, ses nouvelles orientations. Il a également retenu l'évolution du Programme de Coopération Technique et la libération de fonds consacrés en priorité aux pays les moins favorisés pour la mise en oeuvre de projets ponctuels et de toutes autres interventions susceptibles d'améliorer le revenu et le niveau nutritionnel des petits agriculteurs. C'est dans cette perspective que le Gouvernement d'Haïti a basé sa stratégie pour augmenter la productivité des grands facteurs de développement à partir du triptyque: l'homme, la terre et l'eau.

Depuis près de deux ans, le Conseil National de Gouvernement a entrepris différentes activités pour la promotion de notre agriculture et a obtenu certains résultats encourageants - mais parfois contrecarrés par des conditions défavorables: manifestations politiques violentes accompagnées de revendications de tous ordres à la faveur du changement de Gouvernement survenu en Haïti, accroissement rapide de la population, sécheresse, inondations, manque d'eau d'irrigation et d'intrants, insuffisance de crédit agricole, problèmes de commercialisation des produits et j'en passe. Compte tenu de tous ces facteurs qui ont créé des situations conjoncturelles difficiles, de nouvelles priorités ont dû être établies pour répondre à des besoins immédiats du milieu rural. Toutefois, les interventions nouvellement programmées ont pour objectifs d'aider à renforcer l'ensemble des activités en cours d'exécution et convergent sur l'autosuffisance alimentaire pour les produits agricoles de base. Cette proposition entraîne la mise sous irrigation effective des terres irriguables du pays; l'extension des cultures agro-industrielles; la promotion de la pêche, de l'aquaculture et de l'élevage, la priorité étant accordée au Programme National de Repeuplement porcin; le désenclavement de beaucoup de Sections Communales; l'amélioration foncière.

C'est aussi l'aménagement et une mise en valeur plus judicieuse de nos bassins versants qui sont l'objet de pressantes démarches pour la protection des infrastructures d'aval et la promotion d'une agriculture de montagne combinant harmonieusement les aspects agro-sylvo-pastoraux;

sur le renforcement de la production semencière, en s'appuyant sur les résultats obtenus de la recherche et de la vulgarisation agricoles et par voie de conséquence à une modernisation de l'agriculture nationale;

sur l'adéquation institutionnelle et la formation formelle et informelle à tous les niveaux suivie de la décentralisation des activités du Siège ainsi que de la mise en place des infrastructures et de toutes les structures techniques et administratives nécessaires au bon fonctionnement du Ministère sur l'ensemble du territoire national;

Sur la mise en place d'un système de crédit efficace mieux adapté afin d'augmenter le flux de l'investissement en milieu rural et de mobiliser toutes les ressources nationales disponibles.

Sur l'investigation et le choix de moyens susceptibles d'équilibrer notre balance commerciale par l'exportation.

Les résultats obtenus de la mise en application partielle de ces propositions sont prometteurs d'avenir. Toutefois, il nous reste beaucoup à faire avant de pouvoir déclarer que nous avons bien fait avancer la solution des problèmes de développement alimentaire et agricole. Celle-ci réclame pour être complète en sus des solutions aux facteurs précités un financement adéquat et favorable, une saine gestion des ressources budgétaires et humaines disponibles, une population haïtienne et plus particulièrement rurale motivée, activement concernée, bien organisée à la base et une large compréhension internationale.

Dans cet ordre d'idées, la participation de la FAO, du PNUD, du PAM et du FENU à notre effort de développement a toujours été très intense et leurs différents domaines de compétence seront de plus en plus mis à contribution pour nous aider à réaliser les objectifs communs auxquels nous aspirons tous afin d'améliorer la productivité agricole et, partant, les conditions de vie des petits agriculteurs.

Au terme de cet exposé, la Délégation d'Haïti lance à nouveau le cri d'alarme dénonçant la situation alimentaire défavorable et dangereuse du Tiers-Monde et plus particulièrement du Continent Africain, le Gouvernement de la République d'Haïti est solidaire de toute action visant à aider l'Afrique à surmonter la crise et notamment de celle que mènent certains pays de ce continent contre les dégâts causés aux cultures par le criquet pèlerin.

Nous, Gouvernement du Peuple Haïtien, avons pris l'engagement de bousculer toutes les barrières qui s'opposent à la promotion de notre agriculture. Nous lutterons à vos côtés, sans désespérer, pour vaincre la faim, la malnutrition, la misère et leurs corollaires traditionnels et la tenue de cette Conférence constitue un nouveau pas pour promouvoir la solidarité entre ceux qui prennent part à ce combat à l'échelle de la planète.

Je vous exprime ma reconnaissance personnelle pour la bienveillante attention que vous avez accordée à cette communication. La délégation d'Haïti vous félicite de votre participation active qui fera de cette 24^{ème} Session l'une des plus exaltantes de la Conférence de la FAO.

Kerem RUDHA (Iraq) (original Language Arabic): It gives me great pleasure to address you on behalf of my country, and I would like to offer my congratulations to the Chairman of the Conference and the State of Kuwait represented in the Chair of this Twenty-fourth Conference. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Dr Edouard Saouma on the occasion of his re-election for his third term of office: this confirms our understanding that he has done splendid work for FAO, an organization towards the creation of which my country has contributed.

The problem of food - the need to provide food - is a very present problem, faced by two-thirds of mankind. It calls for constant concern by all countries of the world. This problem of food has been further exacerbated by a whole series of factors: the growing world demand for food caused by the increased populations of low-income countries, the disasters due to drought in various parts of the globe, the imbalanced economic situation in the world, fluctuations in monetary markets, foreign debts, financial crises - all these factors together have exacerbated a very serious problem. This

calls for a joint effort at international level in order to develop the material and human potential of developing countries in order to increase food production levels.

It is also important to have a world order in which all efforts can be aimed at this goal, to increase food in the world, to re-activate all forms of on-going co-operation between countries through international organizations and agencies, with FAO at the forefront. FAO's efforts and programmes are aimed at solving this food crisis, and we can also encourage co-operation through bilateral measures on the basis of mutual interests of the countries concerned. We also think that developing countries should step up their efforts in order to achieve some degree of self-reliance, by producing food to cover all their requirements: that would be their target, which would mobilise all national resources in the interests of international co-operation.

We in Iraq are working in a very persevering manner to achieve global economic improvements, using the resources we have available, and on the basis of an integral form of planning, which would respond to the requirements of our society, we are trying to achieve far-reaching progress throughout our country, especially among the rural people. We are also trying to achieve economic planning which would reduce the gap between the rural areas and the cities. We are convinced that food self-reliance is a key target, and for that reason for some time now we have concentrated our efforts on the extension of agricultural production, to diversify the forms, in order to satisfy all our requirements -whether these are consumer goods, or those to be used by national industries. The stepping-up of agriculture through the use of fertilizers and other inputs is satisfying this overall aim of increasing productivity per capita throughout the country. We are trying to harness water resources, and conserve them; we have modern irrigation systems; we are introducing modern agricultural mechanisation, and also a training system for management purposes; we are also encouraging the private sector to invest capital in agriculture. This gives us an opportunity to exploit large land plots. The Government has also given many graduates a chance to work in the field: we give them the necessary logistic support, as well as the legislative background, through a whole series of appropriate laws.

We have also taken advantage of the introduction of new veterinary systems, cross-breedings, and other specialized aspects as well as giving specific importance to our poultry and fishery resources: in this way, we are trying to make up for the food shortages due to the Gulf War. The Government is also providing other services for agricultural workers - we provide seed and fertilizers, and we also guarantee methods of agricultural extension. We have given particular attention to science in the realm of agriculture. We have set up special research institutions for agriculture. We are trusting that we shall receive further assistance from FAO in this respect.

As regards rural development, we have undertaken a training programme for our farm workers, both men and women, because we want to encourage the role of women in rural areas in order to improve their skills and enable them to make the best possible use of agricultural resources, agricultural production means, whether we are talking about flora or fauna. It is through rural development that we can really enable rural people to flourish, and it is with this in mind that the Iraqi Government has integrated this particular aspect in its development programme. So regions have a whole series of special schools and dispensaries, and accommodation - electricity, drinking water, etc., have been provided for distant farms, and asphalted roads now bring the villagers to the towns, to enable them to bring their farm produce into the towns.

Iraq has had fruitful collaboration, and we have done a great deal in the form of co-operation: we have assisted other developing countries by providing fellowships in order to improve their possibilities of fighting hunger and increasing agricultural development. We have close links with all international and regional bodies, and for seven years now Iraq has given particular importance to this fundamental principle of encouraging relations between countries. We have repeatedly appealed for this, from the very first year of the War. We have made an appeal for fair, just peace in the region; we have accepted all the offers of good offices which we have received from international and other bodies, including the United Nations, in order to put an end to this bleeding of human and economic resources from which my country is suffering.

As another example of goodwill: we have accepted Resolution 598 of the Security Council, which expresses the wish of countries to put an end to these hostilities. This shows Iraq's faith in international co-operation, in order to achieve an international community where there will be prevalence of peace and stability, and where all resources can be harnessed for mutual assistance, and where we will see the end of this threat of hunger and warfare, which is threatening our world of today.

A few words to conclude, on a very important issue before our Conference - that of reform. The Iraqi Delegation is of the view that if we see it necessary to have certain reviews in order to gear ourselves to the way in which things are changing at an international level, in order to . simplify working methods in an international organizations such as ours, it will be necessary to do this through the organization's own bodies - its own government, and using its own experts, because we know better than anyone else what the actual contingencies are, the real problems and difficulties which are faced by the Organization in this respect, bearing in mind the fact that the results of such a review will then be presented to us at our next General Conference. There is no denying that such a review would take into account the ideas and proposals and objectives which have been weighed and studied by a number of Member States, and we would therefore like to wish our Organization every success in its efforts in stepping up co-operation among countries in order to guarantee food for all peoples of this planet, and put an end to hunger and underdevelopment.

Anastase NTEZIRYAYO (Rwanda): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais vous féliciter pour votre brillante élection et vous assurer du soutien de la délégation rwandaise dans la conduite de nos débats. Permettez-moi également de féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO, le Docteur E. Saouma, pour sa réélection pour un nouveau mandat au service de notre Organisation. Je lui souhaite plein succès dans sa tâche exaltante de mobiliser la communauté internationale pour lutter efficacement contre la faim dans le monde.

Monsieur le Président, la préoccupation de fournir une alimentation adéquate à toute la population de notre planète n'a jamais été aussi profonde que maintenant depuis la fondation de la FAO. En effet, d'après l'étude de la FAO "Agriculture: Horizon 2000" le scandale de la faim persiste et, pour beaucoup de pays en développement, il est d'autant plus difficile de lutter contre ce fléau que l'environnement international est défavorable: les prix réels de la plupart des produits de base n'ont jamais été aussi bas depuis la guerre: la croissance économique tarde à repartir dans les pays industrialisés; les échanges agricoles sont en plein marasme à cause des politiques protectionnistes et des subventions à l'exportation de plus en plus pratiquées par ces pays; le service de la dette pèse de plus en plus lourd; autant de problèmes auxquels l'agriculture mondiale et l'alimentation mondiale sont confrontées.

Autant de problèmes auxquels particulièrement l'agriculture africaine est confrontée, autant de problèmes auxquels je ne ferai pas allusion en détail étant donné que d'autres plus compétents, plus éloquents et plus autorisés que moi les ont déjà abordés. Je pense en particulier au brillant discours du Directeur général de la FAO auquel je me suis permis de me référer, tout en approuvant entièrement ce qu'il a dit:

"Car, en dernière analyse, la malnutrition ne provient pas tant d'une absence physique d'aliments que de la pauvreté: pauvreté des individus qui ne peuvent ni produire, faute de terre ou de moyens, ni acheter, faute de revenus; pauvreté des Etats qui ne peuvent assurer les infrastructures nécessaires pour subventionner les services et soutenir les revenus des agriculteurs comme le font les pays développés.

Les pays pauvres ont beau réorienter leur politique, accorder à l'agriculture une plus haute priorité, lui consacrer une part accrue du budget de l'état, leurs moyens restent dérisoires face à leurs immenses besoins."

Le Rwanda que j'ai l'honneur de représenter à cette auguste assemblée présente une situation alimentaire assez semblable à celle des autres pays africains. La production de l'année 1987 accuse une baisse sensible pour la plupart des denrées de base par rapport à 1986.

Néanmoins, grâce aux efforts de la population rwandaise mobilisée au sein du Mouvement Révolutionnaire National pour le Développement, sous la houlette de S.E. le Général Major HABYARIMANA Juvénal, Président de la République rwandaise, la production agricole au Rwanda permet de couvrir respectivement les 100 pour cent, 90 pour cent et 25 pour cent des besoins énergétiques, protéiques et lipidiques.

Aujourd'hui, La quasi-totalité des terres arables est mise en valeur au Rwanda. Avec une population actuelle de 6.500.000 habitants sur 26.338 km², notre pays enregistre une densité de près de 500 habitants/km², de terres cultivées, ce qui constitue un record dans ce domaine sur le continent africain. C'est cette situation qui motive le Gouvernement rwandais à placer au centre de la planification nationale l'objectif de l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

A l'horizon de l'an 2000 quand la population rwandaise atteindra les 10 millions d'habitants, nous devrons produire 8.416.200 tonnes de vivres contre 5.200.000 tonnes en 1985, soit une croissance de 4 pour cent par an.

Le sous-secteur de l'élevage donnera 192.740 tonnes de lait, 82.083 tonnes de viande et 24.717 tonnes de poisson. En ce qui concerne le sous-secteur forestier, l'effort national de reboisement sera poursuivi en même temps que les massifs forestiers naturels seront protégés. En plus, des recherches s'intensifieront sur les sources alternatives d'énergie en remplacement du bois.

Les 95 pour cent de la population rwandaise sont constitués de paysans. Ce sont donc ces petits paysans qui sont le pilier de notre politique d'autosuffisance alimentaire.

Il est aussi heureux de remarquer que le thème choisi par la FAO pour la célébration de la 7ème Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, à savoir: "Les petits agriculteurs" soit tout à fait similaire à l'orientation du Gouvernement de la République rwandaise.

Nous avons célébré cette journée du 16 octobre 1987 avec éclat en présence de Son Excellence le Général Major HABYARIMANA Juvénal, Président de la République rwandaise, qui a tenu à féliciter et à encourager personnellement les lauréats paysans gagnants du concours agricole au cours d'une cérémonie qui s'est déroulée dans une commune rurale, celle de Kivuye, dans le Nord du pays, dans une zone de production de blé et de pomme de terre. Ce fut là une occasion de montrer le soutien institutionnel constant apporté aux activités des petits agriculteurs rwandais.

Ce monde de petits producteurs qui recèle beaucoup de potentialités pour l'élévation de notre niveau de production alimentaire se diversifie de plus en plus au Rwanda. Nous assistons aujourd'hui à la différenciation de petites communautés de pêcheurs sur nos lacs et particulièrement sur le lac Kivu où des captures de poissons "sardines d'eau douce" atteignent déjà quelque 450 tonnes cette année. L'initiation de cette activité sur le lac Kivu et la formation des pêcheurs ont valu à Monsieur Scheffers de recevoir le prix B.R.Sen pour 1986. J'ai apprécié le choix de la FAO qui a porté sur cet expert dont je connais la valeur. C'est une occasion pour moi de le féliciter une fois de plus.

Je voudrais maintenant exprimer l'appui de la délégation rwandaise au programme et au budget de la FAO proposés par le Directeur Général pour le biennium 1988-89.

En effet, il est souhaitable par ailleurs que notre Organisation puisse être dotée de moyens financiers nécessaires à l'accomplissement de sa mission telle que consignée dans l'Acte constitutif.

La FAO est appelée à coordonner les efforts déployés au niveau international pour lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde.

Elle doit constituer une banque de données sur l'agriculture et l'alimentation; faire des analyses et proposer aux Etats des politiques de développement agricole à mettre en oeuvre.

Permettez-moi à présent de souligner l'importance de certains programmes particuliers de la FAO.

Je voudrais dire: la Campagne anti-acridienne et la lutte contre la trypanosomiase animale en Afrique, le Code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides, le Programme d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire, le Plan d'action forestier tropical, le suivi de la mise en oeuvre des recommandations issues de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural de 1979 et de celles relatives à l'application de la Stratégie et des Programmes d'action approuvés en 1984 par la Conférence mondiale de la FAO sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches.

Je me félicite de l'étroite collaboration entre la FAO et mon Gouvernement sur la plupart des programmes de développement agricole; et je saisis cette occasion pour remercier sincèrement l'ensemble des donateurs pour leur soutien constant aux efforts que déploie la population rwandaise pour parvenir à l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

Stephen George OBIMPEH (Ghana): It is my privilege, Mr Chairman, to join other previous speakers to congratulate you on your election to this elevated position and for the efficient and constructive manner in which you are steering the affairs of this 24th Session. I also wish to join my colleagues in congratulating Dr Edouard Saouma for his election as the Director-General of the FAO for the 3rd consecutive term.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, it is clear that the general economic degeneration, the vagaries of the weather, and the rapid rate of population growth share most of the blame for the almost chronic and recent problems facing Africa. Yet inappropriate policies and inefficient institutions are considered by my delegation to be the main cause of the agricultural sector's poor performance. First, the public sector has been given an exceedingly large role to play but it has not been able to perform its functions adequately; second, very little attention was paid to the smallholders who produce the bulk of our food; and third, research and technology were accorded low priority. It is essential, therefore, that policy changes across the board be instituted to reflect our willingness to let the private sector operate more freely, and to strengthen services to smallholders to enable them to organize themselves for increased food production, marketing and distribution, and this is what has taken place in Ghana under its Economic Recovery Programme which was launched in 1983.

Recent statistical data indicate that the agricultural economy has responded positively to these far-reaching policy reforms. But the reform programme which has been put in place has had its casualties. For example, interest rates have risen and subsidies on inputs have been removed, thus reducing smallholders access to production inputs and credit. In view of this, investment projects are currently being formulated in close collaboration with donor countries and organizations to mitigate some of the social costs of the structural adjustment programme.

The collapse of our primary commodity prices, has drastically depleted our export earnings. The deteriorating terms of trade and the high cost of oil imports are making life uneasy for our countries. As has been stated earlier here and in several fora, the situation is being compounded by, the burden of external debt payments which are taking as much as, 50 percent, on the average, of our ever dwindling export earnings.

Thus, Mr Chairman, African economies are extremely vulnerable to external factors such as the consequences of fluctuating exchange rates, high interest rates, protectionism; and, the vagaries of the stock markets at Wall Street, Tokyo, Hong Kong, etc. These are occurrences over which we in the developing world have absolutely no control. It is therefore necessary, at this juncture, to re-inforce the appeal which has emerged from different places that the official debt components of the overall/ external debts of African countries be all converted into outright grants. Otherwise, the payment of these debts would not only continue to deprive us of access to basic inputs needed to develop our agriculture but also have disastrous effects on our development in addition to being a serious threat to social and political stability on the continent. In this regard, Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to express its gratitude to the United Kingdom and Canada for converting Ghana's debts into grants and other donors who have shown similar gestures to other sister countries.

Mr Chairman the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic recovery needs support from the international community. From recent analysis of the first year of implementation of this programme, it appears there has not been enough commitment of additional resources to assist in reversing the unfavourable trends of the past two decades. Admittedly, there have been some appreciable amounts of aid flows to Africa, but more often than not the coordination of the application and management of these by the donor agencies and in some cases the receiving countries have left much to be desired. My delegation would therefore like to appeal to the donor to increase the capacity and skills of African countries to be able to coordinate and effectively monitor the follow-up action to the implementation of the U.N. Special Programme for Africa.

My delegation would recall that at the last FAO Regional Conference for Africa, the Director-General was requested to conduct a study into the possibilities of expanding Aid-In-Kind. It was a great honour that Ghana was among the countries selected for the study. We have studied the final report which has been submitted for our consideration at this Conference. The study has stressed the strengths and weaknesses of the past input aid, and the opportunities for its expansion in order to identify feasible actions and to alleviate problems in input requirements,

their local manufacture, and policy formulation and planning framework for input use. We fully endorse the conclusions of the report and we entreat the donor community to favourably consider the recommendations.

Mr Chairman, as was abundantly emphasized by the 15th Mc Dougall lecturer, Prof Jean Mayer the solution to Africa's food crisis requires massive infusion of resources. We in Africa have taken it upon ourselves to meet the bulk of it in the spirit of self-reliance. But, foreign assistance can certainly give additional impetus to serving our development needs if it provides significant quantities of resources for such high priced requisites as fertilizers, improved seeds, pesticides, irrigation equipment and other imported inputs needed to create a suitable environment in the rural areas for intensified food production.

Mr Chairman, in the quest to rapidly increase food production in our developing countries, the environment is seriously degraded, as a result of over-exploitation of crop lands, the over-grazing of rangelands, deforestation and poor water management. It is our contention that these developments have to be contained by practical conservation measures of the type proposed by the Secretariat. Because of the importance we attach to the degradation of our forest resources we have set up a department for Agro-Forestry in my Ministry, and we intend to approach FAO for assistance in its proper functioning.

Mr Chairman, the changing rainfall pattern in the West African Sub-region has been of great concern to us lately. For this reason I cannot but express my delegation's support, for the priority given to the Global Information and Early Warning System. The need for early action on this programme cannot be over emphasized.

In response to the principles and guidelines contained in the strategy adopted by the World Fisheries Conference, Ghana has updated its Fisheries Action Plan in the Second phase of the National Economic recovery Programme. Currently some institutional changes are being put in place to give effect to some of the guidelines contained in the strategy. In view of the phenomenal global decline in capture fisheries in recent years and Ghana having an extensive potential for inland fisheries development, specifically aquaculture, a new emphasis is being placed on inland fisheries development. To maximize the exploitation of such inland water resources in Africa, and to exchange experience and knowledge in this field in the spirit of South-South cooperation, Ghana has accepted to host the 1987 Committee for Inland Fisheries for Africa meeting due to be held in December.

Mr Chairman, my delegation has studied the programme of work and Budget of the Director-General and I am happy to note that a great deal of thinking has gone into the setting of priorities for the next biennium. Much as we would have liked to see enlarged allocation to the TCP and the Special Action Programmes, we are aware that the current world economic situation will not permit it. Nevertheless, we hope the Director-General will maintain efficient administration of their management so that they can continue to respond in a timely and flexible manner to our needs.

Mr Chairman, Ghana shares the opinion expressed by other countries that after more than 40 years of existence of FAO the time is opportune to pursue comprehensive review of the organization with special reference to its long-term objectives and strategies. My delegation will actively participate in the discussion of this matter during the conference. It is our view, however, that FAO's goals need not be changed, for they remain as valid today as they were 42 years ago. If there should be any reform at all, it should aim at strengthening multilateralism and rendering FAO more efficient to make it a better tool in our common war against hunger and malnutrition.

In conclusion, I wish to use this forum to express our gratitude to the various friendly countries and other international agencies particularly IFAD, WFP and the NGO's which, since the inception of our Economic Recovery Programme, have been rendering assistance to Ghana. However, in spite of the positive response to the policy reforms initiated in 1983 and the increased flow of donor assistance, Ghana still faces a formidable task of maintaining the momentum of the recovery. Increased donor assistance at much higher levels would be welcome. I wish also to thank the FAO for the several intervention programmes under the TCP which have been extended to us over the past two years. I am particularly grateful to the Africa Regional Representative and his staff in Accra for their useful cooperation and the timely advice on the many technical issues we have had to deal with in our efforts to attain food self-sufficiency.

Finally on behalf of the Government and People of Ghana I wish to appeal to my colleagues to collectively uphold the ideals of the organization and be the beacon in formulating and directing programmes to help eliminate hunger and deprivation from the face of the earth.

Ts. BAYANBAT (Mongolia) (original language Mongolian): First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your unanimous election to this highly important position. I am sure that under your guidance and that of your deputies the present session of the FAO Conference will conclude its work successfully. Allow me also to congratulate Dr. Saouma for his re-election to the post of Director-General of the Organization and wish him further successes in his dedicated, noble duties.

Mr Chairman, my Government sees the biennial Session of the FAO Conference as an important forum for assessing the global food and agricultural situation as well as for planning the measures to be taken in order to improve the situation.

It is a fact that, at present, the world economy is experiencing a serious recession with a negative impact on both developed and developing nations, particularly on the least developed areas of the world. In 1986, the global output grew by only 3 percent compared with 3.4 percent in 1985 and 4.5 percent in 1984. This has had adverse effects on the development of world agriculture. Available data indicates that today about one billion people are living in absolute poverty and 40 million people are dying every year from starvation, malnutrition and illness.

My delegation is of the opinion that the existing system of unequal economic relations in the world constitutes a serious obstacle to solving the problems relating to food supply in developing countries.

The continuing growth of protectionist tendencies, the creation of artificial barriers in international monetary financial systems as well as the increase of foreign debts of developing countries are posing a negative impact to the stability of world economy.

In this connection, I would like to express our Government's firm stand to restructure the present international relations on a just and democratic basis. At the same time, the Mongolian People's Republic, together with other socialist countries, is deeply convinced that the realization of the concept of a comprehensive system of international peace and security, especially security proposed by the socialist countries, including my own, could make a tangible contribution to this end. Let me express here my delegation's strong view that FAO, as a unique organ of the United Nations, with a mandate to promote the common welfare of humanity by contributing toward an expanding world economy and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger, can and should make a valuable contribution to the realization of the international economic security concept.

We share the concerns expressed by the Director-General's foreword for the document "Agriculture: Toward 2000" and support all the priority tasks of this Organization.

My Government appreciates and supports the efforts of FAO aimed at improving the state of world food and agriculture.

We are pleased to note that the follow-up of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development has received appropriate attention in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the next two years. Consequently I wish to point out that more resources should be allocated to the sub-programmes, particularly for those dealing with the improvement of the social and economic conditions of the people living in the rural areas.

There is also another important topic for discussion on our agenda, namely the Role of Women in Agricultural Development. Here, my delegation considers that our Organization should carry out more useful work in disseminating the experiences accumulated by many countries in this field, including my own.

The task of eradicating hunger from the world - one of the main goals of the Organization - is an urgent one, and the solution to this problem is fundamental and has a special meaning for the future.

of our world and for the very existence of a considerable part of the world's population who are affected by malnutrition and hunger. World food problems, we consider, have different causes at their roots, some caused by natural catastrophes and others, man made, among which military expenditure occupies the most adverse part. Therefore, in disarmament for development, we see an enormous resource which should be used for the well-being of the world population. In this respect, it is worthwhile to mention here that my country wholeheartedly welcomes the Soviet-American agreement in principle to eliminate their medium and shorter-range missiles on a global scale, thus making a first significant step toward nuclear disarmament and creating a non-nuclear world.

Mr Chairman, I would like now to make some brief remarks on agricultural development in our country. The biennium under review was a significant one for the history of my country. The 19th Congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party approved the Guidelines for economic and social development of the Mongolian People's Republic for 1986-1990. The main task of the new five-year plan is to secure further growth of the country's economic potential, and on this basis to maintain a steady rise in the material well-being of the people.

New tasks have been set to intensify the development of agriculture and to raise the level of the material well-being of the rural people. Animal husbandry and crop production are the main branches of our agriculture and in their turn they are playing an important role in our national economy. Today, one fourth of the country's capital investments is going to the development of agriculture, and of those who are working in the sphere of material production, 50 percent are engaged in this field; the agricultural sector is producing 80-90 percent of the raw materials for the light and food industry and is actually ensuring about 90 percent of all food consumption.

The agricultural material and technical bases are strengthening from year to year and as evidence of this, capital investments in agriculture have grown 2.8 times as compared to 1970.

The achievements of modern science and technology are widely introduced in the agricultural domain. Much work has been done on sectoral and regional animal husbandry, veterinary and cereal research institutes.

My Government spares no efforts in improving the food supply for its citizens. This was clearly demonstrated by the Goal-oriented Programme for Development of Agriculture and Improvement of Food Supply to the Population adopted in 1985.

The main purpose of this Programme is not only limited to the improvement of agricultural development and food supply in our country - rather it envisages the improvement of all chains of national economy, especially those which are closely interrelated with agriculture.

In the current five-year plan of our national economy (1986-1990) it is stipulated that the capital investments for developing agriculture will go up to 30 percent and the average annual gross output in this sector should be increased by 18-20 percent as against the previous five-year plan.

During the years 1986-1987 my country has raised annually 8.5 to 9 million head of young stock and planned targets for producing grain, potatoes and vegetables have been exceeded noticeably.

The issue of improving the working and living conditions of herdsmen is always at the centre of our Government's social policy. It has succeeded in consistently achieving the tasks to advance the material well-being and cultural level of rural people. As a result, the share which the members of agricultural associations are receiving from the social consumption fund has grown during 1981-1985 by 26 percent a year.

I cannot refrain, in this respect, from pointing out the many faceted assistance rendered by the COMECON countries, especially the Soviet Union which commemorated the 70th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution the other day, which significantly contributes to the development of my country, particularly with regard to agriculture. The recently concluded extraordinary session of this Organization decided to work out a special comprehensive programme of multilateral cooperation with Viet Nam, Cuba and Mongolia, in order to speed up the pace of development of those countries. My country highly appreciates this decision and considers that it will really serve as an important tool for further development.

The meeting rose at 13.15 hours

La séance est levée à 13h15

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.15 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 87/II/PV/10

Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARY

Vingt-quatrième session
PLENIERE

24° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

TENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
DECIMA SESION PLENARIA

(12 November 1987)

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours,
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence de
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 14 h 45, bajo la presidencia de
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Presidente de la Conferencia

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Ben J. JONES (Grenada): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, fellow delegates and observers, ladies and gentlemen, I bring greetings from the Government and people of my country.

Permit me to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the chair of this historic 24th Session of the FAO Conference. My congratulations are also extended to your Vice-Chairmen. I wish to express my delegation's high degree of appreciation at the way the Conference has been proceeding under your able chairmanship. This is my first attendance at FAO, and I consider it an honour and privilege to be participating in these deliberations.

On Monday the Organization re-elected Dr Edouard Saouma as its Director-General for a third consecutive term -- a clear expression of its confidence in his work and in his ability to guide its destiny over the next six years. I therefore extend to him very warm and sincere congratulations and best wishes for a successful third term. Over the years Dr Saouma has given yeoman service to both the developed and developing members of this Organization and has been the champion of the under-privileged and starving peoples everywhere. My delegation is therefore confident that with this renewed mandate he has been provided with the opportunity to redouble his efforts in the service of the world community and of the rural poor in particular.

Mr Chairman, this Conference is important because among other things it is taking place at a time when the world economy seems to be in disarray. We continue to face situations where there *are* surplus food production and great prosperity in some regions of the world while there are gross malnutrition, hunger and poverty in others. This inequitable situation is further complicated by mounting domestic and social difficulties in the developing world, exacerbated by the intolerable burden of indebtedness, the persistence of protectionist policies in the more developed countries, the general depressed terms of trade and inadequate inflows of capital for development purposes. In the face of generally low world export prices and the availability of subsidised food produced in developed countries, the incentive to increase production in the developing countries is diminishing. This is particularly the case where countries have to rely on higher-cost imported production inputs in order to increase productivity and viability. The Conference must therefore address these problems and seek ways of solving them permanently.

Speaking from the point of view of a small island economy which my country represents, I wish to highlight two areas, which are critical to our development - these are trade and technology transfer. Grenada is very small in terms of size, trade and economy and has only limited natural resources. We must therefore pursue policies of regional integration and export oriented growth supplemented by a vigorous programme of import substitution and export marketing if we are to survive the economic and social morass in which we find ourselves. It is my delegation's view that FAO and supportive trading partners can assist developing countries everywhere in accessing new markets, and by ensuring that those tariff and non-tariff barriers that inhibit trade are either removed or not unreasonably applied. FAO can also help in providing information on new market opportunities.

On the question of technology transfer, my delegation wishes to commend FAO for its initiative in promoting technical cooperation among developing countries by way of the Network System. The Director-General, through the Organization's Regional Office in Santiago, Chile, has assisted in establishing technical cooperation network systems, not only in the Caribbean sub-region but in the entire Latin American region. This TCDC initiative gives technicians from our various countries the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience in wide-ranging practical activities, and is proving to be a most valuable mechanism of technology transfer. While every effort would be made to incorporate these networks into our own national development plan, we would request FAO to assist the Caribbean sub-region in securing funding from financing agencies for the continuation of TCDC activities.

My delegation recognizes the important role that the FAO Regional Office in Santiago can play in promoting TCDC, particularly in the area of preparation and dissemination of audio-visual materials in support of our extension activities. Nevertheless, we wish to recommend that mechanisms be put in place to facilitate a greater degree of outposting of technical staff from the Regional Office into member countries.

My Government considers FAO's role as being critical in support of our agricultural development strategy: the level of assistance that FAO is providing to us is crucial to our current agricultural development thrust, as we pursue the twin policies of diversification and land reform, i.e. redistribution among the hitherto landless agricultural workers and the maturing youth; we are in the process of creating a new generation of small land owners and I am pleased to report that the small farmer is becoming, more and more, the centre-piece of commercial agricultural production as the plantation system gives way to small family-operated model farms.

At the Nineteenth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Barbados last year, the meeting had as its agenda item issues, problems affecting agricultural development in small island states, issues related to the role of the small farmer and the role of women in agricultural development. These relevant agenda items clearly demonstrate FAO's preparedness to search for alternative mechanisms that would ensure the timely and effective delivery of services and assistance to our region.

Over the last year, FAO has established cooperative agreements with Caribbean institutions, namely the Caribbean Community Secretariat and the Caribbean Development Bank and through the instrumentality of the Director-General has forged closer links with the Caribbean by the establishment of a Caribbean Desk at its Headquarters and a focal point at the Regional Office in Santiago, Chile.

My delegation therefore wishes to place on record its endorsement of and support for the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1988/89. We appreciate his efforts to lower the budget level to a strict minimum representing a negligible growth of 0.25 percent over the 1986/87 figures, and it is our hope that it will be approved by this Conference.

My country is a beneficiary under the FAO's programme of assistance and we are very thankful for the help we have been receiving, but we wish to remind you that the current depreciation in the value of the U.S. dollar (indeed any such depreciation) will seriously reduce the level of any allocation and consequently endanger the completion of projects being funded thereby. We therefore respectfully recommend the introduction of a mechanism under which FAO would make good any losses resulting from such depreciation thereby ensuring the full implementation of approved projects.

My delegation is satisfied with the programme of activities and strategies proposed for the next biennium and wishes to commend the Secretariat for the tremendous effort it has made to keep the budget as low as possible in response to the wishes of member countries.

With respect to the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), my delegation is satisfied that this programme is very effective in its present form because it enables developing countries to respond to urgent needs for services in support of field activities involving small farmers; we therefore recommend that the TCP assistance should continue into the next biennium.

I now refer to Appendix A of Conference document C 87/30: "Consideration of review of certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations, including the need for reform in the programme and budget process". My delegation supports the principle of review because we believe that it is only by continuous re-appraisal that any organization can maintain its relevance and effectiveness, but we question very seriously the suggestion for a review by a group of experts rather than by FAO's constituted bodies. We would, however, insist that any such review must ensure that the multilateral nature of the Organization's Charter is not compromised in any way and that there should be no amendment to its basic philosophy.

I wish to refer to the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, which was adopted by the last Conference. My delegation notes the progress being made but sees the need for more information about banned and severely restricted pesticide products. Therefore I wish to urge closer cooperation between the pesticide industry, the United Nations Environmental Programme, other parties concerned, and, of course, Member Governments to ensure an even greater degree of environmental protection for all. Failure to design and maintain such environmental programmes could seriously affect the general well-being of our community.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I wish to thank you for the privilege of addressing this meeting and I pray that God will bless and guide us as we proceed so that the conclusions arising out of our deliberations may bear fruit abundantly.

Robert KIKÓMO KITARIKO (Uganda): Mr Chairman, Honourable Ministers, Director-General, FAO, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Uganda delegation, please accept our congratulations on your election as Chairman of this important Conference. I am sure your wise counsel and leadership will be a valuable asset to this Conference. I would in the same breath like to extend our congratulations to Dr Edouard Saouma for his re-election for another term of 6 years. In my humble opinion, his re-election to another term of office is an opportunity and a challenge at the same time; an opportunity to continue his service to humanity in the hour of our greatest need, and to advise on ways and means for increasing food productivity to fight hunger and malnutrition so that by the year 2000 no man, woman or child shall go to bed hungry. It is a challenge in my view, for him to deliver the goods. In view of the environmental resource constraints about which we have heard on the floor of this august assembly, we might be tempted to talk about Dr Saouma's tenure of administration. We might also be tempted to talk about reforms to give the Organization more clout to deal with current issues, but FAO's mission remains as set out in the basic text of the FAO mandate. So I would appeal to all member countries, whether big or small, to give Dr Saouma every support during his new term of office, so that he can carry out the function for which FAO was founded.

The 24th Session of FAO Conference is meeting against a back-drop of falling commodity prices, heavy debt servicing burdens for developing countries, restructuring adjustment processes with or without a human face, protectionist policies and heavy subsidies in developed countries, all of which in my view in one way or another militate against the substantial transformation of African agriculture. We were relieved to learn yesterday, from the remarks of the Minister for Overseas Development of the United Kingdom, that the developed countries are trying to do something about this. I would like to quote what he said - that the developed countries are "so anxious that the GATT Uruguay Round on agriculture must succeed. This is why we have made it one of our chief aims to tame the tiger in our own backyard, along with our European Community partners". If this does recognize this malaise, and is genuinely addressed to solving this problem, I welcome that move. Fortunately this Conference has been convened amid faith and determination in the African continent and a growing receptivity to new approaches for dealing with the complexities of the development process. These efforts by developing countries have not been matched by the donor community in accordance with the pledge made at UN Special Session on the African development decade. The success of the African development decade was premised on favourable external environment and therefore an increased flow of resources to complement local resources in the development process. Unless these pledges are honoured to close the gap of US\$ 46 000 m. whatever local resources are mobilized on the African continent will go to debt servicing obligation without promoting economic recovery.

If we look back at the 43 years in which the FAO has been in existence, we cannot but be impressed by what it has achieved in its efforts to help and stimulate the development of food production throughout the world and to reduce the level of food shortages and malnutrition. We dare not contemplate what might be the position of food production today in many countries throughout the world had FAO not existed! As we speak now, globally the food production has increased but when we look at the dismal food production of many developing countries especially those of Africa, we realize how much still remains to be done. During the 13th Ministerial Session of the World Food Council held in Beijing in June, it was pointed out that poverty lies at the core of the problem of hunger and malnutrition. That the reduction and eventual eradication of one affects the other to a similar degree. Thus if we pinpoint poverty to be the cause of the ills of hunger and malnutrition

and agree that poverty can be traced to the income inequalities that exist between countries and within countries, we should therefore resolve to work towards the reduction of these inequalities.

FAO should continue to recognize its importance and validity in its mission to fight hunger and malnutrition. It should not allow itself to be distracted from pursuing the noble goals for which it was founded. Equally, Mr Chairman, it should not allow itself to be rendered peripheral to that central goal, its shining mandate, which is contained in the Basic Texts of the Constitution of FAO. To do so would be losing a mission.

One of the issues that was given much attention at the recent Commonwealth Summit in Vancouver was world trade and economy, particularly Third World debt and low commodity prices. The final declaration on world trade noted that continuing implementation of protectionist measures would be counterproductive, would increase the risk of further exchange rate instability and would exacerbate the problems of development and indebtedness, particularly in developing countries. Therefore, as in the case of debt, solutions to the problem of protectionism require an accelerated recovery and reactivated development and a dynamic process of structural adjustment on the part of developing countries.

Consequently, finding solutions to the commodity problems remains crucial for economic recovery of Africa since trade in commodities is the back-bone of many African economies. It is, therefore, Mr Chairman, a matter of great concern that satisfactory solutions should be found to adequately compensate producers for drastic falls in export revenues which seriously disrupt economic growth and development. Therefore, the need for reform of all trade-distorting agricultural policies both domestic and international cannot be over-emphasized. We look forward to concrete and positive outcome at the Uruguay Round which will hopefully lead towards free trade through multilateral trade negotiations.

Fellow delegates, the repercussions of an increasingly harsh economic environment have drastically checked the possibilities of long-term development in the developing world. For example, Mr Chairman, the African countries, with a staggering debt burden of about \$ 80.0 billion, a sum that represents 180 percent of their total export earnings, will find it very difficult to implement the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. In my own country our debt servicing is around \$ 200 million which is a half of our export earnings. In response to the undertaking made at the UN Special Session to help poor countries ease their debt burdens, mention must be made of Canada's contribution to the search for solutions to the debt problems of Sub-Saharan African countries. During the Commonwealth Summit at Vancouver, Canada announced its decision to write off the Official Development Assistance (ODA) debts of six African countries totalling some 347 million Canadian dollars. We are grateful to countries like Canada that have agreed to write off or reschedule our debt servicing to enable us to switch the money from debt servicing to importing basic agricultural inputs to boost agricultural production.

Mr Chairman, in Uganda, in our four year rehabilitation development plan, agriculture has become the priority of priorities, given the direct role it plays in the development process. Given our comparative advantage in food production while being backed with a crop diversification programme . in order to ensure adequate and nutritious food for our people at all times and expand our food base by concentrating whilst maximizing the values of our traditional crops like coffee, cotton and tea. This, Mr Chairman, given our history, has been possible due to the peace, security and stability

which has been ushered into the country by the National Resistance Movement led by H.E. Yoweri K. MUSEVENI the President of Uganda. We look forward to consolidating our hard won freedom and continue on an accelerated development path in cooperation with our neighbours who share our aspirations.

Mr Chairman, the main item on the agenda of this Session is, of course, the next biennium's work programme and budget. My Government supports the proposed strategies and priorities and in particular the growing support, to the efforts of African countries to overcome their own severe food crisis. We also support the approach consisting of allocating further funds to basic technical and economic programmes and cutting down expenditure on administrative and general services. We would also like to state that the Technical Cooperation Programme deserves our continued support in view of its usefulness and efficiency. As regards the proposed level of the Regular Budget, in our opinion, this is a rational balance which has been struck between the needs to be met and what the Members of the Organization can afford at the present time. In the light of this, my Government supports the proposed Programme of Work and Budget.

As regards the proposed reforms, we should address these proposals dispassionately. Mr Chairman, the only sure thing to happen tomorrow is change. All dynamic organizations should devise inbuilt mechanisms to meet the challenges of a changed tomorrow. This could be in the area of manpower resource development as well as financial management and control. Elsewhere some laudable programming, performance budgeting systems as the best to protect the interest of a tax payer or is it. sacrosanct? Adapting to changed environment with a view to attaining better performance and thereby maximizing values under resource constraint is a virtue worthwhile cultivating. In the event let an attempt be made to articulate areas of reform and a rationale for them and hopefully democratically - and I emphasize the word 'democratically' - resolution of issues involved will be arrived at the interest of all big and small nations alike.

Mr Chairman, the Uganda delegation welcomes the initiative by FAO for the feasibility study of modalities of aid-in-kind as an alternative means of developing agriculture in countries constrained by foreign exchange. The study has rightly indicated that African agriculture has to undergo a transition to a higher level of infusion of inputs in the near-term future if it is to provide food for the expanding population in those areas. The real issue here is to identify the most appropriate inputs and strengthen the capacity of developing countries to obtain these inputs mostly from domestic production. My delegation would like to reiterate its stand made at Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, that aid-in-kind should avoid creating a situation whereby the recipient country is used as a dumping ground for inappropriate agricultural inputs.

Mr Chairman, alluding to livestock diseases, my delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the Evaluation Team of the Action Programme for the control of African Trypanosomiasis and related Developments for producing an excellent report. It is encouraging to note that the evaluation has confirmed the continuing validity and relevance of the Programme's objectives. My delegation, accordingly, would wish to endorse the recommendations outlined in paragraph 29 of document C 87/8.

Fellow delegates, permit me to conclude by expressing our gratitude and appreciation to the Director-General and the world community who have responded very positively to the food problems of the Third World countries. Finally, I wish to thank FAO for all the assistance extended to my country since we last met here.

And finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to caution that FAO was founded for a purpose. It must continue to serve this purpose despite resource constraints, despite proposals for reform. Reform must be reform for the better and not for the worse.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): Señor Presidente, Señor Director General, Señores Ministros y Delegados: el Ministro de Agricultura de Perú tuvo que retornar al país y me ha encargado leer el siguiente mensaje: para el Perú es una satisfacción expresar, en primer lugar, su felicitación al Señor Presidente de la Conferencia por la elección que ha merecido y que a no dudar constituye el claro reconocimiento de las cualidades personales y profesionales que lo caracterizan; así como, reiterar su complacencia por la reelección del Dr. Saouma en el cargo de Director General, hecho que representa la demostración efectiva de la valoración y confianza que su gestión proyecta.

La situación económica mundial en esta década, la especial situación de los países en desarrollo que enfrentan cuantiosas deudas externas, la pretendida imposición de costosos modelos de ajustes para nuestras economías frente al complejo sistema de protección que han estado edificando los países desarrollados para resguardar sus mercados, en especial en lo que respecta a los productos agropecuarios, han incidido negativamente sobre la seguridad alimentaria de los países en vías de desarrollo.

Si bien la producción mundial alimentaria ha venido creciendo en forma continua, dichos aumentos se han concentrado en los países desarrollados, principalmente como resultado de la continuación de las políticas de altos precios internos para los productores de dichos países, generando excedentes que han tendido a volcarse en el mercado mundial a precios de dumping, así como a la acumulación de stocks que han llegado a niveles sin precedentes en el pasado.

Los bajos precios resultantes a nivel internacional han tendido a afectar en forma diferenciada a los distintos países en desarrollo según las características de su producción agrícola, sea templada o tropical, o de su situación de exportador o importador neto de alimentos. Para los países exportadores de productos característicos de las zonas templadas, como son los cereales, oleaginosas y

aceites, y carnes, esta competencia desleal tiene un alto efecto negativo sobre sus ingresos. Igualmente, sucede en el caso de los países exportadores de productos de zonas tropicales, como azúcar, algodón y arroz, que enfrentan problemas similares a los anteriores por las políticas proteccionistas de los países desarrollados.

En el caso de los países que son importadores netos de alimentos, esta situación de precios bajos en los mercados internacionales, si bien aparentemente les beneficia en el corto plazo, inhibirá el crecimiento del sector agrícola y continuará deprimiendo los ingresos de los pobladores rurales. La única forma de evitar este efecto perverso en el sector agrícola de nuestros países es mediante políticas nacionales que permitan esterilizar dichos efectos mediante el otorgamiento de una adecuada protección a la producción nacional. Sin embargo, la escasez de recursos presupuestales y financieros de nuestros países nos dificulta, por otro lado, compensar por estas distorsiones a nuestros exportadores agrícolas para que puedan competir en el mercado internacional.

Paralelamente, los altos precios para productos agrícolas impuestos artificialmente al interior de los mercados en los países desarrollados, han provocado una creciente sustitución en el uso de estos productos naturales por derivados sintéticos, como es el caso del azúcar, al cual pueden seguir otros, deprimiendo la demanda y adicionando otro elemento de efecto negativo sobre los precios.

De continuar esta situación en el futuro, podemos avizorar un estado de mayor dependencia alimentaria en muchos de nuestros países en vías de desarrollo si es que se aceptan pasivamente los efectos de estas políticas. La transmisión de los precios internacionales bajos a los mercados internos de nuestros países continuará deprimiendo los ingresos campesinos, salvo que se realicen exitosamente esfuerzos masivos y espectaculares en la creación y adaptación tecnológica en nuestro sector agrícola que nos permitan competir dentro de ese mercado plagado de medidas proteccionistas, que no se condicen con la prédica librecambista de los países desarrollados. Sin embargo, un empuje sustancial en materia tecnológica dentro del sector agrícola de la magnitud necesaria para compensar los efectos negativos de los bajos precios, requeriría de ingentes recursos que los países no disponen, dada su situación fiscal y de importadores netos de capital, condición a la que se ha llegado por la pesada carga de la deuda externa, cuya responsabilidad es compartida tanto por los acreedores como por los deudores.

Cabe, en este sentido, señalar la incoherencia de las políticas proteccionistas de los países desarrollados con la del sector financiero de esos mismos países que exigen el pago de intereses y servicios de la deuda que sólo podrán hacerse efectivos con un necesario aumento del valor de nuestras exportaciones, que al mismo tiempo dichos países impiden.

Por lo anterior, si bien reconocemos que es indispensable reorientar nuestras políticas internas, que tradicionalmente han penalizado a la agricultura, es indispensable también generar o reforzar riquezas o sistemas que propicien el incremento del comercio entre los países en desarrollo a nivel regional o subregional que otorguen un mayor grado de seguridad alimentaria en nuestros países y cooperen a estabilizar los ingresos de nuestros agricultores. Asimismo, es necesaria la activa participación de los países en desarrollo en forma coherente y coordinada en los distintos foros internacionales, para cautelar los intereses que nos son comunes dentro del campo agrícola frente a las medidas que unilateralmente se adoptan y que resultan un perjuicio a nuestras economías. En este sentido, pensamos que la inclusión del tema del comercio agrícola en la Ronda de Uruguay de negociaciones del GATT tendrá efectos sumamente importantes sobre la posibilidad y modalidad del desarrollo del sector agrícola en el futuro y en la seguridad alimentaria de nuestros países, por lo que creemos que la FAO debe otorgar una importante contribución a la conformación de posiciones adecuadas a los intereses de nuestros países y deberá brindar apoyo técnico para que a nivel nacional se pueda efectuar un adecuado seguimiento, evaluación y elaboración de posiciones que respondan a nuestras necesidades de desarrollo agropecuario.

El Perú, como país en vías de desarrollo, propone reforzar el carácter participatorio y democrático de la FAO, de tal modo que la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación sea el organismo eje de la implementación del "Nuevo Orden Agrario Internacional", de tal manera de concertar la política de cooperación de los países en desarrollo y la problemática de la deuda externa, con los recursos necesarios para el desarrollo agrícola y la seguridad alimentaria de los países en vías de desarrollo.

El "Nuevo Orden Agrario Internacional" debe considerar definitivamente el problema de la Deuda Externa de los países en vías de desarrollo, ¿Qué es primero el pago de la Deuda Externa, o el pago de la Deuda alimentaria con nuestros pueblos? El flujo de divisas en el pago de la deuda determina la formación de las reservas, la disponibilidad de reservas determina los niveles del programa monetario, el cual fija los niveles del crédito interno agrícola para la producción y proyecta las tasas de cambio para la Importación y Exportación; es decir, influye en los términos de intercambio agrarios. Las divisas se requieren para la importación de semillas, fertilizantes, insumos para la Agroindustria, para la mecanización agrícola, para el desarrollo de las irrigaciones e infraestructura de riego, para la importación mínima indispensable de alimentos para los servicios de Investigación, Educación y Extensión en nuestros campos. El Desarrollo Económico Agrícola es la Base de la Alimentación y del desarrollo permanente e integrado de las economías de nuestros pueblos.

El Nuevo Orden Agrario Internacional debe ser la base del Ordenamiento de la Economía Internacional y de la economía de nuestros pueblos, de la relación más justa entre los Desarrollados y los países en vías de Desarrollo, entre la ciudad y el campo, entre los Deudores y Acreedores.

Sin alimentación no hay salud, sin salud no hay educación, sin salud y educación no hay posibilidad de desarrollo, ¿Cuántos recursos necesitamos para que el consumo per cápita de Alimentos en nuestros pueblos, representen las mínimas 2 500 calorías per cápita y los 48 g de proteínas por habitante?

¿Qué rol debe tener la FAO en el "Nuevo Orden Agrario Internacional"? Nuestra asistencia al vigésimo cuarto período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, ha sido para ratificar su carácter participativo y democrático. Lo importante no son los cargos, sino la convicción urgente de implementar una Democracia Económica y Social en nuestra Organización; la definición de los problemas y cómo concertamos y nos organizamos regional y subregionalmente, para hacer participar a nuestras comunidades en la solución de ellos.

Asimismo, cómo se deben planificar los recursos, como fuentes y usos, para un Nuevo Orden Económico Agrícola en favor de los que menos tienen. Esto representaría la práctica de la Democracia Social y Democracia Económica en nuestra Institución.

La FAO, en el contexto de la Nueva Organización que viene implementado en los últimos años, debe tener un rol preponderante en la obtención de recursos adicionales, para el financiamiento de proyectos de desarrollo integral entre los Organismos multilaterales financieros y las fuentes de recursos de financiamiento de los países desarrollados, a favor de los países en desarrollo que vienen afrontando graves problemas de deuda externa.

Será necesario asimismo encontrar mecanismos regionales e interregionales de concertación, para afrontar los problemas de Comercio Agropecuario y de Seguridad Alimentaria.

En América Latina y el Caribe, tanto a nivel regional como subregional, se han estado efectuando importantes esfuerzos en el tema de la Seguridad Alimentaria. En el marco del Sistema Económico Latinoamericano (SELA) se constituyó, en 1982, el Comité de Acción para el establecimiento del Sistema de Seguridad Alimentaria (CASAR).

Asimismo, a nivel del grupo subregional andino se creó el Sistema Andino "José Celestino Mutis", sobre agricultura, seguridad alimentaria y conservación del ambiente, con el propósito de orientar la formulación y ejecución de las actividades nacionales y subregionales conducentes a fortalecer el desarrollo del sector agropecuario en los países miembros y estimular una creciente articulación entre ellos.

A nivel nacional, en el Perú se ha efectuado un cambio drástico en las políticas agroalimentarias, orientado a la reactivación de la producción agropecuaria, históricamente castigada, a la reestructuración de los patrones de consumo, distorsionados por las políticas seguidas en el pasado, a revertir la transferencia de ingresos de campo a la ciudad y a recapitalizar el sector agrícola tanto en términos de infraestructura, maquinaria y tecnología.

Las políticas macroeconómicas y sectoriales que en su conjunto se orientaban principalmente al mantenimiento de bajos precios para los productos alimenticios destinados a los consumidores urbanos, reflejaban mayormente el conflicto básico entre los intereses de los consumidores y de los productores de alimentos, en donde los primeros presionan en la búsqueda de la obtención de alimentos agri-

colas al menor precio posible, mientras que los productores tratan de obtener el mayor precio que haga rentable su esfuerzo productivo. Este conflicto, que refleja el choque ampliamente estudiado entre la ciudad y el campo, ha favorecido por lo general a la ciudad, con pocas excepciones a lo largo de nuestra historia moderna.

En julio de 1983 el nuevo Gobierno del Presidente García asumió la conducción del país con el compromiso de revertir el deterioro de la situación económica del área rural, reflejado por la evolución negativa de los términos de intercambio entre la ciudad y el campo. En febrero de 1986 el Gobierno introdujo su Programa de Reactivación Agraria y Seguridad Alimentaria (PRESA). Los principales componentes de este nuevo programa incluyeron:

1. Precios de garantía rentables a un mayor número de productos seleccionados.
2. Reestructuración de componentes de costos de producción agrícola, a través de la eliminación o reducción de impuestos y aranceles.
3. Expansión del crédito agrícola con tasas preferenciales de préstamos para determinados cultivos y regiones, así como un gran crecimiento de la disponibilidad de crédito para los productores.
4. Planificación Agrícola Concertada y Reorientación de las producciones regionales.

Paralelo a lo anterior, el Gobierno implementó un agresivo programa de recuperación global para la economía, que a su vez tuvo importantes implicancias para la agricultura. Así, el rápido crecimiento global de la economía que se obtuvo en 1986 y 1987 y las políticas de ingresos implementadas, que favorecían especialmente a los grupos de menores ingresos, determinaron un importante crecimiento de la demanda de alimentos. Por otra parte, la congelación de precios que se impuso a nivel general en la economía, de la cual se exceptuaron los productos agrícolas perecibles, permitió una veloz recuperación de los términos de intercambio en favor de la agricultura.

La parte más innovadora del programa y la que a su vez tiende a tener efectos más permanentes y sustanciales, es el sistema de precios de garantía. Los productos que reciben precios de garantía incluyen al arroz, maíz amarillo, trigo, menestras y productos andinos, así como al azúcar y los productos lácteos. Muchos de ellos son competidores con productos que actualmente se importan al país. La política de precios para cada uno de estos productos incluye un precio de garantía para los productores, un precio controlado para los consumidores o industrias procesadoras y la administración de las importaciones por parte del Estado.

Como mencioné anteriormente, otro importante estímulo a la recuperación agrícola fue la reactivación global de la economía peruana, que creció en un 9 por ciento durante 1986 y que proyectamos en un 8 por ciento para el presente año, generando sustanciales incrementos de ingresos para virtualmente todos los grupos de consumidores.

Los ingresos de aquellos grupos de menores ingresos crecieron aún más rápidamente. La política del Gobierno de permitir incrementos de sueldos y salarios mayores a la tasa de inflación también ayudó a poner una gran parte del incremento total de ingresos en las manos de aquellas personas pertenecientes a grupos de bajos ingresos. Dicho efecto se reforzó con un programa de empleo temporal que brindó ocupación a 140 000 personas previamente desempleadas.

Con mayores ingresos, todo el mundo gastó más en alimentos. Aquellos más pobres, quienes experimentaron un crecimiento de ingresos mayor que el promedio, gastaron asimismo una mayor proporción de este incremento de ingresos en alimentos. El resultado fue una explosión en el consumo alimentario. Estimaciones preliminares indican que el consumo de alimentos en 1986 fue 18 por ciento mayor que en 1985, y en el caso de los principales productos alimenticios este incremento llegó hasta el 25 por ciento en promedio.

Señor Presidente, como ya se me indica que el tiempo se me acaba, permitiría me dé unos cinco minutos más porque voy a exponer algo los resultados de esta política.

El incremento de la demanda alimentaria llevó a mayores precios y mayores ingresos para los agricultores.

Los efectos del nuevo programa económico agrícola han sido positivos. Ellos incluyen:

- 1.- Los términos de intercambio de los productos agrícolas relativos a los productos industriales, que hasta julio de 1985 habían caído en cerca del 50 por ciento, comparados al nivel de 1973, se habían recuperado al finalizar el año 1986 casi totalmente; esta tendencia ha continuado en lo que va del año 1987.
- 2.- La mayor disponibilidad de crédito agrícola.
- 3.- La mayor utilización de la tierra cultivable.
- 4.- El valor bruto de la producción agrícola se incrementó en un 4 por ciento en 1986, proyectándose un incremento del 5 por ciento para 1987, con lo que tendríamos por primera vez un cuarto año consecutivo de incremento, por encima del crecimiento de la población, que fue del 2.5 por ciento anual.
- 5.- Como resultado de los cambios en precios, créditos, uso de insumos y crecimientos de siembras, el ingreso real de los agricultores en 1986 se incrementó en un 33 por ciento, destacándose el aumento ocurrido en la sierra, o sea, en la zona de montaña, donde el incremento fue del 49 por ciento. Los jornales agrarios crecieron asimismo, en términos reales, en un 82 por ciento.
- 6.- La demanda de alimento tuvo un explosivo crecimiento durante 1986, que significó un incremento del 18 por ciento con respecto a los deprimidos niveles de consumo que se registraron en 1985. Esto indica una importante mejora en los niveles nutricionales de la población.
- 7.- La inflación alimentaria descendió en términos reales y comparados.

Sin embargo, los esfuerzos regionales y nacionales en el tema del desarrollo agrícola y de la seguridad alimentaria deben ser acompañados de mecanismos efectivos que, dentro de la organización de la FAO, tengan que implementarse a nivel regional. Es así que proponemos la creación de los Fondos de Seguridad Alimentaria Regionales, que tendrían los siguientes objetivos, en el esfuerzo de sentar las bases para el "Nuevo Orden Agrario internacional".

- 1.- Canalizar los fondos que sirven como financiamiento complementario de los proyectos de desarrollo presentados por la FAO, a los organismos multilaterales y gobiernos de países de la región que se encuentran en situación crítica de la balanza de pagos y de deuda externa.
- 2.- Emitir la moneda de comercio regional que permita el comercio de los excedentes de producción agropecuaria de la región, a fin de crear un mecanismo de compensación frente a los precios del mercado internacional y mejorar los términos de intercambio.
- 3.- Asegurar los recursos humanos y económicamente necesarios para la realización de la planificación del desarrollo agrícola regional, de tal modo de evaluar e implementar los programas y acciones que identifiquen las reservas alimentarias regionales, las canastas regionales de producción y de consumo, y se instrumenten las políticas de seguridad alimentaria regionales.
- 4.- Formación de los semilleros y centros genéticos en cada región, de modo tal de integrar las actividades de investigación, educación y extensión rural regionales.

En principio, el Fondo Regional podría tener como objetivo el tratamiento de temas prioritariamente regionales. Me voy a permitir mencionar una frase, en la que finalizó su disertación el Señor Presidente de la República del Perú, Doctor Alan García Pérez, en la conmemoración del 40 Aniversario de la FAO, en noviembre de hace dos años: "Creemos en Dios, creemos en el pan nuestro de cada día. V, como el viejo profeta bíblico Isaías, no perdemos la esperanza de que alguna vez las espadas se convertirán

en arados y las lanzas en hoces, Y no lanzará su espada ningún pueblo contra otro, ni se adiestrarán los hombres para la guerra. Entonces, convertiremos las armas de hoy en pan, y el pan será en el futuro paz y justicia, y no nos unirá, como ahora, nuestra hambre, ni el hambre de los otros: nos unirá solamente el hambre de Dios".

Señor Director General de la FAO, Señor Presidente, Señores Ministros y Delegados: Unamos nuestras capacidades y voluntades, para surcar, juntos, la tierra árida del desierto, haciendo fértiles estas tierras con el sudor de nuestro trabajo unitario y con las lágrimas de aquellos que perdieron a sus seres queridos por falta de pan; sembremos la semilla para cosechar juntos un futuro de paz y justicia.

Khamsing SAYAKONE (Laos): C'est pour moi un honneur et une joie que de conduire, une fois encore, la délégation de la République démocratique populaire lao à la 24ème Conférence de la FAO à Rome, la belle et prestigieuse capitale de l'Italie.

Tout d'abord, qu'il me soit permis, au nom de la Délégation lao et en mon nom personnel, de présenter mes vives félicitations au Dr Edouard Saouma pour sa réélection méritée au plus haut poste de notre Organisation. Nous lui souhaitons tous les succès en assumant ses lourdes mais honorables responsabilités et espérons que, sous sa direction clairvoyante, dynamique et efficace, la FAO réalisera des succès toujours plus grands dans la lutte contre la faim, la pénurie alimentaire et la pauvreté de par le monde.

Je voudrais également exprimer mes chaleureuses salutations aux distingués délégués et observateurs ainsi qu'à Monsieur Faisal Al Khaled d'avoir été élu à l'unanimité à la Présidence de cette Conférence. Je suis parfaitement convaincu, Monsieur le Président, que grâce à vos qualités personnelles et vos vastes connaissances, conjuguées à la collaboration des Vice-Présidents, vous saurez conduire les travaux de cette conférence vers des résultats fructueux.

Depuis son établissement il y a maintenant 42 années, en dépit de la situation économique mondiale et des échanges parfois instables et difficiles ne favorisant guère la production alimentaire et agricole, la FAO a néanmoins fait des progrès remarquables dans différents domaines, en particulier dans ceux de l'agriculture, des forêts, des peches, du développement rural et de la nutrition au cours de son existence et surtout à partir des années 80. Aussi, les problèmes de la faim, de la pénurie alimentaire et de la pauvreté rurale touchant plusieurs centaines de millions d'hommes ont-ils été l'objet d'un examen attentif en vue de les résoudre graduellement au cours de ces dernières années.

Non! Ce n'est pas par pure autosatisfaction que je constate cette réalité, c'est plutôt pour dire que les mesures et les orientations qui ont été prises par la FAO pendant ces dernières années sont, il faut le dire, correctes et que les résultats obtenus doivent nous encourager à nous unir ensemble, autour de la FAO, afin de poursuivre notre lutte contre la faim, la pénurie alimentaire et la pauvreté, ces maladies chroniques qui sont en train de défigurer le monde du 20ème siècle, comme le répète inlassablement Monsieur le Directeur général.

Ma délégation est heureuse de constater que la FAO n'est pas une organisation intergouvernementale figée mais une organisation qui se perfectionne sans cesse dans ses politiques, ses priorités et ses modalités d'intervention. L'exemple du Programme de coopération technique qui s'avère très utile pour un pays comme le nôtre, celui de la "débureaucratisation", de la mise en place progressive d'un réseau de représentants dans les pays, etc., en sont les preuves.

C'est dans ce contexte que ma délégation entend examiner la mise en oeuvre de diverses réformes, proposées par un certain nombre de pays membres, et portant sur divers aspects des buts et des activités de la FAO, y compris l'élaboration du budget. Nous félicitons les pays membres qui ont ainsi présenté une large gamme de propositions, destinées à améliorer le fonctionnement de notre organisation. Ces propositions constituent une preuve éloquente de leur foi dans le rôle essentiel de la FAO: le Laos partage cette conviction.

A ce tout premier stade de nos discussions, il est compréhensible que ces propositions, toutes bien intentionnées, soient nombreuses et même, dans certains cas, contradictoires. Beaucoup sont excellentes, certaines méritent un examen approfondi.

Ma délégation considère que nous, participant à cette Conférence, pouvons jouer un rôle très utile, si nous parvenons à délimiter le domaine où s'appliqueront les modifications: nous devons préciser les domaines qu'il convient d'étudier pour y apporter des améliorations.

Ceci constitue une tâche que nous ne pouvons déléguer à aucun groupe de travail, quel que soit son niveau et la valeur de ses membres. Je considère que les représentants qui forment cette conférence sont les mieux informés des besoins de leurs pays et de la Façon dont cette Organisation peut, au mieux, répondre à ces besoins à l'avenir, et que nous devons utiliser dans toute la mesure possible nos propres structures et nos propres moyens.

Ma délégation n'est pas disposée à accepter quelque proposition que ce soit qui viserait à réduire les prérogatives de la Conférence, en ce qui concerne la définition de la politique de l'Organisation. .

En me référant au Programme de travail et budget pour le biennium 1988-89, ma délégation regrette que le programme net de la FAO ne s'accroisse que de 0,25%. Ceci constitue, à ma connaissance, le plus faible accroissement de notre budget depuis ces dix dernières années.

Cependant, nous avons noté avec satisfaction que ses objectifs, ses stratégies et ses priorités sont clairement, définies et visent essentiellement à mieux résoudre les problèmes pendants.

En plus, les propositions présentées par le Directeur général dans ce document présentent une parfaite similitude avec les orientations de notre Gouvernement dans ces domaines.

C'est pourquoi, notre délégation soutient définitivement le Programme et Budget soumis par le Directeur général pour le prochain biennium. J'ai la conviction que si les Etats Membres l'approuvent aussi, nous avancerons sûrement d'un pas dans la recherche des solutions aux problèmes alimentaires et agricoles.

Nous appuyons fortement aussi l'idée que chaque pays doit s'efforcer de se suffire en denrées alimentaires et d'en assurer les réserves. Les réserves signifient la sécurité alimentaire, et la sécurité alimentaire c'est la sauvegarde de la production en elle-même.

L'agriculture et la forêt constituent des ressources naturelles importantes de notre pays. Aussi, notre Gouvernement a-t-il élaboré le programme de développement économique du pays en se basant sur l'agriculture et les forêts.

Pour mettre en pratique ces directives dont les principaux objectifs sont d'assurer l'auto-suffisance alimentaire et d'en constituer des réserves pour produire suffisamment de matières premières à l'agro-industrie locale et à l'exportation, notre Gouvernement donne la priorité aux deux grands programmes nommément "Programme de production des denrées alimentaires" et "Programme de réduction de la pratique des cultures itinérantes sur brûlis", conservation des ressources naturelles et protection de l'environnement, et a clairement défini les tâches à réaliser de la façon suivante:

"Promouvoir la culture intensive, augmenter le nombre de cultures par an, utiliser les semences performantes appropriées aux conditions climatiques locales, développer le réseau d'irrigation et de drainage, principalement celui de petite et moyenne envergure, sensibiliser les petits agriculteurs d'autosubsistance à se grouper en coopératives conformément aux trois principes essentiels suivants: adhésion volontaire, intérêt mutuel et gestion démocratique. En matière d'élevage, l'accent doit être mis sur la production animale au niveau de la petite exploitation sur les systèmes de conduite de l'élevage et sur l'amélioration des races indigènes par croisement avec des races importées en vue d'obtenir des races plus productives et plus performantes. Dans le domaine de la santé animale, l'accent doit être mis sur l'amélioration et le développement des services vétérinaires de manière à mieux lutter contre les maladies infectieuses".

Dans la réalisation de ces directives, au cours de ces dernières années, en dépit de difficultés multiples, la production agricole a enregistré des progrès sensibles. Entre 1976 et 1986, la production alimentaire et agricole a augmenté de l'ordre de 8 à 107, par an et, comme la population a relativement peu augmenté (environ 2,9% par an), le revenu réel par habitant s'est nettement accru.

Ce qui est intéressant à noter encore, c'est que, depuis 1978, plus de la moitié des agriculteurs sont devenus membres des systèmes de Coopératives. L'expérience passée a clairement montré que les conditions de vie des membres de Coopératives sont nettement meilleures que celles des agriculteurs individuels. Par exemple en 1986, alors que le revenu moyen d'un agriculteur individuel est de l'ordre de 390 kilogrammes de paddy par an, celui d'un membre d'une Coopérative peut atteindre 500 à 600 kilogrammes par an. Cela montre bien que la production collective est la meilleure voie dans l'amélioration du niveau de vie de la population. A ce sujet, le Directeur général de la FAO n'a-t-il pas mentionné ce qui suit, dans son discours télévisé que nous avons largement diffusé à l'occasion de la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, je cite "Les groupements des petits agriculteurs ont pour fonction de renforcer le tissu social des collectivités. Ensemble, solidaires, les petits producteurs acquièrent la force d'affronter certaines structures agraires périmées, étouffantes", fin de citation.

Les progrès dans la production alimentaire et agricole réalisés dans notre pays sont aussi étroitement liés à l'assistance des pays socialistes frères, des pays amis, de la Communauté internationale, en particulier de la FAO, aussi bien au niveau du Siècle central qu'à celui de la Représentation régionale.

D'autres institutions non gouvernementales et intergouvernementales nous ont également apporté leur contribution active. Parmi d'autres, je citerai volontiers le Centre de développement rural intégré pour la Région de l'Asie et du Pacifique, communément connu sous le nom de CIRDAP qui, depuis son commencement, a joué, à mon avis, un rôle important dans la région en matière de développement rural. Toutefois, pour jouer pleinement son rôle de promoteur de la Coopération régionale dans le domaine du développement rural, CIRDAP a besoin d'élargir ses membres et de recevoir un soutien plus soutenu de la part des agences et des pays donateurs.

L'année 1987 marque la deuxième année de l'exécution du 2ème plan quinquennal de notre pays. La population de toutes les couches sociales a déployé ses efforts pour mieux produire que précédemment, mais il est bien regrettable que les conditions climatiques n'y aient guère été favorables.

La sécheresse a gravement sévi dans les provinces du nord, y causant la perte d'une grande partie des récoltes. En même temps, les grosses pluies ont provoqué des inondations endommageant bon nombre de cultures au centre et au sud du pays. Selon les premières estimations, la production de paddy en 1987 va être de l'ordre de 23% inférieure à celle de 1986 et le déficit en paddy serait d'environ 157 300 tonnes, soit approximativement 94 400 tonnes de riz blanc.

Le nombre de personnes affectées par cette calamité serait environ 56% de la population totale.

En vue de minimiser les pertes causées par les dites calamités, notre Gouvernement a fait tout ce qui est en son pouvoir pour sensibiliser les agriculteurs dans tout le pays aux travaux d'entretien des champs, à la récolte et au stockage des produits,

Notre Gouvernement a aussi fait appel à la population de toutes les ethnies pour organiser la production de riz et d'autres cultures pendant la saison sèche là où les conditions s'y prêtent.

Malgré ces efforts, et vu l'importance des pertes causées par la sécheresse, il est difficilement pensable que la production en saison sèche puisse combler ces pertes.

En parlant du déficit en paddy, M. Julian Lefèvre, Directeur des Opérations du PAM à Bangkok, a noté dans son rapport du mois de septembre dernier que, je cite: "la situation dans les provinces affectées par la sécheresse est maintenant si grave qu'il n'y a pas de chance de revenir à la situation normale d'une manière spontanée. S'il n'y avait pas d'aide d'urgence, le Laos connaîtrait des difficultés sérieuses en matière alimentaire au cours d'une ou plusieurs prochaines années et la misère humaine s'ensuivrait en conséquence", fin de citation.

En septembre dernier, notre Gouvernement a fait des requêtes officielles d'assistance alimentaire auprès des pays amis, des Organisations internationales et des Organisations non gouvernementales pour venir en aide aux victimes dans les provinces affectées. Actuellement une partie de l'aide est déjà arrivée au pays, nous donnant ainsi la possibilité de résoudre en partie le problème alimentaire dans les régions endommagées.

Aussi, je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour exprimer mes profonde gratitude aux pays amis, aux Organisations aussi bien Internationales que non gouvernementales qui ont ainsi répondu à l'appel de notre Gouvernement. Je formule l'espoir que ces pays et ces organisations continueront à nous assister en augmentant leurs aides de sorte que nous puissions réaliser les objectifs du 2ème plan quinquennal dans les meilleures conditions, ce qui nous permettrait ainsi d'apporter notre part de contribution toujours plus active dans le combat contre la faim, la pénurie alimentaire et la malnutrition en Asie du Sud-Est et dans le reste du monde.

C'est sur cette note d'espoir que je voudrais conclure en souhaitant plein succès à notre Conférence.

Hussein JUMAINE (Burundi): C'est pour moi un plaisir et un grand honneur de m'adresser à cette Assemblée à l'occasion de la vingt-quatrième Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. En effet, la présente session revêt un caractère particulier puisqu'elle se situe lors de l'élection du Directeur général qui sera appelé à conduire notre Organisation pendant les six années à venir.

Vous me permettez, Monsieur le Président, de féliciter chaleureusement le Directeur général pour sa réélection à la tête de la FAO et de lui souhaiter plein succès dans la noble mission que cette Assemblée vient de lui renouveler.

Nous ne doutons pas que vous pourrez, Monsieur le Directeur général, répondre?, comme vous l'avez toujours fait, à l'attente de nos populations et contribuer par votre action à l'amélioration des conditions alimentaires et nutritionnelles de notre continent.

La participation à la Conférence générale de la FAO est l'occasion de faire le point sur la situation agricole de nos pays et constitue également le moment d'échanger les expériences vécues dans le développement de nos agricultures respectives. Je vais vous faire part brièvement de l'évolution de la production de notre pays.

Depuis plusieurs années, le Gouvernement du Burundi s'efforce d'assurer l'autosuffisance alimentaire de notre population et d'augmenter les exportations agricoles dans le but d'accroître les recettes en devises nécessaires au financement du développement économique et social de notre pays.

Pour atteindre ces deux objectifs, des moyens financiers et humains importants ont été mobilisés pour mettre en place des projets destinés à accroître la production.

Compte tenu de la rareté des terres cultivables, l'accent a été mis sur l'amélioration de la productivité, grâce à l'apport d'intrants agricoles tels que les semences améliorées, les engrais et les pesticides.

Malgré l'importance accordée au secteur agricole, les résultats obtenus n'ont pas été à la hauteur des efforts consentis. En effet, si la production vivrière a augmenté, elle a progressé moins vite que la population. Le taux de croissance annuelle de la production agricole durant les dernières années a été de 1% contre 3% pour la population, ce qui traduit une dégradation progressive de l'alimentation de notre peuple.

La couverture des besoins caloriques, qui dans le temps était largement excédentaire, est devenue aujourd'hui précaire et se base de plus en plus sur la consommation de tubercules, au détriment de denrées plus nutritives. Le niveau nutritionnel est par conséquent déséquilibré et l'on constate une augmentation de maladies de carence surtout chez les groupes les plus vulnérables, comme les enfants, les femmes enceintes et les vieillards.

Dans le domaine des cultures d'exportation, la production a considérablement augmenté en volume. La production du café, qui est notre principal produit d'exportation, a doublé dans les dix dernières années. De même, la production de thé et de coton n'a cessé d'augmenter, grâce aux investissements qu'on y a affectés.

Malheureusement, les cours mondiaux de ces produits n'ont fait que diminuer ces dernières années et les recettes qu'on en tire ont continuellement baissé. Les conséquences au niveau économique et social sont particulièrement graves: les finances publiques qui sont largement tributaires des recettes provenant des exportations ont beaucoup souffert de leur baisse; le niveau des investissements publics dans le secteur agricole a diminué, ce qui ne manquera pas de ralentir sa croissance.

Pour faire face aux diverses contraintes qui pèsent sur le secteur agricole, le Gouvernement de la Troisième République s'est engagé à redynamiser la production agricole.

La promotion du secteur vivrier, qui avait été longtemps négligée au profit du secteur d'exportation, sera la première priorité. Pour cela, nous allons lancer des programmes de défense et de restauration des sols pour lutter contre la dégradation de notre patrimoine foncier. Compte tenu du relief accidenté et des pratiques culturales inadaptées, l'érosion pluviale et éolienne fait beaucoup de dégâts et fait baisser dangereusement la fertilité de nos sols. C'est pourquoi les travaux de lutte antiérosive et de reboisement des crêtes et des terrains à forte pente seront encouragés, en mettant l'accent sur la participation volontaire des populations afin de réduire leurs coûts. Etant donné que les terres dont dispose notre pays sont limitées, l'augmentation de la production s'obtiendra surtout par l'intensification de nos systèmes agricoles.

L'utilisation d'intrants agricoles est peu développée dans notre pays. La quantité de semences améliorées et d'engrais, utilisée par les agriculteurs reste très faible, alors que des essais faits au niveau des exploitations ont prouvé leur efficacité dans l'amélioration de la productivité. Pour les rendre accessibles aux nombreux producteurs qui en demandent, l'on se propose d'améliorer les structures de production des semences, afin de les rendre capables d'augmenter leur quantité. L'utilisation des engrais minéraux va également être encouragée. Compte tenu de leur coût d'importation élevé, ils seront utilisés en complément des ressources locales, dont la production sera développée.

La production animale sera elle aussi soutenue dans le but de faire face aux graves carences en lipides et en protéines animales dont souffre notre population. Pour ce faire, l'accent sera mis sur le développement de l'élevage bovin et surtout du petit élevage dans les zones surpeuplées.

Dans le domaine des cultures d'exportation, en plus de la consolidation des cultures traditionnelles, des efforts seront consentis pour diversifier la production afin de faire face aux fluctuations des prix du marché mondial.

Je viens de vous exposer brièvement les difficultés que connaît l'agriculture dans notre pays ainsi que les programmes que mon Gouvernement entend mettre en oeuvre pour les surmonter. Toutefois, le redressement de la production agricole va demander des moyens importants que notre pays ne pourra pas réunir sans le concours de l'assistance internationale. Jusqu'ici notre pays a bénéficié d'apports substantiels des pays amis et des organismes d'aide pour financer le développement agricole, mais l'on constate, ces dernières années, que les fonds d'aide tendent à diminuer, surtout les aides à des conditions défavorables. C'est pour cela que nous nous associons aux autres pays pour demander aux pays donateurs et aux organisations de financement d'accroître leur aide, particulièrement à des pays comme le nôtre qui doivent couvrir les besoins alimentaires d'une population en très rapide croissance.

Nous demandons également que les pays déjà développés puissent donner plus d'assistance technique pour permettre à nos pays d'accéder aux technologies modernes qui leur permettront d'accélérer la croissance agricole.

Convaincus que la conjugaison de nos efforts va, sans nul doute, porter des fruits, nous nous engageons pour notre part à oeuvrer pour que nos populations puissent mieux manger et mieux vivre.

Marwan AL-HUMOUN (Jordan) (original Language Arabic): In the name of God the Almighty, the compassionate, I would like first, Mr Chairman, to congratulate you on your election to chair this Conference. Also, on behalf of the Jordanian delegation I wish to address my warmest congratulations to Dr Saouma on his re-election. The Conference, through his re-election, has further confirmed its appreciation of Dr Saouma's achievements, and its confidence that he will ably guide our Organization at a point in time where crisis is looming on the horizon, and the need for constructive initiatives and decisions is urgent. I would also like to reassure you that my country will give every support to the Organization, as in the past, which stems from our firm belief in the role the FAO is playing and in our belief that true international cooperation is the only means for constructing a world free from hunger, poverty and under-development. Jordan, over the past decade, has been able to bring about a growth rate of over 7 percent in the agricultural sector, thanks to the use of modern technology, making available the required capital for investment in agriculture and providing incentives which have encouraged investment in the agricultural sector. We hope that by the end of our present economic and social development, which will come to an end in 1990, to reach self-sufficiency in all agricultural commodities except for grains and red meats which, nevertheless, will have reached a good degree of self-sufficiency by that date.

The International Organization of Food and Agriculture has been a helping force in all our efforts and has provided all the technical advice when needed. We wish to express our great gratitude for this support.

In Jordan we feel that international cooperation while enhancing links and bonds between people is an incentive towards true development.

Therefore, we support all efforts that aim at broadening and deepening any form of co-operation of this kind. FAO has always been, and remains, very closely linked to the individual and his potential, and is one of the main vehicles for international co-operation. It is because of this that we appreciate being members of this Organization.

The present world configuration requires extra efforts in order to maintain the vital, dynamic force of the Organization, and also careful scrutiny of the various ideas which have been tabled, which may be appropriate to further strengthen the programmes and actions and performance of this Organization. The Organization was able to succeed in collecting and bringing together all efforts in the area of rural development - fisheries, forestries, and world security - and has also implemented, thanks to the Technical Co-operation Programme, a number of short-term programmes to improve the world information system and Early Warning System: all this shows how efforts can be co-ordinated between individual countries, and IFAD, and other financial organizations.

This has made available a major flow of investment to developing countries, and these various achievements have further illustrated the way in which the Organization can continue to play its responsible role in the world of agriculture, and have shown that it is capable of performing all the tasks which have been entrusted to it. We have scrutinized the various proposals for reforming the Organization in order to make it more efficient: suggestions which have mainly focussed on the present cash flow problems of the Organization, and other possible problems for the future. It is our opinion that the cash flow problem of the Organization - which we trust will be a passing phenomenon - will require review and revision of the targets of the Organization, but we will in any case have to bring about some changes, to priorities and action programmes, taking into account the needs of developing countries, particularly those which suffer from very specific problems. We trust that the present configuration of FAO will make it possible to fulfil its task, provided we can have a more clearcut definition of what has to be done, and that the Director-General will be asked to carry out such a survey, which may include perhaps the setting-up of a committee of experts of the Organization and if necessary calling in external experts as well, and requesting them to submit a report to the next General Conference, as is customary.

In view of the present economic situation, we felt it was necessary to emphasise those actions which have a direct impact on agricultural development, more particularly to give maximum support to agricultural research, the transfer of technology, the protection of agricultural resources, and the development of agricultural policies. Furthermore, we think that it is also necessary to enhance the Technical Co-operation Programmes, which have shown how valuable they are; and here we could, increasingly perhaps, give technical advice to countries by way of non-resident advisers and

counsellors. Here, too, we should fund the Regional Offices, which are directly responsible, in order to compile and assimilate useful information on the regional plane. We hope that here the Organization will take the initiative, in order to change its work of co-ordinating with regional and international organizations, and with appropriate bodies, and thus further again enhancing action in order to avoid overlapping individual operations.

Roberto W. ANSALDO (Philippines): As Head of the Philippine Delegation to the 24th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, I have the honour of bringing to you all the warmest greetings of the President of the Republic of the Philippines, Her Excellency Corazon A. Aquino, as well as greetings from the Secretary of Agriculture, the Honourable Carlos G. Dominguez. They wish to extend their congratulations and best wishes to the Honourable Chairman of the 92nd Council and the Chairman of the 24th Conference and, especially, to the newly re-elected Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma.

Excellencies, I stand before you now with a deep sense of humility combined with a profound sense of aspiration.

Humility, because coming as I do from a member of the developing group of nations, we really do not, firstly, contribute large amounts of money to the coffers of the FAO. As a matter of fact, the roughly .012 of the budget we contribute to this worthy Organization, if not mainly for the show of solidarity it symbolizes, would not spell the difference in the Organization's life or death. It would not even make it sick -- perhaps not even catch a cold. Secondly, we do not possess great technological breakthroughs that would be of interest to the more developed countries. There are no announcements in this statement of scientific discoveries that promise world-wide solutions to global hunger and poverty.

No, Ladies and Gentlemen, we in the Philippines are what is commonly called a developing country -- in need of assistance in the form of finances, technological cooperation programmes, expert's advice and what have you. If you have it, we would normally be quite happy to receive it.

But in the same breath, I do not hesitate to say that, notwithstanding the difficulties and problems our country now faces, we are a proud people. We are proud of our heritage; proud of our continuing struggle for freedom (both economically and politically); proud of our efforts to rise, as a nation, from the bondage and economic ruins of a twenty-year dictatorship; and proud of our country.

At the start of my statement, I mentioned a "deep sense of humility combined with a profound sense of aspiration." Because of your kind indulgence, I just explained the "deep sense of humility." Now I will try to explain what the sense of aspiration means. I will try, as best as I can, to express the needs, sentiments and humble aspirations we in the Philippines, and perhaps in the rest of the developing world, would like to see in the words "agricultural development." What really should agricultural development mean to farmers?

But before we can express what we would like "agricultural development" to mean, let us first analyse what we did in our country, the Philippines.

For the last forty years, agricultural development's thrusts and programmes in the Philippines were born under the famous words "increased productivity to achieve self-sufficiency,": nice sounding slogans which shaped agricultural programmes towards solving our agricultural problems. Most famous of these programmes were the MASAGANA and MAISAGANA programmes: MASAGANA for increased rice production and MAISAGANA for increased corn production -- two of the basic crops in the Philippines covering approximately 2/3 of the cultivated land in the Philippines; 7 million of the roughly 11 million cultivated hectares.

In undertaking these programmes, the government addressed the basic requirements needed to increase productivity and achieve self-sufficiency. These were increased fertilizer application, production of high-yielding seeds and promotion of their use, increased irrigation facilities, price support mechanisms and even establishment of special credit assistance programmes to enable the farmers to buy the increased level of inputs. All these and more reached the rice and corn farmers of my country in the government's drive to "increase productivity and achieve self-sufficiency."

Twenty years after the MASAGANA and MAISAGANA programmes, what are the results? Rice self-sufficiency has been basically achieved in the Philippines. Corn production can also be said to be at the sufficiency level except for the marked seasonality of our corn-growing seasons and the resultant losses arising from the lack of adequate post-harvest facilities. From the point of view of the NATION, the programmes can be said to have been successful. But how about the producers -- the farmers, how have they fared?

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am afraid that after adjusting for "per capita" earnings and inflation figures, the rice and corn farmers after the MASAGANA/MAISAGANA programmes are no better off than they were before the programme in terms of income levels or purchasing power. But what factors caused this sad state?

Due to pressure from the consuming public, as well as biases in favour of the urban groups rather than the rural countryside, slight increases in the buying prices of rice or corn accompanied inevitably hysterical cries of shortages inadvertently led to importations of the commodity over the last twenty years. Every single year for corn and, for most years, for rice, imported stocks came into our country at practically the same time as harvests, depressing further the already depressed prices of the commodity. The resultant reduced incomes gave rise to one of the great ironies of modern agriculture and the Green Revolution -- the farmer in the Philippines produced more but remained as poor as ever. The vicious cycle had been established: from perceived or actual shortages, to importation, leading to low prices, resulting in lack of incentives, leading to low production, back again to perceived or actual shortages.

How can such a situation with all its initial promise attain such a poor conclusion? Many will explain it away with such explanations as lack of post-harvest facilities, or lack of marketing, or lack of this or lack of that. I prefer not to deal with the symptoms of the problem but rather try to analyze the cause.

Let me explain it by telling you about a personal experience I had just a couple of weeks after joining the Department of Agriculture. I was evaluating several applicants for the post of one of the research institutions in my Country. As part of the evaluation, I called in the most promising candidate and interviewed him. I started the interview with the question "What is the objective of the job you are applying for?" The applicant answered the familiar "To increase productivity to achieve self-sufficiency." I continued. "Who is supposed to benefit from this increased productivity to achieve self-sufficiency?" He replied, in a very proud voice, "The Nation!" Finally, I pushed the question even further and started out with an example. I said, "The agricultural flow of products usually passes through three hands, or three main groups. The first are the farmers or basic producers. The second are the traders or merchants. And the third are the consumers. The 1.00 that the trader pays the farmer, is that the farmer's income or expense?-" "Income!" he said. "And the trader?" I questioned. "His expense," he replied. "How about between the trader and the consumer? The 1.00 that the consumer pays the trader, is that the trader's income or expense?" I asked. "Trader's income," he correctly replied'. "And the consumer," I continued. "Consumer's expense," he replied. "Therefore," I said, "in a case in which the farmer's income is the trader's expense, and the trader's income is the consumer's expense, who is the Nation?"

Ladies and Gentlemen, to this day, that applicant is struggling to determine the answer to that question in much the same way that my own Country is struggling to deal with that reality over the last 25 years.

I am proud to say, however, that under the Administration of President Corazon C. Aquino, the highest priority is given to increasing farmers' incomes. The new mandate is expressed in the of words "make farmers profitable" rather than the old adage of "increased productivity".

In the President's own words, she said, "In agriculture, the role of the government is to create an environment that will make farming pay for the farmer!"

In the two short years since she came into power, our Filipino farmers have benefitted from 40% cheaper fertilizers by the dismantling of the fertilizer monopoly; increase of over 200% in the price of their copra by the dismantling of the copra monopoly; greater private sector consultations towards the determination of agricultural plans and programmes through the establishment of people's councils; and a 140% increase in the price of corn from /2.00 to /2.90/kg.

Going back to the interview, I would like to conclude from that experience I just narrated that, for any agricultural development in any country to be significant and worthwhile, it must result in increased farmers' incomes, incentives or benefits or whatever else you may want to call it in your country. The question is - is he better off now after producing more ... or will agricultural development once again benefit the "Nation" and neglect the farmer?

Ladies and Gentlemen, how much, if any, of our humble Philippine experience applies to international relationships? Can we, in fact, liken some developing countries to the "farmers' group", other countries to the "traders or merchants' groups", while still others to the "consumer groups". And if that, in fact, is the case, and we must face the international reality that one country's income is the other country's expense, what, if any, can multilateral organizations like FAO do to try and encourage member countries to live harmoniously within the reality?

Mr Chairman, I do not have the answer to that question. But I am sure of one thing. That reality has not emerged only recently but rather has been around for a long, long time. Notwithstanding the natural conflicts of interest, our predecessors must have dug deep into their hearts to arrive at those principles of mankind which prompt one man to help another man in need, principles which now form the basis for the United Nations System and the subsequent Food and Agriculture Organization. Those principles which state that weak nations can exist among the strong, that man should share with fellow man and that brotherhood and understanding create a more enduring peace and economic order than simply the power of the strong over the weak. I trust that we, who have inherited this glorious tradition of the United Nations and the FAO may likewise dig deep into our hearts to rediscover those truths and chart the next 40 years with them.

Mats HELLSTRÖM (Sweden): First of all, Mr Chairman, let me congratulate you and the other presiding officers of this Conference on your election. I would also like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to Dr Saouma on his re-election as Director-General of this Organization. I can assure the Director-General our support in the work to improve the global food situation.

In recent years global agricultural production has increased at about the same pace as world population. However, while there is a surplus of food in some regions there is an alarming scarcity of food in other regions.

Although the total global supply is ample, hundreds of millions of people suffer from chronic hunger and malnutrition. But the difficulties should not overshadow that achievements in agriculture are within the range of possibility, and agriculture has been moving forward, and at an impressive rate in many developing countries. Many developing countries have a potential for food self-sufficiency, and in several countries special emphasis is being laid on agricultural and rural development. And this confirms, in my view, that food security of the individual developing countries to the widest possible and practicable extent should be based on a strengthening of self-reliance.

While an increase in food production remains a central development priority for many countries in the Third World, there is a growing consciousness that increases in food production alone will not provide a solution to hunger and starvation and to economic and social development.

Among other things there exist market distortions in both the North and the South that should be corrected. In the South these distortions must be removed through appropriate adjustment policies if those countries are to produce more food and reduce their dependence on imports. And in the industrialized North the costly surpluses must be avoided or eliminated. Furthermore, agricultural trade barriers must be reduced in a multilateral context.

Agricultural trade will be discussed in the Uruguay Round. The FAO is of course not the forum to negotiate agreements on agricultural trade. Nevertheless I think that FAO has a very important role to play in order to push for certain aspects which might otherwise be overlooked. I note with satisfaction the readiness of the FAO Secretariat to provide the GATT secretariat substantive support and that the FAO has been invited to attend the meetings of the Negotiating Group on Agriculture as Observer.

However, pending the outcome of international negotiations we have to deal with today's grim reality of malnutrition, hunger and starvation in certain countries due to the present food and agriculture situation in those countries. As the FAO is the United Nations' Organization for Food and Agriculture it is the organization with the best possibilities to assist in planning and implementation of agricultural development, particularly in the field of technical assistance and other forms of transfer of know-how.

Mr Chairman, FAO, like other agencies of the United Nations system, is faced by severe financial constraints. In this Organization, like in others, my government urges every member to fulfil its financial obligations. The financial crisis creates a situation, by which it is necessary for Member Governments and secretariats to identify priorities, which in the long-term perspective are

good for the United Nations. But it is not acceptable, given the needs of developing countries, particularly those in Africa, that priorities shall have to be made at too low a level of resources. I therefore urge the donor countries to attain the 0.7 target for official development assistance as soon as possible.

The atmosphere of financial austerity will probably prevail in future years. Limited or even shrinking resources will obstruct the efforts to solve a number of important problems in the field of food and agriculture. Therefore the time has come to make an evaluation of the use of available resources.

At the 91st Session of the Council in June this year it was understood that member countries would submit their views to the Secretariat on certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations, including the need for a reform in the programme budget process. Thus the Nordic countries, i.e., Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Iceland, have submitted a paper that contains suggestions for future actions and reforms. It is my hope that the proposals of the Nordic countries will be taken into careful consideration, so that the discussions on this topic will lead to a well-considered decision.

As the whole United Nations system in the economic and social field is now being reviewed at the Special Commission of ECOSOC, it is only natural that a corresponding review will be initiated in FAO.

Sweden and the other Nordic countries are, in relative terms, among the biggest donors in the world of economic assistance to developing countries. Sweden has no intention to reduce this assistance despite severe budgetary restraints at home. I can assure you, Mr Chairman, that it is not for reason of saving money in our development assistance budgets that the Nordic countries are proposing a review of FAO, but on the contrary, to give developing countries better value of the money spent in FAO and development assistance in general.

The Director-General has presented a detailed programme of work and budget for the coming two years. By and large, Sweden supports the declared objectives of the work of FAO in the coming biennium.

A very careful pruning of administrative and support costs is important for international organizations and governments to allow redistribution for growth in technical and economic programmes. I therefore note with satisfaction that - since the Council Meeting in June this year -- there is a further pruning of administrative costs and of liaison costs. This can allow for limited increases in the substantive programmes.

However, as I said earlier, it is particularly important to identify priorities and to concentrate the limited resources. Such priorities and concentration may involve painful decisions when cuts have to be made regarding activities of lower priority. The process should also involve an open mind as to which are the real comparative advantages of FAO and which activities could be performed better by other parts of the United Nations system. In our view it is extremely important that the many organizations of the United Nations are utilized by members in an optimal way. This means that actions taken should be coordinated, not least at field level. Unnecessary overlap and double-work must be avoided. This spirit must guide FAO in its work at all levels.

Mr Chairman, the technical development has given us possibilities of a higher material standard of living. This is extremely positive because so many people do really need a raise of their standard. But the development has also resulted in serious environmental damages.

The consciousness of the dangers that threaten our resources and environment has increased enormously during the last decade. The environmental issues are of a global nature and we are now more aware of the international aspects of the environmental problems than before. What is needed to improve our environment is joint contributions on the international level. Environmental hazards do not stop at national frontiers.

The so-called "sustainable development" is a concept that has been highlighted by the World Commission for Environment and Development. The chairman was the Prime Minister of Norway, Gro Harlem Brundtland. By using the concept of sustainable development and - based on that - the systematic,

deep-cutting analysis and diagnosis of our future prospects, a new platform for action has been established. The World Commission for Environment has provided us with tools for restructuring governmental and international policies in order to secure our own future. The Commission has also presented strong, environmentally based arguments for increased resource transfers to developing countries. The Commission Report outlines the steps which have to be taken in the restructuring of most economic sectors in order to achieve a sustainable development.

The Swedish Government believes strongly in the need to promote a transition towards sustainable development. One illustration is that the Government has decided to propose to the Swedish Parliament that environmental considerations should become an explicit fifth goal for Swedish development assistance. Consequently very high political priority is given to environment within our development cooperation programme.

It is with satisfaction I have noted that FAO is to review its policies, making full use of the Commission report and the environmental perspective, to adopt sustainable development as a central goal for the programmes of this Organization.

Several reports today give an alarming picture with regard to forestry. This applies in particular to the fuelwood situation and to the deforestation problem in developing countries. The rapid regression and degradation of the tropical forests is no doubt a serious threat to the living conditions for people in many rural areas. However, depletion of tropical forests is a serious environmental problem with devastating consequences not only in the regions directly affected but is a problem of even global importance because of the global role of forests for our life conditions.

As a representative of a forestry country I note with satisfaction proposals have been made from the Secretariat of the long-term goals and strategies of forestry. Furthermore I fully endorse the proposed implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. In my view the proposals mean that the important renewable natural resource of forestry has been recognized to its full potential.

It seems, however, that forestry has not yet been given its proper place within the FAO total budget resources for 1988-1989. Only 4.2 percent have been allocated to forestry. Sweden is certainly aware of the limited resources available to FAO. But we are convinced that by a careful review of ongoing activities, resources could be reallocated from other sectors in order to bring about increased resources for forestry.

The problems could seem insurmountable. The task before us is enormous and time is running short as has often been said. But as was stated in the Report of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues under the Chairmanship of Willy Brandt: "Mankind has never before had such ample technical and financial resources for coping with hunger and poverty. The immense task can be tackled once the necessary collective will is mobilized. What is necessary can be done, and must be done, in order to provide the conditions by which the poor can be saved from starvation as well as destructive confrontation."

FAO has an important role to play to achieve these goals. And I can assure you, Mr Chairman, that also in the future it will be a main objective for Sweden to contribute to an improvement of the economic and social conditions in the developing countries.

So, Mr Chairman, let us gather the international solidarity together and meet future challenges as confidently and effectively as possible.

Koffi Kaianga WALLA (Togo): La vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence de notre Organisation nous donne une nouvelle occasion de faire, hélas, le constat des contradictions de notre époque et de l'incapacité des hommes à surmonter leur égoïsme pour écarter les graves crises créées par eux-mêmes.

La situation économique des pays du tiers monde continue de se dégrader et des millions d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants souffrent toujours de malnutrition sinon de famine alors que la technologie atteint de nouveaux sommets et que les richesses du monde, prises globalement, n'ont jamais été aussi abondantes.

S'agissant plus particulièrement de l'Afrique, déjà lourdement frappée par des calamités naturelles qui ont pour nom la sécheresse, la désertification, les épizooties et les ennemis des cultures, un ordre économique international injuste réduit à peu de chose en définitive l'énorme effort de développement entrepris par nos Etats depuis bientôt trois décennies. Les prix de nos produits d'exportation aussi bien miniers qu'agricoles soumis à une intense spéculation continuent de chuter et ne couvrent que rarement les coûts de production tandis que le service de la dette ne cesse d'augmenter aggravé par les fluctuations de monnaies et la hausse des taux d'intérêt.

Face à cette situation alarmante, les remèdes proposés qui ont pour nom ajustement ou réajustement structurel ont montré leurs limites si ce n'est leur totale inefficacité car les appels lancés au sein des instances internationales pour des changements significatifs de l'ordre économique mondial n'ont eu que peu d'écho.

Le génie créateur de l'homme semble incapable de trouver la réponse appropriée au mal dont souffre l'économie mondiale et particulièrement celle des pays en voie de développement.

J'ai voulu par ce rappel et sans rentrer dans des détails superflus souligner l'importance du sujet devant l'objectif qui est le nôtre d'assurer à nos populations une meilleure vie dans leur milieu selon nos options et selon nos capacités propres.

Cet objectif, du point de vue de la République Togolaise, passe d'abord et avant tout par la réalisation de l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

C'est pourquoi le Gouvernement Togolais a lancé la politique de la Révolution Verte depuis mars 1977 et fait de l'agriculture la priorité des priorités. Il s'agit non seulement de couvrir les besoins alimentaires actuels de nos populations mais aussi de disposer de réserves pour préserver le pays des déficits conjoncturels et de dégager des excédents pour l'exportation.

Depuis dix ans, en dépit des aléas climatiques, la production vivrière et les produits de rente ont augmenté de façon substantielle sous l'effet conjugué de nombreuses mesures incitatives dont les plus importantes sont: l'exonération des paysans de la taxe civique, la diffusion de meilleures pratiques culturales et de semences améliorées à haut rendement, la subvention des engrais et pesticides, l'accroissement des financements publics dans le secteur agricole, l'augmentation des prix des produits agricoles, l'amélioration des conditions de vie en milieu rural grâce aux actions de désenclavement, d'hydraulique villageoise et de mise en place d'infrastructures socio-économiques indispensables en matière de santé, éducation, commerce et loisirs.

Depuis 1985 une nouvelle stratégie de développement rural est mise en oeuvre; elle part d'un bilan critique des actions menées jusqu'alors pour replacer l'homme c'est-à-dire le paysan au centre des préoccupations. A ce titre il ne s'agit plus d'encadrer et de développer une culture ou un produit comme cela est souvent le cas mais d'aider le paysan à assurer son propre développement. Cette nouvelle stratégie se traduit concrètement sur le terrain par une restructuration complète des services de vulgarisation et une approche nouvelle dans la conception et la diffusion des thèmes techniques en vue d'un développement rural régional intégré.

La nouvelle stratégie de développement rural prône une utilisation judicieuse des ressources humaines matérielles et financières, la suppression du double-emploi et des gaspillages, une efficacité accrue et la polyvalence des Services de vulgarisation.

L'action vigoureuse menée depuis dix ans a permis d'atteindre un niveau acceptable d'autosuffisance alimentaire qu'il convient de pérenniser et compléter en améliorant le régime alimentaire par le développement des productions animales, en particulier l'élevage des espèces à cycle court.

Le Gouvernement se préoccupe bien entendu de la sauvegarde de l'environnement et de la protection de la nature en mettant en oeuvre un vaste programme d'aménagement et d'utilisation rationnelle de l'espace rural, de création de réserves naturelles pour la faune et la flore et en intensifiant le reboisement. La mise en oeuvre d'une politique aussi vaste et ambitieuse requiert d'importants moyens que les ressources nationales seules ne peuvent couvrir. A cet effet nous nous félicitons de la contribution des pays amis et des institutions internationales à notre effort de développement rural et je saisis l'occasion pour adresser à leurs représentants ici présents les remerciements du gouvernement et du peuple togolais. La FAO prend une part importante dans nos programmes de développement rural et son action multiforme intéresse plusieurs domaines: la planification et la programmation, la production agricole, l'élevage, le reboisement, etc. Je voudrais remercier et féliciter le Directeur général et ses collaborateurs pour la qualité et l'efficacité de l'apport de la FAO au Togo. Nous souhaitons voir se renforcer la coopération entre le Togo et la FAO en particulier dans le cadre du Programme de coopération technique.

La vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence marque une étape importante de la vie de la FAO. Comme à l'accoutumée nous aurons à débattre des problèmes de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans le monde, nous examinerons les activités et programmes et nous doterons notre organisation des ressources nécessaires à la poursuite de son action. Mais à ces préoccupations normales d'une session de la Conférence s'est ajouté l'acte capital que constitue la nomination du Directeur général de la FAO. Il me plaît ici de féliciter chaleureusement Monsieur Edouard Saouma pour sa brillante réélection à ce poste pour continuer avec persévérance la mission de la FAO en faveur du tiers monde et de l'Afrique en particulier. Nous lui souhaitons plein succès dans cette carrière.

L'Afrique a toujours manifesté un vif intérêt pour la FAO qui mène sur notre continent des actions de premier ordre; elle continuera de lui apporter son approche et sa sensibilité particulières pour lui insuffler une dynamique nouvelle dans ce monde d'aujourd'hui marqué par de graves crises.

La dégradation permanente des termes de l'échange, l'inflation, le poids de la dette publique ne laissent à nos pays que de maigres possibilités de dégager des ressources en vue du développement notamment en direction du secteur rural.

La levée de tels obstacles nous commande, et c'est une caractéristique permanente de la politique togolaise, d'œuvrer pour la coopération sous toutes ses formes devant une responsabilité, somme toute collective, puisqu'il s'agit de la survie des populations.

Je suis convaincu que l'intensification de cette coopération et le renforcement de la solidarité entre nos Etats et avec les institutions internationales sont les moyens les plus sûrs pour instaurer un dialogue fécond et pour résoudre l'essentiel de nos problèmes.

Le milieu rural plus que tout autre nous paraît le plus indiqué pour cette coopération et cette solidarité parce que l'essentiel de nos ressources en provient et que la grande majorité de nos populations vit et produit dans ce milieu.

Le rôle des organisations internationales telles que la FAO est de canaliser cette coopération et de la traduire sur le terrain, de faire en sorte qu'elle se réalise à travers des structures simples, rapides pratiques et peu coûteuses. Cela n'est possible que lorsque ces organisations prennent en considération nos propres réalités et surtout nos priorités qui n'ont pas toujours, hélas, la rationalité de celles des pays industrialisés à cause justement de notre situation de sous-développement.

Si nous, sollicitons l'intensification de l'aide et de la coopération internationales, c'est avec une très grande détermination de compter d'abord sur nos propres forces par une meilleure organisation du secteur rural et une gestion efficace de nos ressources agricoles.

Je ne voudrais pas terminer cette brève intervention sans vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de notre Conférence, féliciter vos collaborateurs du bureau et adresser mes compliments au Directeur général de la FAO et à ses Assistants pour la qualité des documents qui nous sont soumis.

Je vous remercie pour votre aimable et bienveillante attention.

Alvaro BISSAIA BARRETO (Portugal) (original language Portuguese): Mr Director-General, Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, at the outset I would like to present my congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, and to the three Vice-Chairmen, upon your election. I would like to express our certainty that under your sympathetic guidance this session of the Conference will be successful and remain in the history of FAO as an important meeting for the building of a future base for the invaluable experience which has been accumulated.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Saouma most warmly upon his recent re-election for the third term of office, which represents, above all, great hope for the future of our Organization under his leadership.

Every two years, the representatives of the member countries of FAO meet in the headquarters of this Organization in order to extensively review work done and to programme the main lines of action of FAO for the coming years, taking into account first and foremost the problems falling within its scope of responsibility which are of major concern for the world, and which call for concerted efforts by member countries in order to reach a solution.

Without forgetting the particular problem of each of our countries - problems that differ greatly according to each case - by meditating on and exchanging points of view we try to find a consensus that will bring people closer and which helps to prepare a better future for man by developing agriculture, improving human foodstuffs and nutrition, and by reinforcing aid in money, food and other products (and particularly in technicians) which the more wealthy societies can provide for those who stand in the greatest need of them.

It is comforting to see the increasing interest that the more wealthy countries have been showing in helping those who are needy. Perhaps this aid has not been as much as we would like to see; nonetheless, it has provided a valuable contribution that cannot be minimized. It is also gratifying to see that broadly speaking the poorer countries have been using the assistance received either to save millions of human beings from starvation when that has threatened or, in particular to better their production bases and so progress towards self-sufficiency in foodstuffs and increase exports of primary sector products which are specific to their ecological conditions. The building of a more dignified rural world is the work of everyone and in this, all have shown they are equally determined. That is why mutual aid, not linked to the names of contributing countries but provided through this Organization, has been bolstering aid and helping the work of development as well as saving human beings from starvation. This achievement must be stressed, in spite of the imperfections typical of all human endeavour.

We must keep in mind the farmers whose interests we are trying to defend and whose wellbeing we are trying to ensure by seeking out what most unites us and forgetting those details which divide us. Since we have limited time, let us make good use of it by thoroughly studying the problems specific to this Organization, leaving other assemblies to deal with those other problems that they are competent to handle.

World agricultural output has grown substantially in recent years, and except in Africa where the increase in population is more marked, the per capita production has gone up regularly. This situation is encouraging. Unfortunately, however, and in spite of everything, there are still areas of the globe where hunger persists with alarming intensity, and I say "alarming" because human lives are at stake. Hunger persists due to causes that are widely known, which are capable of being eliminated and therefore within the reach of our collective efforts.

The advanced technology of the developed countries, associated with reduced demographic growth, has in many countries led to a steady increase in food production. The result is that surpluses pile up, disposing of them is not always easy, and storage is costly. This is the sort of situation which will be aggravated unless proper steps are taken to correct this distortion. The existence of these surplus foodstuffs disturbs the international market, inviting the use of special but not always straight-forward marketing measures. It brings down prices and hampers access to the markets for those countries with lower technologies, owing to difficulties which are quite well known in respect of competition in quantity, quality and price. This situation in itself disturbs the economies of the wealthy countries and severely affects the economies of the poorer countries, because such efforts as they may be making to increase their food production naturally will lead to internal surpluses. If these surpluses exist, even if they are only occasionally for lack of a market, such surpluses will act as a brake and discourage programmes of self-sufficiency in foodstuffs that some of the developing countries are engaged in.

Straight-forward dealing in international trade must be demanded by everyone, and must be put into practice by all. Instead of trying to correct these imbalances by means of a posteriori measures, it is necessary to find common ground for agreement and systems that can prevent imbalances from occurring.

Another point that we should think about is undoubtedly the support that countries with more advanced technology can give to their partners in the developing world for the better development of their resources. Portugal supports the efforts the Organization has been making in this respect because such efforts follow the kind of promotion to be implemented - putting those countries that are less wealthy but have suitable and available teams of technicians on an equal footing with those who can afford large sums of money for spending on this important type of assistance. It is our opinion that this kind of action must be reinforced. But it must always be integrated into the development policies as defined by the governments of each country whose primary concern is the wellbeing of their population. They therefore try to ensure food security which will provide the population with a sense of tranquility and will assist in guaranteeing social stability for the entire community.

Mr Chairman, I did not intend to speak in particular of the agricultural and food problems of my country in this assembly which, after all, must first and foremost concern itself with the major sectors of agriculture, food and development on a world scale. However, I would mention one or two points from those that are more closely related to FAO because of the support we have received, and because of the contribution we have made to development. Portugal has profited in particular from the accumulated experience and assistance of FAO in areas such as the Codex Alimentarius, better nutrition, renewable energy for agricultural purposes (to which my Ministry is giving a great deal of attention), in basic information relating to agrarian restructuring, agricultural and rural multipurpose activities and the role of women in agriculture. Acquisition of this knowledge, together with that obtained from other sources, we consider to be invaluable for modernizing farming in our country in the face of the great challenge - which we shall certainly meet - of our becoming a member of the European Economic Community. The new situation in which we find ourselves has been an important accelerator in the improvement of our production structures and the quality of our products. Because we know development is achieved with men, for men and through men we are

giving high priority to the training of farmers and fishermen, especially with young people in whom we have great hopes. At the same time, we are formulating the official services which give backing to those people in order that they can respond more effectively to a growing and more far-reaching demand with regard to a new generation of farmers and fishermen.

Forests constitute a priority sector for Portugal. On the one hand they are regarded as a proper way of taking advantage of poor soils where agriculture is not economically viable. On the other hand forests represent an Important basis of economic and social development within the framework of the country. Forestry already occupies more than 3 million hectares of the poorest soils of Portugal, which means about 30 percent of the entire national surface area. There are still an additional 2 million hectares classified as "uncultivated", most of which we consider will be suitable for afforestation. Therefore, for my country it is a priority task to increase the afforested area with the most suitable three species and to protect the existing forest against their natural enemies.

Forest fires in all their intensity and gravity are common to all the Mediterranean countries, and are the great destroyer of forests in Portugal as well. We are also deeply concerned with the problem of acid rain, a problem which preoccupies some of our European colleagues. But we are particularly disturbed about the threat of forest fires. So although we understand the concern expressed about acid rain, at the same time we bear in mind our own concern regarding forest fires in a Mediterranean country. Therefore, we have advocated the association of these two problems in a programme for forest defense in Europe. FAO has approved and encouraged this. We well know how greatly these matters concern FAO in view of the economic and social implications revealed by the destruction of forests. Therefore, we would be very glad if the forest fire studies which are of concern not only to the Mediterranean countries of Europe but elsewhere, were given particular attention by technicians in FAO.

We feel that there ought to be more international meetings on this matter in order to allow an exchange of information and experience between member countries, and in order to make this information available to the countries concerned, in addition to making a determined effort to train personnel specialized in fire prevention and fighting. This year in Portugal there have been 4 365 forest fires which burned 70 000 hectares of forest and 40 000 hectares of scrub land. Although these figures must be considered in the light of the total area of Portugal, which is 89 000 sq. km., they show that there has been an improvement over previous years thanks to effective steps taken by the Government and private individuals in order to prevent fires or fight them more quickly and more effectively.

In the meantime, through the Forestry Action Programme, and with the support of our own development plan for Portuguese agriculture, we are intensifying our efforts to increase the afforested area by means of new nurseries and plantations without neglecting the creation of new structures and the improvement of existing ones. All of this has been in order to give better protection and to enable greater advantage to be taken of, and added value to be given to, forestry products, namely the production of higher quality timber and increase in the local industrialization of products such as cork, resin and tanbark.

My country is about to embark upon a series of ceremonies commemorating the discoveries and the great sea voyages of the 15th and 16th centuries in which the Portuguese people played an outstanding part, through which new peoples and other civilizations became known, and through which there were exchanges of experience in the fields of new cultures, new plants and new technologies. We have indeed been in contact with the world in development for more than 500 years. We have accumulated knowledge and experience that at long last are beginning to be recognized and for a long time have been in demand. We gave to the world and to development a contribution that must be acknowledged as valuable by everyone, and the work that we have achieved testifies clearly to our effort and how much we gave, and how often, at the cost of stagnation in the development of our own land. With many of these peoples we have privileged relations, a profound knowledge of their problems and great sympathy for their concerns and preoccupation.

Although Portugal is a country without great financial resources, nonetheless in recent years we have maintained and strengthened deep and productive ties of cooperation with many of these countries, thanks to accumulated knowledge and to the knowledge that we continue to generate in our universities, centres of research and other institutions. We have consistently expressed the wish that Portuguese technicians and experts with internationally recognized experience in the tropics should be used in larger number and more frequently by this and other organizations in projects aimed at developing agriculture in tropical areas and in the progress of the local populations.

Two years ago we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Organization that this year begins a new stage with the election of its Director-General. We sincerely wish that this event may be a starting point for reinforcing FAO's action in joining together countries and peoples that can do most on behalf of those in greatest need.

Jean-Martin KAMBIRE (Burkina Faso): Monsieur le Président, au nom de La délégation du Burkina Faso, je voudrais tout d'abord vous adresser mes vives félicitations pour votre élection à la Présidence de cette 24ème Conférence. J'adresse également mes félicitations à Monsieur Edouard SAOUMA pour sa^e réélection au poste de Directeur général de la FAO. Tout en lui souhaitant plein succès dans sa lourde mission, je lui assure la disponibilité de mon pays à renforcer sa coopération avec cette grande institution dont il a la charge.

C'est pour moi un honneur de (m'adresser à cette auguste Assemblée afin d'apporter la contribution du BURKINA FASO aux réflexions menées autour des questions en débat pendant cette 24ème session de notre Conférence.

En effet, le diagnostic relève que la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture reste préoccupante, malgré les progrès accomplis dans le domaine de la production agricole dans de nombreux pays, ces dernières années. Ainsi, nous constatons que, malgré l'accroissement de la production alimentaire mondiale, l'accès à la nourriture reste un problème à résoudre pour les populations de bon nombre de pays du tiers monde. De même, ces pays qui tirent l'essentiel de leurs ressources de l'agriculture, voient leurs revenus s'anéantir avec la chute vertigineuse des prix des produits agricoles sur le marché international :c'est par exemple le cas du coton qui constitue le premier produit d'exportation du BURKINA FASO.

En Afrique sahélienne, l'amélioration de la pluviométrie ces trois dernières années s'est accompagnée malheureusement de l'apparition du fléau acridien. Grâce à la mobilisation des populations, à l'assistance de la communauté internationale et à l'efficacité de l'organisation des Services nationaux de protection des végétaux sous la coordination de la FAO, ce danger a pu être provisoirement maîtrisé; mais il nous faut rester vigilants, car nous avons gagné des batailles, mais pas encore la guerre. Je profite de cette tribune pour remercier très sincèrement tous les pays et organismes donateurs qui ont permis aux paysans de sauver leurs récoltes.

S'agissant du BURKINA FASO, la situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation présente les caractéristiques suivantes:

1) les contraintes majeures du développement de l'agriculture burkina-be résident dans:

- la grande dépendance de la production vis-à-vis des aléas climatiques,
- le caractère extensif des systèmes de production, entraînant la dégradation des ressources naturelles, facteur d'accélération de la désertification,
- le faible niveau d'équipement technique des producteurs,
- le faible niveau de formation et d'organisation des agriculteurs et des éleveurs,
- le fort taux d'analphabétisme des paysans.

2) face à cette situation d'arriération de notre agriculture, les autorités politiques du BURKINA FASO ont, depuis l'avènement de la Révolution démocratique et populaire, le 4 Août 1983, choisi de faire de l'agriculture le moteur de l'économie nationale. Ainsi, la priorité des différents Gouvernements révolutionnaires qui se' sont succédés demeure l'autosuffisance alimentaire, car un peuple qui a faim est un peuple voué à la domination; et l'édification d'une économie nationale indépendante est incompatible avec la dépendance alimentaire.

L'on comprend alors pourquoi la politique agricole du BURKINA FASO s'articule autour des trois axes suivants:

- l'intensification et la diversification des productions agricoles, en fonction des potentialités naturelles,
- la formation et l'organisation des producteurs,
- la mise en oeuvre de la réorganisation agraire et foncière.

L'intensification et la diversification des productions agricoles visent à mettre progressivement fin à la pratique de l'agriculture itinérante et de l'élevage transhumant. Il s'agit d'accroître la productivité dans un esprit de complémentarité et d'intégration mutuellement bénéfiques de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la foresterie. Les actions prioritaires suivantes ont été retenues par le Gouvernement:

- utilisation accrue d'intrants agricoles (semences améliorées, engrais et pesticides) avec un accent particulier pour la matière organique en rapport avec le développement de la culture attelée,
- recherche de la sécurisation des productions agricoles par le développement des cultures irriguées à travers la réalisation de programmes d'aménagements hydro-agricoles sur une grande échelle,
- développement des cultures fruitières et maraîchères,
- développement des productions animales, avec priorité à la pêche et au petit élevage, moins consommateurs d'espace et économiquement plus rentables,
- lutte contre l'érosion des sols, en y associant les actions de reboisement d'agroforesterie.

La formation et l'organisation des paysans visent à accroître leurs compétences professionnelles et leur capacité de gérer eux-mêmes leurs affaires afin de les responsabiliser pleinement dans une optique d'autopromotion. A cet effet, la formation coopérative, la vulgarisation agricole, l'animation et l'alphabétisation fonctionnelle constituent les actions prioritaires.

Enfin, la réorganisation agraire et foncière vise l'utilisation rationnelle des ressources naturelles, principalement de la terre, pour un développement harmonieux au bénéfice des populations, tout en préservant l'environnement. L'application de cette stratégie s'est matérialisée à travers le Programme national de gestion des terroirs villageois et le Programme national de lutte contre la désertification qui peut se résumer par le mot d'ordre des "trois luttes":

- lutte contre les feux de brousse,
- lutte contre la divagation des animaux domestiques,
- lutte contre la coupe abusive du bois.

Dans tous ces programmes, une attention particulière est accordée au renforcement et à la valorisation du rôle de la femme pour une émancipation véritable.

Bien que très récente, cette nouvelle politique a commencé à porter ses fruits grâce à la prise de conscience généralisée obtenue par la sensibilisation et l'information permanentes.

Comme vous le constatez, le Peuple Burkina-be est déterminé à gagner la bataille contre le sous-développement. Cependant, la réalisation de nombreuses actions énumérées ci-dessus et inscrites dans le cadre du premier Plan quinquennal de développement populaire 1986/1990 nécessite des moyens qui dépassent largement les ressources limitées de l'Etat Burkina-be.

Nous pensons que le financement de tels programmes doit s'insérer dans le cadre d'une aide globale consentie par la communauté internationale, aussi bien au niveau bilatéral que multilatéral. Le BURKINA FASO est favorable par ailleurs à la Coopération entre pays en développement autant qu'il est ouvert à la coopération nord-sud. Nous attendons de nos partenaires une conception du développement qui ne se limite pas à des actions ponctuelles et à des opérations d'urgence, mais qui privilégie les programmes de développement à moyen et long termes. Dans le même ordre d'idées, la conception de l'aide alimentaire doit évoluer, afin de devenir un catalyseur de la production nationale: échanges triangulaires (achat par les donateurs de céréales locales dans les pays excédentaires au bénéfice des pays déficitaires d'une même région), don d'intrants et de matériels agricoles appropriés aux producteurs.

Concernant précisément les questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour de cette 24ème Conférence, je voudrais réaffirmer l'importance que le BURKINA accorde au rôle de la FAO. En effet, cette institution spécialisée des Nations-Unies, grâce à son assistance multiforme aux Gouvernements en faveur des petits exploitants ruraux, a contribué à faire reculer les frontières de la faim et de la pauvreté dans le monde. C'est pourquoi, malgré la faiblesse de ses ressources, mon pays a toujours payé ses contributions, et dans les délais.

A ce propos j'ai le plaisir d'informer la Conférence de la décision du Gouvernement Burkina-be de renoncer aux excédents de contributions qui s'élevaient à 3 476 dollars E.-U. au titre du biennium 1984/85 compte tenu des difficultés financières de l'institution.

Je profite de cette tribune pour témoigner notre satisfaction quant à la qualité et l'importance de l'assistance de la FAO au BURKINA pour la réalisation de ses différents programmes dans le secteur agricole. Aussi, tout en approuvant le Programme de travail et de Budget 1988/89, nous déplorons la stagnation des ressources qui ne permet pas à la FAO de développer le programme de terrain et en particulier le Programme de coopération technique dont la souplesse permet de répondre rapidement à des besoins spécifiques des Gouvernements et des producteurs ruraux.

Avant de conclure mon propos, je voudrais adresser une requête du Gouvernement Burkinabe à la Conférence. En effet, le BURKINA FASO exprime, par ma voix, sa disponibilité et son souhait d'abriter le dixième Congrès forestier mondial en 1991. Cette proposition traduit la volonté farouche du peuple burkinabe de gagner la bataille contre la désertification, et je ne doute pas que notre initiative sera soutenue par tous les délégués en temps opportun.

Enfin, mon pays reste convaincu que l'humanité, grâce aux progrès scientifiques, est en mesure d'accroître les productions agricoles et d'éliminer à jamais le spectre de la faim, de la malnutrition et de la misère qui sont encore des maux dont souffrent quotidiennement de nombreux habitants de notre planète. Mais cela ne sera possible que grâce à une solidarité agissante entre tous les peuples du monde; il nous appartient donc d'aider la FAO à accomplir cette noble mission.

Je souhaite plein succès aux travaux de la 24ème session de la Conférence de la FAO.

La Patrie ou la Mort, Nous Vaincrons !

Musa ABU FREWA (Libya) (original language Arabic): On behalf of my Delegation, I would like to express my warmest congratulations to you, Sir, upon your election to the Chairmanship of this Conference. I would also like to extend my congratulations to the Vice-Chairmen. I take advantage of this opportunity to present my Delegation's congratulations to Dr Edouard Saouma upon his re-election to head the FAO for the next six years. I think this is a proof that the international community recognises the role played by Dr Saouma in contributing to and enhancing food production in the developing world.

On the subject of the economic situation, the situation of agriculture and food supplies in developing countries holds out little cause for rejoicing. This is why we think that this situation may indeed become dangerous, unless something is done to reverse the current trend. Similarly, we are convinced that the crisis has been caused by some countries with a view to undermining the economic development of developing countries, and in order to allow them to extend their hegemony. The burden of foreign debt weighing upon the developing countries, the freefall of prices of commodities exported by developing countries, the protectionist measures that have been enacted by the industrialised countries, have all contributed to hindering economic development in general, and agricultural development in particular. Certainly, to the mind of our Delegation, this differs in no way from the colonialism of earlier years, which hampered economic and social development, and prevented the move towards true independence.

We are convinced that efforts intended to undermine the United Nations system, and to put a stranglehold upon developing countries under various slogans such as reform, and equality of opportunity, is but a way of hiding the attempts that are being made to put back the clock. We are not opposed to reform - indeed, on the contrary, we advocate reform, and are firmly convinced of its desirability.

We are also prepared to join our efforts to those of others of goodwill who are seeking to ensure that the United Nations specialist agencies be more effective, and that they be strengthened in their activities, so that they can better meet the needs of the developing countries. But that being said, we must say quite frankly and openly that we reject any efforts intended to paralyse international organisations, to divert them from collective action based upon the quality of opportunity and the respect of the sovereignty of States, and efforts aimed at transforming the system into one where the rich dominate the poor.

We shall not be prepared to accept that the FAO be turned into an organisation where, to be admitted, you have to have your subscriber's card, or your purchasing-power card.

We are anxious not to waste time tonight, and for that reason we shall not go into the details of the various items before the Conference. We are convinced that our Delegation will have ample opportunity to express its views within the various specialised Commissions. However, on this occasion, I cannot but express a few comments on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1988/89.

We recognise the situation that obtains, and we understand that the FAÜ has presented a Programme of Work and Budget at a level well below the level required of the FAO, and we know that the increase of 0.25 in the Budget is not a sufficient increase. We know that it is not a logical increase, because it cannot in any way cover the costs that derive inevitably from fluctuations in rates of exchange, fluctuations in parities.

We also know that some countries have not paid their contribution, and indeed that is the main reason for the financial crisis that the FAO currently faces: this is why we would ask all countries in general, and industrialised countries in particular, to pay their contributions. There is no reason why these countries should delay the payment of their contributions, because by so doing they prevent the FAO from implementing the programme which it has been entrusted with by the Conference.

I would like, at this point, to emphasise the absolute priority that we attach to the Technical Cooperation Programme, which is designed to meet the most pressing needs of the developing countries. For this reason, we should like to support those who have lent their support to the current budget level, and we hope that any shrinkage in the budget will be only very temporary -and we hope, in particular, that this will not affect FAO's activities.

Agriculture is the basic component in my country's development strategy, a development strategy which aims at self-sufficiency, and which seeks to free us from dependence upon imports. We are quite convinced that he or she who is able to eat has freedom. Obviously, no nation can be free if its food comes from beyond its boundaries, and that is why the agricultural sector has received the major share of our investment programme, and its investment, as I say, has gone first and foremost to the agriculture sector which, over the period 1970 to 1986, has received \$14 billion in investment - that is to say, seventeen percent of the total expenditure of the State, in all sectors.

This investment in agricultural projects and programmes has resulted in a considerable development of agriculture and animal husbandry, in order to meet local consumption needs. Similarly, we have developed citrus fruits; we have expanded various other crops, and we have also increased poultry farming, as well as other activities. We have stepped up our wheat production, and in this way it has been possible to considerably reduce our dependency upon foreign sources of supply, and import much less.

Over the last seventeen years, our development projects have represented a total of some one hundred and seventeen, as a result of which more than two million hectares have been developed. In turn, this has enabled us to increase our production of wheat and barley from 49 000 tons in 1970 to 400 000 tons in 1986; vegetable production has gone up from 2 000 tons in 1970 to 700 000 tons in 1986; fruit production has gone up from 90 000 tons to 350 000 tons between 1970 and 1986; and meat production has gone from 25 000 to 110 000 tons over the same period.

These increases in production are evidence of the great interest that the Jamahira takes in food security, both nationally and internationally; and within the framework of international co-operative activity, particularly co-operation between developing countries, and with a view to joining our efforts towards combating hunger and malnutrition, the Jamahira has set up more than twenty-two joint ventures in the agricultural sector - joint ventures with other nations with whom we enjoy good relations. These are beneficial to all the participants, and contribute to enhancing food security in the world.

My Delegation expresses the hope that the Resolutions before the Conference will measure up to the heavy burden which the Organization is called upon to carry, so as to promote agricultural development and contribute to furthering the wellbeing of the rural population, with a view to eradicating hunger and malnutrition across the world, so that mankind may live in freedom and dignity. We are convinced that a people's freedom is only true freedom if it is based upon economic freedom.

Hugh HEYLIGER (Saint Christopher and Nevis): I am indeed privileged to be afforded the opportunity to address this 24th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization today.

Let me first of all congratulate the Chairman and the many others who have been elected to the various offices at this very important Conference. I must offer special congratulations to Dr Edouard Saouma on his election to serve a third term as Director-General of FAO. Mr Chairman, his re-election to office is certainly an endorsement for the excellent job he has been doing as he seeks to steer this Organization on the path to achieve the goal for which it was established.

Mr Chairman, this Conference provides us with a glorious opportunity to seriously evaluate the global situation as it pertains to agriculture. Indeed, we need to adopt a pragmatic approach as we analyse and evaluate the work of the FAO and seek to devise various strategies and programmes geared to further strengthen the FAO with the ultimate goal of increasing agricultural production in the developing countries, and combat the problem of poverty, hunger and malnutrition worldwide and improve rural standards of living.

Mr Chairman, there is much talk about "International Agricultural Adjustment" and the need for structural adjustment in the Agricultural Sector of the developing countries. To seriously examine this issue and to seek to devise a way forward would of necessity involve a serious analysis and evaluation of the issue of dependence.

Mr Chairman, briefly, the issue of dependence is a phenomenon with which the developing countries have been struggling for centuries. Taken in the historical and political context, the developing countries, in colonial times, served as a source of primary commodity production. Primary goods were produced for the "mother country" and the pattern was set for the structure and development of open export-led economies. The colonies became exporters of primary commodities and importers of finished goods. This pattern continued even after political independence was achieved. Indeed, it still exists in many cases today.

The dependency phenomenon, in recent times, takes the form of technological, financial and market dependence. As countries seek to reorganize, restructure and reorient their economies, the need for the infusion of large capital inflows becomes readily apparent. Thus, with a relatively small or non-existent capital base developing countries are forced to seek this financial assistance from the developed countries, thus repeating the cycle of dependence.

Mr Chairman, given the structure of the economies of the developing countries, any programme of structural adjustment of the economy as a whole and the agricultural sector in particular, must be a long term undertaking. The process would need the cooperation and assistance of the developed countries in the form of not only technical and financial assistance, but also easy access to their markets. Developing countries are faced with falling commodity prices and rising cost of production. This is further aggravated by the agricultural policies adopted by many developed countries where the agricultural sector in many of these countries receives huge direct and indirect subsidies that tend to distort production and trade, promote inefficient production and shut out our market opportunities.

It is imperative that the developing countries be afforded the opportunity of being able to reorient our agricultural sectors, increasing production and achieving a measure of food security. This adjustment would involve the development and upgrading of necessary infrastructure, and the transfer of appropriate technology. In addition, it would involve the removal of non-tariff barriers which are used to limit the access of goods from the developing countries to the market of the developed countries.

Mr Chairman, the developed countries must not just pay lip service to the issue of structural adjustment and impose unrealistic conditions; they must assist with its implementation. We in the developing countries cannot undertake the process by ourselves; it must be a cooperative effort. We are ready, willing and able. Mr Chairman, without the proper access to these markets, the adjustment process is doomed to fail, and will in the long run have a devastating effect on the economies of many of the developed countries. It must be remembered that we provide a ready market for a significant proportion of the manufactured goods produced in these developed countries. It is important that we are afforded the opportunity of securing the hard currency needed to purchase not only the range of inputs needed for the agricultural sector but also many of the consumer goods which find their way into our markets.

Mr Chairman, the issue of modernisation and diversification is necessary if we are to tackle the problem of poverty, hunger and malnutrition; if we are to meet the aspirations of all of our people. The FAO has a clear role to play in this, and I am confident that with all of our collective will and effort, we will find a way forward.

Mr Chairman, the problem of post harvest losses must be seriously addressed. The losses suffered by farmers tend to be a disincentive and seriously affect productivity and total output in the Sector.

It is imperative that programmes developed to assist in alleviating this problem must of necessity assist farmers at the field level. This must be in addition to the development of storage and processing facilities. This assistance should also involve training at all levels: the professionals, sub-professionals, technicians, farmers, and all workers involved in the transportation of produce.

Mr Chairman, we in the Caribbean make a case for special consideration to be given to small states with limited natural resources. In most cases our only resources are our land and our people. The combination of these two vital resources is critical to the whole development process. However, small states, especially small island states tend to be characterised by small open economies, with limited resources base, limited capital due to a low level of domestic saving, a very high import ratio, and negative balance of trade and balance of payments. Although the problem of poverty, hunger and malnutrition may not be readily evident in our region, it is important that the special situation of small states be seriously considered and given the appropriate assistance. Let us not wait until there is a crisis to act.

Mr Chairman, too often we find a situation where inappropriate "tools" are used by donor countries to determine the type and level of assistance to be provided to various countries. We hear about one's absorptive capacity and per capita income.

Mr Chairman, these crude measures in no way provide a serious analysis and evaluation of the real situation and the problems that affect a country, more so a developing country. In the context of economic development, Mr Chairman, it is imperative that we look at the pockets of underdevelopment and the level of development of people. Because, at the end of the day, if the average individual is not affected by the assistance given, then there is no development.

Mr Chairman, instead of using per capita income, I am proposing that we use indicators like the level of health care, education, housing, nutrition and income distribution. These would certainly give an indication as to not only the types of programmes needed but also the levels of assistance required.

Mr Chairman, I would now provide a cursory glance at what is taking place in my country, St. Christopher and Nevis. Mr Chairman, we have just published our five year development plan which highlights the role agriculture must play in the overall economic development process. Moving from the state of a sugar monoculture, special emphasis will be placed on food crop production, livestock and fisheries; indeed the training and development of our human resources will receive special attention.

With assistance from the Caribbean Development Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the United Nations Development Programme, we have recently completed an Agricultural Diversification Programme which seeks to develop a viable small farm sector by improving production and marketing, strengthening of the organizational structure of support institutions especially the Department of Agriculture, improve credit arrangements for crops and livestock and stimulate the process of modernization and improve the viability of the fishing sub-sector.

The whole aim is to increase farm incomes of the target population and to make agriculture attractive and a dynamic growth sector.

This programme has put together various policies and projects geared to the structural adjustment of the agricultural sector. The FAO has played a significant role in the development process in St. Christopher and Nevis over the relatively short period since we attained membership in this Organization. Mr Chairman, the FAO has provided assistance with the undertaking of an agricultural

census, livestock development and milk production, fodder bank development, agricultural planning, setting up of a soil advisory service, the development of a monitoring and evaluation of projects programme, to highlight but a few projects. We are anticipating increased involvement of the FAO as we implement this important agricultural diversification programme.

Mr Chairman, with assistance from the Caribbean Development Bank we have constructed feeder roads to provide access to unutilized and underutilized fertile land. The CDB also provided assistance in the form of a loan to enable government to procure heavy duty equipment to be used in land preparation, thus providing valuable assistance to our dispossessed and underprivileged small farmers. Assistance from the United States of America, through USAID, has enabled us to undertake a major Soil Conservation and Watershed Management programme; the United Kingdom has provided assistance with the upgrading of some marketing outlets and the construction of a new Administration Building for the Department of Agriculture. Other agencies have provided assistance.

Mr Chairman, it is important to note that almost 70 percent of our IPF under the present cycle of our UNDP Programme has been allocated to the agricultural sector. We are not just paying lip service to the programme of structural adjustment. We allocate significant shares not only of "aid" assistance, but also of our own scarce resources to the process, as we intend to help ourselves significantly.

The role of women in agriculture forms an integral part of our adjustment programme, and special programmes have been developed to fully integrate women in the process and ensure that they receive not only adequate, but just compensation.

The Ministry of Women's Affairs works in very close association with my Ministry to ensure that the contribution of women to the sector is properly and appropriately recognised.

Mr Chairman, we are now poised to implement a land use/land tenure policy which will go a Long way in helping our small farmers. Special provisions and necessary legislation have been implemented to ensure little disruption of the environment.

Mr Chairman, let me now turn to the issue of REFORM, an issue which seems to be very important at this Conference. My delegation has no problem with the concept of administrative and other reforms. However, any reform of FAO must take into consideration the on-going programme already undertaken by FAO itself which has already impacted on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organisation. My delegation does not support the proposal as put forward in the resolution.

Mr Chairman, my delegation supports the Programme of Work and Budget as presented. We further support the efforts of the Director-General with respect to the TCP activities, and we would like to see the TCP budget strengthened. This programme has proved vital and critical in the development of small states.

Mr Chairman, the World Food Situation is critical and I would propose that it is not just a problem of production, but distribution as well. Let us resolve the critical food situation not only in Africa but throughout the world, and in so doing achieve some measure of social justice. Let us not be sidetracked by certain issues which can only delay and frustrate. The need is great and the time is NOW.

Mr Chairman, in closing, let me say that this year's World Food Day celebration focused on the "Small Farmer". Now that we have done this let us make the hopes and aspirations of this target group a reality; let us bring a brighter day to this deprived and neglected group.

Dasho Leki DORJI (Bhutan): Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a great honour for me to address this General Conference of the FAO. May I, on behalf of my delegation and on my own, congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to this very important post. In spite of the many difficult issues we shall no doubt be confronted with in this session, we are confident that under your wise and able leadership our deliberations will proceed smoothly and successfully.

My delegation would like to avail of this opportunity to offer our warm felicitations to the honourable Director-General whose well-deserved re-election has so auspiciously coincided with this session of the General Conference. We wish him every success in carrying out his onerous responsibilities. We believe his new term will see a further increase in support for FAO and its dedicated service, and a greater effectiveness in the use of the resources entrusted to it.

For Bhutan, as for many other developing countries, FAO plays a vital role in agriculture and forestry sectors. At the same time, we would like to acknowledge the complementary role of the other UN institutions, and other international and regional development agencies, whose collaboration and co-ordination are necessary if optimal use is to be made of development assistance. In this connection, I would like to pay tribute to the UNUP, and would like to express the hope that the excellent working relationships now established in Bhutan between the UNDP, FAO and WFP, will further improve and grow over the years to come.

The Himalayas are as much a challenge to farmers as they are to climbers. The ruggedness of the terrain and the high altitude set strict limits to the agricultural season. Still, agriculture has been the mainstay of our people through the ages, and from the reign of our previous King, which coincided with the beginning of planned economic development in the kingdom, the frontiers of agriculture have been extended. Our five-year plans have paid special attention to the development of agriculture. This has been made possible by the wise guidance and deep commitment and attention given by His Majesty the King to the problems of the rural sector. The generous assistance of both multilateral and bilateral donors have contributed effectively towards establishing a sound base for agricultural development in Bhutan. In the Sixth Plan, in addition to our traditional donors, chief among which is India, substantial aid is also anticipated from Switzerland and Japan.

Mr Chairman, as an indication of our concerted efforts in the field of agriculture, I wish to report that we have just celebrated World Food Day on 16 October with the major focus on the small farmers of Eastern Bhutan.

Although the priorities in the first four development plans have perforce leaned towards basic infrastructural development, the underlying objectives of achieving improved living standards for the people and of self-reliance were accorded an increasingly important place within the resources available, with greatly enhanced development expenditure, notably in agriculture, during the Fifth Plan. Throughout, despite the efforts made over the past 25 years to create the skilled manpower resources required to meet the needs for a modern administration geared to development, virtually every service and development activity in the kingdom has been constrained to some extent by the shortage of appropriately trained and experienced manpower.

In the Sixth Plan, therefore, while the two major objectives are to attain food self-sufficiency and to raise the per capita income of the rural population, human resources development is reflected as an essential requirement for development as well as a desired end in itself.

Towards this end, agricultural training is assigned high priority and, accordingly, a new Agricultural Training Institute is to be established, in the early stages of which FAO will play a major role.

Agriculture and animal husbandry remain by far the most important sector in Bhutan's primarily agrarian economy, providing the main source of employment and income for over 90% of the population whose well-being, and that of the land and water upon which they depend, are related to the preservation of the natural forests which now cover some 70% of the kingdom's land surface.

Forests, therefore, play a vitally important role in conservation in all its aspects, so that while their carefully planned commercial exploitation provides a valuable source of export earnings, their role in conserving the natural environment is paramount, not only for the sake of future generations of Bhutanese, but also for the welfare of millions who live downstream of Bhutan's major rivers. During the course of preparation of the Sixth Plan, therefore, every aspect of potential erosion and of counter-measures in soil and water conservation were explored - an exercise to which FAO contributed in several ways, including a Rural Development Workshop, and subsequently, a TCP consultancy on shifting cultivation.

Mr Chairman, my Government is profoundly appreciative of FAO's assistance, which has increased considerably over the past three years, and we are particularly grateful for access to TCP funding, for although the sums involved are relatively small, flexibility and timely response have played a part in establishing the usefulness of TCP.

Mr Chairman, the last conférence; was an occasion to offer congratulations to FAO on its Fortieth Anniversary. Now, two years later, natural calamities and unfavourable terms of trade continue to act as a brake on virtually every Third World economy. FAO and its members must, therefore, strive harder to overcome the difficulties that beset us so mercilessly.

My Government, Mr Chairman, supports the proposed Programme of Work and Budget presented by the Director-General. Similarly, we shall be fully prepared to support any changes that will result in more efficient use of the resources made available to us through FAO.

Our limited experience seems to suggest that the suitability and competence of experts that FAO fields, represents one key element that can either improve or lower the effectiveness of FAO assistance. However, we do believe that FAO continuously strives to do the best it can.

Mr Chairman, we in Druk Yul, or Bhutan as we are known to the outside world, attach great significance to our association with FAO, and we are keen to further step up the level of this interaction. It is in this vein, Mr Chairman, that I now urge the Director-General, in his wisdom and in recognition of the greatly increased level of FAO activity in Bhutan, to raise the status of the FAO sub-office in Thimphu, to something more appropriate to its level of activity in Bhutan.

In conclusion, I offer you my TASHI DELEK.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Les delegations du Mali, des Bahamas et du Niger nous ont fait savoir qu'elles ne seront pas en mesure de prononcer leur intervention durant le débat général et qu'elles en enverront le texte pour insertion au procès-verbal.

Issa ONGOIBA (Mali): Je voudrais tout d'abord vous remercier pour l'insigne honneur qui m'est ainsi fait de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée.

Permettez-moi de saisir l'occasion qui m'est ainsi offerte pour adresser mes vives félicitations au bureau qui vient d'être élu pour diriger les travaux de cette vingt-quatrième session et dont vous assurez la haute présidence.

Je tiens aussi à adresser ces félicitations au Directeur général de la FAO pour sa réélection, et à lui exprimer ma profonde gratitude, ainsi qu'à tout son personnel, pour les efforts qu'ils déploient et n'ont jamais cessé de déployer pour la matérialisation des nobles idéaux de notre Organisation.

Chaque session de la Conférence de la FAO doit être l'occasion pour la communauté internationale de méditer sur la situation alimentaire mondiale.

Grâce aux progrès de la science et de la technique, l'homme a la possibilité de subvenir aux besoins alimentaires de toute la population terrestre.

Cependant, force est de constater que la faim et la malnutrition connaissent une évolution dramatique dans de nombreux pays du tiers monde, particulièrement en Afrique, en Asie et en Amérique latine.

Pourtant, la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation qui s'est tenue en 1974 avait fixé une échéance de dix ans pour enrayer la famine de notre planète. Les résultats atteints depuis sont bien en deçà des espérances et la situation va en s'empirant.

En Afrique, la crise alimentaire a atteint des proportions si alarmantes que les Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement ont adopté en 1985 un programme prioritaire de redressement économique de l'Afrique qui donne la priorité absolue au secteur alimentaire et agricole.

Cette position a été confirmée dans le programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique de l'Afrique (1986-1990) adopté par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies en Mai 1986.

En Septembre 1986, l'étude faite par la FAO et intitulée "L' agriculture africaine, les 25 prochaines années" aboutissait à la conclusion que le redressement économique de l'Afrique dépend des augmentations de la production et de la productivité.

Mais comment augmenter la production et la productivité si l'Afrique est frappée de plein fouet, par les effets de la crise économique internationale; si elle est handicapée de surcroît par une lourde dette extérieure, la baisse des prix de ses exportations agricoles et la montée du protectionnisme? Et enfin pour les pays africains sahéliens les efforts ne sont-ils pas annihilés par le fléau de la sécheresse?

Dans les conditions actuelles, la paupérisation du monde rural va en s'amplifiant, privant ainsi les agriculteurs des possibilités d'investir dans les intrants nécessaires à l'amélioration de la production.

Il est grand temps d'instaurer un ordre économique plus juste et plus durable afin que les pays africains qui viennent à peine de se remettre des durs effets de la sécheresse et de la famine puissent sortir de la récession économique et aborder la dernière décennie du 20ème siècle avec plus d'espoir et de confiance.

Le Mali a particulièrement été éprouvé par la sécheresse des années 70 et du début des années 80. Ses conséquences sur les hommes et le cheptel ont été si désastreuses qu'il a fallu des actions énergiques tant aux plans national qu'international pour éviter l'hécatombe.

Grace à Dieu, les campagnes agricoles 1985/86 et 1986/1987 ont été marquées par des pluviométries relativement satisfaisantes. La production céréalière a atteint 1 780 700 tonnes en 1986/1987 contre moins de 1 million de tonnes en 1984/85, cependant si la production en céréales sèches a dépassé le niveau des besoins, il n'en a pas été de même pour la production rizicole où le Mali accuse un déficit de plus de 100 000 tonnes.

Pourtant, mon pays dispose de vastes plaines irrigables en toute saison, et de ressources importantes en eau.

Cet immense potentiel, s'il était exploité, nous permettrait non seulement d'assurer notre autosuffisance alimentaire, mais aussi de contribuer à celle de toute la sous-région.

Le Mali n'est-il pas connu jusqu'à un passé récent pour être le grenier de l'Afrique de l'Ouest?

Dans le secteur de l'élevage, de gros efforts sont accomplis dans le sens d'une exploitation rationnelle du cheptel, de l'amélioration de ses conditions d'alimentation et d'une meilleure couverture sanitaire de ce cheptel.

Dans le domaine forestier, l'accent est surtout mis sur les actions de lutte contre la désertification et l'avancée du désert.

A cet égard, mon pays a déjà élaboré un Plan de lutte contre la désertification, dont la mise en oeuvre, à travers des programmes et projets concrets, devra nous permettre de restaurer l'équilibre écologique et d'assurer un véritable développement du pays, car à notre avis, cette lutte doit être perçue dans un contexte de développement. Quant au secteur de la pêche, les actions sont surtout orientées vers le développement de la pisciculture, l'empoisonnement des grandes mares, l'amélioration des techniques de pêche, l'étude de la dynamique des populations halieutiques.

Le Mali a bien vite compris que la priorité qu'il accorde au secteur rural doit passer nécessairement par l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations rurales.

C'est pourquoi le Parti et le Gouvernement ont opté pour le développement endogène et participatif à la base, lequel est axé sur la responsabilisation pleine et entière des populations rurales.

C'est ainsi qu'on assiste de plus en plus à une véritable transformation structurelle du monde rural. Des initiatives de base se développent sur toute l'étendue du territoire.

Sous l'impulsion du Parti et du Gouvernement, des associations villageoises, communément appelées Tons Villageois, se constituent et accomplissent certaines fonctions précédemment dévolues aux structures étatiques. Ces dernières les assistent et opèrent progressivement des transferts de responsabilités à leur niveau.

Les résultats très encourageants obtenus par cette approche de développement basée sur l'auto-promotion des communautés villageoises forcent l'admiration et confirment la justesse de l'orientation prise par le Parti et le Gouvernement.

La présente campagne agricole a été caractérisée par une installation tardive des pluies. Cependant, les cultures n'ont pas encore connu des attaques brutales et spontanées des ravageurs comme ce fut le cas la campagne précédente. C'est dire que les actions préventives menées par nos pays avec l'aide de la communauté internationale se sont avérées utiles et efficaces.

Je saisis cette occasion solennelle pour exprimer ma profonde reconnaissance à tous les bailleurs de fonds et à tous les organismes qui nous ont apporté aide et assistance dans le domaine de la protection des végétaux.

Cette aide s'est concrétisée dans beaucoup d'autres domaines, mais surtout dans le Programme de restructuration du marché céréalier mis en oeuvre par mon pays depuis 1981.

Ce programme vise à corriger les distorsions au niveau du marché des céréales. Notre politique céréalière préconise l'encouragement du secteur non public tout en veillant à une meilleure adéquation des prix et des revenus en fonction des quantités disponibles de céréales.

La faim, la malnutrition, la pauvreté et la maladie constituent de véritables défis que l'humanité se doit de relever.

Pour ce faire, l'égoïsme doit faire place à la solidarité, le désordre à l'ordre, l'aide alimentaire à l'aide au développement.

Les pays en développement ne doivent pas être confinés dans un état d'éternels assistés, car une telle situation peut être préjudiciable à la paix mondiale.

La Communauté internationale doit soutenir les actions propres à accroître la production et la productivité dans les campagnes en permettant au monde rural d'avoir accès aux intrants, aux services et aux crédits nécessaires. C'est en cela que le Plan d'aide alimentaire aux pays en voie de développement que mon collègue Ministre français de l'agriculture a décidé de promouvoir trouve toute son importance.

En effet ce programme, auquel nous souscrivons, consiste à moraliser le marché des céréales en évitant que les grands producteurs ne vendent à des prix très bas leurs stocks, mais au prix de revient du pays le plus compétitif en dessous du prix mondial.

Les sommes ainsi dégagées seraient ensuite utilisées pour mettre en place un plan d'aide alimentaire, qui se situe autour de trois axes: couverture des besoins immédiats des pays en développement, soutien technique et apport du savoir-faire.

Avant de conclure je voudrais Monsieur le Président, au nom du Parti et du Gouvernement de la République du Mali, remercier d'une part tous mes collègues qui m'ont précédé à cette tribune et ont fait des exposés brillants et constructifs, et d'autre part la FAO et tous les pays et Organisations internationales qui continuent de nous aider dans le développement de nos productions agricoles, animales, forestières et hydrologiques, et j'ose espérer que ces efforts ne seront pas vains pour la lutte contre la faim dans le monde.

Le Mali est en tout cas engagé aux côtés de tous les peuples épris de paix et de justice pour mener le combat contre la faim et le sous-développement, et c'est sur cette note d'espoir qu'il faut espérer que les Etats qui s'engagent sur la voie de cette lutte sauront sauver l'humanité. 1/

1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

Erwin KNOWLES (Bahamas):

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE AND RECENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

The Commonwealth of the Bahamas became an independent country within the British Commonwealth in July, 1973. The country forms an archipelago of approximately 700 islands and cays covering nearly 100 000 square miles of the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of South-east Florida, extending southward to Northern Hispaniola. The resident population is predominantly young, with about 50 percent below the age of 16. The political system is based upon the British Westminster model of parliamentary democracy, with a bi-cameral legislature made up of an appointed Senate and an elected House of Representatives, and an independent judiciary.

The Bahamas has been significantly influenced by political and economic events in Europe and the United States. Historically, the economy has been an open one, with a strong service sector orientation, as a result of the country's geographic position and lack of significant natural resources. Initially, much of the economic activity is dependent upon the availability of good, and plentiful harbors. It has provided alternately a base for pirates (the most famous being Edward Teach, otherwise known as Blackbeard), for British raids against Spanish gold shipments, for gun running to the Southern States during the American Civil War and bootlegging during the prohibition period in the United States. Since the more widespread advent of air travel in the 1930s the economy entered into its most sustained period of economic development based upon a fuller exploitation of the country's tourism potential. To this has been added the development of an international finance center from the early 1960s, as a result of taxation and foreign capital movement legislation introduced in the United States and Europe.

Tourism is of overwhelming importance to the economy, accounting indirectly and directly for about 35 percent of GDP and providing employment for over 50 percent of the working population. This growth has not been accidental, but is a result of consistent Government policies since the end of the Second World War. Tourism promotion has been vigorous, with considerable Government resources devoted to what has become a very sophisticated tourism marketing effort. Furthermore, successive Governments have adopted and implemented policies that have fostered private sector confidence and investment in the sector. This pragmatism and consistency accounts in no small measure for the very successful development of the offshore banking sector.

Economic growth and development has not been uniformly distributed throughout the country, with most of the advances being made in New Providence and Grand Bahama islands. As a result, migration, particularly to New Providence and Nassau, have imposed social and infrastructural difficulties, and inhibited the more rapid expansion of the economic opportunities on other islands. Furthermore, the very open nature of the economy, together with the strong reliance on one major sector, has made the economy very vulnerable to external economic developments.

Foreign investment has played a crucial role in the country's economic development, particularly during the 1960s when growth averaged 9.0 percent per annum. It has been estimated that during this period, direct private foreign investment, excluding the financial sector, exceeded one billion \$U.S. dollars, most of which was in the tourist sector, with the result that by the early 1970s it was estimated that 80 percent of tourist accommodations were foreign owned. The crucial, catalytic role of foreign investment continues; however, since the early 1970s there have been some significant modifications. Following independence, the Government has sought to follow a Bahamianization policy which has manifested itself in various forms. In particular, the Government, through its Hotel Corporation, took a role in hotel construction and ownership and has established other organizations designed to foster local entrepreneurship in other areas that serve the tourist sector. In 1981, the Government passed the Immovable Properties Act, designed to bring greater control to land and property transfers.

The robust economic performance recorded in the 1960s has not been followed in the 1970s for a variety of reasons. Economic recession abroad, particularly with regard to the oil price shocks of 1973 and 1979, a temporary uncertainty occasioned by Independence in 1973, all served to reduce investment in the country's leading sectors. Nevertheless, by the end of the decade, the economy recovered rapidly, led by strong growth in tourism from the United States and renewed growth in construction activity, both residential and in the tourism sectors. The number of stopover visitors rose sharply by 22 percent in 1978 and by 14 percent in 1979, which undoubtedly influenced investor expectations with a doubling of construction which started in 1979 and again in 1980. This rapid advance in economic activity in these two years had a favourable impact upon unemployment, however, the demand for skilled artisans created shortages amongst particular categories. This problem of an adequate supply of sufficiently trained, skilled workers has persisted, with the result that structural unemployment remains a major development challenge.

Agriculture

The Government attached considerable importance to the expansion of domestic production to reduce import dependence and increase linkages with the tourism sector. The various programmes introduced over the past decade have had varying degrees of success, and total agricultural and fishing activities still account for less than 5 percent of GDP, and only about 25 percent of the acreage that is suitable for tillage is presently being utilized. A variety of impediments inhibit the sector's growth. Local labour is expensive and scarce, which demands a high degree of mechanisation. The present system of Packing Houses and Product Exchanges is constantly being reviewed and upgraded to better meet the needs of farmers. As with agriculture, there is considerable potential to expand the Bahamas fishing industry, and Government is presently undertaking a review and redrafting a variety of fishing regulations that will upgrade quality and marketing arrangements.

Social

Substantial progress has been made by the Government in improvement of the level of health care and education over the past decade there has been a steady increase in student/teacher ratios and the coverage of the education system is good. The quality of the system required further enhancement, however, and more efforts needed to expand technical and science training, particularly as these pertain to specific industrial vocation skills. The country is facing a housing shortage. In recognition of this, the Government is increasing its involvement in the sector. In 1983, the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation was formed to provide low cost housing finance and a reorganized Ministry of Housing and National Insurance is providing private construction incentive grants for low income housing construction. To further consolidate the progress made to date, there is an urgent need to develop the land title recording system and undertake a comprehensive physical development plan for New Providence that covers land use, zoning, infrastructural and utility requirements and environmental and ecological factors.

Recent Economic Developments

The Bahamian economy of the early eighties has performed well, further consolidating upon the gains made in the late seventies. There was a very significant decline in 1981, as a result of a 12.8 percent decline in stop-over visitors and a reduction in manufactured exports from the offshore manufacturing sector with the closure of the steel plant and a sharp fall in cement production. Both occurrences may be traced to economic recession in the United States and indicate the economy's vulnerability and reliance upon the economic performance in the U.S. Since this year, however, there has been steady growth, with stop-over visitors in 1984 some 27 percent higher than the low recorded in 1981. Furthermore, while construction activity declined from late 1983 and during 1984 following completion of two major hotel projects, manufacturing output has risen steadily, particularly in the pharmaceutical and chemical sectors.

TABLE 1
SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS
(Percentage Changes)

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Real GDP m.p. 1/ (1977 prices)	6.7	-9.0	7.5	3.2	6.4
Private Consumption (1977 prices)	-3.3	-2.2	-0.7	1.1	6.0
Tourist Days	7.8	-10.3	1.7	9.6	3.8
Export of Goods (1977 prices)	10.0	-8.4	8.6	8.7	9.8
Import (1977 prices)	10.4	3.9	4.4	8.1	6.8
Construction (1977 prices) 2/	34.0	37.0	5.0	14.7	-12.5
Electricity sales (kwh)	0.5	-2.1	4.2	9.8	10.6

1/ Deflators used are staff estimates, and details of their various compositions may be found in the note preceeding the statistical annex.

2/ Estimated utilizing the Statistics Department's methodology of moving average of the value of construction starts.

Source: - Various tables in the Statistical Annexes

Investment has averaged about 21 percent of GDP over the past five years, which is almost double that recorded (11.9 percent) over the preceeding five years and represents a healthy expression of confidence in the country's economic future. Much of this investment has been in construction, particularly in the expansion of tourism accommodation capacity, with Government involvement in two large hotel projects in 1982 and 1983. In some respects, the pace of this expansion in tourism capacity, which has been concentrated in New Providence, has caused some concern amongst both private and public sector officials involved in the tourism industry. It is felt that considerable excess capacity might exist, depressing occupancy rates and ultimately operator profitability. Residential and other commercial construction has also been very robust, particularly in New Providence, reflecting expansion in offshore banking and rising disposable incomes. Completion of the large hotel projects noted above and re-equipment in some public corporations, has caused public sector capital formation, as a share of GDP, to fall to its lowest level in over ten years. Given the infrastructure needs of the country, particularly in the Family Islands, this level of public sector investment may be too low.

The unemployment rate in 1979 was 14.3 percent with a labour force participation rate of 45.9 percent. While specific data is unavailable, it is believed that this unemployment rate has declined over the past five years. IMF staff estimates for selected sectors indicate that employment during 1980-1984 has increased at an average annual rate of about 4%, which when compared to a rate of population national increase of 1.8% per annum, does suggest that substantial progress has been made in the reduction of overall unemployment. Nevertheless, these advances have not been distributed across all age and sex groups and geographic zones. Migration to Nassau and New Providence, particularly amongst the younger age groups, has created pressure upon the capital city's absorptive capacity and it is believed that unemployment in this age group is high.

In the Family Islands, employment opportunities that meet the expectations, or skill levels, of younger workers are deficient. On the other hand, shortages of labour occur in larger scale agriculture, which are often met by utilizing legal and illegal migrants from other Caribbean countries. Overall, employment growth has been most rapid in the hotel sector, although there was a substantial rise in Government employment in 1981 and 1982. While exports from the offshore manufacturing sector have improved, employment in the manufacturing sector has declined, reflecting the closure of the steel and cement plants, and substantial reductions in capacity utilization in the oil refinery in Grand Bahama.

TABLE 2
EMPLOYMENT IN SELECTED SECTORS
(In Thousands)

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Government	12.04	12.71	18.79	14.07	14.32
Other Public Sectors 1/	-	-	-	3.30	3.38
Hotels & Restaurants	6.60	6.70	6.80	7.57	8.34
Offshore Manufacturing 2/	139	1.37	1.33	1.09	1.04
Financial Sector	2.57	2.73	2.84	2.96	-

1/ Bahamas Electricity Corporation, Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation, Bahamasair, Bahamas Broadcasting Corporation, The Central Bank of The Bahamas, and Water and Sewerage Corporation.

2/ Including petroleum industries.

Source: - IMF Staff Estimates

The balance of payments of the Bahamas exhibits a number of characteristics that are common to the region. First, the Bahamas has historically exhibited large negative trade balances, counteracted by large net inflows on the service account as a result of tourism revenues. Second, the large amount of foreign investment that has occurred, particularly in the development of the tourist sector, has meant that factor service payments and investment income paid abroad have been large, averaging 10.2% of GDP over the past eight years. As a result, the current account, and the resource balance, is subject to significant short run volatility following the volatility of tourism visitor arrivals and investor expectations. Furthermore, while import levels will adjust to lower economic activity, they tend to do so with an appreciable lag. Consequently, considerable emphasis is placed by the Central Bank on monitoring and control of the balance of payments. In particular, considerable attention is directed at domestic credit creation and the consumer credit component of this. This policy emphasis is appropriate given the openness of the economy and the lack of fiscal policy instruments that may serve to depress demand during periods of lower foreign earnings.

The nominal value of the Bahamian dollar is maintained at par with the U.S. dollar. As a result, the nominal effective exchange rate of the Bahamas has appreciated significantly over the past four years, reflecting the rise in the U.S. dollar. Over this period, the real effective exchange rate of the Bahamian dollar (utilizing relative consumer price indices) is estimated to have appreciated by 27 percent. Despite this rise, the current account and resource balances have improved continually since 1981. In 1983, the current account balance became positive for the first time in five years and reached 1.4 percent of GDP in 1984. This general improvement is a result of substantial improvement in merchandise exports in 1982 (25.8 percent increase) due to rapid growth in the pharmaceutical industry in Grand Bahama and an increase in exports of alcoholic beverages. In 1983 and 1984, the further improvement in the current account balance was due to the rapid growth in tourism receipts, reflecting the economic growth in the United States. This growth in tourism receipts more than offset the rise in imports due to the growth in domestic economic activity.

Net capital movements recorded a large surplus in 1981, however, the position has weakened since then and moved into deficit in 1983 and 1984. This deterioration reflects a shift of both the public and private sectors from large external borrowings in 1981 and 1982 to net payments of such borrowings of the Hotel Corporation to finance hotel construction, with repayment starting in 1984. Despite these movements, net official foreign reserves have improved almost continually since 1978 with substantial improvements in 1984, which appears to be continuing into 1985. These reserves now represent about eight weeks of imports and, as such, are at their highest level in over eight years 1/.

Interest rates in the Bahamas have tended to remain very stable throughout the 1980s despite wide movements in international rates and in domestic price inflation. The commercial banks prime lending rate has remained fixed at 11 percent since 1981, while the bank rate moved once from 9 to 10 percent in January 1982. As a result, real interest rates have fluctuated considerably over the past eight years. Deposit rates were negative for four years, from 1978 to 1981, with a peak in 1980 of 4.6 percent. Prime lending rates were also marginally negative, particularly in 1980. Given this interest rate situation, it is not surprising that during the period 1979 to 1981, credit extended by the commercial banks significantly exceeded the increase in local currency deposits. This development was a reflection not only of the widening of differentials between domestic interest rates and Euro-dollar rates and the negative domestic real interest rates, but also due to the financing of several major investment projects in 1979 and 1980, and increased financing of the trade sectors' inventories during the economic downturn in 1981. To satisfy this demand, the commercial banks reduced their excess reserves and borrowed from the Central Bank. These liquidity pressures began to abate somewhat in 1982 as real interest rates rose and domestic currency deposits rose rapidly. Public sector borrowings were high in 1982 and part of 1983 as a result of hotel construction and refurbishment activities. However, by 1984 there was a substantial decline in net credit to the public sector, and the local banks liquidity position further improved. This highly liquid position has persisted into 1985 with the result that some new deposits have not been accepted. If this persists, then it might be expected that deposit and lending rates will decline.

In general, wage rates in the country are high when compared to other parts of the Caribbean, and in many categories are similar to those which may be found in the United States, particularly the Southeast. However, given the lack of any progressive personal income tax, the distribution of this wage income may be somewhat more skewed. The economy continues to suffer labour shortages in certain critical areas. These include artisans in the building industry, qualified accounting personnel, professional and technical personnel, particularly in computer services and automobile repair. There has been immigration from other Caribbean countries, particularly from Haiti, which tends to add to the workforce at the lower skill and wage levels, although the precise number of these immigrants is unknown. Various government officials feel there is a need to develop a formal recruiting scheme for immigrant workers, given the government's inability to monitor its dispersed island constituency.

1/. It will be noted that net errors and omissions category in the balance of payments exhibit very large swings, the reasons for which are difficult to explain. The IMF found, in analysis of this issue, that this category may in part, be explained by unrecorded private capital flows in response to a decline in the spread between U.S. and Bahamian interest rates since late 1981. Regression results for a period from the first quarter of 1979 to the fourth quarter of 1984, suggest there is statistically significant relation between the errors and omissions item in the Bahamian balance of payments and the interest rate differential.

TABLE 3
RETAIL PRICE CHANGES FOR NEW PROVIDENCE
(Annual Averages)

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
All Items Index	9.0	12.1	11.1	6.1	4.1	3.9
Food	10.9	15.1	14.8	6.8	1.4	1.7
Housing	6.5	9.5	8.1	5.6	7.3	4.8
Transport	6.6	11.6	6.2	5.8	7.0	4.4
Clothing/Footwear	12.5	15.5	8.2	7.7	5.3	6.0
U.S. C.P.I.	11.3	13.5	10.4	6.1	3.2	4.3

Source: Statistical Annex

Following a relatively high inflationary period from 1979 to mid-1981, prices have steadily declined in The Bahamas. These price movements tend to closely follow those of the United States, the country's principal trading partner. After declining to a rate of 2.75 percent in mid-1984, the pace of price rise increased during the second half of the year to 4.5 percent. The largest fall in price inflation has been in the food category, most of which is imported from the Southeastern United States. The rate of decline of consumer durable and non-durable price rise has not been as great and may, in part, reflect high concentration within the importer and distribution sectors which may have impeded the "passing on" of the price moderation in imported goods.

AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Bahamas has set an objective of self-sufficiency in those foods which can be produced locally. The role of the Food and Agriculture Organization has been a positive one, in assisting in achieving this objective. Some of the projects in which the Government; has received assistance include the following:-

1. Agriculture Planning and Development Project 1974
2. Census of Agriculture 1978
3. Emergency Supply of Imports to Rehabilitate Agricultural Production after Hurricane David October 1979 - March 1980
4. Sheep Production Development 1979
5. Marketing Consulting 1981
6. Staff Training in various Agriculture Discipling
7. Fisheries and Cooperatives Development
8. Forestry Development
9. Most recently the preparation of a National Food and Nutritional Plan 1986 and;
10. An extension training workshop at Andros 1987.

Over the years the Government has demonstrated its commitment to the agricultural sector which is reflected in the considerable investment made in this sector and this has resulted in seceral major achievements.

1. Almost all the research infrastructure needed to adequately stimulate and monitor a modern Agro-Industry is in place. These include three production research facilities:

- a) Food technology Complex
 - b) An Animal Nutrition Division
 - c) A Plant Propagation Unit.
2. A staff of one Bahamian trained Agriculturalist in 1968 has been expanded to more than 50 University trained persons covering virtually all areas of Agricultural activity and expertise.
 3. The rudiments of a well trained Extension Division has been built and is constantly being expanded and upgraded to allow farmers to put to use the information and techniques established at the Research Facilities.
 4. A subsidies programme has been put in place to assist farmers and processors. This includes duty free concessions valued at more than \$2M per annum. As a result of adaptive research, the vegetable production season has been extended from 3 months to 5 months (November to June). The value of Agricultural output over the last fifteen years has grown at the average rate of 6 percent per annum from under \$10M. to more than \$30M.

The Marketing system has been expanded and improved by the construction of a new Produce Exchange in Freeport and seven Packing Houses in major production areas. As a result, production has increased with noticeable improvement in the quality of most produce.

In order to achieve an optimum degree of National Food Security and self-sufficiency, a two-pronged approach has been devised.

1) Northern Zone

Based on available technology, the Northern Bahamas is where the potential for large-scale production lies. Accordingly, the following major project-types have been earmarked for this region:-

- a) Beef/Dairy Production - On units averaging 5-20 000 acres as well as possible feed lot operations.
- b) Edible Oil Production Involving the production of oil seeds (soya, sunflower, peanuts and corn).
- c) Animal-Feeds Production - Involving large-scale production and processing of feed grains.

Horticultural/Floricultural Crops for Export - These would include the production and processing of tree crops (especially citrus) winter vegetables and exotic fruits and vegetables.

- d) Pig Production/Processing - This area has been hitherto restricted to Bahamian entrepreneurs and is probably the easiest to be developed from local resources.

11) Southeastern Zone:

In the South Eastern Bahamas, land, soil, and water resources are not readily available to large-scale mechanized agriculture. Consequently, agricultural ventures for this region face certain (natural) disadvantages. However, being mindful of the sociological implications, it was decided that Agriculture should form a major part of the Economic activity of the area. Accordingly, some projects that can utilize appropriate technology have been planned and are being implemented, examples are:-

- a) Grain/Legume Programme - This entails the production of non-perishable and storable crops of corn, sorghum, peas and beans.

- b) Root Crops Production - Growing of sweet potatoes, cassava, yams both for human consumption as well as for animal feeds.
- c) Primary Processing - A major processing facility for pineapples is planned for one of the Southern Islands (Eleuthera). Production of the raw material will be encouraged in the South Eastern Islands in the classical 'Satellite farm concept approach'.
- d) Small Tree Crop Units - 5 - 10 acres of citrus, mango, avocado and pineapple orchards for out of season production of vegetable crops.
- e) Livestock Units - Small-Scale Ruminants, pig, poultry (Egg/Layers) and rabbit Units will be encouraged. These are intended to primarily upgrade the nutritional content of local diets as well as supply small tourist facilities that will develop or now exist in these areas.

National Food Policies have been reviewed to focus more effectively on establishing the necessary linkages between Agriculture, Fisheries and the related sectors of the economy and to ensure an adequate supply of nutritious food for the Bahamian people. These changes also reflect previously announced policies of reducing dependency on imported food, expanding agricultural production for exports and creating employment opportunities. Priority will be given to the development and diversification of small-scale domestic agriculture to meet local food needs and to encourage the development and expansion of large-scale commercial production for export. Emphasis will also be given to the expansion of Agro-Industry as a means of creating jobs and encouraging crop diversification and increased production of food stuffs for local processing and consumption.

The level of food consumption continues to increase at a dramatic rate and at the end of 1986, the National Food Bill was estimated to be \$300M. By contrast, local production of Agricultural and Fisheries products amounted to an estimated \$50M. Almost every year a new multi-million dollar facility to import and distribute food products is being built. It is estimated that the \$300M worth of food, imported could support approximately 20 000 to 30 000 jobs in the countries from which these products are bought.

As estimated 200 000 acres of prime agricultural land exist with adequate ground water resources, which has the potential to be developed for large and medium scale agro-industrial projects. The realization of this large Agro-Industrial potential, should not only virtually eliminate the importation of basic food stuffs, but allow us to export considerable quantities of winter fruit and vegetables and other Horticultural and Floricultural products.

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES

- 1) Investing approximately \$400M and \$500M to achieve a 50-90 percent self-sufficiency and an acceptable national food security status in the long term.
- 2) Through level of development, re-patriate most of the 20 000 jobs associated with the national food bill of close to \$250M per annum.
- 3) Ensure, in so far as is feasible, maximum participation of Bahamian farmers, processors, distributors and entrepreneurs in these developments.
- 4) Ensure that maximum financial and economic benefits accrue to the Bahamian people and economy. Particular emphasis should be placed on the use by Bahamians of the largest untapped employment reservoirs represented by agro-industrial development.

Long Term Research Projects

Certain long term research projects designed to widen the scope of Bahamian agricultural activity are being undertaken. The most important of these include:-

1) Temperature Orchards

Certain fruits that are imported in large quantities appear capable of local commercial exploitation. These include grapes, apples, peaches and kiwi fruit. Accordingly, assistance is being sought from several oil companies with Bahamian interests for the establishment of small scale temperate orchards for research purposes.

2) Grains/Legumes

Several important species of grain crops - triticale, tropicalized wheat, oats, mung beans, etc. are being evaluated with assistance from Alabama A & M University and other international agencies. Of special interest is jojoba, which appears to have potential for an agri-industrial crop for the South Eastern Bahamas.

3) Mohair Production

There appears to be some potential in the South Eastern Bahamas for rearing Angora goats for mohair production. A small research project centered around this will be initiated shortly.

To further stimulate such Agro-Industrial projects, promotional effort will include special incentives for potential Bahamian Investors undertaking projects of appropriate size and nature. The Government will continue to provide the generous subsidies for import supplies, i.e. Non-Bahamian labour and other benefits currently enjoyed by the industry. The Ministry of Agriculture would continue to provide existing farmers with carrying out land clearing and land preparations in addition to improved extension methods and teaching. These efforts will permit further expansion on crop diversification programme to other islands with the production of crops suitable for such areas.

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

The Fisheries Resources of the Bahamas are one of the most valuable resources of the country and over the years considerable progress has been made in the area of Fishery Development. Increased Governmental emphasis, coupled with a modernization of fishing fleet has resulted in steady increases in total production and landings. During 1986 landings were 9.6 million pounds valued at \$28.0M. These figures were up tremendously when compared to the 1976 landings of 4.03 million pounds valued at \$15.3M. Growth rate of the industry is expected to continue at an accelerated rate over the next five years and it is projected the 1991 landings are forecasted to increase to approximately 13-14 million pounds or an estimated \$40M at today's market place.

In 1986 the Bahamas became net exporter of fish as imports for 1986 were 2.44 million pounds valued at \$4.5M whereas exports totalled 3.47 million pounds valued at \$21.4M.

The Fishing Industry makes a significant contribution to the economy in terms of income and employment. During 1986 an estimated 2 500 full time and part time fishermen and vessel owners earned approximately \$28.0M or. an average of \$11 200. Additionally, \$24.4M in Foreign Exchange resulted from the export of crawfish scale fish and marine specimens during 1986.

Results of a recently completed shallow water fishery resources assessment survey indicate that the present annual fisheries production on the Bahama Banks can be safely increased by a significant amount without the danger of over fishing. Additionally, results of other surveys have revealed large resources of stone crabs and of deep water groupers and snappers that are virtually unexploited.

The fishing industry has the greatest growth potential of possibly any natural resource in the Bahamas and this potential will only be realized through the following:-

- a) Increased harvest of traditional stocks shallow water crawfish, conch and scale fish.
- b) The harvesting of under-exploited and non-traditional stocks such as deep water snappers and groupers, stone crabs and pelagic resources.
- c) Improve processing, quality control and marketing.

The Department of Fisheries and the Bahamas Development Bank operate a joint Fisheries Small Loan Programme. Under this Fisheries Assistance Programme loans of up to \$10 000 per applicant at an interest rate well below prime are available to a qualified fisherman and potential fishermen for purchase of small fishing vessels, engines and miscellaneous fishing gear, all of which can be imported duty free at a saving to fishermen and fish processors.

A fully developed fishing industry could generate revenue in excess of 100M and provide employment for over 10 000 Bahamians. However, with increased fishing pressure the need to effectively monitor the industry will also increase. The Ministry of Agriculture, Trade and Industry through the Department of Fisheries will take the necessary steps to ensure that the development of the fishing industry proceeds in an orderly and proper manner.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Industrial Development is of considerable importance in order to:-

- 1) Diversify our economy
- 2) Create additional employment opportunities for our expanding labour force.

The Government will continue to encourage the establishment of industries of those islands which are ideally suited for such activities and where the necessary infrastructure is already in place.

The Industries Encouragement Act, was designed to be a development instrument in the Government efforts to:-

- i) Encourage diversification
- ii) Encourage entrepreneurship
- iii) Achieve some degree of self sufficiency
- iv) Stimulate domestic and Foreign Investment.

In order to more fully achieve these objectives and to assist the small entrepreneur, the Industries Encouragement Act will be amended to grant degrees of concessions. It is envisaged that the proposed amendments would allow for greater flexibility.

The growth of the small manufacturer has not kept pace with that of their counterpart in the large export oriented operations. Institutional support would therefore be provided to small manufacturers to enable them to produce not only for the domestic market but to take advantage of the increased access to the markets of the U.S.A. through C.B.I. The European Community under Lome III and Canada under CARIBCAN.

The Soldier Road Industrial Park will be expanded and additional factory constructed in order to accommodate the increasing demand for factory space.

Through the combined efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture, Trade and Industry, Foreign Affairs and Tourism, initiatives have already been taken to promote the Bahamas as a safe and stable Investment Centre for Foreign Investors.

The Government recognizes that Industrial Development cannot take place without a strong private sector and will continue to effectively support, assist and encourage the private sector.

The Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation was established to:-

1. To stimulate, facilitate and encourage the development of Agriculture on the Bahamas.
2. To Expand and Create opportunities for Bahamians to participate in the Economic development of the Bahamas.
3. To assist in the Development of Commerce and Industry within the Bahamas.

In the execution of these functions BAIC has identified opportunities for Investment and has established a Foreign and Local Industrial Investment Programme.

The Corporation has developed a number of project profiles and promotional literature which outline the areas of opportunities available.

BAIC is Empowered to:

1. Participate in the formation and operation of other companies.
2. Engage in any other activity designed to the Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Development of the Bahamas.

BAIC is also a one stop shop for investors providing the following:-

1. Information for investors
2. Removal of red tape from the Investment Promotion process.
3. Guidance for the investor from the inquiry stage, through the process of approval and implementation.

COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

In order to achieve such objectives as National Food Security, Self Sufficiency and the establishment of successful commercial ventures, Co-operatives have a vital role to play. The Department of Co-operatives has experienced steady growth over the years, increasing from eleven registered societies whose activities include Agriculture, Fishing, Craft Manufacturing and Marketing, Consumer goods and Savings and Credits.

In 1977 there were 250 members in the farming co-operatives and 350 in Credit Unions. Annual turnover for the Farming co-operatives was \$50 000 and the Credit Union made \$35 000 in loans. Today there are 10 Agricultural Co-operatives and 12 Credit Unions. Membership in the non—financial Cooperatives is 1 214 and among the Credit Unions over 7 000. Annual turnover among the non-financial Co-operatives and Credit Unions is \$900 000 with a total saving of \$10M and they are expected to extend over \$2M in loans to their members this year.

Credit Unions have had a positive influence by meeting the consumer and developmental needs of their members. They have successfully provided thousands of Bahamians of limited means with a opportunity to build up financial independence and receive credit with a minimum of red tape.

In the Family Islands, the North Cat Island and the Mayaguana Co-operative Societies have demonstrated the positive impact this type of organization can have on the Social and Economic Development of an entire community.

In Cat Island, where the local resource cascarilla is grown in abundance, the North Cat Island Co-operative has initiated a programme to export the bark to Europe for use in drinks such as Campari and perfumes. This activity has been expanded to several other Family Islands and now supports approximately 125 families. This particular Cooperative has also been able to purchase and operate a Mail Boat which provides weekly service to the area and has recently installed freezing facilities which is expected to provide a much needed service to fishermen.

The Mayaguana Co-operative Society, operates a 40 acre community farm, growing peas, corn, peanuts and potatoes. In addition, they own and operate a bulk fuel facility which supplies the residents with fuel.

CONCLUSION

In order to effectively achieve overall development in the agriculture sector and improve linkages between the other sectors, it is critical that, the present system of data collection, storage, analysis and retrieval be improved. An Information Unit within the Ministry is presently being established for the purpose of collecting, compiling, analysis and disseminating all relevant agricultural information on a regular basis to assist in the decision making process.

The Ministry will seek FAO's assistance in providing the technical assistance in establishing and upgrading the unit, which should be fully functional by the 1990 Census of Agriculture.

Training itself is an on-going process and as previously noted, FAO has provided an invaluable service in this area. However, with the expansion and development of the Extension Division, additional training and Extension work-shops both regionally and locally will be required.

FAO assistance in establishing a local training unit will be sought for the purpose of improving and upgrading the present extension service which is vital to the growth and development of agriculture and the ultimate survival of the small farmers In the Bahamas.

There is presently under active consideration a request for ' Technical Cooperation to assist with the establishment of a computerized data management programme for the Department of Fisheries. Such a programme will result in the rapid production of data on the fishing industry and will free some Department's staff to enable them to pursue other work aspects such as improved data collection.

In terms of another major project The Bahamas will benefit greatly from a project that will complete the shallow water resource assessment surveys as only a portion of the Great Bahama Bank was surveyed. Additionally assistance in developing an improved management and enforcement capability for the industry becomes more pressing as the industry continues to develop at a rapid pace. This type of assistance will be requested from FAO in the future 1/.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Elhadji, HABIBOU ALLELE (Niger): C'est avec un réel plaisir et un intérêt particulier que la délégation que je conduis prend part à la 24ème session de la Conférence générale de notre Organisation: la FAO.

Monsieur le Président,

Je voudrais tout d'abord m'acquitter d'un agréable devoir, celui de vous féliciter pour la confiance placée en vous par l'ensemble des délégations, en vous portant à la présidence de notre Conférence. Nous demeurons persuadés que votre sagesse, votre expérience et votre efficacité rehausseront la qualité des débats.

Il me revient également, Monsieur le président, de féliciter Monsieur Edouard Saouma auquel la présente conférence vient de renouveler sa confiance.

Mais, Monsieur le Président, depuis quelques années le monde s'installe et semble s'enliser dans une grande crise économique internationale.

Il est important de rappeler quelques faits chiffrés qui caractérisent mieux l'évolution économique mondiale actuelle.

Certains organismes internationaux spécialisés nous apprennent que les pays développés représentant un tiers de la population mondiale détiennent 60 pour cent des ressources alimentaires. D'après la Banque mondiale, 780 millions d'êtres humains vivent dans un état de pauvreté absolue et 50 pour cent de la population du globe ne disposent que de 20 pour cent des ressources de la terre.

Monsieur le Président,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Mon pays, le Niger, pays en développement totalement enclavé dans l'Ouest africain ressent davantage les méfaits de la sécheresse, de la désertification et de la crise économique internationale. L'agriculture, secteur dominant de notre économie s'est gravement détériorée au cours des précédentes décennies, se traduisant par une baisse de la production et de la productivité qui prévalaient vers la fin des années 60.

Il faut aussi souligner que les phénomènes combinés de sécheresse et de désertification auxquels s'ajoutent les ennemis des cultures ont créé des circonstances aggravantes. Des régions entières de mon pays autrefois hautement productives sont aujourd'hui totalement stériles.

Il me plaît cependant, Monsieur le Président, de révéler les énormes potentialités dont dispose mon pays: 15 000 000 d'ha de terres dunaires, 270 000 ha de terres irrigables, 1 400 000 ha de terrains boisés, un capital cheptel constitué de 14 millions d'UBT et des ressources en eaux souterraines\ estimées à 36 millions de m³.

Mais toutes ces potentialités demeurent jusqu'ici insuffisamment mises en valeur malgré la disponibilité exemplaire de nos populations mobilisées.

C'est pourquoi au-delà de nos efforts propres nous comptons sur la coopération internationale pour mettre en valeur toutes ces potentialités.

Monsieur le Président,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

La présente Conférence générale de la FAO m'offre donc l'occasion de vous faire partager les soucis majeurs de nos paysans et pasteurs au sortir de la récente campagne agro-pastorale et de vous livrer les politiques et stratégies de développement rural à moyen et long terme adoptées par mon gouvernement.

La campagne agro-pastorale 1987 nous rappelle en tout point celle combien angoissante et catastrophique que nous avons vécue en 1984. Comme vous le savez déjà, la campagne 1987 s'est caractérisée par un déficit pluviométrique très important, de violents vents de sable, des attaques des maladies et d'insectes.

Pour prévenir les attaques des ravageurs des cultures, nous avons organisé d'un côté les brigades villageoises d'intervention phytosanitaire et, de l'autre, mis en place un réseau d'alerte précoce et de surveillance. Enfin, nous envisageons la création dans le département d'Agadez d'un centre de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin.

En ce qui concerne la situation pastorale, le couvert végétal a été très hétérogène, suite aux faibles pluies enregistrées au cours de la campagne 87, mais la situation sanitaire du cheptel est globalement satisfaisante.

La mauvaise campagne agro-pastorale de 1987 a renforcé notre détermination à lutter par tous les moyens contre la famine et la sécheresse. Dans l'avenir nos efforts seront concentrés sur l'Organisation de la campagne des cultures de contre-saison qui porte sur l'exploitation de certains plans d'eau.

A propos de la pratique des cultures de contre-saison, le Chef de l'Etat du Niger, feu le général de Division SEYNI KOUNTCHE qui a été l'hôte du 86ème Conseil exécutif de la FAO, disait, suite à la sécheresse de 1984, je cite:

"L'année 1984 nous avait donc trouvés préparés, mobilisés et déterminés à affronter dans la dignité et l'honneur les instants difficiles qu'elle nous réserve. Dieu merci, nous avons réussi, au-delà de toute espérance, à préserver ainsi notre société d'une irrémédiable désolation. Nous avons réussi à épargner à certains de nos compatriotes l'humiliation des camps d'éprouvés, voire une vaine errance ou un exode sans espoir de retour. Nous avons réussi à épargner notre peuple des affres de la famine et nous avons forcé l'admiration des hommes de bonne volonté des nations généreuses et des Organisations Internationales". Fin de citation.

Conscients de toutes ces contraintes liées à notre développement rural, nous nous sommes attelés à définir un nouveau plan quinquennal de développement économique et social 1987-1991 avec la participation effective de toutes les couches socio-professionnelles de notre pays. Cette démarche associant la consultation et la concertation nous a permis de répondre à deux questions fondamentales.

- Quelles stratégies de développement devons-nous mettre en oeuvre pour faire face aux effets d'une sécheresse plus que permanente?
- Quelle exploitation rationnelle pourrions-nous faire de nos immenses ressources naturelles tout en préservant ou en rétablissant l'équilibre de notre écosystème, fragile et instable?

Ce plan quinquennal de développement économique et social 1987-1991 dont le programme de financement a fait l'objet d'un débat fructueux et instructif à l'occasion de la Table ronde des Bailleurs de Fonds du Niger organisé en juin-juillet 1987 à Genève répond à ces questions. Avant de retracer les grands axes de ce plan, je m'en voudrais de ne pas exprimer ici les sentiments sincères de gratitude du peuple et du Gouvernement du Niger à l'endroit de tous les partenaires qui ont pris part à cette rencontre. Ce plan a dégagé en matière de développement rural quatre grandes orientations qui sont :

- 1) La préservation et la restauration de la base productive agro-sylvo-pastorale;
- 2) La poursuite de la recherche de l'autosuffisance alimentaire;
- 3) L'accroissement des revenus des producteurs;
- 4) La participation et la responsabilisation des populations.

Ainsi le développement rural se définit comme l'amélioration du niveau de vie des populations rurales et la possibilité pour elles d'entretenir ce développement par ses propres moyens. En matière de production végétale, l'accent sera mis sur la diversification des cultures tout en poursuivant les actions de vulgarisation de l'engrais, d'utilisation de semences sélectionnées et de protection des cultures.

La politique d'aménagements hydro-agricoles sera poursuivie et renforcée par les actions des programmes de petite irrigation et des cultures de contre-saison.

La production animale quant à elle mettra l'accent sur l'exploitation rationnelle du cheptel. Il s'agira en particulier d'assurer l'équilibre entre le cheptel, l'eau et les ressources fourragères disponibles, tout en entretenant une bonne couverture sanitaire.

La protection de l'environnement sera prise en compte dans le cadre des actions agricoles et pastorales et à travers des opérations spécifiques de lutttes antiérosives, de récupération des terres et de reboisement.

Tout en n'étant pas un pays de grande pêche, mon pays envisage de poursuivre le développement de cette activité sur le fleuve Niger, le Komadougou Yobé et sur certains plans d'eau.

Enfin, toutes ces actions seront soutenues par une politique rationnelle d'hydraulique, de sensibilisation et de formation des populations, de même que par une politique active de recherche agricole.

Monsieur le Président,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

En souhaitant plein succès à notre Conférence, permettez-moi de dire combien au Niger nous apprécions la coopération internationale. Nous sommes convaincus que c'est par les efforts conjugués de nos gouvernements et de la Communauté internationale qu'il sera possible de combattre efficacement la FAIM, la MALNUTRITION et la PAUVRETE dans le monde.

Je vous remercie 1/.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours

La séance est levée à 18 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas

1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 87/PV/11

Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARY

Vingt-quatrième session
PLENIERE

24° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
11ª SESIÓN PLENARIA

(13 November 1987)

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.30 hours,
M Mahbubuzzaman, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 30, sous la présidence
de M. Mahbubuzzaman, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 9.30 horas, bajo la presidencia
de M. Mahbubuzzaman, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Second Report of the General Committee

Deuxième rapport du Bureau

Segundo informe del Comité General

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Before giving the floor to the first speaker I would like to announce that the Bureau held a meeting this morning and took certain decisions with respect to the Vice-Chairmen of the three commissions and the statements of NOGs pursuant to Article X of the General Rules of the Organization. I request the Secretary-General to take the floor now in order to inform us of this report.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le deuxième rapport du Bureau comprend deux points. L'un, comme vient de le dire le Président, est intitulé: "Nomination des vice-présidents des trois commissions" Il comprend un paragraphe unique dont je donne la lecture:

"En application de l'Article X 2.(c) du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Bureau recommande à la Conférence de répartir comme suit les vice-présidences des trois commissions:

"Commission I: Stephen George Obimpeh (Ghana), D.Ismael Diaz Yubero, (Espagne).

"Commission II: Bas El Mabrouk Said, (Libye), Hirisnel Sucre, (Panama)

"Commission III: Michael Joseph Ryan, (Australie), Mohd Mazlan Jusoh, (Malaisie).

L'Article X 2. (c) du Règlement général se lit comme suit:

"... le Bureau, après consultation avec le Directeur général et sous réserve des décisions de la Conférence :

"(c) propose la répartition, entre les divers comités et commissions de la Conférence, des questions figurant à l'ordre du jour et propose des candidats aux fonctions de vice-présidents des Commissions

Je puis préciser également que Monsieur Obimpeh est Secrétaire à l'Agriculture du Gouvernement du Ghana, Monsieur Diaz Yubero est. Représentant permanent de l'Espagne auprès de la FAO, Monsieur El Mabrouk Said est Représentant permanent de la Libye, Monsieur Sucre est Ministre du Développement agricole et zootechnique de Panama, Monsieur Ryan est Représentant permanent adjoint de l'Australie auprès de la FAO, et Monsieur Jusoh est Représentant permanent adjoint de la Malaisie auprès de la FAO.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): We would like to thank the Secretary-General for this. Are there any observations or comments? If there are no observations I would consider these recommendations as adopted and on my behalf and your behalf we congratulate these Gentlemen, for their election and appointment as Vice-Chairmen of the three Commissions of the Conference.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le deuxième point du rapport du bureau est intitulé: "Déclaration en séance plénière d'organisations internationales jouissant du statut consultatif."

"Paragraphe 2: le Bureau a été informé des demandes présentées par l'Union des femmes rurales, la Confédération internationale des syndicats libres, l'Alliance coopérative internationale, la Fédération des producteurs agricoles, la Confédération mondiale du travail et la Fédération mondiale syndicale, qui sont toutes des Organisations internationales non gouvernementales jouissant du statut consultatif auprès de la FAO, de prendre la parole en séance plénière de la Conférence.

Paragraphe 3: ayant examiné ces demandes le Bureau, conformément au paragraphe 2 (g) de l'article X du Règlement général de l'Organisation, fait rapport à la Conférence et recommande que la Conférence autorise ces Organisations à prendre la parole en plénière et qu'il leur sera accordé un temps de parole maximum de 10 minutes et qu'ils n'aient en aucun cas la priorité sur les délégués des Etats Membres."

Le paragraphe du Règlement général se lit donc comme suit: "le Bureau fait rapport à la Conférence sur toute demande présentée par une Organisation internationale non gouvernementale participante de prendre la parole à une séance plénière de la session."

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Ellia C. KATOLA PHIRI (Malawi): Mr Chairman, Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegations, distinguished delegates and observers, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for inviting Malawi to participate in the Twenty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference. Let me also take this opportunity to thank the Italian Government for the warm and friendly reception and hospitality accorded to my delegation.

Further, I wish to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and your Vice-Chairmen, for your election and the excellent manner in which this Conference is being conducted. On behalf of the Government of Malawi, and on my own behalf as well, I join hands with other delegations in congratulating Dr Edouard Saouma for his deserved re-election as Director-General of the FAO. This bears testimony to the confidence most member countries have in his able leadership of this world body.

May I now turn to the major issues, my statement to this august assembly.

Dealing first with the food situation in Malawi, Malawi has always been self-sufficient in food, and even exported significant quantities of surplus maize. However, due to a number of factors the situation has been adversely affected.

Drought hit a few districts last season, two districts in the southern region, one in the central region, and two in the northern regions. Secondly, Malawi is hosting a very large influx of displaced persons from a strife-stricken neighbouring country. And finally, cassava mealybug has attacked cassava in one district in the northern region.

These three factors, drought, displaced persons, and crop pest have threatened Malawi's food self-sufficiency situation.

I now refer to World Food Day. Malawi joined other member countries throughout the World in observing the World Food Day both at the national level and in the districts. Key events of the day comprised speeches, prize presentation to leading smallholder farmers drawn from all over the country and food displays. Smallholder farmers were praised for their achievements and encouraged to work even harder in the fields in order to eliminate rural poverty and hunger. There was a general appeal made for partnership between policy makers, the international community and the farmers to work together in food production.

I now turn to the subject of conservation for sustainable development: a study of the scope for Commonwealth action on soil erosion, desertification and related drought problems in Commonwealth Africa.

The third workshop of the Southern African Subregional Environment Group (SASREG), organized by the regional office for Africa of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was recently held in Malawi. Two issues that were discussed included the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) Natural Resources Policy and Development Strategy and the Zambezi Action Plan. Both the Strategy and the Action Plan were adopted by Member Governments and the implementation of the plan will go a long way in achieving conservation for sustainable development in the Southern Africa region. This approach complements national projects being implemented by the environmental unit in the Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources.

On the follow-up to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, the Tropical Forestry Action Plan is a welcome concept to Malawi as it enforces local efforts in conservation and management of tropical forests at the national and regional levels. This is being done through the Second Wood Energy which comprises four components: firstly, forestry protection for indigenous woodland; secondly, wood production component will establish 16 000 hectares of exotic tree plantations near the main cities; thirdly, wood conservation component by introducing efficient charcoal making techniques and fuel efficient cook stoves for urban and rural households; and lastly, institutional development through departmental reorganization, strengthening and manpower training.

Malawi is coordinating Forestry in the Southern African Coordination Conference with financial and technical assistance from donor agencies. It continues to assist other SADCC member development efforts.

We come now to the campaign against locusts and grasshoppers. Malawi has continued to be an active member of the International Red Locust Control Organization of Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA). There are three types of locusts present in this region, namely the Red Locust, the Brown Locust and the Desert Locust. Last season, the red locust seriously threatened us in Malawi.

The International Red Locust Control Organization succeeded in controlling the sporadic outbreaks with the help of Plant Protection Services of the countries affected.

I wish to extend Malawi's gratitude to FAO for past, present and continuing support given in the just cause of food production and food aid. We are a small country and are making every effort to adjust our policies. This is a sacrifice and we urge that developed countries should make proportionate sacrifices in giving FAO the support it requires. The formation of additional committees to review policies, work programmes and budgets of FAO, in the view of the Malawi delegation, is not necessary. It would certainly deny the FAO machinery, the flexibility and speed required to implement programmes that respond to changing needs and circumstances. In the final analysis, this would render FAO less effective.

Lawrence GATT (Malta): In the first place I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairman of this Conference during which the election of the Director-General of our Organization was held. Secondly, I wish to congratulate Dr Saouma on his re-election as Director-General. I am sure that under his leadership our Organisation shall continue to move forward for the benefit of the poor, the hungry and the small.

The contributions of many speakers before me have depicted the problematic state of food and agriculture in its global dimensions. It is natural that I, as the Minister responsible for agriculture in Malta, should draw the attention of the Conference to the perplexing and vulnerable position in which the present world situation has put small countries like ours. I shall dwell on one or two aspects which are particularly apt to bring out the general effects of the actions of the international community on the performance of the economies and livelihood of small peripheral nations like Malta.

Because of these effects, we are extremely interested in all initiatives of FAO. The main point I wish to stress is that providing assistance for agricultural and fisheries development to small countries like Malta is not sufficient; it is even more necessary to bring about adequate trading conditions and open access to more extensive and less volatile markets.

The case of Malta is symptomatic. It has no natural resources to speak of. Land area is too limited to be used for the production of extensive crops such as grain. Therefore, improvement in food production can only be envisaged in the case of fruits and vegetables, livestock and fisheries. We depend on tourism as a main source of foreign exchange earnings; moreover, a big share of tourist expenditure is on food. This market is more important for agriculture and fisheries to improve their performance, especially in the sectors in which improvement is plausible.

In other sectors in which we have an export potential, such as flowers and out-of-season vegetables, our natural advantages are often eroded by the excessive protectionism of potential importers.

This is one of the reasons why we are seeking entry under the right conditions into European Communities, our main trading partners.

On the other hand crop and livestock yields cannot be raised on a sustained basis without the more sustained use of imported inputs. Small countries like Malta are unable to produce any of these inputs to meet their needs. Therefore, I submit that the provision of agricultural inputs as aid-in-kind, should also be considered in the case of small countries like Malta. Without these inputs and other forms of input assistance, farmers in countries with limited land resources are forced to over-exploit their land in an effort to increase production. Short-term increases are being achieved at the cost of high environmental risks in terms of soil degradation and in-breeding in livestock. The acquisition of surplus agricultural inputs and technologies developed in food surplus countries would greatly benefit the small farmers in our countries. Such aid-in-kind would complement the development of an efficient and timely extension service which our farmers and fishermen so badly need and want, and which we are eager and anxious to be able to offer. In this respect, I must thank the Director-General who has agreed to provide technical assistance to my country under the Technical Co-operation Programme. The provision of suitable farm inputs as aid-in-kind would greatly enhance the success of the Technical Co-operation Project. I, therefore, fully support the conclusions arrived at in the feasibility study on expanding the provision of agricultural inputs as aid-in-kind submitted for consideration by this Conference.

Besides the difficulties in increasing agricultural production, the supply of fish from the sea - a vital source of food - has been severely depleted by gross over-fishing and pollution. My Government is very much concerned about the situation in the Mediterranean. In this respect Malta has been very active in the international arena, and hosts the Mediterranean Oil Pollution Combatting Centre. However, as regards fisheries management, very little has been done in the international field. I, therefore, more than welcome the proposal of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean to initiate as early as possible the project entitled "Fisheries Resources Evaluation and Management in the Mediterranean". We are confident that donor countries and organizations will follow Italy's example in providing funds for this project and its proper unfolding. The Mediterranean Sea, with an annual catch of less than a million tons, is usually reckoned to be poor in fishery resources. But since the catch is almost all consumed directly, it fetches high prices. In terms of its landed value, the Mediterranean catch is important, being worth more than, say, the productive fisheries of the Northwest Atlantic, or even the famous Peruvian anchovy fishery before its collapse. We would not like to see a similar collapse of Mediterranean fisheries! We, therefore, wholeheartedly support the proposed project of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean.

An important step towards overall marine management in the Mediterranean could be taken by more effective organization of aquaculture development.

A great deal has been done in this direction in recent years. In a sense, this is seeking refuge elsewhere in despair of ever getting effective international action to manage the open sea fisheries. Earlier attempts to "improve" wild stocks - for example of plaice in the North Sea, by breeding and transplanting - failed because of the absence of enforceable controls over harvesting and fry collection. The proposed project of the GFCM envisages co-operation and complementarity with MEDRAP, the FAO/UNDP Mediterranean aquaculture project. MEDRAP was influential and actively involved in the

setting up of various pilot projects in the Mediterranean as well as in organizing training sessions and the establishment of a training centre. It is a pity that MEDRAP had to be wound up and its activities terminated at this embryonic stage of aquaculture development in the region. MEDRAP is still needed to follow up this development. Again we are confident that funds shall be forthcoming for the re-establishment of MEDRAP activities. Here again Malta deserves special assistance and attention in view of its small size and position in the Mediterranean.

It is important to emphasize that the products of marine aquaculture go direct to human nutrition, they are usually of a high unit value and the techniques require considerable labour. The existence of the necessary conditions for aquaculture development - availability of labour, the relatively unpolluted water and the possibility of complementing the tourist trade - indicate that Malta should pursue this matter further.

In the fisheries field Malta is also interested in pursuing further other initiatives. I have two points in mind which I would like to put forward to FAO and to the distinguished delegates of this Conference.

In the first place, since Mediterranean countries consume a rather important proportion - about 10% by weight - of world fish production and since Malta has developed a new transshipment centre, we are interested in our island functioning as a clearing house for fish and fish products, and serve as a Regional Fish Marketing Information Service for the Mediterranean as envisaged by the Programme of Action approved at the World Fisheries Conference.

Secondly, we still do not know how many fishing vessels are available to ensure a sustainable harvest, under conditions of rational management. For future international policy determination, such statistics will be as necessary as data about catches and fish resource assessments. Moreover, examples of over heavily exploited stocks and excessive capacity of fleets can be found in the Mediterranean. Therefore we wish to propose that there be established in Malta a Mediterranean regional registration centre for fishing craft. Malta has an established merchant vessel registration system, and competent staff for the setting up of a regional register for fishing vessels are available. The World Conference on Fisheries defined a forward-looking strategy for the fisheries sector, taking into account the far-reaching changes that have been made in the legal regime of the Ocean. These changes occurred following Malta's initiative, 20 years ago, in its infancy as an independent nation, when in the General Assembly of the United Nations, a New Law of the Sea was proposed. This proposal led to the longest United Nations conference and to the convention regulating the peaceful uses of the seabed. This introduced a new concept in international law - The Common Heritage of Mankind - with notable effects on a sector of our Organization's responsibilities in the domain of fisheries.

In the continuing unfolding of the application of this concept, Malta is eager to participate more actively and my Government is proposing the setting up of a pilot regional centre in Malta for marine technological research as envisaged in the convention. Included in this sphere of activity are fishing technologies and aquaculture methods. Here I would like to officially request FAO's support for the setting up of this centre which would be the first of a network of such regional centres. The support of member states would enhance the possibility of extending the concept of common heritage through its wider application - in the areas of culture and technology in addition to those of nature and space.

I have today chosen to speak briefly on two main topics of particular interest to my country, because I feel that by doing so I have illustrated two main needs of future international co-operation in the field of food production. I have first emphasized the need for the transfer of technology from the developed countries to the developing countries particularly to small nations such as my own. In the second place through my reference to the development of the Fisheries Sector I underlined the need for more regional co-operation.

M.E. MAHACHI M.P. (Zimbabwe): Mr Chairman, first of all, I must congratulate you, for being elected to be our Chairman for this important meeting, and also to congratulate Dr Edouard Saouma upon his re-election to the position of Director-General of FAO.

As a delegation we have high regard and all confidence in him, and we have always been very appreciative of his efforts to focus on agricultural problems in Africa.

We have no doubt that he will continue to fight for the necessary reforms in international trade to give a chance to developing countries dependent on agricultural export. He will also ensure the continuation of the Technical Cooperation Programmes that are so vital for the survival of the fragile economies of developing countries.

It is with great pleasure that I speak on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Zimbabwe at this Twenty-fourth session of the Food and Agriculture Organization- Conference.

Please permit me to straightaway point out that the recovery that we had anticipated in my country in the agricultural sector following a good harvest in 1985/86, was short lived because we experienced yet another severe drought in 1986/87, illustrating the vulnerability of our sub-region to adverse weather conditions. As a result of this, purchases of maize from farmers by the government have fallen by about one quarter from 1,6 million tonnes during the year ending March 1987, to slightly in excess of 400 000 tonnes, expected in March 1988.

Maize forms the basis of our national staple diet and is generally grown with the objective of achieving self-sufficiency, with a marketable surplus only when the season is better than expected.

It is important to note that variations in seasonal rainfall cause significant fluctuations in agricultural production from year to year and is the single most critical constraint in terms of successfully administering agricultural policies in our sub-region.

In the case of Zimbabwe, the major instrument available to Government to induce the required changes in areas planted to various crops is the producer price mechanism, but because of the rainfall factor, the volume and pattern of grain production, and indeed domestic and export sales made by government can hardly be expected to conform to targets set by the price mechanism.

The priority of Government policy in regard to agricultural production is the achievement of food security through the sustained production of sufficient quantities of basic food, together with the provision of income generating activities which ensure adequate nutrition and a high standard of living for both rural and urban communities. To achieve this goal it is necessary among other things to encourage intensification and diversification of productive activities, especially in the poorer areas of the country, and introduce new farming techniques. This is what we have been attempting to do, notwithstanding the effects of drought. In addition to drought, environmental degradation is now recognized as a principal hazard to human welfare over my country.

To this end, sound arable land management including appropriate tillage practices, proper crop rotation irrigation and the selection of crops suitable to the soils, climate and topography within the different natural regions, will be encouraged.

Programmes for promoting land use planning, establishment of grazing schemes, veld and pasture management, and the coordinated development of irrigation potential where this is feasible, will be vigorously pursued to ensure the optimum use of our natural resources.

Instruments which will be deployed to support these measures include agricultural extension and research, land use planning, provision of credit and farm inputs, marketing services and the diligent use of pricing policy as a means of influencing our farmers' decisions.

From our experience, it seems clear that small farmers have been highly responsive to the expansion of agricultural supportive services within their sector because output from this sector has increased by more than ten times since 1980. This suggests that we would continue to give small farmers the support they require.

In accepting that small farmers must be the principal target group for our development efforts, an important related issue is how to simultaneously recognize the role of women within this target group. Women head many rural households and constitute a fairly large percentage of the rural labour force. Unfortunately, they are often not adequately accommodated in many agricultural programmes.

The role played by women, as agricultural producers will in future receive the special recognition that it deserves for small scale agriculture to expand.

In addition to domestic commitments, Mr Chairman, Zimbabwe is heavily involved in coordinating on behalf of other states the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) food security programme whose main objective is to increase agricultural production so that the region can be self-sufficient in its basic food needs.

It is felt that through regional cooperation member States can better assist each other to increase food availability through improved domestic production, reduction in post harvest losses and expanded grain storage. This strategy aims to increase household, national and regional food security by encouraging those activities that enhance the ability of all people to acquire adequate diets.

The current food security programme is being implemented through thirteen interlinked regional projects which, though national in character, when taken together contribute significantly to the achievement of SADCC's overall food security objectives.

Mr Chairman, the Food and Agriculture Organization is funding one of the projects involving the development of national and regional early warning systems for food security.

Finally, in regard to the international agricultural scene, I would like to place on record my Government's immense satisfaction on the assistance that Zimbabwe has received and has been able to fully utilize in developing its agriculture.

On the question of agricultural exports, we greatly welcome the initiatives that are being contemplated by some major producers in developed countries to prevent further increases in excess supply of traded agricultural products, as we believe that this will help to stimulate demand for exports from developing countries and strengthen their agricultural industries. This, would in fact represent a significant contribution by developed countries to food security and an improved allocation of global agricultural resources.

In the same vein, those developing countries which are predominantly importers of agricultural produce would be encouraged to strengthen their own farm sectors and become self-sufficient in food.

Manuel de Jesús AMEZQUITA C. (República Dominicana): Señor Presidente, distinguidos Ministros Delegados de esta honorable Asamblea, señoras y señores:

Es un alto honor para mí y mi país- esta oportunidad que se nos brinda en esta magna Asamblea de dirigirnos a ustedes con la finalidad de compartir algunas ideas y experiencias vividas por mi país, la República Dominicana.

Aprovecho esta oportunidad para transmitirles un caluroso saludo del Presidente de la República Dominicana, el Dr. Joaquín Balaguer, quien también me ha encarecido felicitar de manera especial al Dr. Edouard Saouma por su elección en la Dirección General de la FAO, desde la cual, en el período recién concluido, realizó una excelente labor en beneficio de la agropecuaria y la alimentación de nuestras naciones.

Señores, me referiré fundamentalmente al gran dilema que se presenta en nuestros países: por un lado la necesidad de ser eficiente la economía, de manera que los factores de producción reciban equitativamente el valor de su aporte al producto nacional y, con ello, contribuir a su mejor uso desde la racionalidad económica; y, por otro lado, la necesidad de alimentación y nutrición de más de la mitad de la población, cuya capacidad de ingresos esta por debajo del mínimo requerido para obtener a precio de mercado los bienes de consumo que le permitan una existencia aceptable desde la racionalidad social y humanista.

Me referiré también a la forma en que mi Gobierno lo está enfrentando, dentro de un ambiente de libertad y democracia, a pesar de los ingentes problemas que se han creado por la situación desfavorable de la economía mundial y la pesada deuda externa de nuestros países.

Durante las últimas dos décadas, los países subdesarrollados han hecho grandes esfuerzos para aumentar la producción de alimentos. Debido a este esfuerzo, nuestros países han logrado un notable aumento de la disponibilidad de alimentos básicos. La producción local de granos se ha incrementado en un 78 por ciento, que es similar a la alcanzada por los países desarrollados. Sin embargo, todavía hay hambre y pobreza generalizada en nuestros pueblos.

Las estadísticas mundiales reportan que estamos produciendo los alimentos necesarios para satisfacer los requerimientos mínimos nutricionales. Sin embargo, en los países subdesarrollados, debido al crecimiento poblacional, el aumento en la producción de alimentos apenas compensa la tasa de aumento de la población. En el caso dominicano, alrededor del 20 por ciento de la producción de alimentos tiene que ser exportada para cubrir las necesidades de divisas de otros sectores de la economía y de la misma agricultura.

En nuestra región de Latinoamérica, en 1985, el sector agropecuario creció a una tasa de 4,2 por ciento, medida por el incremento en su contribución del Producto Bruto Interno (PBI) de la región a precios constantes. Esta tasa de crecimiento representa una mejoría con relación a los resultados de comienzo de la década.

Sin embargo, los resultados preliminares para 1986 indican una disminución del 2,4 por ciento en el Producto Bruto Interno agropecuario de la región con respecto al año anterior, que es atribuible no sólo a condiciones climatológicas, sino también a condiciones adversas en los mercados internacionales.

El proteccionismo exagerado que han venido poniendo en práctica las potencias industriales en las últimas décadas han afectado sensiblemente a las economías de los países subdesarrollados. La reducción de la cuota azucarera dominicana junto a la caída de los precios de nuestras materias primas, han afectado medularmente a la economía dominicana, a lo que se han agregado, como espada de Damocles, los compromisos del pago de la deuda externa, que para el caso dominicano es el 34 por ciento de nuestras exportaciones del año 1986.

Señores Delegados, el sector agropecuario dominicano, por su importancia en la economía, cumple un papel de gran trascendencia en el desarrollo económico y social del país, ya que contribuye con el 63 por ciento del valor FOB de las exportaciones, provee alrededor del 80 por ciento de los alimentos de consumo interno, genera el 45 por ciento del empleo total, concentra el 36 por ciento de la población económicamente activa y el 48 por ciento de la población total. Entre el año 1980 y 1986, el sector agropecuario registró un progresivo descenso de su participación en el Producto Bruto Interno, pasando de 19,5 por ciento en el 80 a 17,0 por ciento en 1986. En los dos últimos años, 1985/86, la tasa de crecimiento de PBI agropecuario disminuyó en 2,8 por ciento acumulativo anual.

Para el período 1980/85 la producción de algunos rubros agropecuarios creció a una tasa de 0,3 por ciento. La mayor proporción de crecimiento correspondió a los cereales, con una tasa de 5,7 por ciento, debido a una política de precios favorable.

La pecuaria creció, en ese período, en 2,6 por ciento, destacándose la carne vacuna. Los otros productos tuvieron tasas negativas de crecimiento, entre los que se destacan las leguminosas, las oleaginosas y cultivos de exportación tradicionales, como café, tabaco y caña de azúcar.

El Gobierno dominicano ha identificado los problemas alimenticios de inmediato y de largo plazo que enfrenta el país en el porvenir. La estrategia de corto plazo ha sido aumentar el consumo diario "per capita" de calorías de 1 424 a 1 906, y el consumo de proteínas, de 28,3 a 43,24 gramos por persona y día, a base de creación de empleos productivos en el área de la construcción, la rehabilitación de las plantaciones de café, cacao, cocoteros y forestales, la aceleración del incremento del turismo y las zonas francas.

La estrategia a largo plazo consiste en maximizar el uso de los recursos naturales, humanos, tecnológicos, financieros e institucionales disponibles en el país, con el objetivo de mejorar los niveles nutricionales de la población, especialmente de los grupos de más bajos ingresos;

aumentar los niveles de producción; mejorar la distribución del ingreso entre los diferentes grupos sociales y reducir la importación de productos agrícolas e incrementar las exportaciones de origen agropecuario como una forma de poder hacer frente a la deuda externa.

La política económica implementada por la presente Administración está orientada al logro de estos objetivos.

Los esfuerzos que realiza el Gobierno para la reorganización de la economía han revitalizado la importancia del sector agropecuario como eje de nuestro desarrollo. Los controles de precios en la agricultura se han ido removiendo. Ya se ha completado la liberalización de la comercialización del arroz, se eliminaron los altos impuestos a las exportaciones agrícolas tradicionales, se han eliminado varios subsidios indiscriminados a costa del productor rural, se han iniciado proyectos concretos de inversión en la rehabilitación y fomento de cultivos tradicionales de exportación, tales como café y cacao, así como en la conservación de los recursos naturales e infraestructura para la irrigación. La reactivación de los cultivos tradicionales de consumo interno ha ido acompañado de un vasto plan de reforma agraria, orientado a lograr la autosuficiencia alimentaria, preservar nuestros recursos naturales y mejorar la distribución del ingreso nacional.

La estrategia de desarrollo económico y social del país se ha visto limitada en el pasado reciente por políticas internas inapropiadas, por la crisis internacional y los programas de ajustes estructurales, que, en vez de corregir distorsiones, más bien las profundizan, con una clara tendencia negativa y penalización al sector agropecuario, vía la sobrevaluación del peso dominicano, que incentiva las importaciones y penaliza las exportaciones.

El Gobierno que preside su excelencia el Dr. Joaquín Balaguer ha reorganizado la economía dominicana, ha orientado sus ejecutorias hacia el campo como la única garantía para alcanzar una paz justa y duradera. Más aún, pienso que todo este esfuerzo podría multiplicarse si nuestro país logra mejorar su situación externa.

Actualmente tenemos un saldo neto de préstamos externos negativo. Es decir, mi país está pagando más de lo que recibe por concepto de préstamos. En el año 1986 recibió desembolsos de préstamos por valor de 220 millones de dólares e hizo pagos de capital e intereses por un valor de 39.4 millones de dólares, para un saldo negativo de 174 millones de dólares. En este año, se estima un saldo neto negativo aún mayor, que alcanzará la suma de 258 millones de dólares.

Tenemos una balanza comercial altamente deficitaria. Nuestras importaciones sobrepasan los 1 300 millones de dólares, mientras que nuestras exportaciones apenas alcanzan los 800 millones de dólares. Exceptuando las dos grandes naciones de Norteamérica - Estados Unidos y Canadá -, mantenemos relaciones comerciales deficitarias con el resto de los continentes: con Latinoamérica tenemos una balanza comercial negativa que sobrepasa los 400 millones de dólares, debido a que de ella adquirimos todos nuestros combustibles importados; con el continente asiático, nuestro déficit comercial sobrepasa los 60 millones de dólares, debido fundamentalmente a nuestro déficit con Japón, Corea y Taiwán; y con el continente europeo tenemos un déficit de más de 50 millones, debido a nuestro mercado deficitario con la Comunidad Económica Europea.

Para este último caso, hemos tomado la iniciativa de solicitar el ingreso a la convención de LOME, que nos permitirá un trato comercial preferencial. Esto creemos que lo vamos a lograr en un futuro cercano, y de seguro será de gran ayuda para nuestra agricultura.

En consecuencia, la situación de balanza desfavorable que tiene la República Dominicana con varios países y continentes - y que seguramente no es una característica exclusiva de la República - sugeriría a esta reunión analizar las posibilidades de que la FAO ayude a los países en vía de desarrollo a obtener tratos más humanos y preferenciales en las instituciones internacionales que tratan con el comercio internacional.

Porque es de común conocimiento que no es suficiente modernizar nuestra agricultura - en la que la FAO, sin duda, nos ayuda -, si simultáneamente no logramos mejorar nuestro poder de negociación en los niveles internacionales.

No quiero concluir mi intervención sin hacer público el agradecimiento de nuestro Gobierno y del pueblo dominicano por la ayuda recibida de la FAO para la recuperación de las zonas afectadas por el paso del ciclón Emily, el cual causó pérdidas a nuestra agricultura por un valor de 116 millones de pesos y que, gracias a esta ayuda, el proceso de recuperación se viene realizando de manera exitosa.

Finalmente, me gustaría resaltar que para el mundo en vía de desarrollo es importante poder resolver sus problemas en forma democrática y coordinada. Creo que podemos y tenemos que luchar unidos, y la unión más fuerte que tienen los países en vías de desarrollo en esta lucha sin cuartel es esta Asamblea, esta reunión, a la que la República Dominicana pertenece en su espíritu y acción.

Nuestra nación, la República Dominicana, donde reina la democracia y la libertad, quiere darle a cada uno de ustedes, por mi conducto, un abrazo de afecto y cariño y ofrecerles nuestra hospitalidad en aquella región del Caribe, patria de Duarte, a las órdenes de todos ustedes. Muchas gracias.

Hamad Abdulla AL MUTTAWA (United Arab Emirates) (original Language Arabic): In the name of Allah, the merciful and compassionate: Mr Chairman, Ministers, ladies and gentlemen: I have the honour to extend all congratulations to Faisal Abdul-Razzak al-Khaled, Minister of Trade of Kuwait - and in a way, that implies congratulating ourselves, because Dr al Khaled is also a member of the Council of Cooperation of the Gulf States. So we congratulate him, and ourselves, on his election to chair this Conference. I ask God to crown with success the work of this present session.

I would like also to extend my congratulations to Mr Edouard Saouma on his re-election to the post of Director-General of FAO, This re-election proves how relevant, and how wise, Mr Saouma's policy has been over his past mandate.

The United Arab Emirate would like to emphasize very strongly the prime role played by FAO within the United Nations system, in the area of food and agriculture. We would like also to thank the Director-General for the new strategic trend set for FAO, such as the centralisation which has given a new target and purpose to programmes, and also enhances the impact on national programmes, and spells out more clearly the very objectives of technical assistance. I also want to thank him for the programme of technical cooperation, the network of FAO general representatives, and the overall integrated concept of the relationship between food security and food production.

I would like here to remind ourselves of the great reform, the WCARRD meeting which was held in 1979. At this conference, much focus was given to rural development and the integration of women in this whole process. The conference linked development to social justice in rural regions, and recommended that more importance and focus be given to small fishermen and small landowners, and furthermore support was given to regional and subregional programmes in forestry and in the fight against desertification. We would like to greatly praise this, here.

World Food Day was seen as a service to mankind as a whole by individuals and by governments. Everyone was mobilized, so to speak, in order to focus upon the millions of people throughout this world who are suffering from hardship and hunger, and to encourage the world to find a solution to this inhuman drama. Malthus' population theories have not come true, because God, who created the world, by His goodness does provide for the creatures He has made: He gave man intelligence and strength, enabling man himself to invent those technologies which make it possible for him to step up food production so that it may go hand in hand with population growth.

There is an abundance of production, but this abundance is badly distributed. We are not unaware of the methods that some countries have devised in order to get rid of their food surpluses and to protect international prices of food, rather than channel such surpluses towards needy countries which have not been able to increase their own food production.

In this way, food production internationally speaking is in a surplus situation, but is badly distributed. We would have hoped for this plenty to help the world situation, as set out by the FAO in the early 1980s, "to ensure basic food to each human being according to his needs and at all times". "Food security" in the wide sense of the phrase, which includes trading and production, has not really been brought about despite the efforts of FAO itself and in spite of the principles propagated by FAO at the beginning of this decade; for instance, increased food production, stable markets and stable supplies, and free access to food. These three policies have not been brought about and have not responded to our expectations.

Just as a reminder, Sir, the first target is one of stepping up production in food deficit areas by reactivating international agriculture so as to arrive at maximum food production. Priority was given to grain. After that, came the new concept of root crops, animal production and other food and animal products including grain legumes; stressing the role of the small farmers in developing countries, and improving economic advantages for small farmers. Yesterday, as today, FAO does much towards these various targets. We welcome this and would like to see such targets put into effect.

The second target is stable markets. Now, to obtain these one must be able to cut down the seasonal fluctuations in supply and demand on international markets. The international community has not yet given the necessary emphasis to this particular and important target.

Thirdly, there is the target of free access to food. To achieve this, one must liberalize international trade, enabling developing countries then to obtain the foreign currency in order to import the necessary food. That is a highly important issue for developing countries, particularly if we know that agricultural commodities constitute one-third of the exports of producing and developing countries - sometimes it could even be 100 percent.

My country is expecting to work towards the development and adoption of an ambitious programme aimed at self-sufficiency and diversification so as to be part and parcel of all the coordination and integration programmes, both regional and international. Also, the United Arab Emirates has participated in international trade and commercial activities by aiding economic development funds, the Abdu Dhabi investments, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to Arab and African Countries, and has also participated, for instance, in the Islamic Bank for Development. We have participated in the funding of a number of projects together with Arab and developing countries, projects such as bilateral investment companies, agricultural development companies and in the improvement of animal resources.

We have cooperated with Arab countries in order to improve our agricultural and fisheries production. The United Arab Emirates have allocated a great percentage to all these operations. We feel that this is one of the greatest contributions we can make, and we are happy with the results.

Recently, we have celebrated the Seventh World Food Day, when emphasis was placed on smallholders. There are millions of smallholders in developing countries. They form the majority of the Third World populations. At the celebration of the World Food Day the United Arab Emirates played its part because we all recognize the great merit due to small farmers and smallholders. My Government gives much aid by way of inputs such as pesticides and fertilizers, which are given at half price. We also encourage smallholders to learn new technologies, glasshouse culture, soil treatment, the sinking of wells, pesticide treatment. We also participated in the building of dams, in water purification systems and have focussed on supplying the necessary pesticides and equipment to the small farmers.

This support has borne a fruit. We have reached self-sufficiency in many vegetable, animal and fishery products. We are also trying to improve storage facilities, always aiming at self-sufficiency and the achievement of food reserves. World Food Day was an opportunity for both rich and poor countries to renew their pledges towards the common cause of eradicating poverty and malnutrition. Here, the role played by FAO in order to reactivate production in the developing countries has proved to be a worthy effort because it has improved growing systems and rationalized the utilization of resources with regard to production and consumer levels. We have given stress to the pragmatic solutions so as to benefit from the transfer of technology to developing countries.

We know that many countries are threatened by drought. Many Asian countries, particularly those which could have reached food self-sufficiency, are threatened by hurricanes and floods. We must help them so that there is a better possibility for them to use weather forecasting and other early warning systems either to prevent or prepare for disaster, and to benefit more from rainfall in countries subject to drought. The efforts deployed by FAO in this area certainly deserve our full praise. Furthermore, we can say that FAO policy in assessment was the outcome of in-depth and highly relevant analyses and studies. This is very important in order to be able to assess the quality of our programmes and to assess the impact on the international community of activities undertaken by FAO.

Mr Chairman, so that we may learn from the 1960s and the 1970s we must support agriculture and give it priority. Promoting agriculture means overcoming the scourge of poverty and malnutrition and developing economic and industrial growth. We must focus on the environment, and make it possible in each country to strike a balance between each of these factors. Man is capable of taking up any challenge providing he really concentrates on international cooperation. We must take up this challenge.

In this session we are brought face to face with our responsibilities, which are increasing. In taking decisions we must never forget that the next generation will judge us as we judged the preceding generation, those who held power to take decisions and to decide on the fate of mankind as a whole.

In conclusion, I thank you, Mr Chairman, for the wisdom and know-how with which you have been guiding our work and for the confidence which makes it possible to go more deeply into the documents we have in front of us. May God grant our wish that we may have greater well-being for the entire world and all mankind. May peace be with you all.

The meeting rose at 10.45 hours

Le séance est levée à 10 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 10.45 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 87/PV/12

Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARY

Vingt-quatrième session
PLENIRE

24° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING
DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
12ª SESIÓN PLENARIA

(13 November 1987)

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
M. Mahbubuzzaman, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence
de M. Mahbubuzzaman, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas, bajo la presidencia
de M. Mahbubuzzaman, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Roberto PONCE (Ecuador): Señor Presidente, a nombre del Gobierno ecuatoriano, deseo expresarle a usted y a los señores Vicepresidentes la felicitación más sentida por sus designaciones y, al mismo tiempo, hacerle llegar los fervientes votos por que esta Conferencia, bajo su acertada dirección alcance el éxito que todos los países miembros de la organización desean.

En momentos como el presente, en que la crisis desatada en los últimos años ha puesto crudamente en evidencia la vulnerabilidad de las economías de los países del Tercer Mundo y ha hecho más notoria la desvinculación de sus procesos económicos de la marcha de la economía mundial. Cuando la escasa o la falta total de capacidad de reacción ante las consecuencias de las políticas económicas aplicadas por los países industrializados ha determinado que muchos países en desarrollo vean completamente anulados sus esfuerzos para reanimar sus sectores productivos; cuando se intensifican las prácticas proteccionistas por parte de los países industrializados y se dificulta el acceso en sus mercados a los productos de los países en desarrollo es necesario -y así lo hace mi país- reafirmar la fe y la vocación multi lateralista del Tercer Mundo.

Mi país tiene una larga trayectoria de participación en organismos multilaterales, que se ha caracterizado por la voluntad de colaborar en forma amplia y decidida en todos los esfuerzos orientados a la superación de los problemas y a la estructuración de un esquema estable y equitativo de cooperación entre naciones, en condiciones de justicia e igualdad. Esa voluntad es indeclinable y va más allá de circunstancias coyunturales, porque se basa en el convencimiento de que en la concertación y en la unión de capacidades está la base de solución de los problemas derivados de vivir en un mundo cada vez más complejo e interdependiente.

En la vida de los hombres se alternan, en una inexplicable secuencia, momentos de inspiración, fe, exaltación, reflexión y acción dinámica, con otros de apatía, negativismo, crítica, duda e inacción; todo ello, dentro de un proceso consubstancial al individuo, que fluye naturalmente, sin interrupciones. La vivencia de esas etapas diversas se proyecta en todos los actos humanos y genera situaciones que se resuelven bajo el signo de esos estados anímicos.

Esta Organización, como obra humana que es, guarda estricta similitud con esa figura y es, por tanto, el reflejo de las vivencias, de los momentos anímicos de quienes la componen; es decir, los Estados miembros. Es evidente que en esta etapa de la Organización hay Estados miembros que atraviesan por momentos de duda y de crítica respecto de los objetivos y propósitos establecidos en la Carta fundamental; y, guiados por ese espíritu, han manifestado su deseo de reexaminar las metas y operaciones de la FAO y reformar el proceso de presupuestación por programas. Este deseo de una minoría de Estados miembros -respetable, por cierto- contrasta con la manifestación vigorosa y decidida de apoyo de la mayoría de los Estados miembros a los objetivos y propósitos de la Organización, tal como constan en la Carta fundamental, y a la forma como se han desarrollado las labores tendientes a su consecución.

Estos dos enfoques, no por ser en esencia divergentes, son necesariamente irreconciliables. Cuando existen buenos deseos y voluntad de dialogar, dejando de lado posiciones inflexibles y arrogantes, tendencias opuestas pueden llegar a recorrer el mismo camino con miras a alcanzar un objetivo común. Pero para ello es necesario meditar, reflexionar en forma profunda y seria.

En un momento como el actual, mi país cree que el primer análisis, la primera reflexión, debe girar en torno a los principios fundamentales del multilateralismo y su puesta en práctica en el ámbito

de la Organización. Vemos con temor el surgimiento de una tendencia que solapadamente pretende socavar los cimientos sobre los que fue erigida la FAO, así como la ONU y todo el sistema que involucran. Esta tendencia ataca frontalmente la universalidad de las organizaciones multilaterales, menoscaba su capacidad de concertación y pone en duda la vigencia de la solidaridad como principio rector de la cooperación internacional.

A lo largo de más de cuarenta años de vida, la FAO ha cumplido una labor de gran nuignitud, en función de satisfacerlas acuciantes necesidades de los países en desarrollo, y en cada uno de ellos se pueden encontrar testimonios claros e irrefutables de los beneficios conseguidos a través de la actividad de la Organización. De ahí que consideremos que los objetivos y propósitos de su Carta constitutiva son plenamente válidos y actuales, y sus estructuras y métodos de operación, adecuados para la ejecución de los programas.

Los problemas financieros que afectan la buena marcha de la FAO, originados en el atraso en el pago de las cuotas de algunos países, especialmente los Estados Unidos de America, no constituyen razón suficiente para hablar de "crisis", y no es admisible que se manipule y agudice intencionalmente dicho atraso en las contribuciones para crear artificialmente un clima de insatisfacción que sea terreno propicio para proponer reformas que, tras un enunciado general que habla de reorientación de objetivos y racionalización en el establecimiento de prioridades, esconden motivaciones políticas.

Es necesario señalar que mi país, por principio, no se opone a cambios, porque está convencido de que, a través de un diálogo franco y constructivo, es siempre posible mejorar o perfeccionar toda obra humana. Sin embargo, considera absolutamente indispensable reafirmar el planteamiento de que cualquier cambio dentro de la Organización tiene que ser el resultado de un proceso en el que participen todos sus miembros dentro del marco institucional señalado en los textos que rigen las actividades de sus órganos competentes. Por ello, rechazamos toda propuesta que pretenda alejar de ese marco institucional la discusión sobre cualquier reforma. Nos oponemos a la creación de grupos foráneos para el tratamiento de temas que atañen exclusivamente a los representantes de los Gobiernos de los países miembros, pero reiteramos nuestra disposición para el diálogo y la negociación.

Mi país, consciente de su vocación agrícola, se encuentra empeñado en fomentar su sector agropecuario y, en base al apoyo del Gobierno y al tesón del campesino ecuatoriano, se han logrado avances significativos. Sin embargo, debemos reconocer que los problemas derivados de una estructura agroeconómica arcaica y la escasez de medios financieros y técnicos hacen indispensable la asistencia de organismos internacionales especializados.

Es por todo esto que queremos manifestar nuestro decidido apoyo a las actividades de la FAO, puesto que ha demostrado eficiencia y dedicación en las materias que le han sido confiadas. Tenemos la convicción de que los esfuerzos que ha realizado en materia de cooperación técnica han permitido a muchos países acercarse a la meta elemental de la seguridad alimentaria, acorde con el pacto aprobado en esta misma sede hace algunos años.

Asimismo, el Ecuador apoyará cualquier esfuerzo de la FAO en aplicar y perfeccionar el código internacional de conducta para la utilización y distribución de plaguicidas. No es humano ni moralmente aceptable que los venenos prohibidos en los países donde se fabrican sean colocados en los países del Tercer Mundo sin un elemental conocimiento, por parte de éstos, de los riesgos y peligros que entraña su uso.

Aprobamos con satisfacción el programa de labores presentado a la Conferencia, resultado de largos y meditados estudios. La FAO se encuentra ejecutando con solvencia y acierto una serie de acciones que buscan afianzar la cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo, que constituyen instrumentos primarios para llegar a la efectiva implantación del nuevo orden económico internacional.

En relación al Presupuesto, queremos señalar nuestra preocupación por el hecho de que su aprobación, bajo los parámetros de la teoría del crecimiento cero, significa el deterioro de las capacidades operativas de la Organización y una negativa a atender las aspiraciones de los países en desarrollo, cuyas necesidades de asistencia técnica y financiera son cada día mayores.

Paradójicamente a lo sostenido en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas, muchos países desarrollados incrementan astronómicamente, año por año, los presupuestos para la fabricación de armamentos.

Mientras el Tercer Mundo enfrenta el drama de la pobreza, el hambre y la desnutrición, la maquinaria tecnológica de los países industrializados gasta cantidades incalculables en la investigación para la fabricación de ingenios que provocan la muerte y la destrucción. La milésima parte de los presupuestos de armamentos bastaría para solucionar los problemas de sequía, plagas, desertificación, deforestación, salubridad y educación de muchos países en desarrollo.

Sin embargo, no sórán este panorama sombrío ni las dificultades colocadas en el camino capaces de hacer desmayar la voluntad de los países en desarrollo de luchar día a día para superar los graves problemas que les afectan. Grandes victorias se han conseguido y se conseguirán en el futuro, dentro de esta Organización. Una de ellas es la reelección del señor Edouard Saouma en el cargo de Director General. Deseo en este momento expresarle la satisfacción de mi Gobierno por dicha reelección. El Ecuador está seguro de que su experiencia y capacidad son una garantía para el futuro de la FAO y para las justas aspiraciones de los países en desarrollo.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, deseo expresar ante esta honorable Asamblea el reconocimiento y la profunda gratitud del pueblo ecuatoriano para con todos aquellos países que manifestaron su solidaridad y le brindaron su ayuda en la hora aciaga del terremoto del 5 de marzo pasado, así como también a esta Organización, de la cual formamos parte. Estos gestos de generosidad y solidaridad comprometen perennemente el reconocimiento de mi país.

Habib A. KASSIM (Bahrain) (original language Arabic): It gives me great pleasure to head the delegation of the State of Bahrain to the Twenty-fourth General Conference of FAO. May I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt congratulations to the Chairman on his election to chair this Session, which reflects the confidence of member countries in his efficiency and capabilities in successfully steering the deliberations of this important Conference. On behalf of the Delegation of the State of Bahrain, I am pleased to express my best wishes for success in your task.

At the outset, I rejoice in expressing to His Excellency the Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, our sincere and warm congratulations on the renewed confidence reflected in his re-election for his third term as Director-General. Such an event, which is unprecedented in the history of this Organization, is a clear indication of the confidence which all member countries place in his ability and efficiency in managing the affairs of the Organization. The Director-General has distinguished himself through the achievements of the Organization during his previous two terms of office. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to wish him the best in his task of securing further achievements.

Having had the honour to head the Delegation of my country to numerous previous Conferences of FAO, I attach special importance to this Session, in view of the economic conditions witnessed by the international community and the present political circumstances which are of far-reaching consequence and which always take place amid a scenario of natural calamities and plights suffered by many regions of the world. This Organization has genuinely endeavoured to face the circumstances, despite the financial problems and difficulties which it encounters.

Our meeting takes place amid critical global circumstances. Global economic recession has exacerbated the already difficult conditions in some areas which are due to many factors, such as natural calamities in the form of drought, floods, locusts, and bloody wars, in addition to the trade problems, strict protectionist measures, and external debt burdens.

It is really regrettable that while many regions enjoy food abundance, others suffer hunger and poverty as a result of the political relations that are no longer governed by long-standing principles, but are rather dictated by immediate interests in addition to the problems resulting from wars waged in various parts of the globe. In this context, I would like to refer to the proposal of the United States calling for the abolition of agricultural subsidies on a global level with a view to securing fair competition among centres of production without intervention through measures that will create imbalances in production and price structures, despite the fact that this proposal is positive since it provides an equitable marketing opportunity to developing countries whose economic conditions render them incapable of supporting domestic production, given existing subsidy levels in developed countries. However, the proposal stands short of a complementary scheme

by developed countries based upon augmenting their assistance to developing countries, not only in the form of direct food aid, but also in the form of productive ventures, infrastructure projects and technical expertise to enable these countries to increase their share in world food production and enhance their self-reliance for the provision of most of their food requirements. Such a scheme will alleviate the burden falling upon developed countries themselves in the long run. The critical food situation of the developing countries vis-à-vis food abundance in the developed ones is an anomaly which threatens to divide the world, as it were, into an overfed part and a hungry one. This in turn threatens the emergence of Instability with adverse effects on international relationships. Therefore, the situation calls for giving the public interest precedence over private narrow interests through an immediate solution that allows for the utilization of food surpluses in developed countries to feed the hungry and homeless in the third world. In view of FAO's expertise in this field and the confidence it enjoys, we consider the Organization well equipped to participate in the achievement of this goal. I do sincerely hope that all will have the genuine intention to rid millions of people of the scourge and hunger and misery and to guarantee the right of all men and women to life, regardless of race, colour or creed.

In this respect, I would like to commend the food security scheme implemented by FAO, as such a scheme has proven its significance and usefulness. It has also enjoyed the appreciation of beneficiary countries. I would also like to highlight the need for the Organization to assume a leading role in assisting governments in the formulation and achievement of their overall food security objectives. There is also a need for appropriate coordination between this scheme and other programmes implemented by FAO.

Mr Chairman, one of the major problems suffered by developing countries is that of external debt which adds to the further confounded conditions. The matter is further exacerbated as a result of debt overhang due to high interest rates, inflation and the volatility of exchange rates. No doubt the debt overhang reduces developing countries' capabilities to increase their agricultural investment and consequently increase their reliance upon external sources in order to meet their ever increasing needs to the high rate of population increase, thus further aggravating the situation. Even if some countries were able to take measures with a view to activate their economies and enhance trade exchanges, they are faced with strict protectionist measures imposed by some countries at a time when the call for reducing such measures in the interest of international trade is repeatedly heard in various international fora. Some countries tend to make these measures harsher in their quest to serve their own narrow interest at the expense of the global interest with calls for solidarity, inter-dependence and collaboration among all parties. The situation now is such that some developed countries complain of the protectionist measures imposed by other developing ones. This reflects the adverse effects of such measures. On the other hand, the persistence of the existing unjust economic order constitutes still another hurdle in the way of developing countries, and adds a further threat to world stability. Regrettably, all the meetings and conferences held so far on various levels stood short of adopting a more equitable economic order based upon the principles of inter-dependence and international cooperation. I am convinced that the critical conditions of the world today require more than ever the speedy adoption of a fair economic order that takes into account all current developments and variables, thus contributing to the reduction of world tension, the creation of détente, consolidation of global stability and the collective response to development challenges.

There emerged signs of improvement in economic relations which were reflected in the decisions of UNCTAD in Geneva and those of the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank for the solution of the debt burden and development assistance to developing countries. However, enormous genuine efforts are required in order to speedily implement such decisions.

Mr Chairman, concerning the financial problems faced by the Organization, we endorse the approach pursued by the Director-General in reducing expenditures without prejudicing the general framework of the Organization's activities. In the light of this situation, we support the proposed Programme of Work for the next biennium. We also support the methodology used for the preparation of the budget for the next biennium. We hope that such an approach will continue, given the financial situation of the Organization. Serious work for instituting controls over expenditures should be continued with a view toward enabling the Organization with a view to undertake its major activities and continue providing assistance to the needy.

Mr Chairman, there is also a need for the Organization to continue. Since we call for international coordination among global development programmes, I feel duty bound to refer to coordination among members of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council. Such coordination has covered some ground towards integration amongst the Council members. Our countries have pursued cooperation as an inevitable option and the first step on the path of unity. Despite the fact that the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council is in its prime, it has made many achievements towards integration among the Arab Gulf countries. To mention some of such efforts, the Council embarked upon the standardization of agricultural legislation and regulations, especially in the field of veterinary and plant quarantine, administration of veterinary drugs, use of fertilizers, pesticides and seeds. There are also studies for the achievement of integration through joint ventures in the fields of poultry, dairy products, farm equipment, fisheries and water. A system has been initiated whereby member countries will avail themselves of the facilities and services available in such countries as veterinary laboratories. No doubt the experience of the Arab Gulf Council is a model for regional cooperation which can be emulated by other regional groupings. Domestic agricultural policies within the members of the Gulf Council began to give increasing attention to the agricultural sector with a view to strengthening self-reliance, especially due to the decline of the price of oil, which represents the main source of income for the member countries of the Gulf Council. On the domestic front, my Government pursues a prudent policy based upon two parallel lines: the provision of incentives to the agricultural sector and the implementation of some productive projects encouraging the private sector to invest in agriculture, to increase domestic output and the continuation in subsidizing basic food commodities so as to relieve the burden shouldered by our citizens despite the economic conditions resulting from the drop in oil prices. My country has also embarked upon the implementation of projects serving the infrastructures of the agricultural and fishery centres, despite the scarcity of water resources and the small size of the country. Government efforts lead to boosting the volume of investments in the period 1981-86 through an annual increase of 7%. The efforts were also responsible for raising the ratio of self-sufficiency from 67. in 1981 to 50% in 1986 and for expanding the agricultural area by 18% between 1981 and 1986.

Since I am talking about the state of agriculture in Bahrain, I should commend the fruitful co-operation that exists between my country and FAO. The Organization has been generous in extending technical assistance and expertise which contributed to the formulation of our objectives. I would like to thank the Director-General and all FAO organs for their positive understanding and speedy response to our needs.

Mr Chairman, in conclusion, I feel duty bound to express sincere thanks to all those who assisted in the preparations for this Conference. I do sincerely hope that our Conference will come up with practical resolutions that will strengthen the role of the Organization and make it capable of shouldering its responsibilities towards the international community.

Julian AREVALO (España): En primer lugar, la delegación española, quiere hacer patente su felicitación sincera al Director General por su elección para un nuevo período de seis años que ahora comienza.

Queremos felicitar igualmente al Sr. Presidente de la Conferencia, y desearle mucha suerte en la difícil gestión que como tal Presidente tiene encomendada.

La XXIII Conferencia de la FAO, celebrada hace dos años, recogió en su Orden del Día un gran tema, auténtica idea-fuerza que dio carácter a aquel encuentro: la adopción de un Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial con obligaciones, siquiera fueran morales, para Gobiernos Instituciones no gubernamentales e incluso personas.

El proyecto de Pacto recogía también explícitamente, en el párrafo octavo del Capítulo III, el objetivo del compromiso propuesto: la creación de un sistema alimentario mundial que se caracterice por la estabilidad y la seguridad, y apuntaba, en el párrafo séptimo del mismo capítulo, la condición necesaria para que ello pueda ser posible: el compromiso de los Gobiernos, no sólo moral sino también económico, de cooperar entre sí para aumentar la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Hoy, tras dos años transcurridos de este evento, es lamentable constatar lo poco que hemos avanzado en el camino dibujado entonces.

El Director General de la FAO ha vuelto a recordar que, junto al progreso indudable en el crecimiento de la producción alimentaria mundial, persisten factores retardatarios de un desarrollo agrario, pesquero y alimentario, sostenido y armónico. Entre esos factores negativos, que tienen como referencia última la persistencia de la crisis económica, cabe destacar entre los exógenos al sector alimentario, el problema de la deuda exterior; y entre los endógenos al propio sector, el elevado nivel de proteccionismo y sus corolarios inevitables: la generación de excedentes crecientes y difícilmente realizables y el estancamiento, cuando no disminución, del comercio mundial agroalimentario.

Respecto al problema de la deuda, que supone un pesado lastre sobre las posibilidades de desarrollo de muchos pueblos, es evidente que su resolución no es un tema estrictamente económico sino político que pasa por la adopción de iniciativas generosas e imaginativas por parte de los países acreedores. Cuanto antes se llegue a despejar las incertidumbres que afectan a este tema, antes será posible desarrollar las relaciones de confianza que son indispensables, aunque no, por supuesto, suficientes, para poner en marcha un desarrollo económico sostenido en el tiempo.

En relación con los problemas endógenos al sector agroalimentario, somos conscientes de que las políticas excesivamente proteccionistas practicadas en relación con los mercados agrarios y sus secuelas inevitables la sobreproducción relativa y la necesaria realización de los excedentes resultantes, tienden a envilecer las relaciones económicas internacionales, anulan el juego, siquiera sea limitado, de la ventaja comparativa en el comercio mundial y en consecuencia última es inevitable un reforzamiento de la propensión al aislamiento y el sueño y búsqueda utópica de imposibles soluciones nacionales, en demérito de la cooperación internacional.

España se ha incorporado, pronto hará dos años, al Mercado Común Europeo. En ese marco hemos defendido y seguiremos propugnando una política activa a favor de una regulación más racional de los mercados agrarios, que no tiene por qué ser, antes al contrario, más costosa en término de recursos presupuestarios. El incremento de la racionalidad supondría la supresión de intervenciones y protecciones innecesarias y el fin de una política que por la inercia acumulada durante los años de crecimiento económico sostenido, primaba la producción con cualquier destino, incluyendo la exclusiva venta a la intervención sobre toda consideración, de ventas para el mercado.

Creemos que puede llegarse a una síntesis razonable entre los intereses de los productores nacionales, de los distintos colectivos de países y concretamente de la CEE y de toda la Comunidad Mundial y ello pasa por un ajuste, con el tiempo y prudencia necesarios, de los sectores, industrias y productores que no trabajen para el mercado y hayan hecho de la venta a la intervención, o de la exportación a cualquier precio, el motivo esencial de su existencia. Lógicamente, para que tal política tenga éxito debe adoptarse en un marco multinacional con las debidas reciprocidades y con el reconocimiento de las distintas sensibilidades y situaciones puestas en juego. En este sentido esperamos mucho del desarrollo de la actual negociación GATT-Ronda Uruguay. En este mismo foro comunitario, en el que mi país desarrolla esencialmente su actividad económica, Mercado Común Europeo, hemos propugnado por la eliminación de las discriminaciones todavía existentes a favor de unos países en vías de desarrollo en demérito de otros, como los iberoamericanos, que se encuentran en idéntica situación de vías de desarrollo.

La entrada en una comunidad económica supranacional, con libre circulación de mercancías y tarifa exterior común, implica un aumento inmediato del mercado consumidor. En el caso de mi país, ello ha equivalido a cambiar un mercado de 40 millones de consumidores por otro, el comunitario, de 350 millones, aproximadamente, de consumidores. Pensamos que esa solución, las integraciones regionales, pueden ser positivas en otras partes del mundo y en este sentido vemos con simpatía los esfuerzos que se realizan entre otras zonas en la comunidad latinoamericana para consolidar el Pacto Andino y otras uniones económicas racionales. El incremento regional del mercado puede permitir corregir, al menos en parte, la actual tendencia al estancamiento, cuando no a la regresión, de la demanda alimentaria mundial, proporcionando márgenes adicionales de maniobra a las distintas políticas económicas aplicadas por los países.

Pasando a comentar brevemente el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, quisiera decirles, en primer lugar, que expresamos nuestra satisfacción por el quehacer del Comité de Recursos Fitogenéticos y albergamos grandes esperanzas de que en breve plazo se llegue a una acción concertada de alcance o ámbito universal. La realidad de la creación de un fondo internacional de recursos fitogenéticos, con contribuciones voluntarias, ha sido recibida por nuestro país con complacencia, por cuanto

creemos que contribuirá muy positivamente a la reconversión y utilización de este tipo de recursos en los países en vía de desarrollo, y al fortalecimiento de su capacidad en la obtención de variedades que hasta el momento no han seguido un adecuado proceso de selección y mejora genética.

En materia de pesca quiero resaltar que la Administración española ha recogido en el Plan Económico y Social para el Sector Pesquero los 9 elementos de la Estrategia de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesquero, y consciente nuestro Gobierno de la necesidad de una evolución pesquera, ha diseñado un vasto plan para la aplicación de esa Estrategia que permita corregir y lograr los objetivos propuestos.

Nos preocupa profundamente el gran problema que azota a muchas zonas y que podemos referir como el deterioro del medio ambiente, con los fenómenos de erosión, torrencialidad y en muchos casos de desertificación, y con las consiguientes secuelas de deterioro social y de pérdida de la capacidad productiva y de la capacidad económica. Llamamos la atención sobre la existencia de diferentes factores de erosión, según sea la situación y localización de los distintos países y así mientras que en determinadas áreas de Europa puede ser la lluvia ácida un elemento significativo, en el Sur de Europa, en el área mediterránea, los incendios forestales aparecen como un factor-causa decisivo en el proceso de erosión.

España, como país mediterráneo que sufre en su propio suelo estas pérdidas, se reafirma en su intención, ya manifestada y financiada, para emplear un máximo de sus recursos en defensa de la vegetación mediterránea y contribuir así a la consolidación científica y técnica y sobre todo práctica, de una auténtica silvicultura mediterránea, destinada a la conservación y regeneración del patrimonio natural propio de esta región. Es por ello por lo que expresamos nuestra satisfacción porque nuestro país haya hospedado a la 13ª Reunión del Comité sobre Cuestiones Forestales del Mediterráneo "Silva Mediterránea", el pasado mes de septiembre.

Hacemos votos, Sr. Presidente, porque se resuelva satisfactoriamente la situación financiera de la Organización y tenemos la esperanza de que las contribuciones pendientes en la actualidad se solventen positivamente a la mayor brevedad posible, con lo que se resolvería una de las magnitudes que condicionan negativamente la actual situación financiera de la Organización.

La FAO tiene ante sí un importante reto. Ahora comienza con la nueva Dirección General, que ratifica la anterior, una nueva etapa y la solución al problema del hambre no puede seguir esperando. Hacemos votos por la eficaz gestión del Director General saliente y entrante.

Hacemos una llamada general al desarrollo de la imaginación y la innovación, a la ruptura con rutinas trasnochadas, y a la búsqueda de nuevas soluciones a problemas igualmente nuevos, o bien antiguos, para los que los viejos procedimientos han demostrado su escasa validez.

España quiere asegurar a la Organización su contribución y colaboración para que los proyectos de esta unidad se conviertan en realidades en el más inmediato futuro.

LI JONG HYOK (République populaire démocratique de Corée): Permettez-moi tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, de vous féliciter chaleureusement pour votre élection à la présidence de cette conférence générale et d'exprimer ma certitude que, grâce à vos compétences et à vos expériences, nos travaux aboutiront aux résultats espérés.

Je voudrais aussi profiter de l'occasion qui m'est ainsi offerte pour exprimer au Dr. Edouard Saouma mes félicitations les plus chaleureuses pour sa brillante réélection au poste de Directeur général de la FAO. Cette nomination intervenue à un moment où l'attention internationale se prête plus que jamais au problème alimentaire et agricole est une expression de l'attente de la confiance de la grande majorité des pays membres en ses qualités humaines et capacités exceptionnelles de gestion et de l'organisation.

Je suis persuadé que, sous sa direction avisée, la FAO continuera à jouer un rôle de premier plan pour éliminer la pauvreté, pour résoudre le grave problème agricole et alimentaire.

Comme beaucoup de délégués ont souligné dans cette tribune, le problème agricole reste toujours une préoccupation majeure au niveau mondial, en dépit des efforts consentis dans toutes les régions du monde.

Notre Président KIM IL SUNG, Leader bien-aimé, a dit que la solution correcte de ces problèmes s'avère plus pressante pour les pays en développement libérés de l'asservissement colonial et engagés dans la voie de la création d'une vie nouvelle.

Dans les pays en développement où la majorité de la population travaille dans le secteur agricole, le développement de l'agriculture et la solution du problème alimentaire sont une des conditions préalables pour l'amélioration de l'économie nationale et pour la réalisation d'un développement indépendant du pays.

Pourtant, malgré une grande attention mondiale et les efforts agissants de nombreux pays, le développement de l'agriculture n'arrive pas à atteindre le niveau requis souhaité par le monde.

La croissance agricole se limite toujours aux pays développés et la production alimentaire ne connaît guère la croissance, victime de l'injuste ordre économique international, de la crise de l'économie mondiale et de l'anomalie climatique.

C'est ainsi que ces pays se trouvent confrontés aujourd'hui à des graves problèmes sociaux causés par la disette alimentaire, qui mettent un frein au développement indépendant du pays.

Trois cents millions d'ames exposés au danger permanent de la famine et 50 millions qui meurent de faim chaque année, alors qu'on s'approche de la fin du 20ème siècle, fière de sa civilisation, voilà une tragédie de notre époque contemporaine.

Cependant, certains pays développés refusent d'aider à un niveau nécessaire ces pays atteints de la crise alimentaire et ne cessent d'utiliser les vivres comme une arme de pression politique.

La réalité montre que le problème alimentaire n'est point une simple question de nourriture mais une question vitale directement liée au développement indépendant de chaque pays.

Le Gouvernement de la République Populaire Démocratique de Corée qui accorde toujours une grande attention au développement de l'agriculture s'efforce d'accroître encore plus la production alimentaire.

Dans notre pays où l'irrigation, la mécanisation et la chimisation de l'agriculture sont arrivées à un niveau élevé, le moyen le plus rationnel d'augmenter la production alimentaire est d'accroître la superficie de la terre cultivable.

En effet, 80 pour cent du territoire de notre pays étant des montagnes, la terre cultivable est très limitée. C'est ainsi, notre pays entreprend avec vigueur divers travaux dont l'obtention des terres nouvelles de 200 000 hectares et la mise en valeur des salants de 300 000 hectares; il consent en même temps des gros efforts dans la construction des réservoirs d'eau de grande, moyenne et petite envergure pour l'irrigation. Rien que ces dernières années, notre pays a mis en valeur beaucoup de terres nouvelles et 100 000 hectares de polders.

A noter qu'une des grandes réalisations enregistrées ces dernières années par notre peuple est la construction au fleuve Daidong des cinq écluses dont l'écluse maritime de l'Ouest qui a été construite par les soldats de notre armée Populaire dans une courte période de 5 ans. Grâce à la construction de cette écluse gigantesque, le fleuve Daidong s'est transformé en un grand réservoir d'eau atteint plus d'un milliard de tonnes et la salinité y a baissé de 20 à 2 pour cent, permettant ainsi de résoudre suffisamment le problème du ravitaillement d'eau à la pleine vague de 200 000 hectares du bassin du fleuve Daidong y compris la terre salée nouvellement mise en valeur.

Notre pays, qui après la libération n'était capable de produire à peine 1,89 millions de tonnes de céréales, produit actuellement 10 millions de tonnes.

Une telle réalisation est sans doute due à la sage direction du grand Leader et du Dirigeant bien-aimé qui ont avancé une politique agricole djoutchéenne conforme à la réalité de notre pays et mobilisé tout le peuple pour moderniser les structures périmées et améliorer les technologies.

Actuellement, notre pays, sans se laisser griser par les succès déjà obtenus, accélère la modernisation et le perfectionnement scientifique de la production agricole tout en effectuant énergiquement les travaux grandioses pour la transformation de la nature visant à augmenter davantage la production agricole.

Si nous accomplissons dans un proche avenir les tâches immenses prévues, nous parviendrons à produire en une année 15 millions de tonnes de céréales, apportant ainsi une modeste contribution à la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Dans nos efforts communs pour atteindre l'autodépendance nationale et pour créer un nouvel ordre économique international, il est d'une importance majeure de favoriser et renforcer la coopération technique entre pays en développement grâce à des échanges d'expériences, à la mise en commun et au partage de leurs ressources techniques.

Pour diverses raisons socio-économiques, aucun secteur ne s'y prête-t-il mieux que l'agriculture.

C'est pourquoi, la Conférence, ministérielle extraordinaire des pays non alignés sur la coopération Sud-Sud, tenue à Pyongyang en juin dernier, a adopté un programme d'action efficace dont la priorité a été donnée à la coopération technique entre pays en développement dans les domaines de l'agriculture, des pêches et des forêts.

La coopération Sud-Sud dans l'agriculture est plus rentable et plus efficace, surtout dans la conjoncture économique difficile que connaît le monde aujourd'hui, et elle justifie donc des efforts accrus.

Pour cette raison, mon Gouvernement apprécie hautement les efforts infatigables du Directeur général pour favoriser et renforcer la TCDC et le rôle de catalyseur que joue la FAO dans ce mouvement important.

Nous estimons que les pays en développement, les pays développés et les grandes organisations internationales doivent redoubler d'efforts pour mettre pleinement à profit tout le potentiel de la TCDC.

Mon Gouvernement, pour sa part, est déterminé à aider d'autres pays en développement à en tirer le meilleur parti, en envoyant nos agronomes et techniciens, en organisant dans notre pays les réunions, séminaires, cours de formation et voyages d'études.

Ma délégation exprime sa satisfaction aux efforts déployés par la FAO au cours de la période écoulée.

Estimant que le Programme de travail et Budget 1988-89, étant élaborés conformément à la situation alimentaire mondiale et à la situation actuelle, sont équilibrés et réalistes, je suis persuadé que la présente Conférence générale les adoptera tels quels.

Pour assurer un développement harmonieux de l'agriculture, il importe avant tout de préserver la paix.

Mon Gouvernement qui n'a ménagé aucun effort pour la paix et la sécurité dans la péninsule coréenne a décidé le 23 juillet dernier de réduire jusqu'à la fin de cette année les effectifs de notre Armée Populaire de 100 000 hommes et d'envoyer une grande partie de ces soldats démobilisés dans le secteur agricole.

J'ai le grand plaisir de vous annoncer que mon pays vient de présenter avant-hier le 11 novembre, des nouvelles propositions constructives pour la paix en Corée.

En vous assurant que ma délégation participera activement aux travaux de notre conférence générale, j'exprime ma conviction que grâce aux efforts conjugués de tous les délégués ici présents, cette conférence générale deviendra une assemblée significative contribuant réellement au développement de l'agriculture mondiale.

Mme Mink PHAN THI (Viet Nam): C'est pour clivage et dans le cadre de l'intégration des femmes, que mon ministre chef de délégation m'a fait parler à sa place.

Prenant la parole pour la première fois devant la Conférence, qu'il me soit permis tout d'abord de féliciter le Directeur général, Docteur Edouard Saouma pour sa réélection à un nouveau mandat.

Permettez-moi aussi de féliciter chaleureusement la FAO, notre chère Organisation et tous ses membres qui, par ce scrutin démocratique ont trouvé un dénouement satisfaisant à une certaine situation de tension.

Nous nous basons sur les réalités d'une décennie de reconstruction et de développement agricole jonchée de difficultés sans nombre, nous apprécions hautement la coopération et l'aide très efficace de la FAO. Nous voudrions ici rendre hommage non seulement au Directeur général et son Secrétariat mais encore aux pays membres qui ont contribué au Budget et aux activités multiples de La FAO.

Nous voudrions nous joindre au groupe de pays en développement, soit le Mexique, le Congo, Cuba, l'Inde, le Nicaragua, les Philippines, l'Arabie-Saoudite, le Soudan et la Yugoslavia dans le mémoire qu'ils ont présenté dans le document C 87/30. Nous sommes entièrement d'accord avec les appréciations mentionnées dans ce mémoire sur les activités de la FAO.

Nous trouvons que la FAO a été l'exécutrice dynamique des décisions obtenues par consensus de ses organes directeurs et des différentes conférences concernées du système de l'ONU. Et cela avec une orientation très nette dans l'emploi des fonds et du capital humain disponibles pour mieux aider les pays en développement.

Nul ne peut nier l'efficacité de la FAO dans les points chauds du monde. Ensemble avec le PAM, la FAO a exercé un impact indiscutable dans la mobilisation universelle des ressources pour la lutte contre la faim et la reconstruction agricole.

L'assistance technique pour l'exécution des projets agricoles du PNUD ainsi que la création du fonds PCT ont fait de la FAO un supporteur technique compétent et digne de confiance auprès des pays en développement.

Dans le contexte contradictoire de la situation alimentaire actuelle du monde, la stratégie de sécurité alimentaire proposée par la FAO a apporté à ce problème ardu une vision nouvelle et une notion de solidarité profondément humaine. A travers les activités multiples et efficaces de la FAO dans beaucoup d'autres domaines tels que: réforme agraire, développement rural, intégration des femmes, développement de la pêche et des forêts, etc., on voit un effort soutenu de la FAO pour assumer une tâche particulièrement grande, complexe et difficile.

Quant à la crise financière de la FAO, nous partageons entièrement le point de vue qu'il faut la résoudre par sa vraie cause et non imputer à une mauvaise gestion, au manque d'efficacité et même aux carences structurelles et chercher remèdes dans des réformes profondes qui mettront en risque la santé de notre organisation.

Si certains réajustements ou réformes s'avèrent nécessaires, nous estimons qu'ils soient décidés selon les principes qui régissent la fondation et les activités de la FAO ainsi que le système de l'ONU. Que tous les débats soient ouverts au sein de cette conférence, organe suprême de la FAO pour régler les controverses et obtenir un consensus satisfaisant pour l'ensemble de ses membres sans perdre de vue les objectifs qui constituent la raison d'être de la FAO. Les questions concrètes en suspens seront confiées au Conseil de la FAO dont nous ne faisons pas encore partie mais auquel nous voudrions témoigner notre pleine confiance.

Permettez-nous de profiter de cette tribune pour apporter quelques informations sur la situation agricole et alimentaire de notre pays:

Le Viet Nam relève le défi de l'autosuffisance vivrière dans une conjoncture difficile: de fréquentes catastrophes naturelles d'un pays de moussons ont aggravé les séquelles de la guerre et un demi-blocus économique. Il faut y ajouter aussi notre manque d'expérience et nos déficiences dans la gestion dans les premières années.

Mais nous en avons tiré de solides leçons. Nous avons déployé de grands efforts dans la mobilisation des ressources nationales, de l'aide des pays amis et de la coopération multilatérale, en particulier celle avec la FAO dans le domaine agricole.

Avec 13 millions de tonnes de vivres en 1976, nous avons atteint, contre vents et marées, plus de 18 millions de tonnes en 1986. Ce qui nous a permis, malgré une croissance démographique encore trop élevée (de l'ordre de 2,2 %), d'amener la moyenne par tête d'habitants de 250 kg à 300 kg. L'importation des céréales s'est réduite à 1/4 de l'année 1976. Plusieurs éléments sont à l'origine de ces résultats: - en premier lieu: une politique incentive à l'égard du paysan le poussant à une culture plus intensive, à la multiplication et la diversification des récoltes. Il est encouragé dans l'application des techniques avancées telles que la sélection de bonnes semences, l'emploi plus rationnel des engrais, le rééchelonnement des cultures pour éviter les intempéries, etc.

L'Etat apporte son aide dans le développement des systèmes d'irrigation et de drainage de grande envergure, dans l'introduction des techniques avancées et des intrants d'importation et surtout dans l'application des réformes dans la gestion agricole.

Nous avons en même temps développé une coopération internationale importante dans ce domaine:

En dehors des programmes intégrés de coopération avec les 2 pays amis voisins, Laos et Kampuchea, et avec les autres pays socialistes, nous avons ouvert des projets de coopération avec les pays de La région. Par exemple, les projets bilatéraux comme les projets très réussis avec l'Inde de culture du riz, du ver à soie, des crevettes, des buffiesses "mura", les échanges avec la Malaisie sur la culture de l'hévéa et du palmier à huile, avec les Philippines sur le cocotier, avec l'Indonésie dans la riziculture.

Dans le cadre multilatéral, nous avons développé une coopération fructueuse avec l'IRRI dans le développement des nouvelles variétés de riz. L'ESCAP et le Bureau régional de la FAO nous ont aidé à bénéficier des technologies avancées de l'agriculture. Le Comité intérimaire du Mékong, quoique encore le 4ème membre soit manquant, a pu fonctionner grâce à la bonne volonté des 3 membres présents, dont la Thaïlande, pays hôte du Secrétariat. Cette année, nous avons inauguré un projet pour la culture des crevettes géantes du del ta, financé généreusement par l'Australie.

En possession d'un capital humain important, nous avons envoyé nos spécialistes dans plusieurs pays en développement. Nos experts dans la culture du riz, des crevettes, dans l'irrigation sont hautement appréciés par leur savoir-faire ainsi que leur dévouement dans le travail.

Malgré tous ces progrès acquis, nous ne sommes pas optimistes outre mesure. Nous sommes conscients que, sous ce climat tropical de moussons au régime très capricieux avec une infrastructure économique encore trop faible, notre situation alimentaire reste très fragile, constamment menacée par la pénurie vivrière. En plus, il faut tenir compte des besoins alimentaires sans cesse grandissants de la population en quantité comme en qualité.

Il nous reste beaucoup à faire:

- De nouvelles réformes sont nécessaires surtout au niveau des cultivateurs, par exemple: la politique des prix et des taxes, le système de vente et d'achat des produits et des intrants agricoles, etc.
- Les investissements gouvernementaux doivent mieux répondre à l'application des techniques avancées, à limiter la dépendance aux éléments naturels.
- Plusieurs secteurs tels que l'élevage, la pêche et l'industrie alimentaire sont à développer d'urgence pour améliorer la ration alimentaire de la population.

Dans notre plan de développement jusqu'en l'an 2000, l'agriculture occupe encore une place primordiale dans l'exécution de 3 programmes prioritaires: vivres et denrées alimentaires, articles de consommation, articles d'exportation.

Un programme intégré est établi couvrant plusieurs objectifs tels que:

- Intensification, multiplication et diversification des récoltes pour un rendement plus élevé et une plus grande efficacité dans l'investissement agricole.
- Extension des cultures dans des zones appropriées avec investissement adéquat sous condition de protection des forêts.
- Un contrôle plus serré des ravageurs et d'autres maladies phytosanitaires.
- Impulsion plus énergique à l'industrie de transformation pour limiter les pertes après récoltes, mieux valoriser les produits et répondre aux échanges internationaux.

De pair avec une campagne de planning familial, un réajustement nutritionnel dans la ration alimentaire visant à "moins de fécule, plus de protéines et de vitamines".

Ce programme demande une large coopération internationale. Nous accordons toujours une place importante aux instances multilatérales. Au Viet Nam, on peut dire que ce sont les organisations internationales qui ont servi de pont aux relations économiques et techniques avec le monde occidental durant la dernière décennie.

Pour la FAO, l'exécution de plus du tiers des projets financés par le PNUD lui est confiée. Ce pourcentage pourrait s'élever encore dans l'actuel cycle.

Dans l'ensemble, nous sommes satisfaits de l'exécution des projets. Nous souhaiterions néanmoins une amélioration dans le choix des consultants et experts et des fournisseurs d'équipements car la moindre carence dans ces opérations nous coûte non seulement des devises mais encore du temps précieux pour valoriser les projets concernés. Nous souhaitons aussi une plus grande utilisation de l'expertise nationale et une plus grande importance aux cours de formation à l'intérieur du pays sur le terrain.

Au sujet du programme PCT, nous nous joignons aux autres pays en développement pour rendre hommage à ce programme. Avec des montants modestes mais une exécution rapide et efficace, la FAO a rendu de grands services dans plusieurs de nos secteurs prioritaires. Nous sommes d'avis qu'il faut chercher à augmenter la part du budget pour ce programme et assurer à ce programme un caractère durable avec des objectifs de longue haleine dans le pays concerné.

En un mot, nous voudrions encore une fois manifester notre joie devant les premiers résultats de notre conférence. Nous sommes conscients que beaucoup de difficultés sont à surmonter mais nous sommes persuadés qu'avec l'énergie inlassable et la sagesse de Monsieur Edouard Saouma, et surtout grâce à la bonne volonté et une collaboration sincère de la part des membres de notre Organisation, surtout de la part des plus grands contributeurs, la FAO sortira de cette crise financière et obtiendra les crédits prévus dans le budget pour pouvoir accomplir le programme d'activités qui nous est présenté ainsi que les objectifs à long terme de la FAO.

Hilroy HUMPHREYS (Antigua and Barbuda): I am delighted to associate myself with other speakers in expressing my congratulations on your election as Chairman of the Conference. I am confident that under your able leadership you will guide us to a fruitful conclusion.

It gives me great pleasure to attend this Conference for the first time. My participation in this forum affords me the opportunity to meet and exchange views with my distinguished colleagues on the common cause in which developing countries are engaged to eradicate hunger, malnutrition, and to improve the quality of life of their peoples.

On behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, and on my own behalf, I wish to express my warmest congratulations to Dr Edouard Saouma on his re-election to head this Organization for a third term. The re-election of Dr Saouma is a resounding demonstration of the confidence and faith in his sterling ability to manage this institution. Dr Saouma has made Herculean efforts in promoting international co-operation in the area of food and agriculture for the benefit of mankind. The result of last Monday's election was a triumph for democracy and for the respect of pluralism which is so evident in this Organization. I express the hope that now the election is behind us, the spirit of unity and harmony will prevail and herald a new beginning of international co-operation for the benefit of the Members of this Organization.

My Delegation views with concern that at the same time when developing countries are making efforts to increase food and agricultural production, this Organization is experiencing great difficulties in obtaining funds to carry out its mandate effectively. This is particularly disheartening when we recall that in various international fora, pledges were made to increase the quantum of official development assistance in order to realize the goal of increased food production and food security in developing countries. While we recognise and understand the circumstances which have dictated the general atmosphere in which budgetary matters are being related to the United Nations Organization, we consider it the duty of our delegation and the Community of Nations to reflect that true and real concerns of FAO are matters which should now be addressed. The provision of food for mankind, the funding and implementation of programmes and projects which affect the very survival of millions of poor and destitute people the world over should not, and ought not, on humanitarian grounds be subjected to political whims and fancies on the basis of comparative global and financial power.

My country subscribes to the view that food can be an instrument of cooperation and survival. We therefore urge that the more fortunate nations in this forum should consider the inter-dependence between nations and recommit themselves to the urgent challenge of increasing the allocation of aid funds to developing countries and in particular the countries in the Caribbean.

FAO has established cooperation agreements with the Caribbean Community, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States; this region has benefitted from this relation both at national and regional levels in the area of policy advice, planning and training. This

assistance has been facilitated through a number of Technical Co-operation networks in the areas of fisheries, food crop production, and upper-watershed management to name a few. As recognition of the excellent contribution of these TCNS, Caricom Directors of Agriculture and Ministers of Agriculture gave political endorsement for their continuation and expansion.

In recognition of the special and peculiar problems facing Caribbean agriculture and the critical role which agriculture must play in the structural adjustment programme in the Region, FAO has also commissioned a study on Agricultural Development Problems in the Caribbean. We look forward to the results of this study which should assist in charting a course for agricultural development in the region. Other significant interventions which FAO has made in the Caribbean is assistance in the preparation of a Regional Food Plan for the area and the establishment of a Caribbean Desk at FAO Headquarters. For all this assistance we applaud FAO.

At a meeting of Ministers responsible for Agriculture of Caricom held in Belize in June of this year it was agreed as follows:

"(a) Technology transfer down at the production or "grassroot" level is primarily a national responsibility.

(b) Considering the limitations of national extension services in many Caribbean countries, that a special programme for the preparation and dissemination of appropriate audio-visual materials in support of efficient extension be formulated. This programme should make use of existing relevant institutions in the sub-region. In this regard, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago have offered their support to this programme through the use of their national facilities for production of audio-visual aid.

(c) Given the importance of the transfer of technological information, an information and communication network be established for the sub-region".

In light of the beneficial impact which technology transfer and extension can have on agricultural development in the region, my delegation recommends that FAO gives urgent support for the establishment of a network capability for technology transfer and extension in the Caribbean Region.

I wish to share with the Conference my Delegation's views on two items in the Conference's Agenda, i.e. the Work Programme and Budget and the Item "Consideration of Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations including the need for Reform in the Programme Budget".

I would like to place on record Antigua and Barbuda's appreciation to the Food and Agriculture Organization for having continued to work with dedication and enthusiasm during a period of challenge and uncertainty. I wish also to commend the Director-General and the Council for their efficient husbandry and management of the financial resources during the 1986/87 biennium. Despite the financial problems, the Institution managed to implement an impacting programme.

Against the background of an unprecedented cashflow crisis the Director-General has presented a programme budget of some US\$ 451 million with a programme increase of US\$ 1.1 million or 0.25%. My Delegation strongly supports the programme priorities for the 1988/89 biennium and in particular the emphasis of allocating as much as possible of work programme budget to programmes for technical and economic assistance which amounts for some 60% of the budget. While we appreciate the circumstances which have limited the budget allocation for 1988/89, we are mindful that the impact of these adjustments transcends the figures. Freezing of posts means a reduction of qualified personnel to implement the programmes which are being carried out as well as reduction of advisory-services to governments who require technical assistance and less technical backstopping in the field.

However, we can all be optimistic since the Director-General has expressed that while the problem is grave, it is not a fundamental crisis because it involves no issue of principle regarding support to FAO and no irrevocable decision regarding non-payment of contributions. Let us therefore rise to the challenge in honouring our responsibility and commitment to this Organization. Antigua and Barbuda gives the assurance that it will honour its contractual obligations.

My delegation gives its full support to the Work Programme and Budget and commends its approval by consensus.

We note that there are some countries which are advocating that the Technical Cooperation Programme should operate on the basis of pre-planning. As a country which has benefited from the TCP during the period of the severe drought in 1983/84, we are totally opposed to the concept of pre-planning in the operation of this programme. Since the programme is designed to respond to requests for emergency assistance, there must of necessity be the utmost flexibility in its operation. The farmers of Antigua and Barbuda, who were the beneficiaries of this programme in the form of agricultural inputs - seeds, fertilizers and chemicals - can attest to the usefulness of this programme. My delegation strongly supports the continuation of the TCP with an increased allocation.

In respect of the question of review and reform, Antigua and Barbuda is convinced that FAO's mandate is still relevant and valid and the Institution has faithfully discharged its mandate in the changing economic environment. However, like any other organization, FAO can be improved upon and has been subject to constant self-improvement. It will be recalled that just after the election of the incumbent Director-General, a detailed review of FAO was undertaken of the Institution with beneficial results to its members. We are also convinced that a review and reform of FAO is not a panacea to the problems which are now experienced by underdeveloped countries which are beset by debt crisis and unfavourable terms of trade. However, we believe that every member of FAO has a right to request a Review and Reform. Notwithstanding, we do not believe that a review is warranted at this time. From our perspective, we insist that in any process of reform multilateralism remains a principal tenet of FAO and that its focus should be to respond to the needs of developing countries whilst maintaining a balance to respond to the needs of developed countries.

As regards the recommendations by the group of developed countries for a high-level group to review all the concerns which individual countries might have, we hold the view that this should be viewed as contingency mechanism or a last resort in the face of major crisis in programme presentation and/ or mismanagement. As an alternative to the above recommendations, we support the position of the Latin American and Caribbean Group that an examination or evaluation of the operations of FAO should be conducted by the established constitutional bodies of the Organization and not by any high level group set up outside of the framework of FAO. In this regard, my delegation reiterates its principled position that any Review or Reform of FAO should be based on the principle of democracy and respect for the Sovereignty and Equality of Nations.

I wish to record my appreciation for the assistance which this Organization has rendered to my country. We have already felt the impact of this Organization although we have been a member for four short years. In our goal of improving the performance of the agricultural sector, we welcome further assistance from FAO and other Aid Donors in the provision of funds for vegetable and tree crop development, agricultural inputs, marketing infrastructure and a planning unit for agricultural projects.

In conclusion, my country supports the view that food is one of the basic needs of mankind and should be used as an instrument for promoting cooperation for survival and progress amongst mankind. We are convinced that FAO is committed to the realization of this noble aspiration. Let us reaffirm our strong and unwavering support for FAO in a genuine spirit of multilateralism and international cooperation.

Leo Hertog, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the Chair

Leo Hertog, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Leo Hertog, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Pedro BONINO GARMENDIA (Uruguay): Es para mí un singular honor hacer uso de la palabra como Ministro de la Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca de la República Oriental de Uruguay ante tan calificado foro mundial como sin duda lo es la reunión-de la Conferencia de la FAO en su 24º período de sesiones bajo la dirección de la Mesa que usted, Sr. Presidente, viene dirigiendo con todo brillo. Hago propicia la oportunidad para hacerle llegar las felicitaciones de mi delegación, extensivas al Señor Director General, Dr. Edouard Saouma, por su reelección.

Desde hace cuarenta y dos años, FAO nos convoca a elevar el nivel de vida de nuestros pueblos, y a mejorar la producción y distribución de productos alimenticios y agrícolas, contribuyendo así a "la expansión de la economía mundial y a liberar del hambre a la humanidad", como reza el preámbulo de la Constitución de la propia Organización.

Uruguay, como miembro fundador de la FAO, se siente particularmente comprometido con sus fines y con la necesidad de encarar la problemática de la nutrición y de la agricultura sobre bases cualitativamente distintas, que privilegien al ser humano como fin último del quehacer nacional e internacional, superando encasillamientos ideológicos y rompiendo fronteras que el mundo moderno ya no resiste.

Debemos luchar por un orden internacional, económico y social basado en la justicia y no en la mezquindad de intereses particulares. Las cuestiones de la agricultura y de la alimentación han dejado de ser cuestiones de producción y distribución para convertirse en temas de alta política.

En relación a la situación de la agricultura, los efectos del endeudamiento externo, que han restringido las posibilidades de inversión y desarrollo, se han visto agravados por la persistencia de medidas proteccionistas y de subsidios a las exportaciones agrícolas por parte de los países más desarrollados. Para superar las profundas injusticias que esta situación desencadena sobre nuestros países, es imprescindible encarar acciones concertadas. Uruguay está convencido de ello y por eso ha lanzado una acción regional que desearía poder contagiar a todos los países, aún fuera de la región del cono sur americano.

No es posible limitarse a constatar la triste realidad de que nuestros esfuerzos por incrementar la producción sean vanos si debemos continuar enfrentándonos con excedentes agrícolas que son volcados al mercado internacional a precios muy inferiores a sus costos. Por eso, nuestro país - de conformidad con las orientaciones y objetivos del reajuste agrícola internacional aprobados por la Conferencia de la FAO - ha asumido protagónicamente su intervención en pos de la liberación del comercio de productos agropecuarios: en Abril de 1986 convocó en Montevideo a los países agrícolas de zona templada para encarar estrategias comunes; pocos meses después, en Pataya (Tailandia), conjuntamente con otros once países, promovió la iniciativa de exigir en la reunión del GATT un fuerte compromiso para analizar los precios sostén y los subsidios en la agricultura; en julio del mismo año integró el grupo de los catorce de Cairns en Australia; y en la reunión de Punta del Este tuvo un papel decisivo en el lanzamiento de la Ronda Uruguay. Pero no es posible conformarse con las declaraciones y compromisos formales, sino que se impone una acción concertada internacionalmente para exigir el cumplimiento de los compromisos asumidos. En tal sentido, Sr. Presidente, nos parece inocultable el papel coadyuvante que corresponde a FAO y reiteramos el concepto vertido por la Delegación uruguaya, en el sentido de que esta Organización debe constituirse en el foro de debate técnico y político de la problemática mundial de la agricultura, inserta en el escenario comercial, financiero y económico que nos toca vivir.

En materia alimentaria, queremos ratificar hoy nuestra esperanza - afirmada en la Declaración de Roma sobre el hambre, adoptada el 16 de octubre de 1982 - en acabar con el flagelo del hambre en el mundo para el año 2000. Si bien ya estamos en los umbrales del Siglo XXI, fundamos dicha esperanza en que la humanidad posee los recursos, posee el capital, y la tecnología y los conocimientos para fomentar el desarrollo y alimentar a toda la población del planeta.

Para el logro de tal meta reconocemos la particular responsabilidad y la función directriz que incumben a esta Organización.

Pensamos que las prácticas proteccionistas de algunos países no favorecen la erradicación del hambre por cuanto agudizan las dificultades de los países con economías fundadas principalmente en la producción agropecuaria.

Por eso Uruguay, además de la acción que viene desplegando en múltiples foros internacionales, ha promovido medidas concretas para la superación de emergencias alimentarias, tales como el Tratado de Asistencia Regional para Emergencias Alimentarias (TAREA), lanzado por los presidentes de Uruguay y Argentina en febrero de 1986 y que ha recibido múltiples adhesiones de los países de América Latina y del Caribe. Asimismo, nuestro país se adhiere a la invitación formulada por el Director General al inaugurar el Vigésimo tercer período de sesiones del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria de FAO, en el sentido de invitar a los países donantes de alimentos a que apoyen las transacciones triangulares para ayudar a países en desarrollo como el nuestro, que poseen excedentes, a efectos de que logren la colocación de los mismos.

Para robustecer las acciones en la materia, Uruguay ha adherido con entusiasmo, desde su instauración, a la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, desarrollando diversos actos en municipios, escuelas, liceos y cooperativas de productores, realizando programas de televisión y radio, informes especiales de prensa y publicaciones. Este año, el Día Mundial de la Alimentación fué celebrado en cooperativas de pequeños agricultores, con la presencia de representantes de organismos internacionales y del Instituto Nacional de colonización de Uruguay.

Nuestro país comparte en sus grandes líneas el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1988-89 presentado por el Director General, aunque estima exiguas las cantidades destinadas a América Latina. Si bien no se discute la importancia de los programas a llevar a cabo en las otras regiones, se estima imprescindible volcar una mayor presencia y recursos de la Organización a nuestro continente a fin de obtener un mayor rendimiento de los proyectos aplicados.

Por su parte, Uruguay aspira a un mayor dinamismo en la definición y ejecución de Proyectos administrados por FAO en el corto y mediano plazo, sin necesidad de encarar reformas estructurales de fondo en la Organización.

Nuestro país ha seguido con atención las iniciativas de la Organización y en el mes de agosto pasado ha albergado en Montevideo la Cuarta Consulta Gubernamental sobre las actividades complementarias de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural en América Latina y el Caribe. De sus conclusiones y recomendaciones se extrae la común preocupación por el minifundio, la emigración de la juventud campesina hacia los centros urbanos y la participación de la mujer en la producción agropecuaria.

Todos estos temas deberán continuar siendo objeto de permanente evaluación y seguimiento por parte de las dependencias especializadas de FAO.

Señor Presidente, estamos convencidos de que la paz no es sólo la ausencia de la guerra; la paz supone la construcción de una economía mundial sobre bases justas, en la que todo ser humano pueda gozar de un nivel de vida adecuado y verse protegido contra el hambre, como se proclama enfáticamente en el Pacto Internacional de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales suscrito en New York el 19 de diciembre de 1966.

La paz no será verdad mientras haya niños desnutridos a los que sus padres no puedan satisfacer las más elementales necesidades vitales porque carecen de los medios para ello.

La paz no será posible mientras los países en desarrollo deban soportar el peso de su deuda externa y políticas proteccionistas de otros países, viendo permanentemente postergados su crecimiento y el bienestar de sus pueblos.

A la FAO corresponde un lugar de privilegio en la acción concertada de todas las naciones de la tierra para que la producción suficiente y distribución justa de productos básicos sean una palanca efectiva de construcción de la paz.

Sr. Presidente: con este espíritu hemos venido a esta Conferencia y con el compromiso de nuestro trabajo de nuestro esfuerzo aspiramos a materializar esta idea en beneficio de la humanidad toda.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Nous avons été informés que pour faire gagner du temps à la Conférence, Monsieur Carlos CORREIA, Ministre du Développement rural et des pêches de la Guinée-Bissau, allait prononcer une version abrégée de son intervention. En même temps, il souhaiterait que la version intégrale figure au Procès verbal. Si la Conférence n'y voit pas d'objection, vous pourriez décider, Monsieur le Président, qu'il en soit fait ainsi.

Carlos CORREIA (Guinée-Bissau): Avant tout, Monsieur le Président, permettez-nous de vous féliciter pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de cette 24ème Conférence générale de la FAO. Cette Conférence qui revêt une extrême importance étant donné le contexte mondial actuel en ce qui concerne les problèmes de l'alimentation sera un succès, sous votre sage conduite, dans les débats de thèmes si importants comme il en a été jusqu'ici.

A Monsieur Edouard Saouma, encore une fois à la tête de notre Organisation, nous voulons le féliciter pour sa brillante victoire aux élections auxquelles nous venons d'assister et l'encourager pour le dynamisme qu'il a démontré pendant les deux mandats antérieurs dans la recherche des solutions aux problèmes de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture au niveau mondial, particulièrement au niveau du continent africain. Nous pensons que ce nouveau mandat permettra la FAO de poursuivre ses programmes déjà établis et augmenter l'efficacité sur le terrain des projets en cours. Nous félicitons aussi M. le Directeur général pour le brillant rapport que nous approuvons dans la généralité.

Nos félicitations vont aussi aux Vice-Présidents ainsi qu'à tout le secrétariat qui a fait preuve d'une excellente organisation au cours des travaux de cette Conférence et nous les encourageons pour que ce niveau se maintienne jusqu'à la fin de la Conférence.

La situation de l'alimentation et l'agriculture en Afrique constitue une préoccupation permanente non seulement de notre Organisation mais aussi des plus hautes instances de l'OUA et des Nations Unies.

Au niveau national notre gouvernement définit l'agriculture comme étant la priorité et de ce fait sa matérialisation dans notre 1er plan quadriennal de développement socio-économique a été fondamentale et les mêmes orientations président à l'élaboration du 2ème plan de développement qui est en cours.

La République de la Guinée-Bissau a adopté récemment des mesures de stabilisation économique, de privatisation des postes ruraux des entreprises publiques et de libéralisation de son commerce, qui ira certainement contribuer à l'amélioration de la commercialisation de base des principaux produits. Il a été procédé à l'ajustement des prix de la plupart des produits d'exportation.

Ces mesures ont été le corollaire de nos négociations avec le fonds monétaire international et avec la Banque Mondiale.

Nous avons récemment réalisé en Guinée-Bissau une consultation sectorielle dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de la pêche avec nos principaux partenaires économiques, parmi lesquels la FAO, ce qui nous a permis de réaffirmer les lignes suivantes du développement agricole:

Etant donné le niveau actuel de la production agricole, le bas niveau de nutrition et les potentialités existants, nous estimons que l'auto-suffisance alimentaire doit demeurer l'un des objectifs de base pour le développement agricole.

En tenant compte du déséquilibre de la balance des paiements, il s'est avéré judicieux d'encourager la production des produits d'exportation et d'en améliorer la qualité.

Compte tenu également du bas niveau d'éducation et sanitaire des populations rurales et le manque d'infrastructure, il a été recommandé une approche globale pour le développement rural en accordant une attention accrue aux programmes et projets de développement rural intégré.

Etant donné le rôle important qui revient à la formation dans l'effort de développement de l'agriculture, vu la situation actuelle des ressources humaines dans ce secteur, il a été également recommandé la création d'une école agricole tournée vers la formation professionnelle des techniciens de base.

Etant donné la nécessité de stimuler l'appui aux agriculteurs dans le sens d'augmenter la production pour le marché interne et externe, l'augmentation et la diversification des actions de crédit liées à la vulgarisation et à la création d'une structure centrale capable de coordonner les actions de crédit aux villages ont été vivement recommandées.

Etant donné la nécessité d'améliorer progressivement les aspects liés à l'organisation sociale en milieu rural, le rôle de la femme dans la production agricole doit mériter également une attention spéciale dans la situation actuelle.

Il a été aussi recommandé le développement des associations de producteurs.

Compte tenu des problèmes de diminution de la pluviométrie pendant ces dernières années, la problématique de l'utilisation et la maîtrise de l'eau dans l'agriculture et la mise en valeur des bas-fonds a fait aussi l'objet d'une recommandation.

Des recommandations importantes ont été faites dans le sens du combat contre les feux de brousse, la préservation et le reboisement de nos forêts.

Dans le domaine de la pêche, les actions prioritaires qui ont été recommandées sont la fiscalisation des eaux, le développement de la pêche artisanale et la recherche biologique des ressources halieutiques.

Telles sont les dernières décisions prises par notre gouvernement en faveur du développement socioéconomique du pays et nous espérons qu'elles auront un effet positif dans l'augmentation de notre production et dans l'obtention de l'autosuffisance alimentaire et le bien-être social de nos populations.

Nous sommes conscients que toutes ces mesures ne pourraient connaître une application correcte sans l'apport appréciable de la communauté internationale et c'est pourquoi nous voulons encore une fois lancer un appel à nos partenaires économiques pour qu'ils continuent de déployer des efforts dans le sens de nous accorder les moyens nécessaires pour la matérialisation de ces objectifs dans le cadre de notre deuxième plan quadriennal de développement économique et social 1987-1990.

Après les quelques années de sécheresse que nous avons connues dans notre sous-région de l'Afrique occidentale, nous pouvons dire que la situation, cette année est très encourageante. Les pluies ont été assez régulières et en quantité suffisante pour la majorité des cultures de notre pays. Jusqu'à ce moment, les prévisions d'attaques de sauterelles ne se sont pas fait sentir avec une grande intensité, heureusement pour nos paysans.

Pour ce fait, nous prévoyons les résultats de cette campagne agricole avec un certain espoir et espérons qu'ils constituent une étape pour dépasser les problèmes d'obtention d'autosuffisance alimentaire dans un avenir proche si les conditions climatiques se maintiennent assez longtemps.

Nous voulons remercier la FAO et certains pays amis pour leur rapide et efficace intervention dans la campagne de lutte contre, les sauterelles réalisée cette année, ce qui nous a permis de contrôler complètement les effets néfastes de cette calamité.

Notre délégation réitère son adhésion aux appels lancés à la communauté internationale particulièrement aux pays donateurs qui ont accordé leur soutien au Programme spécial du FIDA destiné aux pays d'Afrique subsaharienne en espérant que les objectifs oréconisés soient matérialisés le plus rapidement possible pour qu'ils puissent servir d'appui au Programme des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique 1986-1990.

Conscients de l'utilité de la mise en place d'un système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide, particulièrement dans notre pays qui souffre d'un grand manque de données statistiques, nous voudrions souscrire à la création de ce système et solliciter une aide plus substantielle pour la concrétisation de ses objectifs.

Avant d'analyser avec beaucoup d'intérêt le Programme de travail de la FAO en ce qui concerne l'alimentation et l'agriculture, notre délégation voudrait bien souligner les aspects suivants:

Appuyer fermement les actions concernant l'amélioration de la production dans les zones arides, priorité à la production céréalière et amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire, ainsi que la diversification des cultures à travers une augmentation de la production des tubercules et racines.

Nous voudrions aussi souligner notre intérêt pour l'étude de "l'agriculture africaine: les prochaines 25 années" approuvée lors de la dernière Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique et par les conclusions qui ont permis à la FAO d'élaborer une étude de factibilité pour l'augmentation de l'aide en nature sous la forme de facteurs et moyens de production.

Notre délégation fait siennes les résolutions du Comité de Programme soutenues par le Comité des pêches en ce qui concerne le Programme de travail pour 1988 et le développement de l'aquaculture, ainsi que les recommandations de la Conférence mondiale de la pêche.

Dans le domaine des forêts nous voulons réitérer notre intérêt pour le Plan d'action forestier tropical et pour les recommandations de la Conférence internationale sur l'arbre et la forêt SILVA 1986.

Le Programme alimentaire mondial constitue un des soutiens au progrès de nos projets de développement rural, permettant de cette façon, à travers l'exécution de travaux contre l'aide alimentaire, de réaliser des oeuvres considérables en milieu rural et indirectement l'augmentation de la production agricole.

Notre délégation soutient les objectifs proposés dans la contribution au PAM pour 1986-1990 et approuve inconditionnellement le projet de résolution en question présenté à la Conférence. Nous voudrions par la même occasion lancer un appel aux donateurs afin qu'ils annoncent leurs contributions aussitôt que possible pour que ce programme puisse être matérialisé.

Nous ne pouvons manquer de faire une référence ici sur l'heureuse initiative visant à la création de la Journée mondiale d'alimentation qui permet au niveau de notre pays la commémoration de cet événement avec un éclat particulier tendant à stimuler les paysans pour l'augmentation de la production et la diversification des cultures.

Cette année la célébration de cette journée a eu lieu dans le sud du pays sous la présidence du Chef de l'Etat, le Général Joao Bernardo Vieira sous le thème "appui aux petits agriculteurs".

En ce qui concerne le Programme et le Budget, compte tenu de l'envergure de l'Organisation, nous soutenons les recommandations du Conseil bien que nous considérons le budget de la FAO insuffisant pour l'accomplissement de ses nobles objectifs.

Néanmoins nous souscrivons aussi à tous les efforts de révision déployés par le Directeur général dans le sens de l'obtention d'un consensus pour son approbation.

Dans le cadre de l'effort d'une amélioration constante du fonctionnement interne de notre Organisation, nous pensons que toutes les propositions positives venant des Etats Membres et allant dans ce sens, doivent être prises en compte.

Nous voudrions mentionner la révision du document de l'agriculture à l'horizon 2000, document de grande qualité, qui nous permettra de réfléchir sur nos prévisions antérieures et de les actualiser afin de mieux les adapter aux réalités actuelles. Nous félicitons ainsi l'Organisation pour l'excellent travail qu'elle a fourni.

Avant de terminer, nous voulons encore une fois rappeler la nécessité de la réussite des efforts dans le sens de l'obtention des fonds nécessaires pour le Programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique 1986-1990 dans le sens de le transformer en un véritable plan Marshall pour l'Afrique.

Nous saisissons cette opportunité pour réitérer à l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture notre confiance dans la solution des problèmes de la faim et de la nutrition en Afrique et dans le monde en général.

Nous réaffirmons en ce nouveau mandat les vœux d'une bonne administration à Monsieur le Directeur général, afin de maintenir toujours bien haut le niveau des programmes en cours.

Notre délégation envisage avec optimisme la solution du problème alimentaire mondial et l'obtention de l'autosuffisance alimentaire pour l'Afrique.

Nous terminons en formant les vœux que les négociations pour la réduction des armes de destruction nous amènent à des mobilisations des fonds indispensables aux programmes de développement des pays les plus pauvres du monde.

Ahmed Abuala SOULEIMAN (Palestine Liberation Organization): In the name of Palestine Liberation Organization, I have the pleasure in joining the previous speakers in congratulating you sincerely on the occasion of your election to the Chairmanship of the 24th Session of the FAO Conference. It is also with great pleasure that I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr Edouard Saouma for his re-appointment as Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations. On behalf of the Delegation of Palestine, I would like to extend high appreciation to the Director-General and the Secretariat for the excellent and efficient preparation of this session of the Conference, such that facilitate the proceeding towards the achievement of the serious objectives of the Conference.

The agricultural sector plays a basic and important role in the economies of developing countries. The agricultural sector is the base of the provision of food and nutrition; it also provides employment opportunities and income for more than 70 percent of the labour forces in these countries. As we all already know, despite the great efforts that were made by the developing countries towards the development of the agricultural sector and the realization of the objectives of agricultural development contributing to overall growth and to economic and social progress of the populations, the reflections of the comprehensive international economic situations, that have become characterized by structural imbalances represented by the expanding foreign debts problem of the developing countries now exceeding 1000 billion dollars, by the prevailing protectionist policies, together with the acute crises of the economies of the developed countries that are being exported to the developing countries as well as the instability of the rates of exchange - these and other disturbing factors have reflected negatively and directly on the developmental efforts in general and on the agricultural development projects in the developing countries in particular, and led to the deterioration of international trade in agricultural products.

We firmly believe that rural development and agricultural development shall inevitably lead to an essential improvement in the living standards for hundreds of millions of the populations of Africa, Asia and Latin America, provided that a new spirit of international and multilateral cooperation would prevail to confront the crises of foreign debt as an urgent problem, once the principle of free trade were adopted to improve the proceeds of exports for the developing countries, with the firm and meticulous efforts to redress the imbalances of the present international economic order, and with the restructuring of a new international economic order that is stable, just and balanced, freed from the elements of exploitation, monopoly, repression and selfishness.

If it is a commonsensical fact that the establishment of just peace, halting the irrational armament race and the restructuring of a new, stable and balanced international economic order are among the prerequisites of the achievement of progress, welfare and development for all the countries of the world; then it follows accordingly the same sort of measures that the elimination of foreign occupation is a basic prerequisite for the achievement of development and social progress. Thus, does it sound incredible that as we are approaching the turn of the twenty-first century, there are still peoples such as those of Namibia., South Africa and Palestine, who are still suffering from deplorable racist colonial occupation? Is it possible for us, while discussing such problems as nutrition, hunger, desertification and other problems related to agricultural development, ignore the situations of these peoples who are inexorably and courageously struggling for the liberation of their countries and the achievement of their political and economic emancipation, to control their natural resources, and to practise their rights, similarly to all other people in sovereignty, independence and self-determination in order to be able to achieve the economic and social development?

Our Palestinian people in the Palestinian occupied territories are living under the hardest and most complicated conditions. In addition to the policies of oppression, collective imprisonment and arrest, and the deprivation of freedoms that the authorities of Israeli occupation apply in the occupied territories, these authorities design and apply a set of policies and procedures of military, political and economic nature that aim at the realization of colonial, expansionist and racial goals through the disinstitutionalization of the economic and social institutions and structures of the occupied territories and annexation of these structures of the Israeli economy, and at turning the Palestinian occupied territories into a source of cheap labour and a market for Israeli products. Through such policies and measures, Israel aims to achieve its final objective in uprooting of the Palestinian Arabs and their evacuation from their territories.

The cumulative effect of these oppressive and unjustifiable policies and procedures has led to the creation of extremely serious conditions. The most obvious of these basic changes that were enforced by the occupation authorities has been the expropriation of the lands, the establishment of colonial settlements, and the complete control on all water resources to serve its purposes; all these measures have led to devastating effects on the overall situation and on the agricultural situation in particular.

It is a well-known fact that the occupying authorities have already confiscated 54 percent of the total area of those Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 under various pretexts, such as security considerations and the requirements of accommodating new Jewish immigrants from other countries. Colonial settlements have been established on these confiscated lands, which represents a clear violation of Article 55 of the La Hague Convention and Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Treaty, and an unprecedented challenge to the decisions of the General Assembly of the United Nations and a violation of the Security Council Resolution N. 456/1980 issued on 1/3/1980, which stated that these colonial settlements represent a major obstacle for the achievement of just peace in the area, and firmly deplored the steps taken by the Israeli occupation authorities to change the natural and demographic nature of Palestinian occupied territories.

While these policies and procedures represent a clear breach of international conventions and treaties, they are also obstacles to economic development in general and to agricultural development in particular. In addition to these procedures, the complete Israeli control on water resources in the Palestinian occupied territories including springs and subterranean water resources, and refusing to issue permits for new wells for the needs of Arab agriculture while it develops deep wells in the Zionist colonial settlements. This practice has caused serious damages in the existing Arab shallow wells and to the reservoirs of underground water. Recent reports Issued by the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the World Health Organization alerted to the serious situation in Gaza Strip, where Israel has developed several deep wells for its settlement colonies, thus leading to a serious increase in the salinity of water from Arab wells which have become injurious to health and having adverse effects on agriculture.

The Israeli policies and procedures applied in Palestinian occupied territories have led to the deterioration of the agricultural sector and the decrease in the areas of cultivated land from about 220 thousand hectares before 1967 to about 157 thousand hectares in 1985, which implies sharp decreases in employment opportunities and the decrease of the contribution of agriculture in the domestic product. Moreover, the occupying authorities have imposed restrictions on the exports of the occupied territories, and imposed such structural changes that led to the discouragement of private investment in this vital and important agricultural sector. Some of these structural changes have been the abolition of all banking and financing institutions, the invalidation of the authorities of the national municipal councils, the abolition of all planning institutions, the absence of the institutions of agricultural orientation and guidance, and imposing firm control on agricultural products to ensure that Palestinian products would not compete with Israeli ones.

We do not indulge in illusions, nor are we oblivious of the obvious fact that the only way out of these difficult and complicated situations is the liberation of the occupation and the elimination of all its impacts, and the attainment of the Palestinian people for the practising of its legitimate rights in returning to their homeland and to practise over it the right of self-determination and the right to establish its independent Palestinian state over its national soil. However, the continuation of the occupation adds to our duties to resist and eliminate the occupation of other serious and vast duties to decrease the adverse impact of the occupation on our people, to provide the means of steadfastness, and to attempt to solve the basic problems that exist under the occupation.

It is with high appreciation and sincere gratefulness that I note the growing consciousness by the larger majority of the countries and peoples of the world, as well as by all of the organizations and institutions of the United Nations, of the living conditions of the Palestinian people under occupation, and the benevolent and sincere efforts made by these parties in providing assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, with special appreciation to the efforts of the UNDP, the UNIDO, the UNCTAD, the WHO, the ILO, the Unesco and the FAO. In this context, I would like to express high appreciation and gratefulness to the EEC group for the important resolution that the group has made in giving preferential treatment to Palestinian products from the occupied Palestinian territories and in recognizing the Palestinian certificates of origin for these products, in addition to material assistances provided for the establishment of productive projects in industry and agriculture in the occupied Palestinian territories. Mr Chairman, I similarly express appreciation for European countries who have extended assistance and who have expressed the willingness to do so on an individual basis. I also implore all the countries that are capable of doing so to provide assistance to the steadfast Palestinian people to enable them to achieve independence and liberation and contribute to the establishment of world freedom and peace.

As the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has previously provided assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of technical training, it is able to provide more assistance, in cooperation with the Palestinian Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in the field of preparing studies and identifying problems, the extension of orientation programmes, assistance in the establishment of agricultural projects, and designate priority needs, drawing from its vast expertise and experiences.

The Palestinian people, suffering from the most resentful forms of occupation, oppression and religious and ethnic segregation, believe that the development of the national economy is attainable only after the liberation from Israeli occupation and the practising of the legitimate and inalienable rights in return to the homeland and the practising of self-determination over it and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, its sole and legitimate representative.

Our struggle against Zionist occupation, against oppression and segregation shall triumph, together with the struggles of the brotherly and friendly nations of Namibia and South Africa against all forms of terrorism and apartheid.

Until the struggles of these people would triumph, and until their just causes would be realised, the cause of world peace shall remain endangered.

Gregory AVRIL (Saint Lucia): I wish to thank you, Mr Chairman, for the opportunity to address this extremely important Session of the FAO Conference, and to congratulate you and the Vice-Chairmen who have been elected to guide the Conference. I have no doubt that this Conference, under your efficient guidance, will lead to constructive strategies to enable FAO to support developing countries in their struggle against hunger and malnutrition and rural poverty.

Allow me, Mr Chairman, to join the previous speakers in congratulating Dr Edouard Saouma on his re-election for a third term to the position of Director-General of FAO. No doubt, his re-election is a reflection of the esteem and confidence in which he is held by most countries. I am certain that with his great experience Dr Saouma is well-equipped to guide the FAO over the next six years.

The issues being discussed at this Conference suggest that FAO faces an extremely important biennium. My country is certain, however, that with the collective political will of all member countries, FAO will emerge a stronger organization. FAO's strength lies in our continued financial commitment and its ability to attract competent experts to carry out the work programmes to which this Conference has agreed.

FAO's capability to effectively deliver programmes has already been experienced by my country, within the short period of its membership. FAO has been very supportive to St Lucia's national agricultural development efforts. It has provided us with technical assistance in fisheries development, livestock disease control, crop rehabilitation, and post-harvest technology.

St Lucia has also benefited from FAO's sub-regional programmes, especially in terms of soil improvement, institution-building, crop rehabilitation and pest management, and quarantine services. Assistance provided by FAO has strengthened my Government's delivery of services in the agricultural sector, as well as complementing our national efforts.

The Government of St Lucia has, over the years, adopted various policies to promote diversified agricultural development, especially the provision of incentives to farmers. Because of such incentives, St Lucia has experienced increasing crop production and improvement in livestock, despite the continued problems of pests and diseases, the shortage of technical expertise and marketing difficulties.

St Lucia has not achieved the goal of self-sufficiency. But, certainly, we have introduced appropriate policies to address some of the constraints to our agricultural development. Agriculture continues to play a major role in the socio-economic well-being of St Lucia, despite efforts to diversify our economy. The contribution of agriculture to employment, domestic food supplies and export earnings is very significant. Agriculture is therefore critical to the peace, stability and development of St Lucia. It is thus of paramount importance that the decisions taken at this Conference should seek to promote the cause of food security and the human right to food. My country will lend its support to any measures that recognize the wisdom of this cause.

May I now turn to three issues which are of great importance to my country, namely the food situation in developing countries, FAO's programme of work, and the future role of FAO.

In the Report submitted to this Conference entitled "Agriculture: Toward 2000", it is projected that although developing countries' agricultural production would rise, some countries would continue to experience a slow growth rate. This projection seems to suggest that some developing countries would continue to suffer as a result of limited food supplies. It also indicates that the scourge of hunger and malnutrition would persist in some developing countries, unless constructive action is taken.

Such constructive action must occupy the attention of this Conference if low-income developing countries, including small island-states, are to overcome the tragedy of hunger, through improved production of food, food quality and greater distribution to all sectors.

It would seem rather distressing that while low-income developing countries experience the problem of undernourishment, they are at the same time confronted with the prevailing problems of the world economy, particularly low prices for their major export crops and the burden of servicing their debts.

It is therefore small wonder that developing countries continue, year after year, to seek assistance from developed countries with food surpluses. The paradox of a world of plenty co-existing with a world of poverty will continue to exist beyond the year 2000 if the call for meaningful and genuine assistance is not responded to. I am, however, optimistic that international commitment to the fight against hunger and the priority being given to food for the world will encourage the provision of greater capital and technical assistance to low-income developing countries.

The need for greater capital and technical assistance to developing countries cannot be overemphasized. However, such capital and technical aid should be designed to strengthen national capabilities and maximise the use of national resources. It is only through genuine assistance, with the goal of improving national capabilities, that even the meagre growth rate projected for low-income developing countries would be realised.

I would now like to briefly address FAO's Work Programme for the next biennium, particularly the proposed Technical and Economic Programmes and the Technical Cooperation Programme.

The principal goals and strategies identified for world food agriculture meet with the general satisfaction of my country. We are especially pleased with the emphasis being placed on the conservation of natural resources and environmental protection, including the conservation of fisheries stock. We are also happy with the priority given to the reduction of rural poverty.

The long-term strategies identified for world fisheries are of great importance to my island state, mainly in terms of the management and rational utilization of resources.

Our main interest, however, in FAO's draft Work Programme relates to the Technical Cooperation Programme. St. Lucia fully supports the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). The TCP is of special significance at a time when my country, and other Caribbean countries, increasingly experience a shortage of technical expertise to effectively implement agricultural projects. This Programme is also extremely meaningful, in that it enables FAO to respond quickly to emergencies, taking into account the constant threat of hurricanes in our sub-region. I therefore commend FAO for the proposed efficient allocation of resources under the Technical Cooperation Programme.

I turn now to the future role of FAO, a matter which seems to be emerging as the main focus of attention at this Session. FAO has an impressive record of assistance to the Caribbean sub-region. FAO's activities have provided direct support to the efforts by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to forge greater regional cooperation and integration.

FAO's commitment to the special needs of the Caribbean sub-region is attested by the establishment of a Caribbean Desk in the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, the appointment of FAO representatives, the outposting of regional officers, and the establishment of working relations with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Caribbean Community Secretariat, aimed at the development of a framework for future co-operation.

This track record of FAO indicates a willingness of the Organization to constantly introduce changes that would place it in a better position to respond to the needs of countries, in view of changing circumstances. FAO's ability to respond to the changing needs of countries is no doubt influenced by its sound structure.

My country would therefore have difficulty in supporting any proposals that seek to drastically alter the basic goals and operational structure of the Organization.

Of course, I must add, that it is not unreasonable to review the operations of FAO, from time to time, to ensure that it keeps abreast of the ever-changing needs and circumstances which confront member countries. This is a healthy exercise, as such review provides an opportunity to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses. It would seem, however, that the mechanisms to evaluate the operations of FAO are already in place, and that such evaluations have recognized the FAO as one of the most effective Organizations in the UN system.

I therefore would urge caution in adopting any measures that would adversely affect the Organization, at a time when its energies need to be directed more than ever to the stimulation of agricultural and rural development in keeping with the long-term goal of the elimination of hunger. We must ensure that no reform measures are instituted to reduce the ability of the FAO to effectively promote dialogue and action, geared towards providing food to the world's poor.

FAO's future role in this effort will call for the increased support and co-operation of Member Nations. The tangible and practical support of FAO's activities must follow our rhetoric, if our proclaimed commitment to the work of the Organization is to be taken seriously.

I wish to encourage delegates to ensure that the deliberations of this Conference result in the adoption of appropriate measures to seriously address the "bread and butter" issues of the poor in developing countries. It is hoped that the decisions taken by this Conference, in the absence of the poor and malnourished inhabitants of planet Earth, will at least lessen the burden of their plight of hunger and poverty, and draw us closer to the realization of the dream of adequate food for all.

Daniel Rakoro PHORORO (Lesotho): Through you, Mr Chairman, my delegation joins other speakers in congratulating the Director-General on his re-election to lead our Organization for the third term of office. As we rejoice with him we sincerely hope that he will resist the temptation of complacency because our expectations of his demonstrated dedication and commitment to the course of agricultural development will be greater than ever before. His re-election to the highest office of this Organization ushers him into a second decade of FAO leadership and this period is sufficiently long for him to know intimately the concerns and the aspirations of his constituencies i.e. donor agencies, the farming community and the body of Organization's experts and administrators who serve that community.

As a consequence of the Director-General's commendable contribution to agricultural development the silent, voiceless majority of peasant farmers are now wiser than they were ten years ago and thus they cannot be taken for granted either by their governments or by FAO. Economic pressures and expectations of a better life have transformed the hitherto passive, poor farmers into an articulate and demanding agricultural society. This trend, when coupled with diminishing resources at FAO's disposal, demands that FAO should, at the earliest opportunity review her objectives, priorities and approaches in order to move in unison with her clientele and to respond effectively to their aspirations.

In this regard, and while we fully support the Programme of Work and Budget Mr Chairman, my delegation is confident that FAO has the professional resources and capability to formulate the required strategies which can be monitored by various FAO committees and other Governing Bodies of the Organization. This of course does not preclude the need to supplement such efforts with additional professional service as and when required, as indeed FAO has done in the past.

No doubt the Director-General will draw inspiration from the confidence we have just shown him and, with the personal experiences of the last decade in office, he will do his utmost to launch the Organization as an effective instrument of agricultural development in the 1990s and prepare it for the next century. We wish him well in this challenging task, trusting that the human but unavoidable differences of opinion, views and vision that have existed among FAO member countries prior to this week will be converted into constructive cooperation and vigour to face the challenges imposed by agricultural development. We cannot afford the luxury of divisive forces when the farmers we serve are all striving for unity of action in fighting malnutrition and poverty.

It can be said, Mr Chairman, that the deteriorating economic situation in developing countries basically derives from stagnating agricultural scene. The unfavourable international trade imbalances regarding agricultural commodities and the debt problems of developing countries have their root causes in agriculture for the simple reason that agriculture is the backbone of the majority of these countries' economies. To advocate or to impose structural reforms cannot be a successful prescription or remedy in the absence of adequate resources to implement those reforms. To do so would result in a paradoxical situation where resources, in the form of agricultural commodity exports from developing countries, would be transferred to developed countries, a trend that creates underdevelopment in our countries and further worsens international economic environment.

My delegation believes that FAO can play a significant role, directly and indirectly in lessening the effects of excessive indebtedness of developing countries. In this regard, FAO's proposals for expanding the provision of agricultural inputs as Aid-in-Kind are worth serious and positive consideration by this Conference. In the proposal we see a practical way of enabling developing countries to boost their agricultural production at reasonable terms with industrialized countries. At the same time we cannot overlook the necessity for developing countries to overhaul their inputs delivery and administrative systems.

Indeed, the Aid-in-Kind programme, if full advantages are to be obtained, will also make an impact on existing national structures, hence justification for structural adjustments and reform. We believe, however, that these adjustments must be at the initiative of developing countries themselves. Although Lesotho has not yet reached a stage of unmanageable indebtedness, the Government has already itself initiated far-reaching structural and land reforms in conformity with the perceptions and aspirations of the farming community. In this regard we wish to record our appreciation of FAO's TCP support for this exercise and trust that more assistance will be forthcoming so that TCP programmes can continue in FAO's programmes. We also look forward to bilateral and multilateral aid resources to enable Lesotho to implement the proposed reforms which are specifically intended to increase agricultural productivity and to ensure judicious utilization of soil, water and rangeland resources.

Mr Chairman, as FAO and other aid agencies in collaboration with governments of developing countries strive to overcome the pressing problems of hunger, malnutrition and poverty, the spate of natural disasters and calamities seem to nullify these commendable efforts. We are, however, comforted by FAO's initiative in spearheading the Global Information and Early Warning System. This service is of tremendous importance to all our developing countries and provides governments with the necessary vigilance and surveillance mechanism that is so vital in food security plans. Lesotho, as a member of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference regional organization, is deriving benefits from the Early Warning System-programmes.

To illustrate the odds that face our countries in our attempts to improve agriculture, allow me, Mr Chairman, to cite an unusual example of a disaster that has befallen Lesotho. The country has experienced the most exceptional heavy snowfalls in living memory which started, towards the end of winter in July of this year and continued well into the summer month of October. The mountain areas which constitute three quarters of the country have suffered tragic losses in terms of human lives, animal populations and damage to roads and other infrastructures. What initially promised to be a good season after the drought of 1983 and 1984 has turned to be a season of nightmares whose unfavourable effects will also be of a long-term nature particularly with regard to livestock farming which is the major pre-occupation of the farmers.

On behalf of the Lesotho Government, my delegation wishes to express our gratitude and appreciation to the donor community for their prompt and swift response in alleviating the suffering of those afflicted. USAID, WFP, FAO, UNDP, EEC and the People's Republic of China have provided valuable assistance in food, seeds, animal fodder and logistical support. As draught animals are either dead or in too weak a condition to do any ploughing operations, simple machinery had to be flown in by helicopters. Most serious for the country is the loss of main agricultural exports of wool and mohair from which the majority of farmers derive their livelihood. Small stock losses of up to ninety percent have been experienced including improved breeding animals.

Although this exceptional but damaging disaster has left the Government of Lesotho with a great deal of frustration, it has not sapped the resolve of the government to continue its efforts in the development of the agricultural sector. The need to diversify agricultural production is more urgent than ever before, and, by a sad coincidence, of animal losses, an opportunity has been created to rehabilitate the degraded rangeland environment.

Coming from a country that has some of the worst soil erosion problems, and which is a coordinator of Soil and Water Conservation Subsector within the Southern African Development Coordination Conference region, permit me, Mr Chairman, to conclude by making a few remarks on environmental protection.

Most of the agencies have in recent years been increasingly concerned about the effectiveness of their sponsored soil conservation projects. A year ago FAO commissioned a world-wide study of soil conservation projects to find out what lessons could be learnt from the successes and the failures of past and present projects. The World Bank similarly has been actively reviewing its approach to environmental issues in its development programmes. The Scandinavian and Nordic development agencies have also been reviewing their programmes to see how they can be expanded and improved. IFAD commissioned a study in 1986 of soil conservation in Africa in order to formulate a new style of agricultural development programmes for selected countries. Simultaneously the environment lobby has been publicising its concern over environmental issues. Most developing countries and politicians find themselves at crossroads because the idea of the conservation of natural resources, particularly soil conservation, does not win votes very easily.

Government policies are not translated into action because more pressing problems are allocated resources. The old-fashioned style of top-down conservation with a strong element of mechanical structures and the assumption that education and legislation are the foundation of successful conservation is no longer tenable. The concept, of a moral obligation to care for and preserve the land for future generations may be sustainable at national level if there are sufficient resources to pay for the soil conservation works as well as building schools and hospitals, but in developing countries there never are. We know these resources are not enough. It is also becoming untenable at the level of the land user in the face of economic pressures. The peasant farmer scratching a living on steep slopes may also be aware that this is destroying the long-term productivity, but he, or more probably she, as in Lesotho, is responding to the most urgent requirement which is to feed his or her family. Thus the concept of stewardship for future generations is not practical in today's world.

Soil conservation should no longer be seen as an end in itself, an independent discipline to be undertaken by specialists who do nothing else. But rather, soil erosion should be seen as the consequence of land use, not so much as the cause of soil degradation. The loss of productivity should be stressed rather than the loss of soil. For many years research has been almost exclusively directed towards quantifying the loss of soil, so there is a serious lack of data on the effect of erosion on productivity. Improving agricultural production need be offered as the reason for changing soil management, water management and crop and livestock management. The use of these practices will make more sense to the farmer if they are recommended as leading to better production which he can instinctively appreciate as desirable, rather than because they will reduce soil erosion which is likely to be a less important objective.

The concept of achieving the aims of soil conservation through land use and improved farming is quite clear. What is not so obvious is how this is to be achieved because there is no package of tested improved methods ready to be applied on the terraced land and which can generate the much needed income for the farmer. This is the area in which FAO and expertise from other aid agencies should help the developing countries so that environmental protection should be perceived by the farmer as a production-related and income-generating farming system.

Harold LIONARONS (Suriname): Let me begin, on behalf of the Government and the People of the Republic of Suriname, by associating myself with the delegates who have already taken the floor in congratulating you on your appointment as Chairman of the Conference. I am sure that under your guidance and leadership and that of the Chairmen of the Commissions, the workload that still lies before us will be dealt with in an efficient manner and concluded successfully.

Also allow me to congratulate Dr Edouard Saouma most heartily on his re-election for a third term as Director-General of the FAO. Dr Saouma has in the past demonstrated his competence and commitment and a strong and pragmatic approach to lead the Organization to the level where it stands now. Despite the present pressing financial problems, FAO now appeals more to small farmers as the institution of hope in developing and improving agricultural structures aimed at lifting their social status and combatting poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

The biennial FAO Conference is regarded as the international forum to assess the world food situation and project future developments in agriculture. The future looks bleak if we look at the decreasing agricultural growth.

Sometimes one gets the feeling that we are losing the battle to create the conditions necessary to maintain a minimum level of human dignity, if one realizes that by the end of the century the number of the world's most needy people will have increased by another 900 million, and if we look at the enormous difficulties encountered by this group in obtaining access to the most elementary inputs such as irrigation, seeds and fertilizer, farm machinery, credit and marketing facilities. Our only hope to improve this undesirable situation is to combine forces in every aspect and to carry out concerted actions.

It is true that we as individual countries have the primary obligation and moral duty to solve our own problems. But in this increasingly complex world, faced with increasingly complex situations and problems, it is not possible to present ready-made solutions and pretend we can do it all alone. This stresses the more the need to collaborate and encourage and stimulate the transfer of technology within the framework of both international and regional technical cooperation.

In this context my Government has welcomed and supported the meeting of CARICOM Directors of Agriculture held in Santiago de Chile, 21-26 September 1987, and endorses the Technical Cooperation Networks System. In collaborating in research projects, in exchanging experience and knowledge and in developing new technologies we can solve problems of common interest and avoid duplication of funds.

The position of my Government on the right of food for all should be underlined and it should be clear that we fully endorse the resolution adopted on November 4, 1986 by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the "Right to Development". With special reference to Article 8, my Government's policy objectives are aimed at the creation at the national level of conditions to realize these principles.

In this context, allow me to quote the following from the 1986 Government Programme:

- To reduce the social and economic inequalities between men and women, as well as between urban and rural areas.
- To give expression to the right-to-work by developing and executing a plan in which youth employment and the employment of women will be emphasized.
- To identify productive projects to be carried out immediately, and which will lead to a substantial increase in the national production by means of:
 - extension and diversification of the agriculture production;
 - invigoration and extension of industries that process locally produced raw materials;
 - rationalization and extension of the energy sector.
- To efficiently carry out the development programmes that are aimed at production.
- To secure and extend traditional exports and the development of new production activities aimed at export.
- To drain off the liquidities overhang by channeling surplus capital to productive investments and by a balanced and structural increase of state revenue, in order to reduce budgetary deficits.

From these objectives it is clear that my Government in general adheres great importance to the development and the betterment of the socio-economic conditions of the whole of its people. In practice this means particular attention to the low-income workers in the agricultural sector and small farmers. To this end my Government stimulates the modernization of the sector and the introduction of efficient production structures. Step-by-step agricultural cooperatives are established, and crops with export potentials are introduced.

The Inter-American Conference on the Modernization of the Agricultural Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean correctly indicated the important contribution of the sector, in terms of employment, in terms of its capacity to generate foreign currency and in terms of the multiplier effect on economic development. The relevant factors with a decisive impact on agriculture and its future role such as the low international prices for primary commodities, the substantial change in real exchange rates, the relative importance of imported inputs over domestically produced inputs and the dramatic cut in public budgets for the agricultural sector are reasons for grave concern. If we want to diversify our agriculture and produce competitively, as a matter of necessity we have no other choice than to modernize and as a consequence acquire and introduce new technologies. It is only then that the promotion of liberalization of agricultural trade will efficiently be effected and the terms of access to international markets of agricultural commodities be improved.

The present world economic, social and political problems have as a matter of fact also negatively influenced conditions in my country. Economic activities in parts of the interior have practically come to a standstill because of terrorists' actions. These actions have resulted in a loss of direct employment of 1 500 people while the damage to capital goods amounted to about 22 million US dollars, of which about 75 percent is in foreign exchange value. This is apart from the losses incurred because of the necessity to import consumption goods due to lack of locally produced goods. Moreover because of these actions the bauxite mining operations and as a consequence the export of bauxite and derived products which account for 72 percent, is severely hampered.

Permit me to briefly discuss two very important subsectors in my country and the actions my Government has taken so far to safeguard their contribution to our socio-economic system.

Suriname is an important producer and exporter of rice, mainly to the Common Market. The 1986 production figures amounted to some 300 000 tons of paddy from a total planted area of about 75 000 hectares. The export for 1986 was about 95 000 tons of cargo rice, 6 000 tons of white rice and some 1 500 tons broken, with a total value of 35 million US dollars. It is good to mention that the area under production by small farmers is about half of that by bigger holdings. But on average the small farmers produce 4.6 tons per hectare per season against 3.7 tons by the bigger farms. The planted area has been more or less the same since 1983.

Because of reasons mentioned earlier, a shift in our rice policy has been necessary. The present policy objectives are to increase the paddy production over the next 5 years with 100 000 tons, to 400 000 tons, by optimizing the use of existing production factors through increase of their efficiency. Emphasis is thus placed on efficiency, rehabilitation and upgrading of existing facilities, rather than on increasing production capacity through new facilities.

The production target is to increase paddy production by 1992 with 100 000 tons per annum. All extra production of export quality will be exported. With EDF funds rehabilitation works are carried out on 1 650 hectares in the Coronie District. A loan application for about US \$21 million to be financed by the IDB, is being prepared and processed. These funds will be used to improve the infrastructure for about 11 200 hectares rice polders in the Nickerie District.

The foreign exchange problem has resulted in tremendous problems of the rice sector. Fertilizer inputs have been lower than the required amounts, while the import of insecticides and herbicides is also lagging behind. The current status of farm equipment also gives reason for concern. Urgent short-time spare parts import for farm equipment is needed in order to safeguard an adequate planted area.

Generally speaking our fishery sector is characterized by on the one hand the capital intensive seafishery catching shrimps for export and on the other hand the labour intensive, but less capital intensive artisanal fisheries, mainly providing the local market with fish.

The capital intensive shrimp fisheries is as the fleet is concerned for more than 90 percent in foreign hands. With the acquisition by the end of 1984 of the bigger part of the shore shrimp processing facilities by the Government and Surinamese private enterprise, we also control the bigger part of the international marketing, which mainly occurs on the Japanese and the U.S. markets. Direct employment from the shrimp sector amounts to about 1 000 people. The foreign domination of the sector is also manifest in the foreign exchange earnings. An average of 90 percent flows back to foreign countries for every dollar earned from exports.

A bigger take from the exploitation of our fish resources is envisaged with the introduction of commercially culturing both brackish and fresh water shrimps. In this context it is highly appreciated by my Government that FAO within the framework of TCP has given financial support to carry out a feasibility study on the culturing of brackish water shrimps. Also participation to the regional workshops on aquaculture in Jamaica this year has proven to be very rewarding.

Mr Chairman, production circumstances of the artisanal fishermen are in great contrast with those of the capital intensive shrimp industry, due to present lack of most of the basic institutional and infrastructural facilities. Moreover, at present there is a big shortage in the supply of import inputs like outboards and inboard engines, spare parts and net material. In view of this situation, my Government is promoting cooperation between the small fishermen. They have combined forces and started a modest export of high quality frozen fish with good acceptance in foreign markets. The Government is now working on a system to plow back a certain percentage of the export earnings into this subsector in order to safeguard the necessary foreign inputs.

Given the multiplier effects of fisheries in terms of generating employment, improvement of the food level, generating foreign exchange both because of exports and import substitution, the Government's fishery policy calls for a rational exploitation of the shallow waters by the artisanal fishing units. In the coming years it is expected that 100 fully equipped wooden boats for the small fishermen will be built and brought into operation at the cost of about 13 million US dollars of which the foreign component is between 70 and 75 percent. These investments will result in the creation of employment of 4 000 people, a production increase of 5 000 tons, valued at 13 million US dollars.

Before concluding, Mr Chairman, I wish to state that my delegation is in agreement with the submitted Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1988/1989 and the priorities that have been set. The budget clearly demonstrates FAO's understanding of the present world's critical financial situation and its responsibility to efficiently spend the contributions received.

It is desirable that FAO receives adequate funding to carry out its task in coordinating international efforts to combat poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

Let me, in the end, Mr Chairman, express my sincere thanks for the patient hearing which you have given to my country's statement. I hope that the endeavours of this Conference will lead to a significant progress towards the achievement of the objectives of FAO for the welfare of mankind.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, we have now exhausted our list of speakers. Two were not present or could not deliver their statement. Before I can conclude the meeting, I would like to give the floor to the Secretary-General, who has short information to give you.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Nous avons été informés que la délégation de la Guinée ne prendrait pas la parole dans le cadre du débat général mais souhaiterait que le texte de sa déclaration, qu'elle nous enverra, soit inséré au procès verbal. Si la Conférence n'y voit pas d'objection vous pourrez en décider ainsi. Pas d'objection? Il en est ainsi décidé.

Alhousseine FOFANA (Guinée): Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président de vous adresser mes très vives félicitations pour votre brillante élection à la Présidence de cette Session; par la même occasion je félicite les Vice-Présidents qui vous aident dans votre délicate tâche dont vous vous acquittez d'ailleurs avec une extrême compétence.

Ma brève intervention aura pour objet d'évoquer quelques points saillants de notre important ordre du jour, sur lesquels ma délégation aura à se prononcer avec plus de détails au niveau des commissions.

La faim et la malnutrition sont hélas, de nos jours encore, le lot de centaines de millions d'hommes de notre planète et ce, malgré l'engagement pris par la Conférence mondiale de l'Alimentation en Novembre 1974.

Devant ce constat accablant, notre organisation, à la suite d'un nouveau diagnostic au niveau des pays membres, a dégagé des priorités pour le biennium 88 et 89 dont:

- la concentration des efforts sur l'accroissement de la production agricole,
- l'aménagement des sols et des eaux,
- l'amélioration des mesures destinées à accroître la quantité et la qualité des intrants.
- L'utilisation effective des biotechnologies,
- L'application du plan d'action forestier tropical,
- L'application des programmes d'action de la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches,
- La protection de l'environnement et la gestion prudente des ressources renouvelables,
- Les études sur le développement de l'agriculture et l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire.

Mon Gouvernement attache un intérêt considérable à la réalisation de ces différents programmes qu'il appuie sans réserve. En effet, la Guinée a toujours apprécié les démarches préconisées par la FAO parce qu'elles sont inspirées par les besoins ressentis dans les pays membres qui les expriment au niveau des instances régionales et des organes directeurs de notre organisation.

Il est indispensable que les ressources financières de notre organisation s'accroissent sensiblement pour lui permettre de contribuer plus efficacement à l'élimination de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde. Dans les pays en développement, et plus particulièrement en Afrique, la faim et la malnutrition persistent depuis des années et la situation économique actuelle aggrave la misère des populations, la grande pauvreté étant à la base de cet état des choses, seule une forte action de solidarité internationale peut améliorer le sort des millions d'hommes de notre continent conformément au Plan d'action des Nations Unies pour le Redressement et le développement de l'Afrique préconisé par la 13ème session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale en mai 1986.

Monsieur le Président, l'Etude intitulée "L'Agriculture africaine - les 25 prochaines années" analyse de façon précise les contraintes et indique les orientations appropriées pour le relèvement progressif du secteur agricole africain ; de même, le programme d'aide en nature, sous forme d'intrants agricoles constitue une démarche idéale pour accélérer le rythme de la production agricole dans des conditions rentables.

Monsieur le Président, dans le cadre des activités du PAFT (Plan d'action forestier tropical) nous saluons le projet de fonds fiduciaires alimenté par la Belgique, la Finlande, la France, les Pays-Bas, la Suède et la Suisse pour financer les missions sur le terrain avec la Coordination de la FAO. Mon Gouvernement accorde une considération particulière aux programmes d'action du PAFT et, dans ce cadre, il se félicite de l'assistance que la France, la CEE, la Grande-Bretagne, le PNUD et la FAO apportent à la mise en oeuvre progressive du PAFT dans notre pays.

D'autre part, nous estimons que le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides constitue un garde-fou indispensable qui doit être mieux renforcé pour la protection des vies et du patrimoine naturel.

Monsieur le Président, mon pays s'est énergiquement attelé à la mise, en oeuvre d'une stratégie de développement agricole basée: sur la création d'un environnement favorable à la croissance de la production agricole (Sécurité des revenus, sécurité de la propriété des terres, liberté des échanges, etc.), sur la formulation et la mise en oeuvre d'une politique des prix des produits agricoles permettant la rémunération à un niveau incitatif des efforts des paysans, leur garantissant des revenus accrus qui, entre autres, leur permettront d'intensifier leurs méthodes de production.

Cependant, le succès d'une telle action de réorganisation dépend de l'amélioration de la conjoncture au plan du Commerce international dont le déséquilibre actuel annule le résultat de nos efforts pour l'accroissement de nos exportations de matières premières. C'est là où réside un des obstacles essentiels au développement rapide de nos pays.

Ainsi, nous ne pensons pas que les questions de réformes au sein de la FAO constituent une préoccupation prioritaire; à ce sujet, notre point de vue rejoint celui de la majorité des pays en développement qui estime que, je cite: "Dans la mesure où un consensus renouvelé pourra se faire à propos des principes, des objectifs et du rôle à long terme de notre organisation tels qu'ils se sont peu à peu dégagés durant une décennie, alors il sera éventuellement possible d'ouvrir un débat et de revoir certains aspects du travail de la FAO, si les conditions techniques Le justifient" fin de citation. Nous pensons qu'il est urgent pour tous les Etats Membres de s'acquitter régulièrement de leurs contributions et impérieux de respecter les règles de la démocratie qui régissent au sein de notre organisation, règles auxquelles chaque pays a librement souscrit dans l'intérêt de la solidarité internationale.

Pour terminer, mon Gouvernement, tout en regrettant le niveau bas du budget de notre organisation, se rallie au souci du Secrétariat d'obtenir un consensus général, et appuie le projet de budget qui nous est proposé pour le biennium 38/89. Quant au PCT, son efficacité n'est plus à démontrer et il serait souhaitable que ses moyens soient renforcés.

Par ailleurs, au nom de mon Gouvernement et de la délégation que je conduis, je suis heureux de présenter mes très chaleureuses félicitations à notre Directeur général auquel mon Gouvernement et moi-même renouvelons l'assurance de notre coopération et souhaitons Le plus grand succès pour ce nouveau mandat que lui a confié la 24ème Conférence de notre Organisation . 1/

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 17,30 horas

1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 87/II/PV/13

Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARY

Vingt-quatrième session
PLENIERE

24° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
13ª SESIÓN PLENARIA

(16 November 1987)

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

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

de Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 13ª sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas

bajo la presidencia de Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): In the name of Allah the Merciful and Compassionate, ladies and gentlemen, welcome once again to our Plenary meeting. It is our thirteenth session. We will continue to listen to the statements of the heads of delegations. We have a list of thirteen participants this morning, and I would like to draw your attention to the fact that on the list a name was accidentally left out, namely the representative of Sierra Leone. He will be speaking after Syria in the seventh position.

Geoffrey Mogegepe OTENG (Botswana): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the delegation of Botswana let me also congratulate you on your election to the chairmanship of this Twenty-fourth Session of the Conference. I would also like to congratulate the Director-General on his re-election to guide the work of the Organization for the next six years and pledge to him my country's support and cooperation in the continued effort to find solutions to the world's food problems.

We meet once again to pursue our efforts in the fight to address the continuing problems of hunger and malnutrition which plague large portions of the world today. While our efforts in the last two years since the last Conference have produced some commendable improvements, the world, and in particular the developing countries, continue to be faced with major obstacles that impede our progress. These include continuing drought in some African countries, natural disasters, such as the recent outbreaks of locust, the unstable economic climate, and finally, the continuing deterioration of the political situation and increased military confrontations in many parts of the world.

Mr Chairman, the food situation in Africa continues to be of great concern not to the people of the continent only but to the rest of the world. The past few years have brought recognition of the fact that increased effort and resources are required in order to reverse the declining food production situation. The break in the drought cycle in some of the African countries has seen these efforts resulting in increased production of basic food crops. This I believe is an important indication of the fact that, provided with the necessary resources, Africa has the potential to produce sufficient food to feed itself.

A great deal of discussion has been carried out in the past few years about the African food crisis. Many studies have been done and it is my belief that the problems have been identified and solutions are available. What is needed now and in the future is not additional studies and research but a concerted effort to implement the identified programmes that will reverse the current trend of declining production.'

The current trend which tends to concentrate on a piecemeal approach to the solution of the African problem will not be successful in providing a long-term and successful programme. What is happening at present is that we seem to be reacting to situations of crises and calamities. When a disaster occurs the conscience of the world is pricked and we respond with packages of aid which alleviate the immediate suffering but have nothing to do with the underlying causes which led to the disaster in the first place, and which are not planned to ensure that such a situation does not recur in the future.

While most of the developing countries have recognized the need to reorder their development programmes in order to give priority to rural development and food production, they have found it difficult to do so because of the lack of adequate resources. The translation of the national commitment to actual programmes requires large financial and other resources which the developing countries do not have. This, as I have already stated, is the main cause of the piecemeal and often uncoordinated approach towards national problem solving.

The continuing unfavourable economic and financial climate in the world has had an adverse effect on the progress of the developing countries. Most of these countries are faced with serious shortages of foreign exchange reserves. This problem has been compounded by the increased indebtedness of these countries. The net result has been the stagnation of the economies of most developing countries of the world. They not only find themselves unable to procure capital goods necessary for development, but they are also unable to service their huge debts.

Mr Chairman, in their desperation to stimulate their stagnant economies, some of these countries have approached the financing institutions with a view to seeking additional assistance. Experience has shown that some of the restructuring conditions laid down by the financial intermediaries as a prerequisite for additional credit have resulted in increased taxes and astronomical increases in staple food prices with adverse effects on the development of those countries. This situation therefore is a matter of grave concern in many parts of the developing countries.

Another area of concern is the continuing deterioration in the political relations between nations and the continuing increase in the number of trouble spots throughout the world. While we are encouraged by the ongoing negotiations to reduce nuclear arms, we do not think that enough is being done to reduce the international arms race. We believe that as long as there is political instability and confrontation nationally and internationally there is not much prospect of coming to grips with the problems of food production in the world. While we are beset with all these problems, there is little chance of us giving priority to the development of agriculture and food availability.

Our only hope for success in the future is to attack these problems in an integrated manner as a package. The problems of production, marketing, trade adjustment, world finance and economics and world politics should all be addressed at the same time. All of these are interrelated, and if one is out of tune it will disrupt everything else. Our destinies as the human race are all intertwined and we have to seek solutions on a global basis rather than on a national or regional basis as has been the tendency up to the present time. This is the type of commitment that we need to adopt if we are to succeed in our efforts to improve the lot of mankind in this world. Ladies and gentlemen, I do not want to create the impression that nothing constructive has been done over the past years. Indeed the FAO and the international community have to be commended for their efforts to alleviate suffering throughout the world. In the past two years since our last meeting, a great deal of assistance has been provided to combat the locust plague that threatened most of Africa. We in Botswana were recipients of a great deal of assistance in this area which helped us to successfully combat the locust invasion. In addition there has been a tremendous response to the plea of those African countries which have continued to be affected by drought.

I also do not want to give the impression that the problems of the African continent or indeed those of the developing countries are mainly the result of the unfavourable international climate. While we in the developing countries are fully aware of the fact that the obligation to feed ourselves remains largely with us, there is a need for us to commit ourselves to creating policies that will bring stability to our nations. For our people to increase their productivity it is necessary to provide an atmosphere free of tension and uncertainty, an atmosphere of freedom and belonging.

The main thrust of my intervention therefore has been that we should look for an integrated approach to the problem of rural development and the eradication of hunger and malnutrition. While we have made commendable contributions to alleviate the effects of disasters the strategy we have been using so far does not hold much prospect for a successful solution of the world food problem. I therefore ask for a redoubling of efforts and a new commitment and improved strategy.

N.V.K.. Keerthiratne WERAGODA (Sri Lanka): Mr Chairman, your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me at the very outset congratulate the Chairman of this important session of the FAO Conference at his election. We are quite confident that with your long experience you would be able to lead this Conference to finding positive conclusions on a wide range of issues that have come up and will come up for discussion. The Sri Lanka Delegation wishes to take this opportunity to offer our warm congratulations to Dr Saouma on his re-election as Director-General of this Organization. We sincerely hope that in his new term he will be able to discharge his responsibilities in the same dynamic and efficient manner and to bring about new contributions to the world's agrarian reform and rural development and to the great cause of freeing mankind from hunger and malnutrition.

Mr Chairman, I consider it a great honour and a privilege to be amidst the many Ministers of Agriculture and Heads of delegations who have demonstrated a deep sense of commitment to the agricultural development of the respective countries and who have pledged and resolved to guide millions of farmers towards achieving optimum productivity from their land resources. Your Excellencies would undoubtedly agree that the path towards progress has to be chiselled out sometimes through known and congenial surroundings but more often through rugged and hostile terrain. It is indeed heartening to note that several nations have been able to relentlessly surge forward towards building healthy nations through the provision of basic food items having surmounted the problems which inhibited development. It is also 'gratifying to note that we are again meeting under the canopy of the FAO which is unreservedly committed to the principle of supporting food production efforts of the globe.

Our Government under the able leadership of H.E. the President Mr. J.R. Jayewardene has been the pathfinder of growth and development of Sri Lanka. Natural resources, land and water have been harnessed and exploited to the optimum capacity to provide the basic input for improving food production. We have re-traced our footsteps and have now taken steps to recreate the elements of the traditional agrarian society of the days of ancient Sinhalese kings of Sri Lanka by restoring most of the small irrigation systems to sustain the agrarian livelihood of the large farming community. Vibrant farmer organizations are in the process of being built. Improved network of input supplies have been created to reach the farmer. Extension systems have been redesigned to rapidly reach the farmers and fill the technological transfer gap which has hamstrung the effort of the farmer. A suitable atmosphere for production increases has been created by providing state support to the farmer by way of subsidies on inputs such as planting material, fertilizer etc. Marketing has been streamlined enlisting the support of the private sector.

We are facing a paradoxical situation with regard to global food production. We are told that the world has ample food today and that the growth in global food production has been well ahead of the rate of population growth. It has also been accepted that sufficient natural resources are available to eliminate hunger totally and this capacity is ever-increasing with the advance of scientific knowledge. We are also aware that real world cereal prices and fertilizer prices have declined considerably in the mid 1980's.

However, in spite of the above assertions, large sections of population throughout the world experience hunger and deprivation. It may be true that we have more food in global terms than what was available thirty years ago. They suffer from lack of food security. It may be due to any number of reasons, including regional calamities and shortcomings in the distribution system. However, the existence of the most efficient distribution systems may not help if the poor just do not have the purchasing power to gain access to even the most basic nutrition requirements.

While the world is broadly committed to eliminating hunger and malnutrition these maladies persist today in our society, perhaps in increasing proportions and intensities. This commitment is often expressed through emphasis in increasing production. However, increasing production alone is not likely to solve these global problems. A more broad-based approach and the necessary political will is urgently required.

Mr Chairman, I wish at this juncture to refer to the agenda items that are to, be taken up for discussion at this session. I am indeed happy to note that the FAO has demonstrated its sagacity and the ability to look forward when some of the conceptual issues as well as pragmatic operational problems have been listed for discussion. The status of Food and Agriculture and Agriculture Towards 2000 which have been listed under major trends and policies, will certainly reflect the confrontation between the grim realities of agricultural production with the glittering scenario of world food abundance which we hope to create. The issues that will be thrown open at the discussion of these agenda items would undoubtedly lead the FAO in developing concrete measures which would form the basis of future FAO field programmes. I see that already the early signs of such steps being contemplated as item 7 of agenda refers to expanding the provision of agricultural inputs as aid-in-kind. As was done in the previous sessions I observe that field programmes and the special action programmes are subject to careful scrutiny. I am sure, Mr Chairman, more meaningful steps would be taken based on these deliberations. I would also like to refer to the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89. Sri Lanka endorses the long-term trends, the medium-term objectives and programme priorities that have been very clearly laid down for the next biennium. Of course the success of implementation of all these excellent ideas depends on the availability of resources to FAO. We sincerely hope that the developed countries will help the FAO to implement its programme of work by providing the required financial resources.

During the past few days Mr Chairman, we have listened to the success stories of most of the countries in their attempt to provide food to their nations. It is therefore appropriate that Sri Lanka too places before this assembly our achievements as well as the future directions of our efforts in developing a sustainable scientific agricultural base.

Until achievement of independence, in Sri Lanka the colonial Government sought to develop the plantation crops including tea, rubber and coconut for export and achieve high levels of productivity in these crops. No attempt has been made to develop the subsistence sector. As a result Sri Lanka developed into a highly export-dependent economy. Sri Lanka was the classical "dual" economy with the highly modernized and productive plantation sector existing side by side with the traditional, less productive subsistence sector with almost no interaction, and few benefits flowing from the former to the latter.

The high rate of agricultural growth during the last decade was common to many countries in the Asia-Pacific region. According to FAO, crop production in the region progressed at an annual compound growth rate of 3.5 - 4.0. percent and has kept ahead of the population growth rate. Most of the developing countries in the region have also reached self-sufficiency in the staple food rice or are close to achievement of self-sufficiency.

The achievement of self-sufficiency in rice poses special problems for the countries in the region. Ninety percent of the world's rice production and consumption is within Asia and only 5 percent of the global production enters the international market. Since the international market is very thin it is also extremely volatile.

However, rice production in the region will continue to expand by 2.5 - 3.0 percent per annum, which would be somewhat higher than the growth in demand. With the achievement of self-sufficiency, Sri Lanka anticipates difficulties in entering the world market due to the restricted and highly competitive nature of the market, and also since Sri Lanka does not produce the quality rice demanded by the export market.

Mr Chairman, although I have been able to highlight some of the basic problems, I certainly do not profess to have the answers to all. However, I would like to deal with one specific strategy Sri Lanka has followed towards solving some of the issues discussed. The strategy is Crop Diversification. I am aware that several other countries have also adopted Crop Diversification and I hope discussion on the strategy and a cooperative approach in this direction would be beneficial to many of us.

There are two aspects of paramount importance which I wish to emphasize at this assembly in trying to present the conceptual justification of Crop Diversification. I am sure FAO in particular will take note of these two fundamental realities. We have been experiencing recurrent monsoon failures and consequent crop losses due to unavailability of irrigation waters. We have often faced the hazards of developing a mono-crop culture in the background of such fluctuating and often erratic weather patterns. In such eventualities mono-crop certainly faces a tremendous hazard and what would ultimately survive is a 'mixture' of crops which could withstand such climatic uncertainties. Secondly, the 1.5 million small farmers who constitute the agricultural work force of our country have to be protected and their efforts ensured for which purpose Crop Diversification alone offers a satisfactory answer. It is these two basic realities, Mr Chairman, which in particular led us to following a diversified system of agricultural development as a suitable alternative strategy.

While adopting a strategy of diversification it should be kept constantly in mind that rice is the most important staple crop in the Asian region and it will continue to play a dominant role. Diversification could best be accomplished by developing suitable cropping systems which are rice-based. These cropping systems would undoubtedly contain as components pulses, oil crops, condiments etc. cultivated for domestic and export markets as well as for improving the nutrition among the population.

In our attempt to diversify agriculture, attention had to be given to developing suitable rice-based farming systems and a change in the traditional mono-crop oriented research. We are fully conscious of the fact that the small farmer operates a complex mixed crop/livestock unit and responds to technologies that fit and improve his farming system as a whole. Farming systems, research and extension in Sri Lanka, incorporated investigations into understanding existing farming systems and developing improved techniques of production for maximising farmer incomes.

As a result of this new approach which complemented the mono-crop oriented research, I am happy to state that Sri Lanka has been able to develop suitable farming systems for the different agro-ecological zones. By popularizing these systems among the farmers, the diversification of paddy lands has been possible resulting in the optimum utilization of scarce land, labour and irrigation resources.

Diversification need not be limited to annual crops such as grain legumes, coarse grains, oil crops. Diversification could take place in several other directions such as horticultural crops, agro-forestry, energy cropping, or it may be towards new plant species"having economic potential.

Diversification towards horticultural crops - fruits and vegetables - both for domestic consumption and export shows considerable promise. Horticultural crops have not received the attention they deserve in the past in Sri Lanka in common with several other countries in the region. However, due to the rising incomes of especially the EEC and mid-eastern countries and the high income elasticities of demand for these crops, there is an expanding market for tropical horticultural crops of the region. Sri Lanka is currently following a strategy of diversification of marginal tea land in the mid-country towards horticultural and spice crops. Similarly, a programme is under way for diversification of coconut land with annuals as well as perennials to enhance returns to land and labour.

Another area under consideration is diversification towards agro-forestry. Sri Lankan farmers have traditionally appreciated the role of trees in sustaining the natural and human environment. They enhance the agricultural productive capacity by improving the micro-climatic environment and affording protection for the soil. In addition, they produce valuable food and non-food products. In Sri Lanka we have initiated a conservation farming project to study these aspect's closely.

For a successful programme of diversification effective supporting services such as research, extension, input supply, marketing, etc, are essential. In Sri Lanka we have initiated a comprehensive research programme to support diversification. The Diversified Agricultural Research Project is aimed at correcting deficiencies and is expected to make a major contribution to diversification in Sri Lanka.

The marketing system for diversified crops is largely in private hands. However, to provide some protection for the farmers, especially at a time of glut, a floor price scheme was initiated in 1979 especially for crops utilized in diversification. It should be borne in mind that diversification is a area where regional cooperation would be beneficial, at least on two counts. First, suitable crop varieties are an important prerequisite to effective diversification. Thus, countries in the region could assist each other by freely exchanging germplasm and planting material subject to standard quarantine procedures.

Secondly, if many countries in the region pursue this strategy of diversification, economic gains would be restricted due to the market constraints which are likely to develop. If countries compete to supply the existing world market, this may give rise to a general drop in price.

Mr Chairman, I would like to strike a note of caution. Given the great similarity in crop profiles in countries of the Asia/Pacific regions, unplanned diversification is likely to result in a decline in price. This makes regional cooperation essential for a successful diversification effort. Such cooperation perhaps would enable an agreement to be made on production and trade. In this context, I would like to refer to the useful role played by the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) which is based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. With much more assistance from FAO and other agencies, I am sure that CIRDAP will be able to extend its activities and play a more vigorous role in the region.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank FAO and other donor countries who have helped us in putting forward our agricultural development activities.

Khalil MAKKAWI (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, j'ai le plaisir de vous adresser, Monsieur le Président, au nom de la délégation de mon pays, nos sincères félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection à la présidence de la 24ème session de la Conférence générale. Je ne manquerai pas de saluer ici la profonde amitié qui lie nos deux pays frères, amitié fondée sur le respect mutuel, la coopération fraternelle et le destin commun. Nous sommes totalement convaincus que grâce à votre culture, à votre curiosité intellectuelle, à la sagesse et à la patience qui vous caractérisent, vous réussirez à conduire nos débats au succès que nous en attendons. Nos félicitations s'adressent également aux vice-présidents et aux membres du Bureau qui vous prêteront sans doute main forte dans l'exécution de votre tâche. Nous ne laisserons pas passer cette occasion sans saluer le digne fils de mon pays, le Liban, à savoir le Docteur Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de notre Organisation, homme intègre, qui s'est consacré au service de la communauté internationale, ayant mobilisé toutes ses capacités et potentialités depuis bien longtemps pour soulager les souffrances de ceux dont le désespoir et le besoin représentent le quotidien de par le monde. La confiance renouvelée qui lui a été témoignée de par son élection à un troisième mandat à la tête de l'Organisation, est une reconnaissance de sa compétence, de sa bonne gestion, de son dévouement et de sa fidélité. Il ne fait aucun doute qu'il poursuivra dans cette voie, se mettant au service de tous les membres sans exception, pour exprimer leur volonté commune et redoubler d'efforts pour la réalisation des objectifs fixés.

Monsieur le Président, notre session se tient à un moment où le monde entier doit faire face à une situation économique et financière instable. Le déficit financier de certains pays industrialisés, la dette insurmontable qui fait ployer l'échine des pays du tiers monde, les déséquilibres du commerce international, en particulier ceux qui touchent les produits agricoles, la perte de confiance dans l'ordre monétaire international sont des éléments qui ont tous contribué à la conjoncture actuelle.

Cette situation qui sévit actuellement aura sans aucun doute des répercussions sur notre programme de travail et la politique que nous suivrons au cours du prochain biennium.

Monsieur le Président, les questions qui sont soumises à notre Conférence sont diverses. Mon pays fera part de sa position à l'égard de ces questions dans les commissions qui en débattront. Voilà pourquoi je me limiterai, au cours de mon intervention, à trois points seulement.

Le Programme de travail et budget pour 1988-1989 constitue un document très important parmi les documents qui nous sont soumis. La délégation de mon pays l'a étudié en détail avec beaucoup d'intérêt. Elle a également contribué à établir ce document par le biais du Comité des programmes.

Nous savons très bien que les pays contributeurs au budget ont adopté le principe de la croissance zéro depuis quelques années, et ceci malgré les besoins croissants des pays en développement, malgré l'inflation croissante, et l'augmentation des prix et des coûts internationaux. On ne peut ignorer que l'adoption de ce principe est défavorable aux pays du tiers monde. Tout en réitérant l'appel que nous lançons à ces pays pour qu'ils modifient leur position, nous espérons que les causes qui sont à l'origine de ce phénomène disparaîtront.

A la lumière de ce qui précède, pour éviter les dissensions et les différends graves entre les pays membres, le Directeur général de l'Organisation et le Secrétariat ont établi, il y a déjà quelques années, un budget qui vise à concilier toutes les parties, tout en évitant des déséquilibres dans la mesure du possible, dans les programmes de développement. Le budget qui nous est proposé dans le prochain biennium est dans le droit fil de cette décision puisque l'augmentation ne dépasse pas 0,25 % par rapport au budget précédent. Malgré cette légère augmentation, on s'est efforcé d'exploiter au mieux les ressources et on a accordé la priorité aux activités techniques et de développement tout en réduisant les dépenses administratives.

Bien que nous saluons les efforts déployés par le Secrétariat, nous ne pouvons cacher notre déception de voir que les ressources consacrées au Programme de coopération technique sont restées stationnaires, malgré l'importance du Programme et son utilité pour les pays en développement. Nous aurions souhaité que le Secrétariat ne soit pas contraint de recourir à cette mesure qui, bien que contribuant à réaliser des économies, ne manquera pas de se répercuter négativement sur l'exécution des tâches et la réalisation des objectifs.

Quant aux priorités et aux préférences, elles sont à notre sens à la fois réalistes et judicieuses. Elles ont été établies conformément à leur importance, elles ont été fixées avec clarté et elles ont reçues crédits qu'elles méritent.

Nous aimerions insister sur l'importance qu'accorde la délégation de mon pays à l'utilisation saine de l'environnement et à sa protection. Les avertissements qui se sont multipliés dernièrement pour nous prévenir contre les agissements de l'homme contre la terre, l'eau et l'espace, nous incitent à accorder à cette question l'importance qu'elle mérite et à demander à notre Organisation d'intensifier ses efforts en coopération avec d'autres organisations internationales,

A cet égard, nous avons exprimé notre satisfaction pour ce qui est de l'activité nouvelle lancée par l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique, pour faire face aux situations résultant de l'effet des rayonnements nocifs sur l'agriculture, dans toutes les parties du monde et très souvent sans aucune volonté ni intervention de leur part.

Monsieur le Président, la situation économique que j'ai évoquée au début de mon allocution nous impose d'adopter des positions objectives et réalistes. Il n'était donc pas possible, à la lumière de cette situation, d'obtenir plus que ce qui nous est proposé concernant le Programme de travail et budget. C'est pour cela que nous souhaitons appuyer totalement le Programme de travail et budget pour 1988-89 tel qu'il nous est présenté par le Secrétariat. Nous espérons qu'il recueillera l'approbation de tous.

Quant au deuxième point que je souhaite évoquer, il a trait à la situation financière de l'OAA. Nous connaissons tous les difficultés de l'Organisation, pour des raisons bien diverses, mais nous savons aussi que la cause principale est imputable au fait que certains membres n'ont pas payé leurs contributions. Les mesures prises par le Directeur général pour éviter les conséquences très fâcheuses qui en résulteront ne constituent qu'une solution provisoire ne pouvant en aucun cas suppléer à une solution radicale. Nous avons été très heureux d'entendre le Représentant de l'Etat qui, à lui seul, finance la plus grosse partie du budget, réaffirmer l'engagement de son pays à la coopération internationale multilatérale et s'acquitter de ses responsabilités et engagements.

Du haut de cette tribune, nous lançons un appel à tous les pays qui ont des arriérés de contributions pour qu'ils s'acquittent de leurs dettes. Les responsabilités qui incombent à notre Organisation sont considérables. Le travail à abattre est d'envergure, et rien ne sera fait sans les ressources nécessaires.

J'en viens maintenant à la question des réformes qui a été soulevée par certains pays. Nous savons que c'est là une question posée depuis quelque temps déjà non seulement au sein de notre Organisation, mais également dans la plupart des Organisations membres de la famille des Nations Unies. Le développement est synonyme de vie et la sclérose est synonyme de mort. Il est évident qu'il est nécessaire et inévitable de réviser de temps à autre les moyens et méthodes de travail ainsi que les priorités dans quelque domaine que ce soit des activités humaines. C'est un principe que nous appuyons et que nous soutenons fermement. Cependant, nous estimons qu'il faut examiner cette question avec beaucoup de prudence. La réforme est un moyen, et le moyen fait ses preuves après avoir été adopté et mis à l'essai. Voilà pourquoi il ne serait pas sage de s'agripper à des positions qui se révèlent fausses à l'épreuve.

Les objectifs de l'Organisation, tels qu'ils ont été fixés par les pères fondateurs, doivent rester l'étalon et le but principal de toutes opérations de changement et de réforme. Toute réforme qui n'est pas bénie par le consensus est vouée à l'échec. Toute proposition concernant cette question qui pourrait aboutir à des dissensions et des conflits entre les Membres de l'Organisation ne pourrait pas être prise au sérieux.

Mais ce qui nous incite à l'optimisme, c'est que notre Organisation a été une pionnière. C'est elle qui, la première, a adopté des réformes qui ont été dictées par les circonstances. Notre histoire en est témoin, car elle a toujours adopté ce principe depuis le début. Elle a plusieurs fois revu sa structure, son organisation, ses méthodes de travail, ses priorités ainsi que ses stratégies, à la lumière des rebondissements de la situation. Nous souhaitons donc que cette question ne suscite pas de difficultés qui pourraient dépasser de loin les résultats que nous pourrions en attendre.

Monsieur le Président, la famille des Nations Unies dans son ensemble est confrontée à des problèmes. Les points de vue quant à son utilité et ses réalisations sont divergents. Le progrès technique réalisé par l'homme a rendu possible la prospérité, le bonheur pour l'humanité toute entière. Ce qui nous manque pour réaliser ce but c'est la volonté politique, le désir sincère de coopération, de vie en paix. La responsabilité pour réaliser ces objectifs incombe en tout premier lieu aux pays industrialisés.

La question qui se pose aujourd'hui est de savoir si nous allons suivre les pas de Mac Dougall, de Lord Boyd Orr, de Roosevelt et d'autres qui ont tracé la voie de la coopération multilatérale pour vaincre la faim et la malnutrition. Allons-nous nous contenter de regarder croître par milliers le nombre des affamés et des mal-nourris, d'année en année? Permettons-nous aux forces négatives de prendre le dessus et de nous imposer des prises de position, ou allons nous faire preuve de raison, de logique et de noblesse d'âme pour tracer notre voie?

C'est par l'attitude que nous adopterons que nous saurons si nous sommes dans la bonne voie.

Monsieur le Président, qu'il me soit permis de faire part de nos remerciements sincères, de notre appréciation, de notre gratitude au Docteur E. Saouma, à l'Organisation, ainsi qu'au Programme alimentaire mondial et aux autres organisations internationales pour l'aide qu'ils ont fournie à mon pays durant l'épreuve qui le mine. Cette aide a contribué à soulager mon pays des affres de la guerre. Notre gratitude s'adresse tout particulièrement au Bureau de l'Organisation au Liban, qui poursuit son activité avec compétence et enthousiasme malgré le danger et la gravité de la situation.

Je vous souhaite plein succès dans vos délibérations.

Jovan BAROHI (Albanie) (langue originale albanaise): Monsieur le Président, qu'il me soit permis de vous féliciter au nom de la délégation de la République socialiste d'Albanie pour votre élection au poste important de Président de la présente Conférence.

J'ai le plaisir particulier de saluer Monsieur E. Saouma au poste élevé de Directeur général et de le féliciter également pour les efforts qu'il fournit et la contribution qu'il apporte dans la réalisation des aspirations de notre Organisation.

Le Gouvernement albanais n'a cessé d'apprécier le rôle positif joué par la FAO qui s'intéresse vivement aux problèmes de l'accroissement des productions végétales, il a toujours apprécié la lutte qu'elle mène contre la faim et la sous-alimentation dont souffrent des millions de personnes dans le monde. Grâce à ses divers programmes, notre Organisation a mené de nombreuses activités fructueuses tendant à encourager l'accroissement de la production agricole, le développement des campagnes, l'échange des "matériels biogénétiques, le progrès de la science et l'application des nouvelles technologies au service de la production agricole. Toutefois, nous ne pouvons taire le fait que plus de quatre décennies après la fondation de notre Organisation, ses aspirations et objectifs ne sont toujours pas réalisés.

La présente session tient ses assises en un temps où l'économie mondiale subit les conséquences de la crise économique qui a touché en particulier l'agriculture et le marché international des produits agro-alimentaires.

La délégation albanaise juge nécessaire d'indiquer à cette Conférence que les problèmes agro-alimentaires ne peuvent être considérés qu'en rapport avec les problèmes politiques, économiques et sociaux du monde contemporain.

Nous estimons que la FAO, cette organisation spécialisée du système des Nations Unies, doit être soutenue davantage par tous les pays membres pour qu'elle puisse assumer un rôle plus efficace dans le développement de l'agriculture et l'accroissement ininterrompu de la production de denrées alimentaires dans le monde. Mais les objectifs qui se trouvent aux fondements de notre Organisation ne peuvent être réalisés entièrement comme on l'aurait souhaité, dans l'actuelle situation internationale si compliquée et lourde des dangers d'une guerre dont les peuples feraient, comme d'habitude, les frais.

Cette situation s'aggrave encore du fait de la politique belliciste et néo-colonialiste que poursuivent les superpuissances dans leur course aux armements et leur âpre rivalité pour établir chacune son hégémonie. Les conflits locaux qui éclatent de temps en temps d'un continent à l'autre et qui plongent les peuples dans la misère, sont dus à la politique des superpuissances.

Un grand battage est mené actuellement à propos du but humanitaire que viseraient les "aides" destinées aux pays en voie de développement. Mais les faits attestent le contraire. Tout un appareil

puissant et sophistiqué a été mis sur pied pour piller et exploiter les pays en voie de développement à travers Les aides et les crédits accordés, l'achat, à vil prix, des produits agricoles et des matières premières, la vente, à des prix exorbitants, des produits industriels, ainsi que d'autres procédés raffinés. Nous assistons actuellement à une polarisation toujours plus marquée des pays en pays riches et pays pauvres. Les premiers continuent à s'enrichir, les derniers ne cessent de s'appauvrir: ces dernières années, les revenus réels par habitant en Afrique et ailleurs ont baissé considérablement de même que le pouvoir d'achat des masses. La dette extérieure absorbe environ le tiers des exportations africaines et la moitié des exportations latino-américaines et une grande quantité des denrées alimentaires sont jetées afin de maintenir un niveau élevé des profits capitalistes, il y a dans le monde des millions de gens qui vivent dans la misère et qui meurent de faim ou des suites d'une mauvaise alimentation.

La délégation albanaise pense que dans les conditions actuelles, alors que la science et la technique ont atteint un stade de développement supérieur, il serait tout à fait possible à l'humanité, aujourd'hui comme demain, de se suffire en produits agro-alimentaires. Mais ni les succès de la science, ni les acquisitions de la technologie n'arrivent à fournir une solution aux problèmes de la production agro-alimentaire, car dans la plupart des cas, ils demeurent le monopole des multinationales et ne profitent pas aux pays en voie de développement.

Rappelons à ce propos les dommages subis par l'économie mondiale à cause de l'annexion neo-colonia-liste de superficie considérables de terres cultivées qui, devenues souvent des champs de bataille ou des polygones d'essais nucléaires, ne sont, de ce fait, plus valables du point de vue agro-alimentaire.

Les travaux de la présente session me donnent l'occasion de vous entretenir de certains aspects essentiels de la politique agro-alimentaire de la République Populaire Socialiste d'Albanie. La politique agro-alimentaire du Gouvernement albanais appliquée après le triomphe de la résolution populaire chez nous, est partie intégrante du cours de développement proportionné et diversifié de toute notre économie socialiste. Elle vise le développement économique indépendant de notre pays, l'autosuffisance dans la plupart des produits alimentaires, la garantie et l'élévation continue du bien-être des masses travailleuses.

Au cours de ces quarante années d'édification socialiste, notre politique a toujours été centrée sur la nécessité de satisfaire normalement les besoins alimentaires de tout le peuple. Toute l'activité productive et sociale de notre pays a pour pivot et objectif l'élévation du bien-être de la population.

L'application chez nous du programme alimentaire que nous avons élaboré nous a permis non seulement de nous suffire en pain, ce qui naguère était un rêve, mais encore d'améliorer sensiblement la structure d'alimentation de notre population dont le taux de croissance est des plus élevés d'Europe. Rappelons ici qu'aujourd'hui la circulation de détail des produits alimentaires s'est accrue d'environ 2 fois plus rapidement que la population et l'espérance de vie de notre population dépasse désormais 71 ans.

Quant à l'intensification continue de notre production agricole, elle est le résultat de l'extension du système d'irrigation, de l'utilisation des engrais chimiques et des pesticides, de la mécanisation des travaux et du développement harmonieux et proportionné de toutes les branches de notre agriculture.

En l'espace de quatre décennies, nous avons mis sur pied toute une industrie de transformation des matières premières végétales et animales obtenues dans le pays même. A présent, cette industrie traite 90 pour cent de notre production agropastorale et assure le quart de notre production industrielle globale.

Les objectifs du 8ème plan quinquennal (1985-1990) ce développement de notre économie donnent la priorité à l'industrie et à l'agriculture. La production des cultures des champs s'accroîtra, pour plus de 95 pour cent, grâce à l'élévation des rendements. Selon les prévisions, en 1990 la production agricole et les revenus réels par habitant auront augmenté respectivement de 31-33 et de 7-9 pour cent par rapport à 1985. Ces rythmes sont 2 à 3 fois supérieurs à ceux de croissance démographique. La production agricole s'accroîtra de 35-37 pour cent par rapport au quinquennat précédent (1980-1985), soit à un rythme moyen de 6,4 pour cent.

En comptant sur nos propres forces et en élevant les rendements, nous accroîtrons la production de céréales, de plantes industrielles comme le coton, la betterave à sucre et le tournesol, de légumes,

de haricots, de pommes de terre et de fruits. En 1990 la production d'olives va doubler. L'élevage connaîtra un développement sensible. Tout ceci sera étayé par les investissements, et une base matérielle et technique appropriée. On tendra à réduire les écarts existant entre les niveaux de production agropastorale dans les zones de plaines, de collines et les zones montagneuses.

L'industrie alimentaire se développera elle aussi en toute priorité, elle accroîtra sa production de 30-32 pour cent, soit 2 fois plus que pendant le quinquennat passé. Elle, bénéficiera de tous les investissements nécessaires dont le nombre augmentera de 54 pour cent par rapport au quinquennat précédent.

En ce qui concerne les relations internationales, dans le domaine de l'agriculture, nous tenons à souligner que nous sommes pour des relations fructueuses avec les autres pays ainsi que pour l'intensification et la multiplication des échanges dans ce domaine sur la base des principes connus de l'égalité et de l'avantage mutuel dans les secteurs où nos intérêts communs peuvent servir à promouvoir la coopération technique et scientifique en vue de l'accroissement de la production, et en même temps à resserrer les liens d'amitié entre nos peuples.

Nous tenons également à souligner que nous jugeons utile de renforcer notre collaboration avec la FAO afin de mener plus à fond les études et les recherches scientifiques que nous avons entreprises dans diverses directions de la production agro-pastorale, comme l'accroissement des productions végétales et animales, l'augmentation de la production d'olives, le développement de la poche et l'accroissement du nombre de produits alimentaires.

Nous soutenons les efforts déployés par les pays en voie de développement pour changer les relations économiques qu'ils entretiennent aujourd'hui avec les grandes puissances industrielles et dont les effets se répercutent considérablement sur la production agricole aussi. Pour permettre à l'agriculture d'un pays de se développer en toute indépendance et sans interruption, en comptant sur ses richesses nationales, pour se débarrasser du fardeau des dettes contractées et édifier de justes rapports de coopération d'avantage mutuel, il est indispensable de refondre entièrement les relations économiques internationales qui reposent sur l'inégalité et l'exploitation néo-colonialiste. La délégation albanaise soutient les efforts de divers Etats démocratiques pour utiliser leur ressources au profit de leurs peuples et rejeter ainsi une fois pour toutes l'exploitation néo-colonialiste.

La délégation de la République Populaire Socialiste d'Albanie est d'avis que les efforts fournis pour résoudre les problèmes agro-alimentaires dans le monde de nos jours sont inseparables de la lutte que les peuples doivent mener avec fermeté pour leur indépendance économique qui est en même temps une indépendance politique, contre le pillage et l'exploitation impérialistes, contre toute forme de dictat et d'ingérence étrangère.

En terminant, Monsieur le Président, je souhaite que les travaux de cette session, qui a abordé d'importants problèmes de la situation agro-alimentaire dans le monde, contribuent à l'accroissement de la production agricole ainsi qu'à la multiplication des échanges de produits agricoles entre les pays souverains, et cela dans l'intérêt, notamment, des pays qui s'efforcent de surmonter les grandes difficultés suscitées par des relations inégales.

Daniel SANDE (Solomon Islands): Mr Chairman, I associate myself with other distinguished delegates in congratulating you and the Vice-Chairmen on your appointment to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Conference. I also extend congratulations to Dr Edouard Saouma on his re-appointment as Director-General of FAO for a further term of office. It is the sincere and fervent hope of the Solomon Islands delegation that under the wise guidance and able leadership of the Director-General FAO will continue to discharge its responsibilities in the most fair and effective manner in its efforts to achieve the goals and objectives which the founding members of FAO designed in establishing this important agency of the United Nations Organization.

The Solomon Islands acknowledge the important contribution of FAO towards world initiatives which aim at ensuring that the majority of the world's human population should live without hunger. All humans belong to the same world, and are entitled to the same basic right. That is the right to eat and have access to food. But our world is not homogenous, and the human population lives

in different regions and parts of the globe with varying characteristics. This is a well-known fact, but among other things, this fact should help us to understand why some countries or regions are better off than others.

My country belongs to a region of the world where small island states predominate, and whole cultures of only two countries succeeded in transforming the land into abundant agricultural production and affluence. The rest of the region, although less hungry than some regions of the world, is economically less developed, increasingly dependent on aid, less able to charter its own future, increasingly vulnerable to forces outside its control, and its fortunes are increasingly tied to the fortunes—and priorities of aid donor countries and institutions. Static or reduced capacity of donors to give aid would have catastrophic impacts on the national economies and on the lives of individual people in the region.

That statement does not imply, however, that the Solomon Islands advocates indefinite dependence on aid from the international community. On the contrary, my country associates with the view that developing countries should assume responsibility for 'their own development. Effectively, this would mean that food deficit countries should not merely be content with food handouts from food surplus or developed countries, but that they ought to harness aid delivered to implement plans, programmes, projects or strategies designed to attain, among other things, self-sufficiency in the long term. Food self-sufficiency should mean more than just producing enough food for a country's requirements without there being room for food export to one country and food import from another. In this connection it is imperative that harnessing aid for development entails building an infrastructure to facilitate economic production that will enable a country to earn foreign exchange by which food import bills can be paid.

This is how the Solomon Islands Government sees food self-sufficiency, and being heavily dependent on agriculture, my country's policy of objectives for agricultural development include:

- high level of self-sufficiency in food production;
- increased level of smallholder agriculture involvement in cash earning activities both for the domestic and export markets;
- support for commercial agricultural ventures; and
- diversification of agricultural production.

Towards these ends, and in general conformity with objectives contained in the WCARRD Programme of Action, the Solomon Islands will continue to approach the delivery of aid from bilateral and multilateral sources for development of agriculture, as well as for development of infrastructure and the country's forest and fish resources.

The country is currently implementing one major agricultural project financed by aid from both multilateral and bilateral sources. This is the Rural Services Project incorporating an agricultural training institute, agricultural demonstration and farmer training centres. It is expected that the output from this project will enhance the government's complementary projects and programmes designed to assist the rural population in bringing about improved agricultural development and food production. Mr Chairman, permit me to register the Solomon Islands' appreciation of the contribution made by IFAD and the Australian Government to this project. May I also add that we are extremely grateful to FAO and the international community of friends for their ready assistance in our agricultural rehabilitation programme now being implemented after the devastating effects of a tropical cyclone that hit the country in May last year.

I also feel compelled to extend the gratitude of the Solomon Islands' Government to the European Economic Community for their continued support through the Lomé and STABEX arrangements which greatly assist my country in implementing agricultural development strategies and programmes. With loans and aid from this community and from other countries and organizations, the country will for the next five years devote over 30 percent of its annual development budget to develop the country's agriculture sector and natural resources.

In the area of food production generally, the Solomon Islands has potential for further development of the fish resources of the country's exclusive economic zone. We plan to develop these resources further for a sizeable trade with other countries. By co-operation with Japan and through loan assistance from Australia, we hope to achieve progress, but we would appreciate the developed countries' recognition that we may have comparative advantage in harnessing this source of food

protein for consumption by a large proportion of the world's population. In this connection we deem it fair that developed countries in particular place less restrictions for entry of this food product in their respective markets.

Mr Chairman, time would not permit me to elaborate more on what I wish to state regarding the experience of my country, of possibilities open to it in international co-operation for food production and agriculture. I now wish to very briefly state my delegation's view on some issues on the agenda for consideration by the Conference.

Regarding tasks for solving food and agricultural problems of developing countries, the Solomon Islands would concur with the view that responsibility for solving those problems rests primarily with the countries concerned, but the international community should have an equally important role in supporting the efforts of those countries. For small island countries in particular, limited capital, isolation, backward technologies, restricted land resources, lack of skills and human resources development, vulnerability to natural and sometimes man-made disasters etc. would mitigate against any "self-help" efforts those countries may want to take.

On world trade and food aid, we would sympathize with countries which, because of forces outside their control, cannot obtain enough food to feed their population. Droughts and natural disasters are cases in point, and such countries would rely on the generosity of the international community. But in general, we would feel reasonably happy to see that countries should trade on fair terms. Small island countries depend heavily on agriculture, and for them fair terms of trade for their agricultural products would ease the burden of servicing debts to foreign countries and multilateral institutions. The Solomon Islands receive indirect subsidies for its agricultural products from the EEC, and we derive much agricultural development and production value from such a subsidy. We will therefore continue to support the not purely protective use of subsidies by countries that need our agricultural products for added value production in their markets.

As for the future of FAO, we would agree to reforms that would improve the capability of the Organization to deliver goods and services for which it was founded. But we would not go as far as to accept reforms that change the goals of the Organization. Who should undertake the reviews for reform is of little concern to us, although we would accept that such review should be done with little strain on the budget of the Organization to implement programmes for international co-operation on food and agriculture.

Bourhan KAYAL (Syria) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Your Excellency, Ministers, Distinguished Heads and members of Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is my pleasure, Sir, to congratulate you on your election as President of this Session of the Conference. I am confident that, thanks to your personal qualities and those of the Vice-Chairmen, you will steer, this Conference to a successful conclusion. The Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic will do its utmost to assist you in this task.

I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate those countries of the world suffering from hunger, poverty and deprivation on the re-election of Dr Edouard Saouma as Director-General of FAO. It is a source of special pride for Syria, under the leadership of President Hafez El Assad, that the son of a fellow sister Arab nation - Lebanon - has been elected. This election reflects the sound wisdom of this Conference.

Mr Director-General, over the past few years, you have provided FAO with those new features and creative strategies needed to tackle the problems of poverty and hunger and to propel agricultural and rural development in the Third World on the road to advancement. Your achievements, Sir, in this field are well-known.

The serious agricultural economic problems and development difficulties facing the Third World and the increasing role played by FAO under your directorship to solve them, embody the future plans and goals of this international Organization.

The people and government of the Syrian Arab Republic pledge their continued support to you and pray to the Lord God to guide your steps in fulfilling FAO's mission to liberate humanity everywhere from poverty and hunger.

The unusual circumstances and pressures faced by our region, have led us to allocate a large share of our resources and budgets for defence purposes. Yet despite this heavy burden, Syria has succeeded in balancing its development achievements with the requirements of its struggle. We take pride in noting that our achievements in the field of agricultural development reflect the activities of the proposed programme and budget.

Despite what we have realized, we still hope to achieve more to meet the rising requirements of our citizens, as a result of population growth and improved standards of living. To bring this about the current five-year plan accords priority to the agricultural sector as reflected in the decisions of the Conferences of the Baath Arab Socialist Party. I would like to seize this opportunity to put on record my thanks to FAO for the technical support and expertise extended to us in all areas.

Mr President: the attitude of the Syrian Arab Republic as a member of the international community is governed by the existence of nationalistic and humanitarian interrelationships. We thus accorded a great deal of importance to the reference in the Director-General's statement to the world situation in general, and the economic and food situation in particular with millions of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition. We also noted the problems arising out of structured adjustment measures. Our delegation shares the concern expressed by the Director-General over the plight of the developing countries, especially those mainly dependent on their agricultural resources.

We are quite aware of the fact that the problem is not only one of food production, but also of the imbalance between export earnings and the cost of imported basic goods. This increases balance of payments deficits, leads to borrowing and an increased burden of indebtedness, as well as inability to repay creditors. Evidence of this lies in what was said by the Director-General, namely that the losses incurred by developing countries in 1986 amounted to 90 000 billion dollars. This brings us to a subject that may be discussed often, namely economic relations between developing and developed countries - these do not augur well for the continued peace and prosperity of developed countries, while poverty and hunger are on the increase in the Third World.

Mr President, in this statement I must refer to the order of priorities proposed for the 1988-89 biennium and to the importance of achieving a consensus about them. As these priorities were established through the regional conferences and the main committees of the council, they dictate the main roles of the Organization - as an international forum for formulating and discussing strategies and policies, as a major source endowed with the necessary scientific qualities to provide technical advice and co-operation and as an international executing agency for humanitarian projects financed from various sources including the regular programme. I will not dwell further on the subject but simply state that the priority roles of the Organization are very reasonable and balanced ones. Here I would like to make a special reference to the Technical Cooperation Programme and to commend in turn their proven efficiency and effectiveness in achieving the stated purpose for their establishment. The allocations for this programme need to be increased. I will, however, leave the question of resources to the guidance of the Director-General and to the strategies he has established for FAO in this field.

One last but important point I wish to raise, Mr Chairman, is that of the FAO budget. First of all I would like to say that the policies desired by certain governments are not conducive to the Organization undertaking its mandate and assigned role. We reject from the outset the zero growth principle, for if we want this Organization to achieve the goals and objectives laid down in its constitution we must provide it with the means to do so: a strong, sustainable budget. It is inconceivable that vast sums are allocated to increased armament while small financial allocations are withheld though they are intended to combat poverty and hunger that threaten humanity in general.

Finally, we support the Director-General's appeal urging all member countries, especially the major industrialized countries, to back this Organization in undertaking its vast duties.

Philipson KAMARA (Sierra Leone): Please allow me in the first place, to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to that high office from which you have been able to steer this eventful 24th FAO Conference. My delegation has every confidence in you and your Vice Chairmen to whom I equally extend similar congratulations and wish that you will continue to conduct the affairs on this session in the best traditions of this Organization.

Mr Chairman, I bring to you and to the Conference greetings and best wishes from my Head of State, His Excellency Major General Dr Joseph Saidu Momoh. Permit me also to convey his congratulations to the Director-General of FAO, Dr Edouard Saouma on his re-election to this high office. We believe that his re-election is not only a reaffirmation of the high esteem and respect the majority of member countries have for him, but it is also a demonstration of the determination and conviction of the international community that problems of food, hunger, malnutrition and poverty transcend the boundaries of personalities and vested interests. We are confident that he will continue to uphold the high ideals of his office.

Mr Chairman, the FAO Conference affords us an opportunity to review the food and agriculture situation in our respective countries, share experiences, and determine our priorities for the years ahead. For Sierra Leone, the food situation during the past biennium has not been as cheerful as we would have preferred. Contrary to our expectations and projections, production of the staple food crop rice experienced continuing downward trend to the extent that in 1985-86 we had an unprecedented shortfall of about 180 000 metric tons of our annual national requirements. We had no alternative but to make up for this shortfall through imports which amounted to approximately 42 million US dollars.

This exercise placed an additional burden and severe strain on our fragile foreign exchange earnings. Such a situation is totally unacceptable if we are to survive as a nation and maintain our sovereignty. We are determined, therefore, to arrest this decline and reverse the trend. We are aware it is a formidable task, but we are equally convinced it is not insurmountable. If we are to convince others to support us we must first demonstrate our commitment to it and take the initiative.

We did so last year when my government launched a Green Revolution Programme. The programme represents our efforts coalesced. It is a declaration of our sincere intention to extricate the country from the throes of recurring production shortfalls and the embarrassment of relying on others to feed us. It is a demonstration of our determination to use our natural endowments to achieve self-sufficiency in our staple foods on a sustained basis. Permit me, Mr Chairman, to sketch briefly the direction, methodology and scope of this programme.

Our Green Revolution Programme places adequate emphasis on the need to create the right atmosphere which will influence and encourage increased production. I refer in particular to attractive producer prices, accessible credits, available inputs and appropriate marketing arrangements, all on a timely basis. Towards this end specific strategies have been mapped out in each sub-sector of the Ministry for the planned period identified within the short, medium and long term phases.

The most immediate objective of the crop sub-sector will be the mobilization of manpower and other resources as well as the creation of incentives through the provision of essential inputs such as improved seed varieties for staple food crops, particularly rice; also fertilizer, pesticides and farm machinery necessary for the implementation of an intensified and sustainable food crop production programme. The programme also calls for the effective use of resource areas with the greatest potentials for rice production, namely inland valley swamps, mangrove swamps, riverain grassland and bolilands in that order of importance.

Mr Chairman, provision has also been made for the production of other crops as a means of broadening the production base by cultivating those crops with a potential to act as alternatives to rice. Strategies have been worked out in respect of crops like cassava, maize, roots and tubers, onion, tomatoes and chillies which offer advantages to achieve this objective.

Under the Fisheries sub-sector of our Green Revolution Programme, my Government places strong emphasis on the implementation of the strategy for fish management and development as recommended by the 1984 FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. The programme encourages Sierra Leone nationals and other interested parties "to increase domestic production of fish and other aquatic resources to satisfy local demands, fulfil national requirements and increase foreign exchange earnings through exports, particularly of shellfish.

Mr Chairman, the right setting for a viable fishing industry does exist in Sierra Leone with a coastline of 210 miles and a continental shelf of almost 10 000 square miles. To exploit such resources and strengthen the process, we sought and obtained the assistance of FAO to formulate a comprehensive national Fisheries Policy. Our Green Revolution Programme will focus on specific strategies in the fisheries sector as follows:

- Improved national self-reliance in fisheries management and development;
- Optimum use of fish resources;
- Strengthening small-scale fisheries;
- International trade in fish and fisheries products;
- Investment in fisheries including joint ventures; and
- Economic and technical cooperation in Fisheries.

The livestock programme focuses attention on the strengthening of the disease control measures through the provision of adequate diagnostic facilities and the attendant inputs such as drugs, vaccines and laboratory reagents. The livestock extension services will be strengthened through appropriate training of front line workers responsible for delivering the production packages to livestock farmers. A crash programme on training of field workers which has already begun as part of the short term measures adopted by the Ministry will be extended. Greater emphasis will be placed at commercial levels on short-production cycle animals such as sheep, goats, pigs and poultry.

On cattle, emphasis will be placed on the improvement of the local breed on the Ndoma cattle with a view to exploiting its potential for increased production under improved husbandry and management with adequate disease control measures.

The measures proposed for Forestry are mainly directed at conserving the existing forest resources through activities which will bring about a reduction of the present forest loss by at least 30% per annum. Included in these measures are a forest boundary protection programme, rehabilitation of plantations and a package fuel-wood alleviation programme for domestic consumption.

An agro-forestry cropping system aimed at supporting the soil conservation aspect of the Green Revolution Programme, a national forests inventory, the establishment of saw log plantations, wild life conservation and improvement are also essential aspects of the forestry component.

In the aquaculture and inland Fisheries programme, development will be intensified on inland farming; the strategy will be to develop fish farms, to improve fish farming techniques, and to organize the use of inland valley swamps and existing waterways. The inter-cropping of fish cultivation with swamp rice production for the establishment of fish ponds is being actively encouraged.

Financial resources for funding of the Green Revolution Programme is planned to come from both local and external resources. A Green Revolution Agricultural Fund has been established for the implementation of the Programme to derive its funds from three major sources namely, Sierra Leone Government contributions; private sector contributions and external contributions. The recurrent and development budgets of government will continue to make provision for funding part of this sector. In the area of external funding, my Government will welcome any form of assistance from friendly Governments, international bodies and non-governmental organizations to enable the objectives of the Programme to be realized.

The programme is already under way. Public awareness has been heightened and the political will is evident. External assistance is slowly but positively increasing. Encouraging support has been received from organizations such as the World Bank and IFAD, both of which are jointly funding the Agricultural Sector Support Project. Support from UNDP has also been highly appreciated while positive contributions have also been made by the WFP and other organizations. We are also grateful to many friendly countries for their assistance to Sierra Leone through bilateral programmes and other activities and we implore them to hasten and increase their assistance substantially to this our national effort of an agricultural revolution.

We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the exemplary support and encouragement we have received from the Director-General of FAO towards the Green Revolution Programme. The technical assistance he has given to us in the reformulation of the programme and its action plans has been invaluable. We also acknowledge other FAO activities in Sierra Leone

including the recent establishment of an agricultural documentation centre, improvement of rice milling at village level, inland swamp development, artisanal fisheries and production of fuelwood which are all important. We are convinced that FAO's support to farmers' organizations through NGOs will strengthen people's participation in the programme. I refer in particular to women's groups in agricultural production, processing and marketing. Successes from on-going projects in this field convince us that the direction and methodology are appropriate to our development efforts. We are therefore encouraged to note the emphasis placed on such programmes by FAO in its medium-term objectives for the coming biennium. We would urge that appreciable support be given to FAO particularly through increased Trust Funds to enable the organization implement projects in this field. We make this appeal bearing in mind the budgetary constraints which the Organization faces. We the recipient countries know full well the importance of such programmes in our development efforts and the benefits we have derived and will derive from them. We urge all those in the position to do so, particularly donor countries to support such practical and vivid programmes.

Mr Chairman, let me take this opportunity to express to the Government and people of Italy the gratitude and appreciation of my delegation for the excellent arrangements made for this Conference to make our stay in Rome comfortable since our arrival. We also welcome the prudence and substance of their country statement whose tone and spirit we expect will prevail during our deliberations.

Finally, let me wish the Director-General and the FAO a successful 1987-89 biennium.

Evloqui BONEV (UNDP): It is a privilege and honour for me to represent UNDP at this 24th Session of the Conference. I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to this highly responsible post and to wish you every success in carrying out your challenging task. At the same time, I am most pleased to convey the congratulations of the Administrator of UNDP, Mr Draper, to Mr Saouma upon his re-election as Director-General of this important organization for a new term of office.

As delegates are aware, the United Nations Development Programme works hand in hand with all the agencies concerned with development in the UN system and co-ordination with all the agencies is therefore one of the most vital elements of our mutual efforts. Indeed, at its June session this year and, more specifically, at its High-Level Segment, the Governing Council of UNDP gave great attention to the relevant General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions in this respect, and adopted a decision supporting the efforts of the Administrator to assist recipient countries to strengthen their aid co-ordination mechanisms, calling on governments to follow a consistent approach in the various United Nations system governing bodies.

The Governing Council adopted another decision on Operational Activities for Development concerning, in particular, the role of the resident co-ordinators, the use of the United Nations Development Programme country programming process as a framework for operational activities, the co-location of field offices, and the further harmonization of operational procedures.

Mr Chairman, it is our deepest conviction that UNDP could not carry out its mandate without the closest co-operation with its partners, the specialized agencies, whose experience and knowledge in the multiple and complex social and economic sectors are indispensable. In this respect, FAO - one of our major partners with which we have had very fruitful co-operation over the last decades - is highly valued by UNDP. We greatly appreciate its very qualified co-operation in assisting the recipient governments in the formulation of their Country Programmes for this five-year cycle. Around 120 of the 150 Programmes, totalling nearly \$ 3 billion of UNDP contributions, have already been approved by the Governing Council. The rest will, most likely, be approved in February 1988. This was possible only with the tireless work of the three parties concerned: recipient governments, executing agencies, and UNDP.

It was indeed most gratifying to hear, in Mr Saouma's statement, his reaffirmation of FAO's commitment to pursue its efforts for coordination with the organizations in the UN system, including UNDP. We appreciate FAO's commitment to enhance its cooperation with NGOs active in the rural sector. Also, we commend wholeheartedly the field programmes envisaged by FAO for the future, with emphasis on investment promotion, the strengthening of national capacities, education and training, women in rural development and ecological concerns. Let me assure you that we, in UNDP, stand ready to co-operate fully for the effective fulfilment of these aims.

Entering into the new 5-year UNDP Programming Cycle, we should be aware of the fact that a new chapter in world development has begun to unfold. In every region, nations are discarding old solutions to the problems they have faced throughout the decade. A global pursuit of new policies is under way. The changes we now observe in the world call upon organizations such as ours to make an intense effort at readjusting to present realities.

The major problems with which the developing countries - and especially the least developed - are at present faced are interwoven with each other. Most developing countries find their economies in an unsettled state. Demand for exports has fallen and commodity prices sunk. Debt payments have claimed larger percentages of national earnings. Revenues available for development have thus declined and domestic investment levels dropped. The food problem in Africa continues to persist. The continuing vulnerability of developing country economies to external shocks has brought home to Governments a number of shortcomings in their policy-making processes and management systems.

One of their first responses has been to try to overcome these inadequacies through more judicious use of technical co-operation resources. In Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean UNDP and its agency partners are being asked to provide technical assistance to countries to manage their economies more efficiently, to provide advice on debt and structural readjustment strategies, and to help boost agricultural and industrial production. Human resources development should, in this respect, receive priority attention as this is vital to the achievement of self-reliance in developing countries. It is encouraging to note, therefore, that FAO is actively applying the guidelines on "New dimensions in technical co-operation, which call inter alia for support to Technical

Co-operation among developing countries, government execution of projects, the use of national experts and United Nations volunteers. We in UNDP, in close co-operation with the specialized agencies and especially with the major ones such as FAO, are doing our utmost to meet the expectations of the developing countries.

Mr Chairman, in the new country programmes, the development of agriculture, the transfer of appropriate technology, the protection of the environment, and activities aimed at promoting the role of women in development are being given greater emphasis while, at the same time adhering to major global objectives such as alleviation of poverty, food security, the supply of clean drinking water and sanitation which all feature as priorities for the new cycle. We are pleased to note that the FAO Programme of Work and Budget proposal for the biennium 1988-89 gives emphasis on increasing agricultural productivity in developing countries, while at the same time ensuring the conservation management of the natural resources which form the base of such productivity. Indeed, it transpires from the statistical tables of estimates that UNDP is the major source of funds for activities directly related to productivity - crops, livestock, fisheries utilization and forest resources.

I am glad to inform you that UNDP, on its side, has given institutional shape to its efforts to bring into the mainstream of development the intellectual abilities and talents of women, as well as the energies of non-governmental organizations, with which a closer relationship will contribute to making a greater impact on the well-being of the most needy layers of the populations.

The interest expressed lately in accelerated development of the private sector has been taken duly into account during the formulation of programmes. In Africa, in particular, regional and country programmes support, among others, the preparation of private investment proposals, and provide for training in marketing, management and related activities with emphasis on small enterprises.

Mr Chairman, regarding the UNDP resource situation, the year 1987 was marked for UNDP by record total income topping the billion dollar mark. As to 1988, at the Joint United Nations Pledging Conference which ended on Wednesday 4 November 1987, total contributions to UNDP and associated funds rose above last year's record high by over 10 percent and are expected to reach a new peak of over \$ 1 billion. The position of the dollar played a part in this result, but most of the increases came from higher national currency contributions - close to 7 percent.

I want to extend our profound thanks to all the donor countries, to all the taxpayers in those countries and to all the people in these countries who have supported UNDP in different ways and who have helped us to make such a difference. We give our warmest gratitude particularly to those major donor countries which not only met the target of a 7 percent increase in their contributions to UNDP in national currencies, but also made commendable efforts to surpass it. Finland increased its contribution by 17.17%; Norway 10.9%; Sweden 10%; Italy 10%; Spain 10%; New Zealand 10%; Denmark 8.4%; Australia 8%; Federal Republic of Germany 7.9% and Canada 7.7%.

I should, I think, single out Japan, which gives its contribution in United States dollars and which has indicated an increase of 14.1%. thus taking third place in the order of our major donors.

We hope that this healthy trend in the resource situation of UNDP will continue during this cycle and will give the developing countries the possibility of implementing their country, regional and global programmes the way they themselves have designed them. We hope very much that agriculture will continue to be given high priority by recipient governments as well.

As for UNDP, it has a network of 112 field offices and its regional representatives will continue their efforts, in cooperation with the country representatives of FAO, to arouse the awareness of governments to the importance of this basic sector.

Mr Chairman, in view of the importance we attach to our cooperation and equal partnership with executing agencies, UNDP has initiated some new endeavours to further expand the dialogue with their Secretariats and to explore together new approaches in confronting new challenges, to find together solutions to problems which occur and to identify priority areas where our common action will lead to the best results. This started with a visit to FAO Headquarters by our Associate Administrator, Arthur Brown, earlier this year.

Similar meetings have taken place with other agencies as well. Following the review meetings, we are happy to inform you that a letter has been sent to Resident Representatives in the field offices instructing them to give full effect to the conclusions which were reached at these meetings. This dialogue will certainly be pursued, and we are convinced that it will help us to redefine the orientation of our activities in the field and increase its efficiency.

Ghulam Mohammed BAHRAM (Afghanistan): I have the honour and pleasure to participate in the 24th Conference of FAO. On behalf of my delegation, I congratulate you on your election to this important job. I would also like to congratulate Dr Edouard Saouma on his reelection to the post of the Director-General of FAO.

Mr Chairman, the economy of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan depends to a great extent on agricultural products. The gross national product amounted to a total of AFS. 155 300 000 000 showing a growth rate of 3.3%. Of this, agricultural, animal husbandry and forestry outputs grew at a rate of 1.6%, realizing 97.2% of the planned targets. The gross income from this sector amounted to AFS. 89 billion.

In 1986, 68.8% of the outputs of the agricultural sector were composed of plant and 31.2% of animal and forestry products. Like plant outputs, animal products have a tremendous importance to the growth of Afghanistan's national economy. Sheep-breeding had reached a higher stage of development in Afghanistan until a few years ago. However, due to a few recurrent droughts during the past few years and the resultant scarcity of fodder and pasture, a large number of sheep have been slaughtered. The Afghan nomads, who number approximately 1.5 million, are mostly engaged in rearing sheep. Likewise, breeding karakul lambs (which enjoy an international reputation) constitutes the main occupation of the inhabitants of a number of our provinces. And the sale of karakul pelts is considered a sure source of foreign exchange. However, the present agricultural, animal husbandry and forestry outputs do not keep pace with population growth and hence cannot meet all the needs of the people and those of growing industries.

Taking into account the extraordinary importance of agriculture to the growth of the national economy in its present stage, the development of agriculture constitutes one of the basic targets of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan which in itself calls for the development of the rural areas and the raising of the standards of living of farmers and agricultural workers, who make up the largest stratum in the country, to attain a better socio-economic status.

Mr Chairman, it is more than 9 years since a national democratic revolution has triumphed in our land. And it is evolving at the will of the masses. We have sustained heavy damages during the past few years at the hands of the extremists at the behest of their outside patrons. The brunt of this is borne by the farmers who make up the bulk of the work force that is aligned with the working class.

Our party and our Government believe in solving problems through political negotiation and not by resorting to force. As you are aware, Mr Chairman, we recently convened the Second PDPA Conference in the light of national reconciliation. Analysing the real state of our society and the demands of the people, the Conference made the necessary changes in our policy in order to fully contribute to the success of the national democratic revolution. We regard the national reconciliation as the only alternative to war so that we may be able to attain a nationwide peace. And we are fighting for this. This policy not only enjoys vast support inside the country but has earned us much backing in the international arena.

Likewise, we have allowed a coalition government and even a multi-party system to ensure more democracy and enable other parties to operate. The new constitution, whose draft has been subject to public discussion, will soon be adopted and come into effect. Obviously, these improvements have their impact on society, benefitting all strata and classes, including the farmers who constitute the bulk of the population. Thus the share of such classes in the administration will be expanded, contributing to the rise in their standard of living and boosting the farmers' output.

Mr Chairman, the national reconciliation policy was promulgated in January 1987 and its objectives are being realized. The main idea behind this policy is to end war and bloodshed, ensure domestic security and thus create a secure atmosphere for socio-economic activities. Farmers and other villagers have definitely benefitted from the advantages of this national reconciliation policy. People's accredited delegates have taken part in regional and local reconciliation commissions. They have been creating favourable conditions for the inhabitants to carry out their agricultural activities in a secure manner. Through these national reconciliation commissions and executive committees (participated in by the farmers' delegates) farmers can obtain chemical fertilizers, credits and technical agricultural services offered by Government organs on easy terms.

Following the announcement of the national reconciliation policy, 90 000 expatriates have returned home, taking advantage of the facilities provided by the Government.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Revolutionary Council has issued a decree proposed by the head office of the National Reconciliation Commission, as a result of which farmers are returning home. According to this edict, overdue taxes, interest on credits and other arrears on their part with respect to past years have been written off.

Recently, the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council issued another decree covering basic principles organizing land and water distribution in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in the interest of the vast strata of landless farmers and those with little land, taking into account the features characterizing land utilization as well as Islamic rules and popular traditions with a view to strengthening the land ownership rights of all strata possessing land, landless farmers and those with little land, as well as the agricultural labourers. According to these principles, a reasonable mechanism will be created to organize the necessary land relationships in an economical way for the subsequent growth of productive forces. In like manner, this decree raised the land ownership ceiling to 20 hectares of first grade land or an equivalent thereof, based on economic analysis. Thus, the private entrepreneurs and other individuals who engage in mechanized farming will be able to enjoy better possibilities, forestalling the splitting up of vineyards and orchards while the arable lands belonging to sacred shrines are no longer subject to any limitation. Of course, all this has been done to boost production and help the farmers.

It must be pointed out that the returning villagers, including the farmers, need foodstuffs, clothing and other essentials which are partly provided by the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries.

In the economic sphere, during the past few months we have witnessed the convening of the first vast congress of private entrepreneurs. At this gathering, the part played by the private sector in agriculture, industries and transportation was valued highly. Men with capital have already launched productive projects in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, industries and food production. These have assumed the form of mixed private companies as well as public and private plants. We have been able to set up several projects in the private sector.

On the other hand, the Government has been cooperating with these firms by providing consultative services, facilities for the export of domestic products and import of machinery. Credit on easy terms is granted to private entrepreneurs through the Industrial Development Bank and the Agricultural Development Bank. Now the Economic Consultative Council attached to the DRA Council of Ministers organizes the realization of the decisions of the above congress.

During the previous year, a number of Government projects engaged in commercial transactions change their status into enterprises in order to organize their profits and losses, so avoiding bureaucratic red tape. In this way, the management of each project will have a free hand in order to boost output by enjoying independence, feeling more responsibility and thus using more initiative.

Since the socio-economic development plans of the Government are based on the needs and demands of the people, regional socio-economic plans were prepared as requested by the people. The Government allocated funds to budget these. This year, a total of Afs. 168 million was earmarked for this purpose in addition to appropriations under the development plan for the agricultural sector.

Mr Chairman, in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan chemical fertilizers and improved seeds are supplied by the Government agencies at cut rates because the administration subsidizes these to strengthen the economy of the farmers. Also, the distribution system created for this purpose is reviewed from time to time in order to evolve improved processes.

Recently, a series of actions was taken by the Government to expand cotton and sugarbeet cultivation. For instance, cotton and sugarbeet cultivators receive an additional Afs. 9 332 against the delivery of each ton of raw cotton and Afs. 1 100 against that of a ton of sugarbeet as an incentive. Likewise, mechanised farms enjoy concessions by paying Afs. 200 against the use of a tractor per hour, while this actually costs the Government Afs. 800. The difference is evidently subsidized. Farmers who cultivate cotton or sugarbeet in public lands are exempt from delivering their produce or paying taxes. Furthermore, cotton and sugarbeet cultivators purchase their essentials at cut rates.

In order to help the farmers financially, their tax dues from 1971 to 1975 totalling Afs. 2 564 million have been written off.

Veterinary services are also supplied free of charge in our country. During the past year, a total of 13 million heads of cattle were either treated or protected while 10 million doses of various vaccines were manufactured and applied.

In connection with the development of animal husbandry, we have been trying to improve animal strains through artificial insemination. For this purpose, a number of artificial insemination stations have been built in various provinces. And this service will be further expanded to cover the whole country.

Mr Chairman, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Government is giving top priority to wheat production. The idea is to make the country self-reliant as far as wheat consumption is concerned. Last year, a total of 2.75 million tons of wheat was produced. Owing to satisfactory rainfall at the beginning of the wheat season, we are hoping that production will be equally good this year. Also fruit and vegetable outputs are assessed to be plentiful this year.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Government has undertaken vast plans to rehabilitate and protect forests. Action has already been initiated to utilize solar energy and coal to avoid fire wood resulting in the indiscriminate cutting of trees.

Mr Chairman, the recurrent droughts during the past few years have been one of the factors hindering the full realization of development plans. However, the Government has adopted serious and effective measures to supply to farmers technical and material aids. With more farmers returning home and their active participation in ensuring peace in the rural areas, we are hoping to witness satisfactory advances in agricultural production and the animal husbandry and -forestry outputs in the near "future.

Mr Chairman, World Food Day is marked with due pomp in our country every year. This year, a joint message was issued by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers on this occasion, expressing the hope for adequate nutrition for humans to eliminate hunger and malnutrition.

Mr Chairman, our country is in dire need of international and outside assistance to develop various aspects of agriculture. The assistance rendered to Afghanistan by the Soviet Union, among other fraternal socialist nations, is of tremendous importance to us because this enables us to boost our agricultural production. Meanwhile, we are interested in seeing WFP aid resumed because our farmers are returning home and WFP food aid can be very well utilized against physical exertion such as agricultural and rural development efforts.

Mr Chairman, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Government is grateful for FAO and UNDP assistance and needs more help to implement its agricultural development plans and programmes. The economic and technical assistance rendered by the UNDP and FAO for the development of agriculture

is very useful for Afghanistan's socio-economic development. We are hoping that with the help of FAO the pipeline projects proposed by us will be approved. These are evidently apart from our present projects. We also need your assistance in connection with agricultural research, cooperatives, plant protection and forestry, irrigation, animal husbandry, veterinary services and pastures so that we may be able to receive technical services, equipment and supplies and meanwhile get our personnel trained in their respective fields.

The people and the Government of Afghanistan are desiring the establishment of peace, social justice, fraternity and an adequate supply of food for all mankind.

Thank you.

Scott Gblorzuo TOWEH (Liberia): On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Liberia, and that of my delegation, I wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Italy for the warm hospitality accorded us upon our arrival here in Rome.

May I extend our warm congratulation to Dr Edouard Saourna on his re-election. His overwhelming election is the manifestation of member countries' satisfaction with the manner in which he has conducted the affairs of the Organization. It is very rare for one to be elected to a UN specialized agency position for a third time. It is only a man with such a shining level of integrity, honesty and capability like Dr Saouma who should enjoy and deserve such an opportunity to head al. organization like FAO. Meanwhile we have always been very pleased with his capability and efficiency in conducting the affairs of this Organization. Therefore my Government looks forward to a better and fruitful relationship during his tenure, and wishes him all the success as he begins another tenure of battle in the cause of suffering humanity.

Mr Chairman, as we attempt to review the global food situation let me again echo that the food and agriculture situation of the third world, especially Africa, continues to be faced with stagnation, and in some cases, abject insufficiency.

The sluggish demand for primary exports of the third world, the collapse of commodity prices, the excruciating debt burden, the servicing of which requires devotion of about 50 percent or more of our export earnings, the protectionist measures that restrict access of African products to the markets of the developed countries, and malpractices of transnational cooperation, manipulating commodity prices by over-invoicing imports and under in-invoicing exports, have in one way or the other stagnated or even decreased food and agriculture productivity in Africa. In addition to these complex factors that limit agricultural production and productivity are drought and desertification, crop invasion by grasshoppers, locusts and field crickets, deforestation and, particularly in the Southern Africa sub-region, the destabilization policies of the apartheid regime of South Africa. It is apparent therefore, that the absolute concern of this Conference must be the rapidly increasing needs for food resources to satisfy the millions of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

Mr Chairman, my delegation extends its compliments to the Director-General and the FAO secretariat for their awareness of the problems and needs to the third world countries in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget 1987-88, moreso at this moment when the Organization is going through financial difficulties. My delegation is pleased with the treatment given to agriculture, fishery, and forestry and in particular FAO efforts to assist developing countries improve their food and agriculture statistics and price data collection. We hope that the programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture will constitute another vehicle for further enhancement of statistics. We look forward to receiving technical assistance that will prepare my country for the implementation of the 1990 World Census of Agriculture, and for improvement in the areas of farming systems development and manpower training. We fully support the Programme of Work and Budget. We notice that in spite of the tremendous needs for improving food and agricultural production and productivity in the third world, the budget reflects a mere 0.25 percent increase in real terms. We hope that all member countries of FAO will pay their financial contributions promptly so that the objectives and priorities set for the biennium can be attained.

Touching on the food and agriculture situation of Liberia, my Government continues to place maximum importance on providing services such as extension, credit, marketing, input supply and price policy as the basic and essential thrust of our agriculture policies and development programmes, our integrated rural development programme, continues to focus on ameliorating the over-all quality of life style and income level of the small farmers.

My Government therefore remains committed to every effort to improve the food and agriculture situation: notwithstanding, our efforts require more external support. In this light, and in keeping with the socio-economic development goals of the Country, my Government has set five-year basic objectives which are now being implemented as follows: first, to raise domestic agriculture production and productivity, and achieve self-sufficiency in food production, thereby improving the socio-economic conditions of the rural farmers; second, the development of small farmers who will produce to feed two or three persons besides themselves; and third, nucleus estates will be established in each county where trained agricultural personnel will be mobilized from technical Agriculture Institutes within the Country to form the core of a new breed of farmers. These agriculturists will have access to supervised credit and extension packages supplemented with the use of modern skills and technology to raise the food production level within each assigned country.

This in short, is the bedrock of our social and economic goal which essentially constitutes the programme of work of the Liberian Green Revolution launched in 1986 by our President, Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe. Our Green Revolution has continued to receive world wide comments and recognition from Foreign Governments and multi-donor agencies, and my Government is very grateful to all Agencies and many friendly countries which have come to our aid in this regard.

At the national level, our Green Revolution is now taking roots. Last year, our Agricultural Marketing Corporation was able to purchase twenty million pounds of paddy rice from our farmers; this quantity was 6 percent of total production produced by farmers throughout the Country.

However, one of our problems is the lack of facilities such as storage, silos, and processing equipment. This quantity of paddy rice was purchased in three of our countries that have those facilities. This is where a great deal of assistance will be needed in the very near future. My delegation would like to thank the Danish Government for providing much of the existing facilities.

We therefore, appeal to Donor countries to assist us with storage and agro-processing facilities to enable us purchase the surpluses from our small farmers produce; this we believe will encourage farmers to produce more while at the same time reaping the benefits of their sweat.

We wish again to express our gratitude to the Director-General and staff of FAO for sending us an expert who is revising our Green Revolution document into a programme of action which we hope will attract more technical and financial support from friendly government and international donor agencies. We are also pleased to note that the FAO in-depth study on expanding the provision of Agricultural input as aid in kind will definitely boost agriculture development in the third world countries, particularly in Africa, where we are presently facing severe foreign exchange problems. We do also hope that the recommendations of this study will be accepted by the donor community.

My delegation takes this opportunity to thank friendly governments and international agencies, particularly FAO, UNDP, the Japanese Government, and IFAD for their assistance including financial and technical support for the implementation of our Green Revolution, and other rural development programmes. We appreciate all current and proposed agricultural development programmes sponsored by FAO/UNDP in my country.

Finally, allow me to take this special opportunity to congratulate you and your corps of officers upon your election, which has enabled you to chair this historic twenty-fourth session of FAO. My delegation is confident that you will perform your duties with pride and dignity in the interests of mankind.

Jean-Baptiste YONKE (Cameroun): Monsieur le Président, au nom de la délégation camerounaise que je conduis à cette vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence de la FAO, et en mon nom personnel, je vous Présente mes chaleureuses félicitations pour votre brillante election et celle des autres membres du Bureau a la direction de nos travaux. Ma dédégation vous assure de toute sa collaboration pour le plein succès de votre mission.

Deux valeureux et très compétents candidats étaient en course pour le poste de Directeur général de la FAO: M. Edouard SAOUMA, du Liban, et M. Molse Christophe MENSAH, digne fils d'Afrique, soutenu par l'Organisation de l'Unité Africaine. Le verdict des urnes a tranché en faveur de Monsieur Edouard SAOUMA dont personne, d'ailleurs, ne conteste les qualités, ainsi qu'il en a fait preuve dans l'exercice de ses deux premiers mandats. En tant que Chef du Secretariat, le Directeur general est le premier des serviteurs de notre Organisation. Il importe donc que tous, comme M. Mensah lui-meme et le Delege du Benin, son pays d'origine, ont eu la noblesse d'ame de le dire les premiers. ce qui est á leur honneur, apportent au candidat élu l'appui et les encouragements qui lui sont nécessaires pour mener á bien sa haute charge.

En consequence, au nom de ma délégation et en mon nom personnel, j'adresse au Directeur général réélu mes félicitations et l'assure de la coopération du Gouvernement de la République du Cameroun dans les efforts qu'il déploiera en vue de l'accomplissement de l'importante mission humanitaire assignee á la FAO par les Nations Unies et la Communauté internationale.

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, honorables délégués et observateurs, la présente Conférence se tient au moment où mon pays, tout comme bien d'autres en Afrique et ailleurs, se trouve Plongé dans une conjoncture économique difficile. En effet, mon pays subit de plein fouet les effets terriblement néfastes de la crise économique et financière internationale. Cette conjoncture économique difficile, résulte essentiellement de la détérioration des termes de l'échange, de la chute catastrophique des cours de nos Principaux produits d'exportation d'origine agricole (notamment cacao, café, coton, huile de palme) et pétrolière. Cette chute brutale des cours de 40 voire meme de 50 pour cent d'une année a l'autre pour certains de nos produits est, de surcroit, combinée avec la baisse du taux de conversion du dollar. De plus, la mévente de nos produits agricoles d'exportation vient aggraver la situation en créant des problèmes de stockage et d'emmagasinage difficiles á résoudre.

De ce qui précède il résulte une réduction drastique de nos recettes d'exportation, de l'ordre de 200 á 300 milliards de Francs CFA cette année. La poursuite de nos efforts d'importation des biens d'équipement est freinée, faute de ressources suffisantes en devises. Bref, la description qu'a faite le Directeur general dans sa Déclaration quant aux effets néfastes de l'environnement économique international défavorable, sur les économies des pays Africains, est éloquente, précise, et n'appelle pas d'autres commentaires de ma part.

Face à cette situation, devenue dangereuse pour le maintien au moins à son niveau très enviable de 7 pour cent du taux de croissance économique annuelle de notre pays, le President de la République, Son Excellence Monsieur Paul BIYA, définissait et prescrivait à la nation le, 20 juin dernier, un Plan de rigueur, heureusement accepté, sinon dans l'enthousiasme général mais du moins avec un sens de responsabilité remarquable par notre peuple, témoignant ainsi, à la face du monde, s'il en était encore besoin, de sa maturité. Les principaux axes de ce Plan de rigueur, reposent sur la suppression du gaspillage et l'assainissement de la gestion des ressources matérielles et financières de l'Etat. Dans le domaine agricole, l'option en faveur de l'agriculture, considérée comme la priorité des priorités, a été réaffirmée; le développement du secteur rural restant le support de notre économie, la production nationale sera stimulée par:

- l'accroissement et la diversification de nos productions agro-pastorales dans le but notamment de consolider notre autosuffisance alimentaire,
- la promotion de l'exploitation et de la valorisation de nos ressources forestières tout en préservant l'environnement et la qualité de vie de nos populations.

La réalisation de nos objectifs de production agricole appelle naturellement l'utilisation intensive des intrants agricoles notamment les engrais, les pesticides et les machines agricoles qui, n'étant pas encore produits sur le plan national, doivent être importés. Or, comme indiqué précédemment, nos disponibilités en devises diminuent en même temps que nos recettes d'exportation. Mon pays attend donc, avec intérêt, la suite qui sera réservée à l'étude de faisabilité faite par

la FAO à la demande la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique et dont les résultats font l'objet d'un point important de l'ordre du jour de la présente Conférence. Le succès de notre programme de promotion des exploitations agricoles de moyenne importance (EAMI), inscrit au Vième Plan National de Développement Economique et Socio-Culturel 1986 - 1991 est sous la dépendance directe de la disponibilité des intrants agricoles, y compris les semences améliorées, qui seront mis à la disposition du nouveau corps d'exploitants agricoles d'élite en cours de création.

En vue d'une exploitation plus rationnelle et intensive, le recensement de toutes les espèces animales domestiques ainsi que l'inventaire de toutes les ressources halieutiques disponibles sont programmés sur toute l'étendue du territoire national, une haute importance est accordée à l'amélioration des méthodes d'élevage du gros bétail (bovin) et de l'amélioration des techniques d'utilisation et de gestion des pâturages ainsi que la vulgarisation de l'utilisation des sous-produits des industries agro-alimentaires pour l'alimentation animale.

La promotion de l'élevage du petit bétail est assurée par l'Office National de Développement de l'Aviculture et du Petit Bétail (ONDAPB).

La pêche maritime et continentale, ainsi que la pisciculture, bénéficient également d'une attention toute particulière du Gouvernement, compte tenu de la contribution importante de ce secteur à la couverture des besoins en protéines animales des populations.

Nos ressources forestières sont considérables, mais insuffisamment exploitées. Le Centre National de Développement des Forêts (CENDAEFOR) s'occupe de l'inventaire de ces ressources et de la promotion, de la transformation et de l'utilisation du bois; tandis que l'Office National de Régénération des Forêts (ONAREF) a la charge du renouvellement des ressources forestières nationales en même temps qu'elle mène une lutte active contre la désertification, notamment dans la zone sahélienne Camerounaise, par le reboisement. L'exploitation accrue et rationnelle de nos ressources forestières apportera une contribution très importante à la lutte contre le chômage et l'exode rural par la création de plusieurs centaines de milliers d'emplois nouveaux.

Dans le cadre du Plan d'Action Forestier Tropical, une équipe de la FAO vient, sur financement du Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement (PNUD), de produire une étude remarquable portant sur l'analyse et la planification du secteur forestier du Cameroun. Mon pays attend avec un vif intérêt les suites qui seront données à cette étude par la Communauté internationale.

Monsieur le Président, tel est le rôle éminent que l'agriculture joue et doit jouer encore longtemps dans l'économie du Cameroun. Si mon pays éprouve déjà une légitime fierté quant à sa relative autosuffisance alimentaire quantitative, notre autosuffisance alimentaire qualitative reste encore à conquérir. En effet, des problèmes d'équilibre nutritionnel sont encore posés et appellent des actions d'éducation et de formation en matière de nutrition. C'est pourquoi le Gouvernement, au sein du Parti National de Rassemblement Démocratique du Peuple Camerounais (RDPC) et dans les Services Techniques Spécialisés, déploie des efforts immenses non seulement en vue de la promotion et de l'intégration de la femme camerounaise dans le processus de développement économique général, mais aussi en vue de l'éducation et de la formation de la femme et de la mère camerounaises dont le rôle est primordial dans la production vivrière et l'alimentation équilibrée des populations, et en particulier des enfants.

Le Gouvernement est pleinement conscient que les objectifs que j'ai esquissés ne peuvent être atteints que grâce à la mobilisation, à la bonne gestion et à l'utilisation effective de toutes les ressources humaines, matérielles et financières disponibles. Il ne néglige aucun effort dans ce sens. Une vigoureuse impulsion est désormais donnée au mouvement coopératif, aux coopératives et aux Unions de coopératives qui permettent aux agriculteurs d'assumer la gestion directe de leurs propres affaires, de tirer le maximum de bénéfice de leur labeur et, en définitive, de se prendre en charge eux-mêmes.

Monsieur le Président, le Cameroun a célébré, avec une ferveur particulière, la Journée Mondiale de l'Alimentation, placée cette année très heureusement sous le thème de réflexion portant sur les "Petits Agriculteurs"; la très grande majorité des paysans camerounais sont précisément de petits exploitants agricoles avec une superficie moyenne individuelle de 2 hectares seulement de plantations.

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Honorables Délégués et Observateurs, mon pays croit à la coopération technique internationale et à l'unité entre les peuples. Les pays industrialisés ne seraient pas ce qu'ils sont s'il n'y avait pas les pays en développement. Les pays industrialisés ne deviendront pas ce qu'ils aspirent à devenir sans les pays en développement.

L'Afrique, qui comprend mon pays, est un continent potentiellement très riche mais présentement très pauvre, le plus pauvre du monde. À ce titre, il mérite toute l'attention que le Directeur général, au nom de l'Organisation, lui a portée dans le passé et continuera à lui porter dans le futur. D'avance nous l'en remercions et lui rendons hommage pour ce qu'il a déjà fait en faveur de ce continent.

À notre humble avis, rien ne doit être négligé pour rendre notre Organisation toujours plus performante. Les résultats déjà enregistrés dans la poursuite de la réalisation de ses nobles objectifs et idéaux sont dignes d'éloges. Mais, avec le Directeur général de la FAO, nous disons que: "Comme toute entreprise humaine, la FAO est perfectible". Je suis d'autant plus à l'aise pour évoquer cette question de perfectibilité que j'étais délégué de l'Afrique au Comité ad hoc de sept membres (un par Région) créé par la Conférence en 1967 et chargé d'étudier et de proposer la structure générale qui, pour l'essentiel, régit encore le fonctionnement interne de la FAO aujourd'hui, soit vingt ans après.

J'aborde ainsi la question des réformes qui, à notre humble avis, ne devrait effrayer personne. Force est de déplorer qu'au sein du Secrétariat comme dans l'Organisation, d'aucuns n'ont pas su ou cru devoir dissocier les propositions, ou même l'idée de réformes, de la campagne pour l'élection du Directeur général et, de ce fait, dévié voire faussé le problème. Mais, à présent que les lampions se sont éteints sur les élections et que les éventuelles passions se sont tuées, il convient d'examiner la question de réformes ou pas de réformes avec objectivité, en gardant en tout état de cause présent à l'esprit, qu'une institution qui ne se remet pas périodiquement en question dans le réexamen de ses priorités, de ses méthodes de travail et de ses procédures, prend le grave risque de se scléroser, et, ce faisant, de réduire son efficacité et son dynamisme. Sans doute ne perdra-t-on pas également de vue que le Secrétariat est au service de l'Organisation et non l'inverse. Accordant la plus grande attention aux opinions librement, démocratiquement et souverainement exprimées par les États Membres, individuellement ou collectivement, le Secrétariat devrait rechercher avec méthode, et avec toute l'objectivité voulue, les points communs entre les positions exprimées et élaborer les propositions de compromis susceptibles d'être acceptées par tous et faciliter ainsi la mise en œuvre du principe de décision par consensus cher à notre Organisation. Dans cette perspective, le Secrétariat ne semble pas, à ma connaissance, avoir élaboré et soumis à l'examen de la Conférence une analyse approfondie et complète montrant clairement sur les plans normatif, technique et opérationnel, les avantages et les inconvénients des propositions de réformes avancées par certains États Membres individuellement ou collectivement. La Conférence aurait énormément bénéficié d'un tel éclairage!

Avant de conclure, permettez-moi de dire la profonde reconnaissance de mon pays à la FAO pour l'aide technique et financière, multiple, diversifiée et adéquate qu'elle lui apporte et qui contribue très utilement à ses efforts pour accroître ses productions agricoles vivrières et d'exportation et sortir progressivement du sous-développement économique. Ma Délégation souhaite vivement que la Communauté internationale apporte des ressources financières accrues à cette Organisation dont le rôle est vital pour l'avenir des pays en développement.

Mon pays apprécie également très hautement la nouvelle dimension que prend le Programme alimentaire mondial en s'orientant plus résolument vers des activités de développement par le soutien alimentaire aux projets et par des opérations triangulaires.

Et pour terminer, puisse l'esprit de solidarité humaine et de compréhension mutuelle triompher et ouvrir de façon irréversible la voie royale d'une coopération universelle toujours plus accrue entre les États, les peuples et les hommes, tous citoyens fondamentalement égaux de notre planète terre.

Je vous remercie pour votre aimable attention.

Mohamed Mahraoud DESSOUKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): In the name of God the Merciful, Mr Chairman, Mr. Director-General, Excellencies, Ministers and Members of the Delegations, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Arab Republic of Egypt and its Government, I wish to congratulate the head of the Kuwaiti Delegation on his election. We really hold great hope for success in this Plenary. We hope that during this session the Conference will come up with constructive conclusions so as to further bolster the role of FAO in the food and agricultural sector, especially at this point in time which is under an economic crisis. I hope that this will not jeopardize the hopes of developing countries.

We are also very pleased to most cordially congratulate Dr Edouard Saouma on his re-election to the Director-Generalship of FAO JE for a new term. We praise his experience, efficiency and skill at running FAO, and we also hope he will be most successful in this very difficult mission at this very difficult point in time, especially owing to the unbalanced and unstable food and agricultural situation.

Mr Chairman, the celebration of this particular session is under the gloom of the difficulties in developing countries, but to this we must add the debt situation which is there as a threat and deprives countries of their resources. Furthermore, there has been a decline in the price of oil, and this has had a negative impact on aid. Also, the negative interest rates have made it very difficult to have a flow of resources from developed to developing countries. We call on all developing countries to join efforts to resolve this problem. We address the international community and ask it not to neglect this problem and take all the necessary measures to relieve the economic burdens of developing countries. We must also recognize that we are all in the same boat. It will be difficult to find a safe harbour if each crew member is not convinced of the fact that his security is dependent on the security of others. Agricultural development and peace work hand in hand, and these two points have always been the major accent of the policies of our country. We have always aimed at providing wellbeing to our country by providing incentives for agriculture and collective and individual initiative so as to achieve a true form of agricultural development, thanks to strategies, plans and programmes for the medium and long-term and also aiming at revising agricultural policies and pricing policies, aiming at greater efficiency in all agricultural bodies and giving incentives to soil protection and agricultural protection.

All these policies have borne fruit, and there has been an increase in productivity. Self reliance has been achieved, thanks to some harvests for certain crops. Now the transfer of appropriate technology is of great importance, and therefore the next five-year plan will comprise plant genetic programmes. We believe that this is one way of achieving a new green revolution and having an expansion of protected forms of agriculture. FAO has provided us with assistance in this field by holding an international symposium attended by many Egyptian specialists and experts from all over the world. During that symposium a number of recommendations were made, and we are implementing them.. This plan also included programmes for integrating control methods to increase productivity, preserving at one and the same time a balanced situation in the environment. All these are areas in which there can be cooperation between FAO and the developing countries.

Mr Chairman, the locusts are once again attacking Africa. There have recently been outbreaks in northern Sudan, and of course this has been a threat to the southern areas of Egypt. Although our country has made major efforts to do away with this particular pest, nonetheless we are asking FAO to step up efforts, not only in those countries which have fallen victim to locusts, but also in neighbouring countries which are threatened by this pest. We are also asking donor countries that have locust control plans to give support to these countries, Mr Chairman.

FAO is currently faced with a true cash flow crisis. Nobody within the UN system escapes this particular situation, and therefore it has been very useful and also wise to study the work of the Organization and its plans in the light of these new developments. All countries are contributing constructively to dealing with this crisis and are providing support to the technical and economic programmes of FAO. Egypt supports the reduction in general expenditures such as travel expenses, limitation of field personnel to only vital matters, the cutting down on external meetings and also the level of services resorting to national personnel, restricting the number of contracts given to advisors from outside the Organization and tapping the full potential existing within the FAO. We believe that the importance of the regular programme, the TCP, the field programmes and the secretariat work give continuity and coordination to all activities according to well defined plans.

The Director-General of the Organization could well submit to the Council all the projects adopted within the framework, of this particular programme. We also believe that it is possible to have some further cuts, especially on the reports of meetings, because we believe that reports of meetings should only contain recommendations and conclusions. As far as the organization of the Programme and Finance Committee is concerned, we are in favour of a balanced representation of developed and developing countries. This is why we believe that programme committee members should be elected from Council members or within FAO, since we believe that it is beneficial to FAO and its members that the committee count on experts suggested and presented by member countries of the Organization.

As far as the structure of FAO is concerned we see no reason why a group of experts should be established to revise its structure because we believe that this is well within the purview of the Director-General of FAO. I am sure he could very well consult with all the statutory bodies of FAO in this particular area, and as far as national bureaus are concerned I must say that we must be very very careful when dealing with this problem and have constant coordination with UNDP representatives.

Mr Chairman, Egypt was one of the first countries to support the TCP since we were convinced of its importance for developing countries. This is why we have established training centres for developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. These centres so far have been providing training, services and facilities to over 10 000 people in the different areas of agricultural activity. Some training programmes were held thanks to joint operations with FAO and other governmental or non-governmental organizations. These centres are updating their programmes, are constantly taking due account of the needs of developing countries, and for the first time programmes have been established for rice production - and this especially for our brothers from Africa - and we are really open to collaboration with FAO in this particular field.

In closing, Mr Chairman, we wish FAO to be most successful in its work so as to eradicate the threat of the hunger plague for many of the countries of the world. The world technological revolution is only in the hands of the few, and please, we would like to ask you to think of the words of Allah; "A believer is not a person who sleeps after eating while his neighbour is dying of hunger".

Idris M. NUR (Observer for the Organization of African Unity): It is for me a great honour and pleasure on behalf of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, His Excellency Mr Ide Oumarou, to address this meeting at a time when you are about to discuss problems of special interest to Africa. He asked me to convey to you his special thanks for the focus that will be given to Africa's problems, as well as his interest that the conclusions that will be drawn at the end of your deliberations will further enhance international cooperation for the accelerated development in Africa. He has further asked me to convey to you his sincere apologies for not being able to be with you in person and to wish you successful deliberations.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the FAO Director-General for his kind invitation to the OAU to participate in this Conference, an opportunity which I am taking to make our modest contribution on the issues before us. My thanks also go to the Italian Government and people for the warm welcome they have accorded my delegation.

Secondly, it is with deep satisfaction I hail the presence in this Conference of the Representative of the African Liberation Movements and the Palestine Liberation Organization. By inviting these representatives to join you, you have not only done them justice but you have also explicitly condemned the forces of colonialism and racism, whose exploitation of the territories under their domination is directly responsible for widespread illiteracy, poverty and the general backwardness of the indigenous peoples of their countries.

The OAU commends those countries, peoples, associations, bodies and organizations that continued their support for Africa in combatting famine, drought and other natural disasters. We do hope that future avenues will be found to help in the implementation of the economic recovery programmes of Africa.

The OAU particularly commends the efforts of Mr Edouard Saouma for the positive efforts that have been deployed by the FAO in assisting Africa to overcome its problems, mainly by assisting in the development of the food and agriculture sector.

The OAU expresses its sincere appreciation and deep gratitude to the Member States of the FAO for their firm commitment and support to the African candidature in the person of Mr Moise C. Mensah, in the elections that were conducted a few days ago.

The OAU congratulates Mr Edouard Saouma on his re-election as Director-General of the FAO, and counts on his persistent efforts to assist Africa overcome its long-standing problems in the sector of food and agriculture.

Mr Chairman, allow me now to glance at the economic problems facing our continent. Africa represents the least developed continent with the lowest indicator of physical quality of life. A continent that has not only been a victim of colonial and racist exploitation but continues to be subjected to external forces which seek to influence the economic policies of our continent. A continent whose Gross Domestic Production is only 2.7 percent of the world; a continent of poverty, suffering from drought, desertification and other natural disasters.

The over dependence of the economy of the African continent on the export of basic raw materials and minerals has perpetuated the high susceptibility of our economies to external development with detrimental effects on the interest of Africa.

However, it should be noted that our point of departure for world economic reform is to admit that we are in the same boat, no matter whether we come from the north or the south, the east or the west, and salvation cannot be sought individually irrespective of whatever power or strength that one might possess. No man is in an island and no one can today enjoy continued progress and development without the other groups. Therefore, the developed and industrialized States must assume their responsibility in enabling the developing countries to break out of their current crisis, especially in the two following areas:

- a) To allow the developing countries to increase their export of manufactured goods to the developed countries; and
- b) To find a remedy to their external debt problems.

All we ask of the developed countries, is for them to cooperate with us and help to overcome our present difficulties. These problems are the result of policies pursued by some developed countries in the belief that such policies would also ensure their future and provide them with more advantage in the fields of agricultural production and industry, and help expand their trade with the developing countries.

It is a well-known fact that African countries have taken effective measures for comprehensive economic reforms and made some progress in enhancing the effective performance of the agricultural sector, raising the level of industrial output, improving services and reducing the balance of payment deficit. All this has been done despite the obstacles and difficulties these countries are facing. Among these difficulties, mention should be made of the drop in export earnings, rise in import costs, increased debt service burden and the growing tendency of the developed countries to impose restrictions on exports from the developing countries. It cannot, therefore, be said that African countries have failed to contribute towards the improvement of the world economic structure and orientation.

Food and agriculture in Africa has been a subject to pronounced instability of supplies, demand and prices. Decline of food production per person was 7 percent and 15 percent in the 1960s and 1970s respectively. Estimates point to further deterioration in the 1980s.

The period 1970 to 1985 saw the total food imports increase by 8.14 percent per year. Grain imports for human consumption in 1985 stood at 20.4 million tons or US\$5 billion. At the same time, food aid accounted for as much as 15 million tons. Payment for the additional food requirements, which involves foreign exchange burden, is beyond the means of many countries.

The causes of the food and agriculture crisis have been identified as internal, external, natural and man-made, economic, political and institutional. While many studies have been carried out on the crisis, action to resolve it has been rather minimal.

The five main problems of African agriculture that stand out and that need immediate attention are:

- (i) how to increase food output and improve nutrition;
- (ii) how to help alleviate the uneven economic development that occurs between farm and non-farm sectors;
- (iii) how to formulate a policy that will ensure that agricultural research works in the best interest of Africa, and how to communicate research findings to the African farmers;
- (iv) how to reduce the competition between agricultural produce, synthetics and the fastest growing industry of biotechnology; and
- (v) how to make the international community assist Africa in the implementation of its programmes.

The issue of aid and African agriculture has brought to light some problems that require analysis, adjustment and change. Donors' attention should shift from pricing policy reforms to other issues in agricultural development that would bring about the required change. Pricing and technology policy could be used as a package as they are complementary.

As we had to learn the hard way in our struggle for political independence during the last decades, Africa is now aware that her wars, be they political or socio-economic, will be first and foremost ' fought by Africans themselves.

It is as a result of that awareness, Mr Chairman, that for the first time in its history, the OAU held two Extraordinary Sessions of the Heads of State and Government, solely devoted to economic problems of Africa.

At the two Sessions, the Heads of State and Government identified the objectives and priorities for short, medium and long-term development plans and laid out ways and means of integrating them at the national, sub-regional, regional and continental levels, by adopting what are known as the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA) and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) 1986-1990.

The LPA, APPER and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD) have stressed the importance of the food and agriculture sector, considered it as the priority of priorities and proposed a set of measures to be undertaken at different levels. In an effort to remedy the situation, African countries have committed themselves to the implementation of the LPA, APPER and the UNPAAERD.

APPER is an emergency programme scheduled to last for a period of five years - 1986-1990. It is meant to accelerate LPA implementation. It is specifically designed to address the critical economic situation in Africa and has to be implemented at different levels. UNPAAERD agrees with APPER's principal proposals for the food and agriculture sector. In order to deal with this situation, priority areas have been singled out for securing substantial reduction in food wastage, attaining a higher degree of food security and increasing production.

In a survey conducted during the middle of 1987 by the ECA and OAU Secretariats on the implementation of APPER and the UNPAAERD, of the 38 countries responding to the questionnaires, a number of positive activities, in relation to food and agriculture, have been undertaken. With respect to immediate measures, about half of the countries had created or maintained national emergency preparedness mechanisms and established early warning and national food security systems. The food and agriculture sector has been accorded the highest priority. In addition to these, the survey has indicated that measures have been taken in several areas to increase agricultural production and productivity. For example, 80 percent of the responding countries have instituted measures for the development, dissemination and encouragement of the use of modern inputs and methods, 86 percent had adopted price incentives for agricultural products; while 85 percent have started re-afforestation programmes. Other programmes initiated include controlling deforestation (75 percent), protection of the environment (67 percent), and the introduction of agricultural mechanization (67 percent).

Measures taken in support of the food and agriculture sector include rehabilitating and up-grading the existing industrial plants, manufacturing and maintaining agricultural tools, implements, feeder and access roads and development of training.

Food self-sufficiency has become a major goal in the development plans of many African countries. Some Member States have reached the stage of food self-sufficiency - for example, Zimbabwe in maize production and Botswana with respect to poultry meat and egg production. African countries know what to do, and have been doing their best. 'What' they need is resources which are not forthcoming from the international community.

The search and struggle for food, the fear and the fact of hunger, the recurrent crop disasters brought about by drought, desertification, flood, locust, diseases and insect invasion - these have been such a common threat through the human story that starvation has seldom been far away for some substantial part of humanity. Millions of men, women and children are still paying the physical and mental price of malnutrition.

Looking ahead, there is much more certainty about the number of people to be fed in the decades to come than there is about food supplies or about any other major factor in this life-and-death calculus. For approximately half of the total population of the developing world today is under sixteen years of age. This means that the number of new families being formed will be extremely high for the remainder of this century. And that means, in turn, that the world population, is destined to grow rapidly and massively at least until the early years of the next century even if the new parents have fewer children on the average than their parents did.

Mr Chairman, I want to conclude by stating that there can be no universal peace and prosperity while many parts of the world are still in want, poverty, under-development, exploitation and economic dependence. Our objective is simple: An Africa genuinely and permanently free from the horrors of famine, misery, malnutrition and the humiliation of dependency. I wish you fruitful deliberations.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La seance est levée a 12h45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 87/II/PV/14

Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARY

Vingt-quatrième session
PLENIERE

24° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
14ª SESION PLENARIA

(16 November 1987)

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Leo Hertog, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quatorzième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45 sous la présidence
de Leo Hertog, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 14ª sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas
bajo la presidencia de Leo Hertog, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENT BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATIONS (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I declare the 14th Plenary meeting of the Conference open. Before I Invite the first speaker to speak, I would remind the Non-Governmental Organizations which have consultative status with the FAO, and who have obtained the right to speak by decision of the Conference, that it is on the understanding that the maximum time limit of ten minutes will be observed.

Lino VISANI (Observateur de l'Alliance coopérative Internationale): Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs, je vous remercie de m'avoir donné la parole au nom de l'Alliance coopérative Internationale. Permettez-moi tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, de vous féliciter de votre excellente présidence.

J'ai l'honneur en outre d'exprimer au nom de l'Alliance coopérative Internationale toutes nos félicitations au Directeur général de la FAO, le Docteur Saouma à l'occasion de sa réélection à la tête de la FAO. Son oeuvre sera très importante face à la situation très complexe que nous vivons.

Permettez-moi de dire quelques mots à propos de cette situation. La perspective de la situation économique ainsi que la situation politique Internationale actuelle, est caractérisée par beaucoup de difficultés complexes.

L'agriculture et l'alimentation deviennent toujours plus interdépendantes avec les systèmes économiques, Industriels et financiers actuels.

L'agriculture et les paysans dans le monde entier, mais surtout dans les pays en développement, paient un prix beaucoup trop haut et insoutenable. Je me réfère en particulier au poids de l'endettement, du service de la dette ainsi qu'aux contradictions profondes du marché mondial et surtout du marché agricole alimentaire et des termes de l'échange.

Il faut réfléchir sur la chute du marché mondial durant ces derniers mois pour ceux qui voient fléchir en ces années la valeur essentielle de la liberté du marché alors qu'eux-mêmes élèvent toutes les barrières possibles pour défendre les grands intérêts existants dans leur économie

Encore une fois, on pose le rôle fondamental de l'agriculteur et de l'alimentation pour défendre les conditions de base pour une relance d'un développement équitable de l'économie et de la communauté mondiale afin de défendre l'environnement pour élargir la base productive mondiale pour une coopération Internationale basée sur la valorisation du facteur humain et pour un règlement du marché mondial.

Ces derniers temps, nous avons enregistré quelques événements importants: la reprise du discours mondial sur le désarmement, la reprise de l'initiative de l'ONU et aussi la dernière réunion du GATT à Punta del Este ont ouvert quelques espoirs pour la paix et pour l'agriculture ainsi que pour un règlement du marché mondial.

Tous ces événements sont des faibles espoirs de la coopération Internationale qui peuvent être réalisés avec le concours de tous les peuples.

L'Alliance de la coopérative internationale, avec ses 500 millions de membres associés, et les coopératives de 70 pays ont donné leur collaboration à ce mouvement pour l'esprit de solidarité sociale et Intercoopération qui est à la base de l'action collective. Dans cet esprit, l'ACI soutient le renforcement du rôle de la FAO sur la base des principes fondamentaux qui déterminent l'action de l'ONU. Nous souhaitons que tous les pays qui adhèrent à la FAO avec cet esprit de coopération de solidarité Internationale, et de participation paritaire au développement de la communauté mondiale renforcent l'amélioration de l'efficacité de l'action de l'ONU.

Nous jugeons par conséquent positive l'action concernant le programme de travail et de budget pour les prochaines années. Toutefois, nous retenons qu'il faut donner plus d'importance à l'intégration entre le développement agricole et le développement rural, ainsi qu'aux rapports de l'agriculteur avec le marché. Dans le cadre agricole et alimentaire équitable, nous soulignons le rôle des coopératives dans le domaine de la production, des services du crédit, de l'épargne, de la distribution comme une condition fondamentale pour réaliser la participation des ruraux plus faibles et le développement agricole et social ainsi que toutes les autres formes d'organisations populaires. Cette orientation est valable aussi pour la pêche et pour la foresterie.

Trente mouvements de coopératives de petits pêcheurs sont membres de l'ACI.

Par exemple, pouvons-nous réaliser une politique équitable du développement de la pêche dans le cadre d'une politique alimentaire sans favoriser le renforcement de ce mouvement? A notre avis, cela est impossible. Nous souhaitons en plus qu'un rapport et une collaboration étroite s'instituent entre la FAO et l'ACI.

L'assistance à l'agriculture, à la pêche, aux prestations, est liée au développement rural. L'efficacité d'une politique agricole et alimentaire de programmation est liée au développement des forces d'associations rurales et surtout des formes coopératives capables de devenir libres et autonomes.

L'ACI fait tout ses efforts pour assurer l'assistance au développement corporatif vers tous les pays en développement. Nous avons ouvert les Bureaux de Hoshi en Tanzanie, pour l'Afrique orientale, de Abidjan pour la Côte d'Ivoire et l'Afrique occidentale, de Nouvelle-Delhi pour l'Asie.

Le dernier Comité central de l'ACI, en octobre, a approuvé l'ouverture du Bureau du Costa Rica pour l'Amérique latine centrale ainsi que des autres Installations régionales pour renforcer l'action de l'assistance et du développement coopératif dans les pays en développement.

L'ACI ainsi que la FIPA et les autres INGO, lors de la dernière réunion du Comité agricole de la FAO (COAG) a proposé de consacrer un point de l'ordre du jour de la prochaine réunion du Comité agricole au processus de la participation rurale et du développement agricole. Nous avons appris que cette proposition a été acceptée par la FAO.

Nous sommes très heureux et nous donnerons notre collaboration à la préparation de cette importante séance.

Nous prendrons encore en considération une proposition de la Délégation gouvernementale de la Suisse pour la création d'un Comité d'agriculteurs, dans le but de réaliser un contact et une collaboration qui sera plus fertile au niveau central et local.

Nous estimons que cette proposition est très intéressante. Il est nécessaire de donner un cadre plus défini, moins occasionnel aux rapports INGO et les ONG sur la base de l'exigence de l'Intégration du développement agricole et rural.

Nous retenons toutefois qu'il serait très utile de préciser cette proposition auprès du Secrétariat de la FAC avec la collaboration des INGO, collaboration plus représentative de la réalité rurale, pour annoncer une proposition sur ce sujet lors de la prochaine Conférence.

Merci, Monsieur le Président

Ms Lucia BRADER-BREUKEL (Observer for the Associated Country Women of the World): ACWW, the Associated Country Women of the World, is an international NGO which has been acting as an advocate of rural women and their families for over 50 years. Its multi-million membership is divided into some 180 member societies in over 70 countries and in every region of the world. It is a membership which flourishes at the grassroots level, focusing on the issues affecting rural women and is consequently deeply interested in the activities reported and done by FAO in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action and in FAO's contribution to the Forward—Looking Strategies adopted by the 1985 Nairobi Conference on Women.

ACWW has, in fact, held Consultative Status with FAO since 1947. Over the years it has collaborated with FAO in several activities focusing on rural women or nutrition education. Indeed the aims of ACWW are close to the work of FAO since they include raising the living standards of rural women and their families and being an advocate for them with the international community.

When it comes to wresting a living from the land, with whatever resources may be available, rural women and their families have had considerable experience.' In the past certain misdirected development efforts sometimes led to inappropriate practices being recommended to supposedly "improve" a situation which, in fact, was probably already fully exploited. After all, the indigenous technical knowledge of the farmers has been acquired and tested through many years of "on-farm experimentation" and should be recognised for its true value and utilized! Not only can researchers learn from this local expertise but friends and neighbours can be encouraged to learn from the successful operator next door, whether in matters concerning food production or income-generation activities, fuel wood development or apiculture, to name just a few of the many activities in which rural women may be involved.

After a helpful neighbour an important agent of change may be the local women's organization. High returns may be expected from giving support, whether in terms of funds, transport or services, to assist such an organization to provide their members with the inputs needed to alleviate their workload and, possibly, increase their productivity. There is, in fact, much to be said in favour of concentrating development efforts on facilitating women's own forms of organization because experience has shown their value in providing a launching pad for rural women's progress. Some women's organizations have been successful in, for example, obtaining credit or in forming pre-cooperatives as well as in obtaining technical advice for their members in their manifold tasks. In addition, the programme planners and managers could also learn from the grassroots level groups: using them as valuable sources of both collecting and disseminating information; stimulating public interest in such matters as food security; and playing their part in national and regional technical cooperation networks.

It has been noted that in only a limited number of countries have farm women been specified as direct target beneficiaries of their national extension service. And yet at the 1987 ACWW Council meeting, a forum in which all our member societies are represented, stress was laid again on the importance of providing rural women with credit facilities and of training women farmers, especially in appropriate technologies and management skills. How is this to happen if extension services are not available and focused on women's needs? Such services may be expensive to establish and operate but working through an NGO using a participatory approach may make it possible to provide increased and more effective facilities at limited extra cost. In the same way, in the field of nutrition education, grassroots level organizations of rural women could well be involved in, for example, nutritional awareness campaigns or in efforts to promote the production and consumption of foods rich in carotene and vitamin A.

These are only a few of the areas in which national member societies of NGOs such as ACWW could be effective tools in the implementation of national programmes aided by FAO. ACWW, indeed, looks forward to increased collaboration with FAO especially through the involvement of our member societies in the programmes and projects to which FAO provides support to member nations, whether in Agriculture, Forestry or Fisheries, in their efforts to meet the joint challenges of hunger and poverty.

Glenn FLATEN (Observer for the International Federation of Agricultural Producers): Mr Chairman, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen: During the last FAO Conference, two years ago, which coincided with FAO's 40th Anniversary, speeches at this Plenary and the debate in the Committee obviously focused on the Organization's past achievements and the tasks ahead. We all recognized then, and recognize now the valuable and important work which FAO is carrying out in the development of agriculture. Despite the many achievements in world agriculture over the past 42 years, warning signals of a worldwide critical agricultural situation have been apparent over the past five years.

Recently, serious imbalances in international commodity markets are depressing prices to alarmingly low levels, often below the cost of production. Stocks of food commodities are accumulating and yet 400 million people, mainly in the developing countries do not have enough to eat. Food is usually available but there is too often inadequate purchasing power to buy even the most basic requirements.

Governments must take the lead in having their intergovernmental organizations, including FAO, concentrate their efforts to find solutions to these vital issues.

There is no single or miracle solution to the current crisis. In the longer term, we look to the GATT Round to restore more orderly international trade. But as this will take time, short- and medium-term solutions must be taken to bring supply and effective demand into better balance, reduce excessive stocks and improve the management of existing stocks. This will bring international commodity prices back to more remunerative levels, reduce the necessity of export subsidies and restore fairer trade conditions. Consequently farmer's incomes will improve, and it will also allow developing countries a better access to export markets.

Governments in the developing countries should give their farmers the right incentives to increase production and make it possible for them to raise their income.

A more rapid and sound development of agriculture would create greater purchasing power and more employment in the rural areas and would make it possible for agriculture to become the basis and the engine of overall development. This together with the easing of the arduous debt burden of the developing countries would free financial resources for essential imports of farm inputs needed for increased production and also make it possible to purchase additional food supplies where necessary. Thus by the twin approach of supply adjustment and increasing effective demand many of the current agricultural difficulties could at least be eased.

You, the Ministers of Agriculture in FAO, are the main intergovernmental organization concerned with agriculture. You are the forum where Ministers of Agriculture debate the various aspects of the agricultural situation and discuss programmes to develop agriculture. It is to you, that farmers look for the creation of the right economic and political climate which makes it possible for them to function effectively. Without the right incentives farmers cannot and will not produce the required food and other agricultural commodities.

So while one recognizes that governments make the policy decisions, it is we farmers who produce the commodities and carry out the farming operations. Surely, farm leaders know best how producers are likely to react to policy proposals or market signals. Surely it is farm leaders who can best convey to governments and to an international forum such as FAO, how producers see the situation and what they feel should be done to resolve the many difficulties facing them.

And it is on behalf of farmers that I, as president of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, have the pleasure and duty to address you today.

Our Federation represents over 60 national level farmers' organizations and agricultural cooperatives in over 50 countries, nearly half of them from the developing countries. We are the only worldwide body of farmers' organizations. We have often been aptly called the FAO of farmers.

Our organization provides a unique forum for farm leaders to meet regularly "to exchange views and experiences in order to reach a better understanding of each others' situations. On that basis we have been able to arrive at consensus and find solutions to many diverse issues. Our member organizations discuss the conclusions with their governments and IFAP represents their views in the international fora such as in FAO, OECD, GATT and International Commodity Councils.

The joint IFAD/IFAP workshops on "promoting greater farmer involvement in agricultural development programs and the strengthening of farmers' organizations" in Kenya, Tunisia and Nepal this year have clearly demonstrated the importance and value of this approach.

The current FAO/IFAP project on Promoting Farmers' Unions in Africa proves that FAO too attaches great importance to strengthening farmers' organizations. I can also quote the good example of the successful collaboration of IFAP, FAO, ILO and other INGOs in COPAC, especially with regard to development programs concerning cooperatives.

Governments and farmers must work together both at the national and international level to accelerate progress. I hope we can agree on that. Indeed in most, if not yet in all countries, governments have recognized farmers and their own representative organizations as valid partners.

However, the farmers' voice is rarely directly heard during Conference or Council meetings, and then usually only at the end of a debate when most, conclusions have already been reached. IFAP has for many years stressed that the farmer is at the centre of the agricultural stage. It is essential, therefore, that farm leaders are at the centre of the stage when policies are discussed: when structural agricultural adjustments are debated, when changes in production are considered, or when measures to raise income, purchasing power and effective demand are examined.

At a time of crisis, such as is the case at present, effective and frank dialogue between us is absolutely vital.

At this critical time, strong, representative and autonomous farmers' organizations are more important than ever. This is essential to promote the interests of agricultural producers, including small farmers and women farmers, and to assist governments in bringing about the necessary policy changes which will ultimately benefit the community and lead to overall economic development.

I would, therefore, like to put forward concrete and practical proposals which would result in closer involvement of farmers organizations in the work of FAO.

Our working relationship with FAO, especially at the Secretariat level is good. But cooperation and consultation between FAO and IFAP can and should be developed much further. We had the opportunity to discuss "how to improve our working relationship" with the Director-General of FAO in January. As a result, the first informal consultation with FAO's Commodity Division took place in September. This proved very successful and enabled both FAO and IFAP representatives to understand each others views far better. We found that we agreed on the analysis of the commodity situation and there were few differences with regard to the approach of seeking solutions. We would like to see such consultations repeated on a regular basis, on commodity issues as well as other matters of mutual concern.

We have had consultations with OECD's Committee on Agriculture in which both the Agricultural x Division and country representatives participated. More recently, we have established a consultative process with GATT at the highest level in which country representatives also took part on one occasion. In July, an IFAP delegation met, with the International Wheat Council to discuss the grave situation in the international grain markets. All these meetings have been judged most useful by all parties concerned.

Based on this experience we are seeking an improved communication channel with FAO. In addition to informal consultations, we would like to see a method which would facilitate an exchange of views on a wider range of subjects including policy matters and issues relating to developing countries' programs.

The Swiss delegation has put forward a proposal to set up a FAO Farmers' Organizations Committee. We support the objectives and the involvement of representative farmers' organizations and also a close involvement of IFAP. The proposal needs further exploration as to membership, activities and its role.

We, in IFAP, want:

- Greater involvement of farmers' organizations through IFAP in FAO's development activities and

programs. FAO projects should pay special attention, and make specific budgetary provision to establish and strengthen farmers' organizations at the local and national level in developing countries.

- To see greater and regular participation of FAO in IFAP's Commodity Groups and the Standing Committees on Agricultural Cooperatives and on Agriculture in Developing Countries. We, on our side, would welcome invitations to Expert Committees and Expert Consultations organized by FAO.

- FAO missions to contact farmers' organizations at all levels when countries are visited for project preparation, implementation and evaluation. It is also highly desirable that such missions get in touch with farmers' organizations in donor countries to seek their collaboration and advice. To facilitate this process IFAP is providing lists of its member organizations and we would like in return a list from them.

Furthermore, FAO should make use of the vast reservoir of experience and technical know-how of farmers' organizations and agricultural cooperatives, engage them as consultants and include them in their missions and employ them as management agents whenever and wherever possible. This would also establish a very useful farmer-to-farmer approach.

Mr Chairman, my time is up. Let me conclude by stressing the gravity of the situation in agriculture worldwide and which is aggravated by the current financial and economic crisis. The alarm bells are ringing.

We would urge member states and FAO as a whole to support our proposals and thereby assist farmers and their organizations.

Mikko PYHALA (Namibia): On behalf of the United Nations Council for Namibia, the legal administering authority for Namibia until independence, I should like to join other delegations in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, and your distinguished colleagues of the Bureau on your election to these important posts, I extend my congratulations also to Mr Edouard Saouma for his third term as the Director-General.

The United Nations Council for Namibia would like to commend the role the FAO has played and continues to play in helping to alleviate the poverty and malnutrition in the world and specifically in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Colonialism in Namibia resulted also in the wholesale seizure of land for the benefit of white settlers. This and the agrarian policies imposed by South Africa have led to the impoverishment of the Namibian people and have brought about severe ecological damage to their country.

Namibian agriculture is in deep crisis. Over-intensive, profit-motivated commercial ranching and over-crowded, impoverished peasant farming is seriously damaging the ecological base of the agricultural economy.

More than 90 percent of the dams and boreholes serve white-owned ranches and settlements. All agricultural support services, including agricultural credit, training and research, agricultural extension and veterinary services, agricultural inputs, transportation facilities and marketing organizations, are geared to the benefit of white farmers and ranchers.

The transformation of rural Namibia from extreme exploitation and ecological degradation to a productive, rational pattern of rural economy and society would be of vital necessity. To achieve this, comprehensive international assistance would be needed to support the transition and to help the government of a free Namibia to cope with disruptions and to institute its programmes for rural change and development.

When the United Nations General Assembly revoked South Africa's mandate over Namibia and took direct responsibility over the Territory more than two decades ago, it did so because South Africa had failed to fulfil its obligations under the mandate to promote to the utmost the economic, social and political development and well-being of the inhabitants of the Territory.

Having assumed direct responsibility of the Territory, the General Assembly established the United Nations Council for Namibia as the legal administering authority for Namibia until independence and charged it with the responsibility of representing, protecting and promoting the interests of Namibia and its people.

Since the launching of the Nationhood Programme for Namibia by the United Nations in 1978 and in response to the requests by the General Assembly, the FAO has executed in its own area of competence a variety of projects of assistance to Namibians in cooperation with the United Nations Council for Namibia. Most of these projects have already been -completed or are nearing completion. Just recently, in September 1987, a seminar was held at the United Nations Institute for Namibia in Lusaka, in which Nationhood Programme of Namibia research reports were discussed. Once finalized these reports together with the relevant parts of the recently published "Comprehensive study of Namibia" will provide outlines of policy option and recommendations for the development of important sectors of an independent Namibia.

As for the future cooperation between the UN Council for Namibia and the FAO, I wish to refer to an evaluation of the Nationhood Programme as a whole. It is my understanding that during this forthcoming evaluation exercise careful consideration will also be focused on how the expertise of the FAO can be best utilized in preparing Namibia for independence.

While assistance from the FAO has been generous, the Council for Namibia believes that there continues to be a critical need for more assistance for the people of Namibia. Specifically, continued financing from the FAO's own resources or resources at its disposal, of individual fellowships for Namibians in agriculture and related fields is needed.

The Council would also like to request the FAO to continue to support the project on food and nutrition education for Namibians in the refugee settlements in Angola and Zambia by funding the 1988-1989 activities of this important project.

Furthermore, in accordance with the request by the General Assembly addressed to all specialized agencies, the Council would like to call upon the FAO to continue to grant a waiver of the assessment of Namibia during the period in which it is represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia.

Finally, it needs to be pointed out that, as the General Assembly has repeatedly stressed, the distortions inherent in Namibia's agricultural economy and the deteriorating conditions of Namibia's rural populations are a direct consequence of its continued illegal occupation by South Africa and the racist regime's refusal to cooperate in the implementation of the United Nations Plan for Namibia's independence contained in Security Council resolution 435 (1978), the only internationally accepted basis for a peaceful solution of the Namibian question.

South Africa's presence in Namibia has been called illegal by the General Assembly, the Security ' Council and the International Court of Justice. The apartheid regime's refusal to withdraw from Namibia has been universally condemned. The case for the independence of Namibia has been in the international limelight in the recent months and weeks, firstly at the High-Level Ministerial meeting of the Council for Namibia, secondly at the Special Session of the Security Council on Namibia, and thirdly, when the General Assembly just last week adopted a number of resolutions on Namibia. It is significant that the General Assembly once again adopted these resolutions without anyone opposing them.

The struggle of the Namibian people for self-determination and independence is inextricably tied to our common endeavour to promote the universal principles of equality, justice and peace.

Reuben OLEMBO (UNEP): At the outset, Mr President, it is my great pleasure to repeat in public the message of congratulations which Dr Mostafa Tolba, UNEP's Executive Director conveyed to Mr Edouard Saouma on his unprecedented re-election as Director-General of FAO for another six-year period. For us in environmental work, Dr Saouma is not only a colleague and fellow toiler for the cause, but is one of the shapers of the international cooperative environmental action, for his personal interest in environmental matters goes back to the time he was Chairman of the Inter-Departmental Working Group on Environment set up to prepare FAO's participation to the Stockholm Conference. We believe that the existing spirit of collaboration in this matter will continue to grow during this new mandate you have given him.

Fifteen years have passed since the UN Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm, June 1972, which was the cradle of UNEP's establishment. Fifteen years of fruitful relations with all its foster parents in the UN System and around the world.

UNEP had to settle in a small niche surrounded by fully-fledged organizations, many of which had already over 20 years of experience in multilateral cooperative development action. Its mandate was specified by nearly the same countries that are here today, and it was a rather difficult and novel one as it was requested to assume coordination leadership in environmental activities of the entire UN System consisting of the big and the small although the resources made available to it in staff and -budget were rather small. It was, moreover, asked to take the lead responsibility for an area of concern only vaguely defined at Stockholm, and still yet poorly understood nor accepted as being in the mainstream of the development debate. It has now taken some time to get clear lines of action, to better understand the close, connections between environment and development, establish links and agreements and develop programmes and projects to promote this linkage. Today we can look back into UNEP's programme and action and also in the programmes and actions of other bodies and nations, and realize that even if the terrain was not an easy one, new tracks have been opened up and important landmarks stand at their junctions.

Most of our member nations have established ministries, committees, and training programmes related to environmental matters. They have signed conventions, agreements and accepted policy guidance which facilitates a better use of natural resources. The UN System has actively orchestrated much of this activity and has woven environmental imperatives into its own different programmes. Best of all, the complicated web of environmental interactions is much better understood today than it was in the mid-1970s. And with the recently published report of the World Commission on Environment and Development called "Our Common Future" and headed by Norwegian Prime Minister Brundtland, we have a new international consensus and blueprint for a new form of development which we are now popularly calling "sustainable development". But the environment, the world, if you wish Mr Chairman continues to change, and not always-in the right direction. We now have confirmation from the United Nations Fund Population Activity that the world's population has now increased to over 5 billion people and will nearly double in the next 40 years. Newcomers to this vast community will continue the age-old habit of eating, needing shelter, job opportunities and security, and each will be striving for a better and higher standard of living, sound aspirations which unfortunately our fragile natural resource base will be straining to the limits to cope with.

Living natural resources still grow at the old pace set by natural evolution. Economies have collapsed, risen, levelled and collapsed again on account of many factors, one of which and the most serious one is, an ecological cause. Drought, soil erosion, forest depletion continue to threaten the ecological balance. In the meantime the world has not yet found peace nor the way to equitably share in'the bounties of our natural resource harvest, and hunger persists. On the brighter side, we have reached a better understanding of and grip on problems like atmospheric pollution, the depletion of biological diversity and the linkages between environment and , development, and with these, we should now resolve to do a better job of natural resources husbandry and conservation.

From some of the papers in front of you we see statistics of net increases during the 1980s in wood timber production, output of processed wood products, fishery harvests and so on, but we also know that tropical forests are still disappearing at a rate of over 11 000 000 hectares per year. Top soil is literally going down the drain and what little is known of the global marine stock of productive biomass is discouraging, and genetic resources essential for agriculture development are disappearing at alarming rates. Biological diversity is also threatened in many regions of the globe.

In order to perform our role in the UN system, we have fostered and followed the System-Wide Medium-Term Plan or SWMTEP as a framework for coordination and action within the UN system. We are moving to a new version of this agenda in close harmony with the UN's agencies and governments. A special session of the UNEP Governing Council will meet in four months' time to finalize a SWMTEP II which will then constitute a model for interagency cooperation and coordination in environmental matters for the 1990s.

In the history of collaboration between FAO and UNEP we wish to point to such landmarks as the establishment of the Ecosystems Conservation Group, the development of the State of Knowledge on Tropical Forests. The Tropical Forest-Resources Assessment which is still the best available study

of its kind and on which we are now moving towards its updating and enlarging its scope. The initiation, following two expert meetings in 1980 and 1982, of what is today the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. Various forms of collaboration to safeguard genetic resources in crops, animals, fisheries and forests. The hammering out of the World Conservation Strategy. The Strategy has inspired the formulation of many national strategies and more are in the process of preparation. The International Undertaking on 'Plant Genetic Resources, the World Soils Policy, the FAO Charter of Soils and many other joint endeavours are instruments now at our disposal which can be best used in doing a better job. We have just concluded the second FAO/UNEP/WHO International Conference on Mycotoxins in Bangkok and we wish to express UNEP's continued interest in the areas of monitoring, prevention and control of mycotoxins contamination. In the field of biological diversity a concrete example is the shaping up in joint FAO/UNEP activities in Latin America and the Caribbean which will assist in strengthening the national capacities for managing wildlands, protected areas and wildlife and for utilizing the full potential of wild plants and animal resources on a sustainable basis for enhanced economic and soil development there UNEP is most grateful for FAO hosting two interagency consultative meetings to review the UNEP supported and sponsored activities relevant to the development and protection of the marine and coastal environment in 1978 and 1979. Most of these actions have opened up new ground and some have now been taken into the FAO programmes as major items in their own right.

The record, then, is promising. Yet now, more than ever, we still need to be active and innovative partners, constantly seeking and finding new areas and new approaches for collaborative achievements. We are pleased to note, for example, that in consultations with UNEP's Global Resources information Database, FAO is establishing a GRID compatible geographical information system of its own.

Many of FAO's activities can be carefully adjusted to spearhead environmentally sound and sustainable development. There is a need, for example, to backstop the whole spectrum of FAO's work in the field of tropical forests, fisheries, agricultural development, and rural development, especially that part of it which involves technical cooperation, advisory services and design and implementation of field projects in developing countries, by environmental impact analysis and environmental cost-benefit analysis of alternatives. Moreover, agricultural sectoral policy guidance needs to be related to economic policies and incentives to bring about sustainable development, for example, prices of agricultural inputs and outputs, agricultural taxation, export subsidies or taxation as recommended by the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. Apart from a greater emphasis in FAO's programme on environmentally significant initiatives such as for example, integrated pest management, integrated approaches to improving soil productivity using organic matter, it is important to work towards making the whole of FAO's Programme on technical cooperation, investment projects, training, assistance and advice, contribute strongly, and systematically, to environmentally sound and sustainable agriculture. There is therefore scope for closer UNEP/FAO collaboration in this connection.

One item in UNEP's work has been very much in the news lately. I refer to the ozone question. Only recently, UNEP succeeded in getting 24 countries and the EEC to sign the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. This historic agreement, signed on 16 September of this year, marks a major step forward in mankind's commitment to protection not only of the ozone layer, but of human health and the global environment. I need hardly call to your attention the recent alarming news of the worst thinning yet observed in the ozone layer over the Antarctic. Depletion of the ozone layer bodes ill for agricultural productivity, as then sun's ultraviolet rays are widely believed to have a damaging effect on the DNA of a variety of plants and animals, potentially including important crop and livestock species. Many newspaper accounts of this achievement rank it as the most important environmental consensus of the decade. The New Scientist described it as "not far short of a miracle".

We know something about the greenhouse effect but we are not yet sure of what total effect forest cover has on CO₂ and on the carbon cycle as a whole. The subject of climatic change will loom large in environmental fora for the coming decade, and no other issue bodes greater danger for human livelihood than its likely impact on agricultural and natural resource productivity.

We are beginning to obtain more information about the effects of various toxic chemicals, in particular pesticides, on human health and the environment. Various countries have taken decisions, for one reason or another, to ban sales of a chemical domestically, while continuing to export

that chemical to other countries. At its most recent session, the Governing Council of UNEP adopted the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade. These Guidelines complement the FAO Code of Conduct on Pesticides, providing for exchange of information among exporting and importing countries with respect to chemicals in general, including pesticides. The Governing Council has requested the UNEP Secretariat to develop modalities of prior informed consent and other approaches which could usefully supplement the London Guidelines, and we at UNEP will shortly be calling on FAO for its advice in that regard.

The Governing Council of UNEP, also at its most recent session, adopted the Cairo Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Waste, and called upon UNEP to develop a global convention on the control of transboundary movements of such waste. In the light of FAO's expertise in a number of areas related to this field in particular, for instance, the issue of landfilling, we are looking forward to the participation of FAO in this effort.

My last remarks relate to the regional aspects of this problem, particularly the question of Africa. At regional level, UNEP has been working to establish mechanisms for exchanging information and encouraging coordination between governments, but more should be done to integrate our findings with those of other bodies like FAO. The first African Ministerial Conference on the Environment is one example of an opportunity to do just that. The implementation of its recommendations should be the business of governments; United Nations bodies should also work hand in hand to keep the necessary action on course.

In the sense that Africa has yet to find its own model of development to enable it to stand on its own and for ever banish the crises of famine and drought, it is indeed the sick continent on which all our cooperative endeavours should be concentrated. We have the Desertification Control Action Plan, the Lagos Plan, the UN Programme on the Economic Development and Recovery of Africa, the FAO African Agriculture Plan in the next 25 years, and the AMCEN Cairo Plan of Action for Cooperation on the Environment. These instruments should now be translated from theoretical paper exercises to practical programmes of action at field level with increased multilateral cooperation to enable the peoples of Africa to be human beings who can be sure of their bread, their water and their shelter, the minimum requisites for guaranteed survival. Because of our own location in Africa, being the only global United Nations body based in a developing region, we think we have an advantage of perspective which we can share with others who might not have the benefit of insight from, or the advantages of being in situ.

Our collaboration with FAO and other agencies and organizations is not a matter of will or choice, though we would naturally choose that course as may be. It is our duty not only to our sovereign members, but also to the men, women and children of today throughout the world, and to the unborn generations of tomorrow. We take pride in this partnership. I wish this session of the FAO Conference resounding success.

Tran HUU HAI (Observateur de la Confédération mondiale du Travail): C'est avec beaucoup d'intérêt que la Confédération mondiale du Travail participe à cette vingt-quatrième Conférence de la FAO. Elle tient à lui rendre hommage pour ses efforts et ses réalisations dans les domaines de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation et lui assure sa coopération. Les rapports de la FAO constituent pour elle une source de référence et de réflexion très précieuse.

Pour sa part, la Confédération mondiale du Travail, à travers ses services d'étude et d'information et ses organisations affiliées, est toujours présente dans les campagnes d'information, de sensibilisation, de promotion et de la lutte en faveur d'un développement authentique en matière d'agriculture et d'alimentation dans le tiers monde, et d'un système de commercialisation de produits agricoles plus juste et plus efficace, aussi bien au niveau national qu'au niveau international.

La Confédération mondiale du Travail ne prétend pas pouvoir apporter des idées nouvelles à cette Conférence, sur des sujets abondamment étudiés et analysés par la FAO et d'autres organisations éminentes; elle voudrait seulement insister sur quelques aspects qui lui semblent fondamentaux, dont la réalisation permettrait de relever, ensemble, le défi de la famine et du sous-développement agricole dans le tiers monde.

Ses expériences sur le terrain lui ont permis d'arriver à la conclusion suivante: on ne pourrait pas résoudre le problème de la faim et développer réellement l'agriculture dans un pays et particu-

lièrement dans un pays en développement si on n'avait pas réalisé: la solidarité nationale et internationale; la participation volontaire et effective des paysans; la paix et la liberté pour la population.

Il est évident que pour beaucoup de pays en développement, pauvres en ressources, confrontés aux effets cumulés de la crise économique et monétaire mondiale, de la détérioration des termes de l'échange des produits de base, de leurs dettes extérieures, de leur croissance démographique importante, des conflits locaux et des calamités naturelles, il est extrêmement difficile de faire lace aux problèmes de la famine et du développement sans une solidarité réelle, active et efficace au niveau national et au niveau international.

L'absence de solidarité, ou une solidarité inadéquate, a entraîné, dans certains pays du tiers monde, des coûts élevés en termes de souffrance humaine et de désordre social dramatique. Au moment où les uns meurent de faim, où le droit à la nourriture de survie est devenu un mirage pour les masses affamées, et où les autres vivent dans l'abondance, il est anormal, il est inhumain de continuer la logique du profit et de pratiquer la loi du plus fort.

Plus que jamais, la solidarité à l'intérieur de" chaque nation et entre les nations, doit être mise en oeuvre, concrètement et réellement.

Sur le plan national, la solidarité la plus efficace devrait se situer au niveau politique. Moins de corruption, moins de sectarisme, moins de dérive idéologique, et. plus de partage et de justice dans la politique des prix, des crédits, d'impôts et d'investissements en faveur des régions et des masses défavorisées et appauvries, sont nécessaires et indispensables. Dans cet ordre d'idées, la Confédération mondiale du Travail se réjouit de la volonté de certains gouvernements des pays du tiers monde de donner désormais leur priorité au développement rural.

Mais, face à l'ampleur des difficultés, la solidarité nationale reste insuffisante. La solidarité internationale, pour beaucoup de pays en développement, demeure indispensable, au moins, dans une perspective à court et à moyen terme. Ceci est particulièrement vrai dans les domaines de l'aide extérieure sous toutes ses formes, du commerce international et de la dette. Est-il raisonnable de continuer à chercher des profits, et uniquement des profits dans le commerce avec les pays pauvres et au détriment des pays pauvres, sans tenir compte de leurs impératifs de survie et de développement? Il serait absurde d'exiger des pays pauvres et endettés de payer leur dette par la ruine économique et sociale, il serait trop facile et irréaliste de prêcher les efforts de développement auprès des gens dévorés par la faim et la misère, surtout quand on est suralimenté, quand on dispose de moyens techniques performants et de stocks énormes de produits alimentaires excédentaires non utilisés! Combien de gens sont morts par manque de nourriture, combien de paysans sont épuisés par manque d'outils de travail adéquats et performants, combien de récoltes sont perdues par manque d'insecticides et d'engrais nécessaires. C'est dans ce contexte que la Confédération mondiale du Travail souscrit pleinement à la proposition de la FAO d'établir un réseau de stockage avancé dans des régions à risques, dont l'intervention rapide et efficace permettrait d'éviter bien des dégâts et de souffrances inutiles. Elle souhaite aussi que la conférence internationale sur la dette, organisée par le BIT à Genève ce mois-ci, aboutisse à des solutions équitables garantissant la poursuite des programmes de développement des pays endettés et pauvres. En un mot, le défi de notre temps est de réconcilier la logique du profit avec celle de la solidarité et du développement authentique. Le relever ne serait pas du domaine de l'impossible, d'autant plus que l'avenir de l'humanité en dépendrait.

Pour la Confédération mondiale du Travail, aucune politique de développement ne peut se réaliser et réussir sans la participation effective et volontaire de la population dans son élaboration et dans sa mise en oeuvre. Pour le développement de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, en dehors des conditions techniques et financières nécessaires, la participation volontaire des paysans est une condition primordiale de succès. Pour avoir négligé ce facteur, beaucoup de gouvernements ont connu des échecs de leur politique de développement agricole. Des régimes totalitaires, avec leur bureaucratie arrogante et paralysante, et leur conception idéologique inadéquate, ont réussi pour leur part à transformer des pays jadis exportateurs de produits agricoles et alimentaires en des pays ravagés par la sous-alimentation et la famine. En refusant le rôle moteur au paysan, en l'écartant de tout processus de décision, on l'a transformé soit en un automate travaillant sur ordre et sous la contrainte, soit en un être résigné, parfois révolté, toujours frustré, dont le présent est sombre et l'avenir incertain.

La Confédération mondiale du Travail pense que les paysans doivent être maîtres de leur destin et pouvoir jouer un rôle d'acteurs économiques actifs et responsables.

Pour cela, il faut qu'on respecte leur identité et leur besoin de liberté. Sans liberté d'association, de circulation et d'expression, il est illusoire d'espérer que les paysans s'engagent effectivement et avec enthousiasme dans le processus de développement agricole. Il est indispensable que la vie rurale s'active, que les associations de paysans se forment, que les syndicats de travailleurs agricoles s'organisent, que les coopératives agricoles se développent pour redonner aux paysans leur voix et leur place dans la vie politique, économique et sociale de leur pays.

Dans la logique de la participation de la population rurale, il est évident que le développement agricole devrait être inclus dans un cadre plus vaste d'un développement rural intégré. Autrement dit, on ne pourrait pas résoudre durablement les problèmes de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation des pays en développement, sans une revalorisation de la vie rurale, sans une amélioration drastique des conditions de vie et de travail des paysans.

Pour les paysans, la guerre et l'insécurité sous toutes ses formes sont des facteurs déstabilisateurs de la vie rurale les plus redoutables et les plus dévastateurs. Ils représentent une calamité d'origine humaine la plus catastrophique pour les efforts de développement agricole.

Par leur nature, les activités agricoles ont besoin d'espace et de temps pour se réaliser. Hélas, pour les pays en guerre, cet espace vital s'est souvent transformé en champ de bataille, et la durée nécessaire pour les travaux des champs est souvent perturbée par l'éruption des combats.

Dans ces conditions, il est illusoire de demander aux paysans de s'accrocher à la terre, de continuer à travailler, à investir et à se sacrifier pour un développement agricole aléatoire.

L'état d'insécurité inhérente à une situation politique et sociale incertaine affecte aussi et surtout la population rurale et provoque l'exode rural, l'abandon des terres, et un freinage dans la production agricole.

Dans certains pays, l'absence de guerre armée ne signifie pas la paix. Il y a en effet des régimes qui font la guerre contre leur propre peuple, soit par idéologie, soit par intérêt personnel ou partisan. On peut citer l'absence de vraie réforme agraire en faveur des paysans sans terre, le maintien des privilèges commerciaux en matière agricole, la collectivisation forcée et bureaucratique, les déplacements de population rurale mal préparés, l'établissement de nouvelles zones économiques inadéquates ou l'installation d'un climat de crainte et de suspicion comme les causes très significatives de la démotivation et de la frustration des paysans.

La Confédération mondiale du travail estime qu'on ne peut pas résoudre le problème de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation sans créer les conditions de paix authentique pour la vie rurale. Par paix authentique, elle veut englober la sécurité, l'harmonie sociale, la joie et la liberté de vivre et de travailler pour tous. La Confédération mondiale du travail quant à elle lutte de toutes ses forces et de toutes ses convictions pour que cette paix authentique revienne sur terre, et en particulier sur les pays pauvres, victimes des fautes des hommes.

Lors de sa 18ème session, la Conférence de la FAO a approuvé la résolution 3/75 dans laquelle elle parle de la "réalisation du nouvel ordre économique international, dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation".

Douze années sont passées et le problème reste d'actualité. Nous sommes conscients que la question est complexe et la réponse exige de la coopération et de la solidarité à l'échelle mondiale. Mais le défi mérite d'être relevé et la FAO devra poursuivre ses efforts pour parvenir à ce but. Dans cette perspective, elle aura tout le soutien de la Confédération mondiale du travail et de ses organisations affiliées dans tous les continents.

Ms Zdenka INDRUCHOVÁ (Observer for the World Federation of Trade Unions): We hope that this afternoon's package of statements by trade unions and other international NGOs can be interpreted as FAO's intentions so that our voices are heard properly at this Conference and will not be lost.

Mr Chairman and distinguished delegates, on behalf of the World Federation of Trade Unions, which has enjoyed consultative status with the FAO since 1946, I would like to congratulate the Director-General not only on his re-election but also on his realistic assessment of the current world food and agriculture situation.

Our organization fully shares FAO's deep concern about increasing hunger and malnutrition in the world and highly appreciates all FAO's efforts aimed at eradicating famine and in improving economic and social conditions of the rural people.

In these efforts, FAO is fully supported by the world trade union movement which permanently campaigns for effective national and international actions to promote long-term solutions through agricultural and rural development programmes.

Thus, the 11th World Trade Union Congress - which was held in Berlin, GDR, September 1986 and which represented nearly 300 million organized workers from 147 countries - came to the following unanimous conclusion:

"A key aspect of the present development crisis in many countries is the deterioration in the agricultural situation. This is directly linked to the failure to enforce democratic agrarian reforms, to end large landownership as well as feudal and semi-feudal land relations and to eliminate the stranglehold over agriculture and farm produce exercised by the transnational corporations."

This Conference will discuss the second Progress Report on WCARRD follow-up.

I feel obliged to remind you in this connection that the trade unions extended their full support and invested much hope in WCARRD and welcomed the adoption of its comprehensive programme now known as "Peasants' Charter".

We are convinced that - had the WCARRD Programme of Action been duly implemented - the last 9 years could have seen real progress in rural development based on land reforms ;and genuine people's participation. It could have significantly contributed to world food security.

The truth, however, is that even proclaimed reforms are sabotaged in practice. The big landlords are resisting any reform and they terrorize many rural regions with death squads and private armies. The basic right to association is denied and, in fact, there is veritable suppression of human rights of the rural masses in many parts of the world.

We wish to reiterate from this rostrum our urgent demand for the strict and effective implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action by all governments that adopted it nearly a decade ago.

The accent has to be on providing, to those who till the land, the access to the large possibilities for modern management of agriculture and the inputs from the new technology and access to processing and marketing. Cooperative forms of organization, including agro-industrial complexes, have made great headway in the countries with a socialist economy and should be promoted by FAO as encouraging examples for developing countries.

Mr Chairman, many distinguished delegates have referred here to the lack of resources for rural development. It is widely recognized - and it was also very clearly stated in the report of Prof. Mayer at the beginning of Conference - that the biggest obstacle to a lasting solution to the present problems of hunger, poverty and underdevelopment is the arms race and the colossal wastage of resources on armament. We believe that the transfer of means saved from arms budgets to finance projects of economic and social development, to assure world food security, should become a principal concern to this Conference, especially on the background of the conclusions of the United Nations , Conference on the relationship between disarmament and development.

We brought all these opinions and suggestions to FAO's attention during the 10th consultation between FAO and international trade union organizations held in Rome in April this year.

In this connection, we would like to express our satisfaction at this type of meeting which, in our opinion, provides an important instrument for an exchange of views on matters of common concern and also a starting point for our complete operation in the field of people's participation in rural development that is central to the approaches of trade unions and FAO alike.

Consequently, the WFTU has examined the Draft Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium with great interest and in the light of concerns of the 214 million workers it represents.

The WFTU especially welcomes FAO's affirmation that the direct participation of rural people, through their own organizations, will continue to be promoted. Here, we have to insist once again that such a participation cannot be attained unless trade union rights and freedoms are fully respected. In this sense, FAO should join trade unions in their constant efforts to oblige the governments to ratify and to enforce all respective ILO Conventions and Recommendations concerning rural workers' organizations.

Moreover, experience shows that genuine people's participation in development creates tremendous training and educational needs. We are convinced that the FAO could provide greater support to the efforts of rural workers' organizations in the matter of training and that the cooperation between FAO, UNESCO and ILO in the field of agricultural education (as foreseen in the Programme of Work) should also involve international trade union organizations.

We also think that the FAO could greatly increase its activity concerning the problems of women in agriculture, especially in the context of the proposals made in the WCARRD Programme of Action.

The 40th Session of the WFTU General Council which met three weeks ago, adopted, of course, among other documents a resolution calling for action by workers and trade unions in all countries to implement recommendations of the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, mentioned also in the FAO Programme of Work. The WFTU, therefore, fully supports the FAO's initiative to strengthen substantially its activities related to environmental impact assessment.

At the same time, we deplore all financial restrictions in the Programme and Budget that are due to the efforts by the US Administration to apply political and financial pressure against FAO and its work.

In this connection, the WFTU would like to assure the FAO that it will act in the spirit of the Declaration of Support for the United Nations Organization and its institutions, adopted by the 11th World Trade Union Congress. For the benefit of strengthening the United Nations, the Congress made an appeal to the workers and trade unions "to act with greater vigour and unity in order to defeat the obstructive tactics and financial pressure applied by reactionary forces against the institutions and decisions of the United Nations".

In conclusion, the WFTU reconfirms its readiness to actively participate in the implementation of the FAO Programme of Work aimed at the improvement of economic and social status of the rural workers and peasants as well as at the final solution of the problems of hunger and poverty in the world.

Ms M. Teresa GUICCIARDI (Observer for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions): The 24 General Conference of the FAO takes place at a time of great economic hardship worldwide and especially in the most highly indebted developing countries. Low growth rates and depressed commodity prices are depriving developing countries of the basic revenues on which they had counted for their development. The only encouraging element of the present situation is that world food production has reached record levels. But in the midst of plenty there remains need, and the poorest people have no guarantee of meeting their food requirements. Independent rural workers' organizations can provide the poor with the strength to organize for their own development. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) which represents 85 million working people in all five continents, has been involved in this area for some considerable time, in close cooperation with the International Federation of Plantation, Agriculture and Allied Workers (IFPAAW). We are pleased to be given the opportunity to present the ICFTU statement to this important Conference. The full text is available to the delegations, and I should like briefly to introduce now my Organization's concerns and views in the field of tasks and competences of the FAO.

The pessimistic predictions of those who expected population growth to outstrip world food supply have been proven wrong. Indeed world food output has reached its highest ever levels in every continent save Africa. However, this situation of plenty has yet to bring about the eradication of hunger for the poorest sections of society; improved technical abilities to produce food have not meant any more equality in its distribution. The central question of the present time is how to ensure that access to food is extended to every member of the population. Almost every case of a major famine this century did not result from a shortage of food, but from the lack of purchasing power of the rural poor. The distribution of income and wealth is as important as agricultural production in determining whether people are able to feed themselves.

The most important way food security can be increased is to give people control over the production of their own food. Yet many in developing countries are not in a position to do so alone and unaided. Therefore, bringing the benefits of progress to ordinary people will necessarily entail the formation of organizations of rural workers able to take control over their food needs, whether this means spreading the cost of investments among all the farmers and sharing out the tasks equally, or forming a union for effective negotiations to obtain the full return for their efforts.

While the lack of food in Africa is no longer as critical as in 1984-85, pockets of famine remain in Mozambique, Angola and southern Sudan, and the FAO has warned that famine may again grip Ethiopia by the end of 1987. If famine is to be conquered, a higher priority must be assigned in future to the collection of information on likely substantial food shortages. The FAO has already made an excellent start in this regard. Further, there must be clear international agreement that following the diagnosis by the FAO of a likely food crisis situation, the FAO should be able to count on automatic contributions from Member Nations with adequate food supplies. If this system had existed when the FAO launched its first warnings about the Ethiopian famine in 1984 many thousands of deaths could have been prevented.

We are extremely concerned about the prospects for famine in Mozambique and other Front line states as a result of the disruptive activities of South Africa impeding the normal process of crop production. Economic support programmes to the Frontline states should be stepped up.

Collective organization of the poorest groups in rural society is the only way of ensuring that agricultural innovations become widely known and used by those who need them most and food production increased and for this reason it is important that ILO Convention No. 141 on Rural Workers be ratified by all countries. As the ICFTU General Secretary said in his address to the 1986 Session of the International Labour Conference:

"There is a great need for the promotion of organizations of rural workers through which the poor themselves can actively participate in the development of their societies by taking collective initiatives and engaging in economic and social cooperation among themselves. Governments and employers should not put obstacles in the way of progress and legislation should comply strictly with the provisions contained in the relevant ILO instruments. This aspect of the situation is, unfortunately, far from satisfactory in quite a number of ILO Member States."

Despite all the efforts of the International Free Trade Union Movement and the existence of ILO standards., rural workers in many cases continue to be threatened, imprisoned and even murdered when they attempt to unite with the aim of securing even the most meagre improvement in their way of living.

For many countries the collapse in commodity prices has left export earnings inadequate to provide for food imports. Many countries have also devalued in an attempt to boost exports, further increasing the price of food for local people. But there exist many ways of protecting the poor from the brunt of the crisis by helping them to assure their own food needs and even small sums of aid, productively employed, could enable economies which are currently monocultural to reverse dependency on food imports by growing more and a wider variety of food at home.

Aid should be channeled to those small farmers and agricultural labourers who normally would have no access to credit. Special attention must be given to promoting the position of women in the , development process through such aid allocations.

In devising measures to deal with the chronic instability of commodity prices and ensuring their recovery from the present slump, commodity agreements, where they .can be negotiated, will be useful, as will the UNCTAD Common Fund on Commodities, particularly for its "second window" providing for research into marketing and means of diversifying the possible uses of commodities.

One of the problems faced by developing countries in seeking to influence commodity prices is the control of markets by transnational corporations. Foreign direct investment should be accepted when it fits in with a country's long-term development plans and on the basis of mutually-understood agreements for transnational activity, reflecting the respective responsibilities of both parties. There is a pressing need for the remaining obstacles to the completion of the UN Code of Conduct on Transnational Corporations to be speedily resolved so that the obligations of TNCs undertaking agricultural investments are clearly understood by all parties. TNCs should also abide by the ILO Declaration of Principles on Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy.

Of great concern is also the development of biotechnologies controlled by the same multinationals, with an immeasurable impact on agricultural production and employment, mainly in developing countries.

The ICFTU supports the opening up of world trade in agriculture. While subsidies to assist particularly disadvantaged groups will be needed, agricultural support should focus on the maintenance of adequate income levels and not encourage uneconomic production and the destabilisation of world markets.

Food crises create the need for a generous response on the part of countries in the fortunate position of food surplus. However food aid should be granted only in the event of crisis and should be accompanied by measures to help restore long-term agricultural capacity in the region in need. Short-term food aid programmes must be planned together with longer term efforts to boost food production in the region.

External financial assistance for agriculture in developing countries remains crucial. Official commitments to aid for agriculture in developing countries have stagnated in the last few years in real terms, and in 1985 were 30" percent below the FAO target. The share of such assistance provided on concessional terms has also fallen. Moreover the increase in population pressure in developing countries means that the food requirements of such countries will increase in the years to come and so there will be a great need for increased food production. The ICFTU call on aid donor countries to step up their aid efforts accordingly.

As to the role of women in development, for new participative approaches to rural development to succeed, they must take as their starting point the fact that most rural workers are women. In the past, women have too often been neglected by development policies and programmes, including training and modernization schemes which often failed because it was wrongly assumed that men were the agricultural producers. In most developing countries, women perform the greater part of the work in harvesting, transporting crops, storage, processing, and marketing. In addition as has been shown by the rates of mortality in recent cases of food shortage, women and girls are also the most likely to suffer from malnutrition as they take their food from the family cooking pot after the men. An important element in integrated rural development policies must be support services specifically for women, aimed at improving the productivity and remunerative value of women's work in agriculture. Legislative reforms to remove discrimination against women with respect to land ownership and land inheritance rights are also frequently necessary. In plantation agriculture, specific policies on women workers must be undertaken to eliminate sex discrimination in wages, to improve job security, and to accord women independent status as wage earners, as opposed to unpaid family helpers.

Pesticides still cause the death and serious illness of hundreds of thousands of agricultural workers every year. A first step has been taken towards dealing with these hazards in the FAO Code of Conduct on Pesticides, adopted in November 1985 following a long process of consultation in which the international free trade union movement played a full and active role, and the ICFTU urges all governments to ratify the Code.

In conclusion the ICFTU believes that true development will never come about until there is respect of fundamental human rights, including freedom of association, and considers that the FAO should take this fully into account as it performs its vital role of promoting food security and the development of agricultural resources. We welcomed the FAO's determination to cooperate more closely with the international trade union movement and to promote the participation of our organizations in rural development, thus recognizing the important contribution organized rural workers can make to the economic and social progress of their countries.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to thank the distinguished Observer Representative of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

This brings us to the end of this afternoon's programme of work. Before closing the meeting, I would like to ask the Secretary-General if he has any announcements to make or information to give? I see that that is not the case. The meeting is therefore adjourned: we will continue our work of general debate in this hall at 9.30 tomorrow morning.

The meeting rose at 16.45 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.45 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 87/PV/15

Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARY

Vingt-quatrième session
PLENIERE

24° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUINZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
15ª SESSION PLENARIA

(17 November 1987)

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours
Leo Hertog, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quinzième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15
sous la présidence de Leo Hertog, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 15 sesión plenaria a las 10.15 horas
bajo la presidencia de Leo Hertog, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I declare the 15th meeting of the Plenary open. I wish to explain why we have started very late this morning. There was a meeting of the General Committee consisting of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and seven member countries, which in its turn had to start late because of the demonstrations outside the building. These are demonstrations of pensioners, and as we shall all come to the stage of being a pensioner, I think we can have some understanding! I regret that we have had to start so late.

Yousif DASH (Sudan) (original language Arabic): In the name of Allah the merciful and compassionate, Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, distinguished representatives of the international organizations, it is an honour for me to make this statement before you on behalf of the people and Government of Sudan. This is a regional review on the situation in agriculture and development in our country which I wish to lay before this august assembly which has such an important responsibility on its shoulders.

Allow me to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen on your election at this 24th session of the FAO General Conference. We are convinced, that you will steer the conference with the same degree of efficiency and ability that you have demonstrated in the past.

We are equally convinced that, thanks to the experience and profound knowledge of Mr Saouma, he will be able to guide FAO towards the hoped-for achievements. We warmly congratulate him on his re-election.

Allow me to give you, Mr Chairman, a brief outline with regard to agricultural production in my country. Sudan is the largest African State. It has a surface area amounting to 1 million square miles. It is optimistically estimated that the Sudan is endowed with natural resources which allow it to meet the requirements of its population, and to meet those of its neighbours. Facts and research prove this, but for six years now we have shifted from one policy to another, neglecting the infrastructure, losing production potential and depleting our natural resources. All this is the result of neglect and disorientation. The vegetation cover of our land has been almost totally destroyed, irrigation-water levels dropped as the Nile canals and reservoirs fell into disuse; the soil is depleted and eroded as a result; and then came the drought that befell the Sahel countries. The effect of this drought was much worse in Sudan because there was no preparation of the infrastructure to contain this threat and to avoid this devastation.

FAO sounded the alarm and warned of the imminent catastrophe at an early stage, thanks to its early warning systems, but the authorities at the time did not pay heed and were not prepared. FAO then alerted the world to the disaster and donors came forward, providing us with the necessary food to face this crisis and reduce its impact. We are most grateful to them.

The agricultural sector in Sudan occupies a top priority situation in the economic sector. It plays an increasingly important role in the economic and social development of our country and in the development of our national economy. Our current efforts are concentrated on providing the basic requirements of this sector so it can play the role assigned to it. Twenty-eight percent of our national resources are aggregated to agriculture. Agricultural development policies revolve around a number of main goals to be achieved through the development of the agricultural sector. This may be summarized as follows:

First of all to improve the food situation and achieve a greater sharing of self-sufficiencyⁱⁿ

basic food commodities; second, to create surplus agricultural production for export to provide a growing source of foreign currency to meet the national requirements; third, to achieve a balanced development between the various regions and hence a fair distribution of wealth between sectors of society, and to install social peace and economic security; fourth, to conserve and maintain our natural resources from uncontrolled use and to develop them to achieve an ecological balance to enable us to continue to benefit from these resources as well as meeting the increasing energy requirements to develop our country. We are also aiming to develop our livestock resources.

Sudan has attempted to achieve these goals on the basis of a programme and development plan, the main features of which may be summarized as follows. First, reviving agricultural production institutions by providing their basic inputs and strengthening their infrastructure, especially irrigation networks, maintenance works, shops, roads and transportation. This will enable the institutions to fully exploit their capacities and thus better participate in increasing agricultural production. Second, seriously to endeavour to provide all the production inputs and to distribute them on easy credit terms for small farmers. Here we are seeking to give the private sector a prominent role due to its experience and abilities as well as its presence across the country, thus enabling it to reach larger segments of farmers. Third, we are seeking to develop and support agricultural research and improve its links with extension services, to direct research towards solving the main problems of farmers and to facilitate the transfer of research findings to the farmers directly. Fourth, to develop rural societies and improve the social and economic situation there as part of the implementation of our integrated rural development plan. This ensures the provision of agricultural services as well as the provision of water and health services, in addition to building road networks and other vital services to revive rural life. Fifth, we are seeking to diversify marketing channels and support their different organs to improve the efficiency and to expand the building of regional silos and storehouses. This will enable the regions to establish buffer stocks of main food commodities and thus constitute preventative measures designed to obviate the effects of uncertain climatic conditions in addition to strengthening our overall food security in the area.

We are improving internal transportation facilities to improve harvest shipments from surplus to deficit areas. Agricultural development plans are being implemented as part of a policy aimed at establishing production links that rely on the farmer to play the leading role in agricultural production. Pricing policies are one of the main instruments we use to encourage farmers to produce more. We have, therefore, set a minimum price before the agricultural season to guarantee a fair return to farmers. State organizations therefore purchase the farmers' produce at this price if the markets cause any drop in prices below those established previously. As part of our development of the agricultural sector, and in order to achieve rapid growth, we are attempting to attract Arab and foreign investments to participate in turn in exploiting the vast wealth and resources of our land, on the basis of mutual interest and benefits.

The implementation of these programmes and policies has led to a reasonable increase in our agricultural production and harvest in 1985/6 and 1986/7. We have thus succeeded in overcoming the spells of drought that affected the Sudan in the early eighties that had led to a deterioration of our natural resources, a loss of herds of livestock, a drop in agricultural production, and famine in certain parts of the country.

In addition to retrieving our agricultural output capacity, we have built a reserve of basic commodities out of our surpluses in past harvests to be used as preventive stocks against unfavourable climatic conditions that could be encountered in the future. We hope that our efforts for the 1987/8 harvest will be successful despite the unfavourable weather conditions and low rates of rainfall in the current season, and in addition to the invasion of locusts and other pests.

Despite this, we have managed to a large degree to contain the threats of these swarms thanks to the rapid measures and the assistance extended by FAO and other countries. In fact, this was achieved in an organized and coordinated programme.

We have encountered, and continue to encounter, many problems to improve the food situation of our citizens. The increased responsibilities of the State to face the development requirements and the drop in our foreign currency reserves due to the low volume of exports of agricultural goods have resulted in a slow growth in our national economy and have been affected by the drop in the economic development rates of developed countries and the increased protectionist measures. All these economic factors have caused low foreign currency reserves in our country. Added to this, we are facing a heavy debt servicing burden and a shortage of capital flows from developed countries. Furthermore, the drought problems that we encountered, along with other countries, in the early eighties are still with us in the form of the influx of large numbers of refugees from neighbouring countries, and the need to meet their requirements in the form of services and food aid. All this has represented a further burden on our national economy.

These factors together have weakened our ability to face economic challenges and have slowed our pace and efforts to realize fast leaps in development in general and in agricultural production in particular. We hope to overcome these difficulties through our four-year plan for reform and development which was started in 1987/8 and which will extend until 1990/91. This programme has been established in a realistic way, taking into account the basic priorities of our national economy and its requirements for the latter phases. We also hope that these national efforts will, in fact, be further boosted by the support of international organizations and friendly countries which we hope will increase their technical aid within the framework of a new international order where trade relations will be fairer towards developing countries. We also believe that regional cooperation between developing countries can play a major role in overcoming those problems we are currently encountering, and that they can help to achieve agricultural development and improve the food situation. We call on FAO to assume its assigned role in this field and thus provide the necessary inputs to make a success of this regional operation between the various countries.

Before ending my statement I would like to dwell in brief here on what is being discussed currently in the Organization on the needs of reform and the priorities to be adopted in future activities of this Organization. As we all know, the goals and strategies of this Organization arose out of the effective requirements and needs of member countries, and as a result of dialogue and consensus between member countries. However, the changing international circumstances and the variations in circumstances over the past two years do indeed require some review of policies and methods of programmes. However, this must be undertaken within the Organization and in the basic structures and organs of the Organization. It must, in fact, be based on specific aspects of review and reform without, in fact, affecting the general goals and purposes of the Organization. The main purpose of such a reform is to increase the efficiency of the Organization and its effectiveness in serving member countries. Here I would like to point out that FAO over the past few years has shown a great deal of flexibility and ability to face the changing circumstances. This has enabled it to face the effect of these changes with a great deal of efficiency, and we are therefore fully confident that the Organization will be able to perform just as well in the future'.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks and gratitude to FAO and to the other agencies within the United Nations system, as well as to all those member countries that have played their role and have participated in enabling the African countries to come through the dire circumstances they have faced over the past four years. I hope that we shall all end this Conference with a successful integrated programme of international cooperation to overcome those difficulties we are currently facing and to achieve agricultural development and improve the food situation in the world.

Vaasatia Polonia ROMITI (Samoa): Mr Chairman, please permit me first of all to extend to you our warmest congratulations on your election to the Chair. Our congratulations also go to your Vice- Chairmen. Under your able and patient guidance the work of this Conference has to date proceeded very smoothly.

Through you, Mr Chairman, we would also like to congratulate Mr Edouard Saouma on his re-election for another term of office as chief executive of this Organization. We feel sure that the dedication and diligence with which he has led FAO in the past 12 years will again stand him in good stead in the difficult task ahead.

I am honoured to have this opportunity to address this FAO Conference. My being here reconfirms our common faith in the brotherhood of nation members in FAO, irrespective of size and economic strength.

Samoa's association with FAO goes back some 24 years. These have been years of a mutually satisfying relationship, with tremendous benefit to us a developing country in search of its development destiny. My country certainly compliments FAO for its successful performance in assisting its developing Member States.

While we can all take pride in work well done, I am sure Mr Chairman you will concur with me that times change and today we face even greater and more complex challenges. These changing international economic conditions have had, and continue to have, profound effects on us all to where we are seeing many past gains slipping away. And for some of us in much more vulnerable situations, there is very little or nothing we can do about it.

This Conference gives due emphasis to the global state of food and agriculture. Certainly the overall unfavourable economic conditions worldwide which have given rise to the problems of mounting debts, deteriorating international trading conditions, and the resultant declines in agricultural production, are the issues of critical concern which must be urgently addressed at these international fora. We are all individually affected but to different degrees. Some of us are more able to withstand the said conditions. Others of us are certainly more vulnerable and do not have the strength to rally forth and effect the needed recovery programmes without support from our friends outside. It is in this respect that I would ask your indulgence and patience at this time.

As you know Mr Chairman, we are a small island state with an economy based very much on one crop, the coconut, that so called..."tree of life". For most of our near 25 years of association with FAO, we have received much assistance from this Organization on development of our coconut industry. Today, we note with pride tremendous progress into improved cultivation and management practices, pest and disease control, and the use of high yielding hybrid varieties. But the experience of the last two years, with the international prices for copra products at rock bottom and the future outlook as predicted by FAO experts remaining very much at the same levels, for us the tree of life is little more than the messenger of doom.

The same experts have likewise pointed out the contributing causal factors - these are the EEC Tax on coconut and palm oils, and the American Soybean Association campaign against coconut and palm oils. And coupled with these have been the rapid increases in the prices of petroleum products and other manufactured and processed goods from our industrial country friends.

Mr Chairman, the sum total of "smallness" and "islandness" of island states like ours, is our vulnerability to the changing economic environment of the world around us. I would re-emphasize to this Conference the uniqueness of the situation of our small island states - while small might be beautiful it is never strong enough to be of any significant influence on the direction of trends in any economic transaction in the world arena. In other words Mr.Chairman, while we participate on this international forum as an equal member in the brotherhood of nations in FAO, with full rights and privileges to ex-r press and contribute our views on those issues of common international concern to all FAO members, I feel it is also my duty to remind my larger and more influential partners that in the true nature of things, our smallness in physical size, population, resource base, our isolation and long distances from the main world markets leaves us always as "pricetakers", dependent on external assistance for much of our development programmes, together with the "open-nature" of our economies, means we will always be subject to the influences of, and often dictated to by, external economic forces.

We are fully in agreement that the underlying causes of our present predicament can be found in the global state of economic recession now with us all. We welcome and heartily support the measures this Conference puts forward as the way to bring about improvement and the needed world economic recovery. But for many of us, especially the "small states", we cannot take even the first step without the appropriate impetus from the world around us. Without the leadership, the technical and financial assistance, and the continuing availability of credit arrangements, our agriculture and food production system will be nothing more than subsistence production, void of any real growth.

For my country, as no doubt like many other "small states", we need the support of organizations like FAO, because without it we can achieve very little on our own. Our membership is valued for much more than just to have our voice heard and our vote counted in the global arena of the world family of nations.

Global strategies and global programmes of action, aimed at increasing world food production, alleviating rural poverty; agrarian reform; improving services to meet the needs of small farmers and especially women; ensuring the flow of credit critical to agricultural development; and better forestry and fisheries management, to name but a few of the areas given top priority by FAO, have my country's full support and endorsement. We stand by ready to be active participants. My plea is that in the global setting of our world arena, that the many of us with "small" voices do not merely become lonely criers in the larger world wilderness.

Before I conclude Mr Chairman, I would like to reiterate what I said earlier that being small, remote, having limited resources, both financial as well as manpower, have rendered us more vulnerable to fluctuating commodity world prices, especially in a country like ours that is dependent largely on agriculture for our economic development. We feel therefore that on our own we cannot manage the struggle for survival.

Last but not least, we have found it difficult to come this far to attend this FAO biannual Conference because of the financial constraints that we have in our part of the world. It is therefore suggested that some consideration be given to allow partial funding by FAO of distant countries participation in the future FAO meetings.

Rev. A. FERRARI- TONIOLO: (Observateur du Saint-Siège): Monsieur lo Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, Messieurs les Ministres, Messieurs les Chefs de délégation et Représentants permanents, Mesdames, Messieurs.

Je partage la satisfaction de ceux qui envisagent favorablement l'élection de son Excellence Faisal Abdul Razzak Al-Khaled à la présidence de cette XXIV ème session de la Conférence de la FAO.

J'exprime aussi toute ma satisfaction aux Présidents de Commission de cette Conférence.

Je prends tout d'abord la liberté de vous demander, Monsieur le Président, que le texte de la présente intervention soit publié intégralement dans le Procès-Verbal, même si, pour des raisons de brièveté, toutes ses parties n'en seront pas exposées oralement.

Je vous félicite encore une fois, Monsieur le Directeur général E. Saouma, réélu selon la volonté des Etats Membres de la FAO, et je formule le triple souhait qu'au cours de la prochaine période du mandat renouvelé vous obteniez un succès qui mène cette Organisation jusqu'au parachèvement de son universalité à l'échelle mondiale, qui obtienne une participation unanime et un apport adéquat et opportun de la part de tous les membres et qui atteigne une ultérieure efficacité dans son action en vue de ses buts statutaires.

Pour ce qui concerne l'universalité effective de la FAO qui serait atteinte par l'adhésion aussi d'autres Etats souverains ne figurant pas encore en tant que Membres, qu'il me soit permis de rappeler la déclaration faite au cours de la dix-septième Conférence générale de novembre 1973, en faisant allusion à la réalisation de la participation effective de la Chine qu'en tant qu'observateur nous avions déjà souhaitée auparavant, dans laquelle j'affirmai: "Je tiens à souligner que cette Session de l'Assemblée souveraine de la FAO assume une importance spéciale, non seulement à cause des arguments qu'elle affronte, mais parce que, avec la récente présence d'un pays important par sa vaste population, il est permis à la FAO de s'approcher de la réalisation de sa propre vocation à l'échelle mondiale. C'est un désir commun à tous ceux qui vivent constamment à la FAO, que de souhaiter la présence future, en tant que membres de la FAO, de tous les autres pays occupant une place particulière dans l'économie mondiale."

En ce moment, il semble possible de reprendre le souhait exprimé en faisant référence à l'Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques, puisque l'on peut apercevoir quelques indices qui permettent d'envisager une sorte de premiers pas dans la direction d'une participation plus pleine de l'URSS à la FAO, et non seulement en qualité d'observateur.

Il est également souhaitable que d'autres peuples, qui sont en train de réaliser leur indépendance en tant qu'Etats souverains, puissent accéder à plein titre aux organisations du système des Nations Unies et participer pleinement aux activités de la FAO.

La solidarité internationale, évoquée en tant qu'urgent devoir par le Souverain pontif Jean Paul II lors de son discours à l'occasion de la récente audience, réclame aussi une participation réelle et la disponibilité de tous à assumer les obligations et les charges découlant de leur présence et de leur collaboration dans la communauté internationale par l'adoption de toutes les formes qui mènent à la mise en place d'une plus grande coopération.

Il devient de plus en plus nécessaire qu'une participation active des Etats s'instaure par rapport à l'Organisation internationale à laquelle ils appartiennent, même si dans celles-ci convergent des pays s'inspirant à des systèmes économiques, sociaux et politiques différents.

Les Etats Membres doivent se sentir des composant effectifs de l'Organisation intergouvernementale à laquelle ils ont adhéré. On n'agit pas dans les sens d'une solidarité internationale véritable lorsque l'on réduit l'apport au budget ordinaire et aux fonds nécessaires aux opérations décidées au sein de chacune des Organisation; ou lorsque l'on se dérobe aux promesses faites de fournir des soutiens, ou même à la limite, lorsque l'on menace de se retirer.

L'on pourra redresser les orientations erronées, inefficaces, contradictoires ou considérées moins opportunes de la politique interne et internationale d'une Organisation intergouvernementale seulement en restant partie active dans chacune de celles dont on est Membre; en y concourant par l'appui financier adéquat et régulier; en agissant de l'intérieur des structures de chaque Organisation par le truchement des organes statutaires habilités aux décisions et aux consultations, selon les règles fondamentales de chaque Organisation, sans oublier la clause de l'unanimité nécessaire.

Il faut agir loyalement de façon à équilibrer tant la défense légitime des intérêts nationaux de chaque Etat Membre, que la mise en oeuvre de l'action nécessaire pour un progrès mondial harmonieux et soutenu en faveur des Peuples moins favorisés.

Il apparaît évident que la situation actuelle demande une plus grande solidarité non seulement des Etats Membres de chaque Organisation entre eux, mais aussi entre les Organisations intergouvernementales du système des Nations Unies, et spécialement entre celles du secteur de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, c'est-à-dire l'IFAD, le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, le PAM - ce sont des suggestions surtout pour les conseillers juridiques - par l'application des règles établies à la suite des Résolutions adoptées par la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation de novembre 1974, : considérées dans l'harmonisation de l'ensemble des institutions existantes et interprétées selon l'évolution en cours sans vision partielle.

Pour ce qui concerne l'efficacité de la FAO, on peut, tout compte fait, constater objectivement qu'elle s'est accrue. Elle est ainsi encore plus capable de réaliser le service aux Etats Membres de formulation des programmes et projets par rapport à leurs requêtes; de provoquer les investissements et la mise à disposition des moyens nécessaires pour les réalisations; d'offrir l'assistance technique de la FAO et de ses experts.

L'efficacité d'action de la FAO dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation suppose même une mise à jour continue et une amélioration de la documentation.

La longue expérience de cette Représentation du Saint-Siège auprès de la FAO, permet à l'Observateur Permanent de souligner l'importance de la documentation offerte cette année en préparation de la présente XXIV Session de la Conférence Générale.

Avant tout je dois reconnaître l'efficacité nouvelle de la présentation des données sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1987, et leur collocation très opportune dans le contexte de l'économie et de la finance mondiale. Il est particulièrement appréciable qu'on puisse ainsi connaître soit la situation des Pays à économie de marché, soit des Pays à économie centralisée, soit des Pays en voie de développement; et qu'il soit fait référence à la situation par Région pour ce qui concerne l'Afrique, l'Amérique Latine et Caraïbes, l'Asie et Pacifique, le Moyen-Orient.

On se réjouit qu'il ait été préparée une édition mise à jour de la vaste et fructueuse étude et des projections contenues dans le volume: "Agriculture: horizon 2000".

La Délégation du Saint-Siège souhaite mettre en évidence les conséquences morales de l'actuelle possibilité de collecte des données; de l'évaluation objective et précise soit des possibilités de production, soit des exigences effectives des Populations des différents Pays; soit des disponibilités présentes ou prévisibles surtout des excédents, soit du différent degré des urgences et les engagements qui en découlent.

Cette analyse réaliste des données permet de repérer quelles pourraient être les solutions les plus efficaces qu'il faudrait adopter.

En conséquence, on peut définir avec une approximation de plus en plus précise quels sont les devoirs de solidarité, selon un critère de justice internationale répondant d'un côté à la prospérité et de l'autre aux exigences de vie des Peuples et leurs groupes et individus.

Sur la base de la documentation il est possible d'intervenir immédiatement afin d'éviter la mort par faim et d'établir des programmes appropriés à un développement continu de l'agriculture mais aussi en vue de l'ajustement et du relèvement de l'économie d'un Pays.

Il est possible aussi de définir de façon réaliste des projets répondant aux capacités et à la culture de chaque Peuple, et en vue des formes d'autodéveloppement soutenu par une intégration extérieure, plutôt par la voie multilatérale en dehors de tout dangereux néo-colonialisme, toujours plus facile en cas de rapports bilatéraux.

Il faut noter que toutes les données et les éléments des activités opérationnelles sont disponibles non seulement pour les Gouvernements et les initiatives officielles et de macroéconomie, mais aussi pour les Organisations non gouvernementales - nationales ou internationales - qui veulent agir par un service désintéressé pour un soutien efficace et continu des Pays en voie de développement avec leurs microréalisations.

Mais d'autre part on demande que - à titre d'ultérieure expression de l'efficacité souhaitée pour l'action de la FAO - les Organisations non gouvernementales puissent se sentir à l'avenir plus largement accueillies dans les diverses réunions et initiatives, bien que dans leur différente position selon les statuts de la FAO, soit dans la phase de la prise de décisions, soit dans la phase de la coopération aux réalisations.

Le succès de la FAO dans les différentes Régions du monde, particulièrement en ce qui concerne la rapidité des interventions dans les situations les plus graves, à l'exemple de ce qui s'est passé récemment en Afrique, apparaît remarquable: par l'alarme lancée sans tarder en vue des crises que la sécheresse, la désertification allaient produire, avec les pénuries alimentaires qui en découlent; par la proposition opportune des projets et par la mise en place efficace d'un système d'aides extraordinaires; par l'appel à un large concours aux fonds fiduciaires destinés à des opérations spéciales multilatérales de la FAO; par la mise en oeuvre rapide et sans dispersions des projets de relance de l'agriculture et de l'économie d'un Pays aussi dans l'ensemble de zone plus vastes.

Un aspect spécifique de cette efficacité a été mis en évidence lors de récentes crises africaines qui ont été affrontées par la préparation de projets concrets et de programmes relatifs à l'Ethiopie et vingt et un Pays africains, formulés en accord avec les Gouvernements respectifs et portés à la connaissance des Etats Membres.

Il a été obtenu des contributions qui ont permis de procéder rapidement à l'exécution des projets. Ainsi l'on a réduit en moins de deux ans le nombre des Pays africains en situation d'urgence extrême et de risque de mort.

Nous ne pouvons pas passer sous silence la lojiable continuité dans l'application et dans le contrôle des Résolutions et Plans d'action adoptes en 1979 au cours de la Conférence Mondiale sur la Réforme Agraire et le Développement Rural.

En outre, particulièrement méritoire s'avère sans doute l'attention portée à l'objectif du soutien efficace des petits agriculteurs. Mais ce thème a été particulièrement l'objet de la Journée Mondiale de l'Alimentation 1987.

Cette Délégation du Saint-Siège souhaite ajouter à ce propos une remarque qui paraît intéressante: il se dessine de plus en plus nettement la reconnaissance de l'importance primaire de l'activité agricole des petites exploitations, individuelles et familiales.

Pour ce qui est de l'autosuffisance productive alimentaire même dans des Pays qui ont adopté un système économique centralisé - c'est encore le problème de la Chine, mais pas seulement de la Chine - on assiste au dépassement de la forme univoque de gestion collective par des grandes exploitations agricoles, et au contraire à la multiplication des activités agricoles de dimension limitée.

Même dans des Pays à économie de marché - c'est encore le problème des Etats-Unis - dans lesquels on était jusqu'à présent favorable aux exploitations de grandes dimensions pour la stabilité même de . l'économie du Pays on souhaite un réexamen critique et le soutien des exploitations moyennes et petites. Ceci est écrit dans une lettre de l'épiscopat des Etats-Unis, comme expression de l'opinion publique des Etats-Unis face au gouvernement.

Cette Représentation du Saint-Siège auprès de la FAO n'ignore pas les difficultés qui surgissent chaque jour pour ce qui concerne le développement économique équilibré et le progrès civil réel, tant à l'intérieur de chaque Pays qu'au niveau des rapports internationaux à l'échelle régionale et mondiale.

Malgré les incertitudes accentuées de la situation économique, sociale et politique du monde contemporain, la Délégation du Saint-Siège considère que, par la bonne volonté, il est possible de trouver la voie d'une action commune en vue du bien commun de tous le Peuples et de tous les êtres humains. Elle souhaite qu'il y ait une véritable décision de réaliser une coopération cohérente et loyale entre les Pays avancés et les Pays en voie de développement, sur la base d'accords à court et à long terme et par des engagements concrets, selon des règles même contraignantes.

On fait appel aux devoirs de chacun non seulement dans le cadre de l'Organisation intergouvernementale dont on fait partie, mais aussi dans la vision d'ensemble de la Communauté internationale qui reflète les intérêts et les attentes de la famille humaine universelle.

Dans cette confiance le Saint-Siège entend poursuivre son service à l'humanité - suivant la mission caractéristique qui lui est propre - proposant à votre attention des indications qui, conformément aux buts statutaires de la FAO, peuvent être utiles pour orienter l'action commune de tous les Etats Membres.

M. MARCUSSEN (EEC): On behalf of the European Community, I wish first to congratulate you and the Vice Presidents on your election to preside over the work of this Conference. I also wish to convey the congratulations of the European Community to Mr Saouma on his re-election to the important office of Director-General of the FAO. We look forward to continuing close cooperation with him and members of the staff of the FAO. This Conference provides a unique opportunity for an exchange of views on the global problems related to agriculture, agricultural trade and development. I will therefore use this opportunity to make some reflections on these issues, and in particular, the links between the agricultural policies in the different parts of the world.

During the most recent years, policy makers have had to deal at the same time with the problem of hunger in some countries and surpluses in others. The populations in our countries do not understand that governments and international organizations cannot solve these problems. It is the duty of those representatives at this Conference to take a critical look at the policies which are allowing certain intolerable situations to exist. But we should also draw attention to the results achieved. And indeed, important progress has been made in dealing with the problem of hunger in developing countries. Food aid has played a major role in relieving the effects of structural food deficits and in meeting exceptional food requirements caused by disasters. In this context tribute should be paid to the FAO for its global information and early warning systems which have greatly enhanced our ability to channel food aid to the areas where it is most needed. But the positive short-term results obtained by this instrument should not lead our populations to believe that the problems of surpluses and the longer term problems of hunger can be solved through steadily increasing flows of food aid. The problem of hunger as well as the problem of food surpluses can be cured only through fundamental policy reforms which deal with the underlying causes of the problem, reforms which are required in both developing and industrialized countries. In the developing countries, reforms of their agricultural policies must, of course, be reinforced by carefully chosen development policies. Insofar as industrialized countries are concerned, the reforms required are now taking shape. It has become clear that the initial response of governments of the industrialized countries to the mounting surpluses was inadequate. It has become apparent that the reinforcement of import protection and the escalation of subsidies led to trade conflicts and untenable budget costs.

It has become clear that the scale and the nature of the problems are such that they cannot be solved by continued escalation of unilateral measures but only through improved international cooperation. A major step towards the implementation of a new form of international cooperation in agriculture was taken by the OECD Ministerial Meeting in May this year. At this meeting, governments of all OECD countries formerly acknowledged for the first time that the problems in agriculture were caused not only by the other countries but that they all carried a part of the responsibility.

The governments of the OECD countries also agreed that the fundamental cause of the problems is that excessive support policies in all OECD countries prevented an adequate transmission of market signals to farmers. They concluded that a solution to the problems in agricultural trade would require that international cooperation be extended so as to include a concerted reform of the agricultural policies. They agreed that such a reform should be implemented mainly in the framework of the Uruguay Round.

A few weeks ago the Community put forward its proposal for the agricultural negotiations in the Uruguay Round. The Community proposed that these negotiations should aim at the concerted reform of agricultural policies based on the principle of a gradual and substantial reduction in support affecting agricultural production. Such a substantial reduction in the overall level of support should be coupled with a readjustment of the external protection where the present GATT bindings entail distortions in resource allocations which contribute to the global market imbalances.

The Community proposed that these objectives should be achieved through negotiations of binding commitments by all the countries concerned on the level of support they provide to their farmers and which affect agricultural production.

An agreement on a concerted reform of agricultural policies based on this principle would gradually reduce the present tensions in international agricultural trade. This would create the conditions to allow countries to take commitments on a gradual and substantial reduction of import barriers.

Clearly, the negotiations on longer term policies will have no effect in the short and medium term. The Community therefore has proposed that the Uruguay Round negotiations should begin by seeking agreement on some short-term actions which would improve the situation in the commodity markets which are most severely disrupted by subsidy competition or increased import restrictions.

The Community believes that the proposals it has put forward for the Uruguay Round negotiations will be in the overall interest of developing countries. The declaration adopted by the World Food Council at its meeting in Beijing in July this year supports this view.

The reform of agricultural policies and the liberalization of agricultural trade to be negotiated in the framework of the Uruguay Round will require contributions also from developing countries, in accordance with their possibilities and their special situation.

In this context I would also draw attention to the importance for the developing countries of the Uruguay Round negotiations on tropical products. The Community for its part, has already put forward specific proposals for the negotiations on this subject.

I will conclude these remarks on agricultural policies by drawing attention to the actions already taken by the community to reform its own agricultural policies. Major decisions in this regard have been adopted since 1984 and most recently in December 1986, in January and July this year, and

a series of proposals for further actions are under discussion in the Community at present. These reforms are complex and vary from commodity to commodity. I shall therefore not attempt to describe the specific elements of this reform. Suffice it to say that the overall objective is to expose the Community's farmers more directly to the market situation by changes in the intervention systems which will imply that prices received by Community farmers will fall below the official support prices when markets are over-supplied, and for many commodities, limits have been introduced for the quantities which may benefit from support. In addition, support prices have been reduced and will continue to be reduced. Over the last four years, the support prices in the Community have declined by 10 percent in real terms and the Community's milk production, which is subject to a quota system, will have been reduced in April 1988 by 10 percent compared to the level at which this quota was introduced in 1984.

Mr Chairman, I will now address the other areas where the European Community and the FAO are active, sometimes through joint action and often in a complementary way.

With respect to joint actions, allow me to recall that the Community is one of the three largest providers of funds to the World Food Programme, its annual contribution being approximately 80 million ECU per year. But although the development policy of the Community, which devotes more than 2 000 million US dollars to it on average per year, as associated with and often complementary to that of the FAO, it is of course also independent.

Through its development policy the Community endeavours to aid not only the 66 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries that are signatories to the Lomé Convention, but also the poorest and least developed countries that are not signatories, and generally speaking, aid developing countries to enable them to overcome their difficulties.

During the last few years the Community has made efforts to adjust its development policy to the changing situations and the new requirements. Since the last Conference the Community's assistance has demonstrated its capacity to cope with changing situations and has given ample evidence of its flexibility and effectiveness.

Concentration on the agricultural and rural sector for programme of development aids to Asia and Latin America.

With regard to the third Lomé Convention, which has been guiding ACP-EEC relations since January 1985, I wish to make two points. The first is quantitative. The priority granted by the Convention to development of the rural sector is shown by the concentration on this sector of the Community's financial resources made available to the ACP countries, which vary from country to country, between 70 percent and almost 100 percent of the resources available. The second point is qualitative. By comparison with the previous Conventions, the Community has adopted a more sectoral and more flexible approach which allows, in appropriate circumstances, the provision of recurrent replacement or maintenance supplies which would meet the development requirements of our ACP partners better.

During this period the Community's action has not been confined merely to implementing Lomé III. As we announced at the last Conference, at the end of 1985, the Community launched a plan to improve and boost the economies of the African countries most affected by the drought. This additional programme for which more than 108 000 000 ECU has been set aside, was intended to permit these countries to implement urgent measures to improve their economies pending the medium and long-term financing decisions to be taken under Lomé III.

Moreover, the Community has, earlier this month, agreed on a special aid programme for certain poor and heavily indebted sub-Saharan African countries undertaking adjustment efforts. This Programme involves an acceleration of payments provided by the existing Lomé arrangements and additional resource amounting to 100 000 000 ECU.

Mr Chairman, I would like to end by mentioning the reform of food aid undertaken by the Community involving the strengthening of triangular transactions and the introduction of the possibility to replace food aid by a financial contribution. These improvements have enabled the Community to aid several countries in various parts of the world, both those which have received such aid and those which have supplied aid under the triangular programmes.

Since July 1987 food aid reform has also involved improvements of the operational management, the aims being more rapid and effective supply and strengthened quality control and checks on deliveries.

Mr Chairman, the improvements which I have just described in the Community's development policies, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, will of course be so much more effective as they are

reinforced by the efforts of the recipient countries. We must never forget that the policies of the developing countries themselves is the most decisive factor for the long-term solution of the problem of hunger, and for the improvement of the well being of their peoples.

Emilio ONA OBIANG (Guinea Ecuatorial): Señor Presidente, señor Director General, excelentísimos señores Ministros, distinguidos señores Delegados, señoras y señores: Era deseo del Ministro de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Rural de mi país el haberse dirigido personalmente a esta tribuna, pero por compromisos superiores y coincidencia de la fecha con otras obligaciones no lo ha podido hacer.

En cuanto al orador que tiene el honor de hablarles en nombre de su Ministro, es un gran honor y motivo de orgullo para mí el tomar la palabra y dirigirme a úds. con motivo de la vigésimocuarta sesión de la Conferencia de la FAO. Asimismo, quiero aprovechar esta ocasión para felicitar, en nombre de la Delegación que me acompaña, a los señores Presidente y Vicepresidentes de esta magna Asamblea, por su elección para dirigir las deliberaciones de esta Conferencia.

Quiero extender igualmente nuestras sinceras felicitaciones al Dr. Edouard Saouma por su reelección para un nuevo mandato en el puesto de Director General de la FAO. Esta nueva confianza a la persona del señor Saouma patentiza la evaluación positiva de su servicio al frente de nuestra Organización en los períodos anteriores de su mandato y demuestra el espíritu democrático que prevalece en la misma.

En efecto, la FAO, desde su fundación, ha promovido proyectos y programas de desarrollo en el sector agrícola, con el propósito de elevar y mejorar el nivel de vida de los países menos favorecidos, con el fin de acortar la distancia que separa a los países en vías de desarrollo respecto a los países industrializados, estableciéndose unos lineamientos por los cuales ha discurrido la cooperación entre unos Estados y otros.

Distinguidos señores, desde la fundación de la Organización, podemos decir que la situación en general para los países en vías de desarrollo y, en particular, para los países de África subdesarrollados ha variado ligeramente; aunque, si hemos de ser sinceros, debemos reconocer que esta variación no corresponde a la medida de nuestra necesidad y deseo. Si por una parte ha aumentado el nivel de calidad de consumo, en algunas áreas de nuestras poblaciones se ha diversificado la producción, se dispone de más cuadros y - lo primordial - hemos pasado de los cultivos estrictamente de la exportación en la combinación de éstos con los cultivos básicos, aumentando paulatinamente el área de los volúmenes de producción de éstos últimos.

En lo que concierne concretamente a la República de Guinea Ecuatorial, el golpe de libertad de 3 de agosto de 1979 hizo posible el reintegro pleno de mi país a la comunidad internacional. Desde esa fecha, el país ha venido haciendo grandes esfuerzos para superar una situación de caos socioeconómico, para restablecer el dinamismo de su desarrollo y mejorar el nivel de vida de su población, dando énfasis a los sectores productivos agrícolas.

Por otro lado, como país eminentemente de vocación agrícola, ése fue el sector que más se resintió, y cuyos efectos todavía se siguen sufriendo. En efecto, el Producto Interior Bruto (PIB) se estima que creció, entre los años 1959 y 1964, a una tasa acumulativa del 5.4 por ciento. El sector agropecuario representaba más del 90% de ese Producto Interior Bruto; y la agricultura de exportación, el 77%, basada sobre tres productos principales, que alcanzaron niveles de producción que no se han vuelto a repetir: cacao (37,000 toneladas), café (8,000 toneladas) y madera (280,000 m³). Durante la década entre 1968 y 1978, el país sufrió una caída económica atroz. Quedó inoperante el aparato administrativo y, consecuentemente a ello, el sector producción se redujo a su cota mínima. A partir de 1980, se inició la reconstrucción del país y la revitalización del proceso de desarrollo económico y social sobre nuevas bases. Los esfuerzos se encontraron, entre otros, en una serie de medidas para elevar la producción de alimentos y de los cultivos de exportaciones, a fin de equilibrar la balanza de pagos.

Sin embargo, la extensión del sector productor de alimentos se ha visto dificultada por la falta de insumos de los servicios de extensión, financiamiento, facilidades mínimas de almacenamiento, así como la falta de rutas y medios adecuados de transporte. El mercado interior no está debidamente estructurado y está limitado por el bajo poder de compra de los consumidores.

En consecuencia, persiste una agricultura de subsistencia de una producción casi estancada en sus cotas mínimas. Pese a los esfuerzos que realizamos para reactivar nuestra economía, lamentablemente los altos costos de exportación, los precios elevados de los insumos, añadidos a una coyuntura de precios internacionales bajos para nuestros productos afectan negativamente la rentabilidad de las inversiones, produciendo como consecuencia de ello una desertión y abandono cada vez más gradual del campo, frenando cada vez más el proceso de desarrollo de nuestros países y aumentando más la diferencia o distancia que nos separa de los países industrializados.

Esta diferencia abismal es origen del desequilibrio que cada vez se está imponiendo en el mundo por mantener posiciones económicas muy rígidas e intransigentes, haciendo difícil el diálogo, y deberíamos comprender que ese desequilibrio no es bueno ni para unos ni para otros.

La situación deficitaria que atraviesa la FAO, según hemos constatado en el discurso pronunciado por el señor Director General, nos llena de preocupación ante la esperanza que albergamos sobre esta Organización de verla cumplir sus objetivos. Estamos plenamente convencidos de que el mayor triunfo de la humanidad sería más brillante y efectivo si los países industrializados concentraran su atención a la solución de los problemas de malnutrición, hambre, miseria y pobreza que agobian a los países económicamente débiles, antes de hacerlo con el aumento de medios que llevan a la destrucción de la humanidad.

Pensamos que los proyectos, en el caso específico de Guinea Ecuatorial, pudieran tomar la estructura de proyectos de desarrollo rural integrados, pues el medio rural es complejo y carece de todo, por lo que el factor de aumento de producción debe ir emparejado con el de la comercialización, sanidad rural, transporte e infraestructura. En este sentido, mi Gobierno ha emprendido grandes esfuerzos con la puesta en funcionamiento de una escuela de formación de agentes de organización agropecuaria, y próximamente procederá a la inauguración de otra escuela para la formación de técnicos de nivel medio en la especialidad de agricultura, ganadería, pesca y forestal. Para ello, esperamos apoyo de la cooperación internacional.

Reiteramos una vez más nuestra felicitación al Director General de la FAO, augurándole éxitos en su nuevo mandato.

Third Report of the General Committee

Troisième rapport du Bureau

Tercer informe del Comité General

CHAIRMAN: It appears we have a quorum so we can adopt the two Reports of the General Committee. These are the Third Report on Election of Council Members, and the Fourth Report dealing with the appointment of the Director-General, and some resolutions. I request the Secretary-General to read the texts of the Third Report of the General Committee and its Fourth Report for adoption.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Voici d'abord le texte du 3ème Rapport du Bureau intitulé (élection du membre du Conseil).

1. Le Bureau appelle formellement l'attention de la Conférence sur les paragraphes de l'article XXII du Règlement général de l'Organisation reproduits ci-après:

"Article XXII-3 En choisissant les membres du Conseil, la Conférence s'efforce de tenir compte de l'intérêt qui s'attache:

- a) à assurer au sein de cet organisme une représentation géographique équilibrée des nations intéressées à la production, à la distribution et à la consommation des produits alimentaires et agricoles;
- b) à assurer la participation aux travaux du Conseil des Etats Membres qui contribuent dans une large mesure à la réalisation des objectifs de l'Organisation;
- c) à donner au plus grand nombre d'Etats possible l'occasion, par roulement des sièges, de faire partie du Conseil."

"Article XXII-4 Les membres du conseil sont rééligibles."

2 La Conférence a fixé la date limite pour la présentation des candidatures aux sièges au lundi 16 novembre 1987, 12 heures.

3 Le Bureau a examiné les propositions de candidature reçues à ce jour et en confirme la validité.

4 Ces propositions de candidature sont les suivantes.

<u>REGION</u>	<u>PERIODE</u>	<u>CANDIDAT</u>
AFRIQUE	a) Novembre 1987 au 31 décembre 1990 (4 SIEGES)	GUINEE KENYA LESOTHO NIGERIA ANGOLA CONGO ETHIOPIE
.	b) 1er janvier 1989 à novembre 1991 (3 SIEGES)	INDE PAKISTAN PHILIPPINES BANGLADESH CHINE COREE (REP. DE) INDONESIE JAPON MALAISIE THAÏLANDE
ASIE	a) Novembre 1987 au 31 décembre 1990 (3 SIEGES)	FINLANDE
	b) 1er janvier 1989 à novembre 1991 (6 SIEGES)	FRANCE ITALIE ROYAUME-UNI ALLEMAGNE (REP. FED.) GRECE TCHECOSLOVAQUIE TURQUIE
EUROPE	a) Novembre 1987 au 31 décembre 1990 (4 SIEGES)	COSTA RICA PEROU
	b) 1er janvier 1989 à novembre 1991 (3 SIEGES)	ARGENTINE NICARAGUA VENEZUELA ARABIE SAOUDITE (ROYAUME D') EGYPTTE IRAN (REP. ISLAMIQUE D') IRAQ
AMERIQUE LATINE ET CARAÏBES	a) Novembre 1987 qu 31 décembre 1990 (1 SIEGE)	AUSTRALIE
	b) 1er janvier 1989 à novembre 1991 (3 SIEGES)	
PROCHE-ORIENT	a) Novembre 1987 au 31 décembre 1990 (3 SIEGES)	
	b) 1er janvier 1989 à novembre 1991 (1 SIEGE)	
PACIFIQUE SUD-OUEST	a) Novembre 1987 au 31 décembre 1990 (1 SIEGE)	

5. Pour cinq régions, à savoir l'Afrique, l'Asie, l'Europe, le Proche-Orient et le Pacifique Sud-Ouest, le nombre de candidats pour la période novembre 1987.. - 31 décembre 1990 est égal au nombre des sièges à pourvoir . Un seul scrutin pour chacune de ces régions peut donc suffire pour que les candidats obtiennent la majorité requise par l'article XII-3 a) et b) du RGO. A ce propos, l'attention est appelée sur l'article XII-9 a) du RGO qui dispose que l'élection des membres du Conseil a lieu au scrutin secret, même dans les cas où il n'y a pas plus de candidats que de sièges

du Conseil à pourvoir. Pour la région Amérique latine/Caraïbes, il y a plus de candidats que de sièges à pourvoir, à savoir 2 candidats pour 1 siège. Cela signifie que, dans le cas de cette région, plus d'un scrutin pourra être nécessaire avant que le siège vacant ne soit pourvu.

6. Pour la période 1er janvier 1989 - novembre 1991, le nombre de candidats est égal au nombre de sièges à pourvoir pour deux régions, à savoir l'Afrique et le Proche-Orient. En conséquence, un scrutin peut suffire pour que les candidats obtiennent la majorité requise par l'article XII-3 b) du RGO. Aux termes de l'article XXII-10 g) du RGO "Les candidats qui sont battus lors de l'élection destinée à pourvoir le ou les sièges devenant vacants au cours de la première année civile figurent parmi les candidats au siège ou aux sièges devenant vacants à In fin de la deuxième année civile à moins qu'ils se désistent." En conséquence, pour la région Amérique latine/Caraïbes, il y aura 4 candidats pour 3 sièges lorsque le candidat battu lors de la première élection sera connu. En outre, il y aura, pour la région Asie, 7 candidats pour 6 sièges, et pour la région Europe, 4 candidats pour 3 sièges. Il se peut donc que, pour chacune de ces trois régions, plus d'un scrutin soit nécessaire pour pourvoir les sièges vacants.

7. Le Bureau note que, conformément au calendrier adopté par la Conférence, les scrutins auront lieu le lundi 23 novembre 1987.

8. Le Bureau recommande :

- a) qu'en une première phase, des scrutins aient lieu pour toutes les période novembre 1987 - 31 décembre 1990, suivis éventuellement taires qui pourraient être nécessaires pour cette période;
- b) qu'en une deuxième phase, des scrutins aient lieu pour toutes les régions intéressées par la période 1er janvier 1989 - novembre 1991, suivis éventuellement par les scrutins supplémentaires qui pourraient être nécessaires pour cette période.

CHAIRMAN: The floor is now open for comments or questions. If there are none, the Third Report of the General Committee on the Election of Council Members has been adopted by the Conference.

Third Report was adopted

Le troisième rapport est adopté

El tercer informe es aprobado

Fourth Report of the General Committee

Quatrième rapport du Bureau

Cuarto informe del Comité General

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le quatrième Rapport du Bureau comprend plusieurs parties: nomination du Directeur general, nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil et Vice-Présidents de la Commission III. Je lirai chaque section séparément.

PART I

PARTIE I

PARTE I

Nomination du Directeur général

1. La Conférence était saisie de deux candidatures au poste de Directeur général.
2. La Conférence, ayant procédé à un vote au scrutin secret, a nommé Edouard Saouma au poste de Directeur général pour une période de six années, du 1er janvier 1988 au 31 décembre 1993.
3. En application de l'article XXXVI-1 c) du RGO, sur la recommandation du Bureau, la Conférence a adopté les résolutions ci-après:

A.

Résolution .../87

NOMINATION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL

LA CONFERENCE,

Agissant en vertu des dispositions de l'Article VII de l'Acte constitutif,

Ayant procédé à un vote au scrutin secret dans les conditions prescrites par l'Article XII du Règlement général de l'Organisation,

- 1.' Déclare qu'Edouard Saouma est nommé Directeur général pour une période de six années, à partir du 1er janvier 1988, son mandat venant à expiration le 31 décembre 1993;
2. Décide que le traitement et les indemnités du Directeur général seront déterminés conformément aux dispositions de la Résolution .../87;
3. Décide en outre que les autres conditions de service du Directeur général seront régies par les dispositions applicables du Statut du personnel, sous réserve toutefois des dispositions du contrat signé par le Président de la Conférence au nom de l'Organisation et par le Directeur général, en conformité de l'Article XXXVI.1e) du Règlement général de l'Organisation.

(Adoptée le ... novembre 1987)

B.

Résolution .../87

EMOLUMENTS DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL

LA CONFERENCE,

Rappelant qu'en novembre 1981, à sa vingt et unième session, aux termes des paragraphes 1, 2, 3 et 4 du dispositif de la Résolution 19/81, elle avait fixé le traitement et les indemnités du Directeur général et qu'à sa vingt-troisième session, en novembre 1985, elle avait ajusté par la Résolution 15/85 l'indemnité de représentation du Directeur général, pour tenir compte de l'inflation,

Considérant que le traitement de base du Directeur général, de même que le barème des traitements du personnel du cadre organique et des catégories supérieures du Système des Nations Unies, est resté inchangé depuis 1975, et que l'ajustement de poste est gelé depuis décembre 1984 en vertu de la Résolution 39/27 de l'Assemblée générale, et notant que la valeur du dollar des Etats-Unis en liras italiennes a fortement baissé depuis que l'indemnité de représentation du Directeur général a été revalorisée pour la dernière fois,

Décide que

1. Le Directeur général continuera à recevoir le même traitement annuel brut de 119 429 dollars, soit un traitement net de 78 430 dollars par an avec charge de famille ou 69 714 dollars sans charge de famille, et un ajustement de poste de 644 dollars par point d'indice avec charge de famille ou 573 dollars sans charge de famille;
2. L'indemnité de représentation du Directeur général sera portée à 40 000 dollars par an à compter du 1er janvier 1988.

(Adoptée le ... novembre 1987)

CHAIRMAN: We can now adopt this first part of the fourth report of the General Committee containing two resolutions which will receive a number in relation to the other resolutions to be adopted by the Conference. Are there any comments or questions? If there are none, then the first part of the fourth report of the General Committee is adopted by Conference.

Part I adopted

Partie I adoptée

Parte I aprobada

I now request the Secretary-General to continue reading the second part of the fourth report of the General Committee.

PART II

PARTIE II

PARTE II

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:

Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil

- 4 La Conférence était saisie d'une candidature aux fonctions de Président indépendant du Conseil.
- 5 La Conférence a élu au scrutin secret ... aux fonctions de Président indépendant du Conseil pour une période de deux ans expirant à la fin de la session ordinaire de 1989 de la Conférence et a adopté la résolution suivante:

Résolution . . . /87

NOMINATION DU PRESIDENT INDEPENDANT DU CONSEIL

LA CONFERENCE,

Ayant procédé à un vote au scrutin secret conformément aux dispositions de l'Article XII du Règlement général de l'Organisation,

1. Déclare que ... est nommé Président indépendant du Conseil pour une période de deux ans, c'est-à-dire jusqu'à la fin de la session ordinaire de la Conférence qui se tiendra en 1989;

2. Decide que les conditions et indemnités attachées à la charge de Président indépendant du Conseil sont les suivantes:

- a) Une indemnité annuelle équivalant à 10 000 dollars des Etats-Unis pour frais de représentation et services de secrétariat au lieu de résidence du Président, étant entendu que le Directeur général fournit un service de secrétariat au Président lorsque celui-ci assiste à des sessions du Conseil ou de la Conférence: la moitié de cette indemnité est payée en dollars des Etats-Unis et le solde, en totalité ou en part, dans la devise du pays dont le Président est ressortissant, ou en liras italiennes, à son choix;
- b) Une indemnité journalière équivalant à celle que reçoit le Directeur général adjoint, lorsque le président s'absente de son lieu de résidence pour les affaires du Conseil, étant entendu que cette indemnité est ramenée à 20 dollars pendant la durée des voyages, effectués par un service régulier autre que maritime;
- c) Les frais de voyage, y compris l'indemnité journalière ci-dessus, sont à la charge de l'Organisation, conformément à ses règlements et à l'usage établi, lorsque le Président assiste à des sessions du Conseil, du Comité du Programme, du Comité financier ou de la Conférence, ou lorsqu'il est invité par le Conseil ou par le Directeur général à se déplacer pour d'autres raisons.

(Adoptée le..... novembre 1987)

CHAIRMAN: The second part of the fourth report of the General Committee is now open for adoption by Conference. Are there any questions, remarks or observations? If not, the second part containing the resolution on the appointment of the independent chairman of the Council is hereby adopted by the Conference.

Part II adopted

Partie II adoptée

Parte II aprobada

I now invite the Secretary-General to read the last part of the fourth report of the General Committee.

PART III

PARTIE III

PARTE III

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Vices-Présidents de la Commission III.

6 A la suite de l'adoption du deuxième rapport du Bureau par la Conférence, le 13 novembre 1987, la délégation de l'Australie a informé le Secrétaire général que le groupe Pacifique Sud-Ouest a reconsidéré sa proposition de candidature aux fonctions de Vice-Président de la Commission III. Le Groupe propose la candidature de Monsieur Vaasatia Poloma Komiti (Samoa) au lieu de M. Michael Ryan (Australie).

7 Ayant examiné cette proposition, le Bureau recommande à la Conférence de nommer les t personnes ci-après à la Vice-Présidence de la Commission III:

M. M. JUSOH (Malaisie)

V. P. KOMITI (Samoa).

CHAIRMAN: The third part of the fourth report, which contains only a change in the vice chairmanship of Commission III, is now for adoption by Conference. Are there any questions, observations or remarks? If not, the third part is adopted by Conference.

Part III adopted

Partie III adoptée

Parte III aprobada

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

-STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

-DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

-MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Mercedes FERMIN GONZALEZ (Venezuela): Sr. Presidente: Debo felicitar a Usted, Sr. Presidente actuante, y a quienes fueron distinguidos como Presidentes y Vicepresidentes de esta Asamblea.

Igualmente debo presentar mis congratulaciones al Sr. Edouard Saouma por el reconocimiento de que ha sido objeto al merecer una elección por tercera vez para conducir a la FAO en este período tan importante y crucial en su vida institucional.

La paradoja del actual panorama internacional es la coexistencia de dos mundos cuya desigualdad los ha hecho hasta ahora irreconciliables:

De un lado, un gran número de naciones, casi las tres cuartas partes de la población mundial sometidas a las desventuras del subdesarrollo: la pobreza crítica, la verdadera miseria, mainu- trición, inseguridad, desempleo, incapacidad de producir aún su propio sustento; en una palabra, hambre.

Del otro, un reducido grupo de naciones poderosas, gracias a su gran desarrollo industrial y a las oportunidades que durante siglos les ha mantenido en su posición de disfrute de las riquezas del planeta Tierra.

Largo ha sido el camino que desde la revolución industrial han recorrido estos dos mundos en lucha. No incurriré en la ingenuidad de creer que haya en esta Asamblea quienes ignoren la historia de las peripecias vividas por las masas trabajadoras del hoy llamado Tercer Mundo (que os el mismo de los Imperios Coloniales), soportando las transformaciones que finalmente, tras la hecatombe de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, pareció que devolvían a dichas naciones su soberanía conculcada, el derecho de darse sus propias leyes en el plano político-social y en algunos casos su independencia, proclamada con toda solemnidad en la Carta de los Derechos Humanos.

Pero bien sabemos que no existe independencia si no está avalada en el terreno económico. 'Y este último acto de ese largo drama, en el cual siguen siendo actores las naciones del Tercer Mundo y las del mundo industrializado, no ha terminado aún, puesto que necesitan, unos y otros, arribar a la conclusio'n de que es la interdependencia la relación que los une y los separa, y que sólo una racional comprensión de tal realidad puede ayudarlos a vivir en paz para lograr una efectiva relación de cooperación en el trabajo productor de la riqueza.

Mientras los depositarios de todo el poder de la riqueza y de los medios para producirla - sin tomar en cuenta la fuerza del trabajo humano - no estén dispuestos a tal cooperación, la desigualdad continuará engendrando descontento, odios, retaiaciones, todos malos consejeros en la búsqueda del intendimiento y la paz.

Hace cuanrenta años creyeron los fundadores de la FAO que su tarea primordial era la de buscar soluciones a los problemas que enfrentaba un mundo destruido por la guerra, en el cual habían desaparecido muchas naciones en virtud de decisiones tomadas por las grandes potencias dominantes de ese tiempo.

Esos creadores de la FAO eran mentes esclarecidas, de gran visión humanista, soñadores ilusionados que avizoraban un nuevo panorama de justicia social, de mejoramiento para aquellas naciones que habían sufrido bajo el yugo secular del colonialismo, y ello se tradujo en sus mentes en los principios que por primera vez fueron plasmados en la Carta de los Derechos Humanos, demasiado conocidos hoy para repetirlos aquí.

No otra cosa fue el cometido asignado a la FAO en el contexto de las Naciones Unidas: lo relativo a la agricultura y la alimentación, que es, ni más ni menos, que la producción de los alimentos y la alimentación misma, y desde luego, todas las implicaciones consiguientes para atender a las naciones necesitadas, porque muy atinadamente pensaron ellos que era ese el binomio de fuerzas que ayudaría a la humanidad desposeída en sus necesidades esenciales.

Y así comenzó a delinearse el Programa de esta Organización, que ha venido dando cumplimiento con eficacia y acierto a tales objetivos.

En todos los países subdesarrollados y en vías de desarrollo es unánime el consenso acerca de ello.

Pero aquel grupo minoritario al cual hemos aludido ya no lo cree así y por ello han decidido plantear críticas acerca de la eficiencia, la transparencia y otros problemas que a su juicio merecen correctivos.

Es lógico; para beneficio de ellos no puede cumplir la FAO los objetivos para los cuales fue creada.

Ellos buscan satisfacción a sus intereses o rendimientos a sus inversiones, pues así tai vez deben considerar sus contribuciones.

Olvidan que la FAO pertenece a un sistema multilateral, el cual no se comporta como un Banco o una corporación, en donde se habla de dividendos, inversiones, depósitos, ganancias.

Que la FAO no implica una relación bilateral interesada, sino que es además una Organización a la cual se pertenece y se contribuye voluntariamente, que casi significa decir desinteresadamente.

Pero por otra parte tampoco podríamos asegurar que tales miembros no so beneficiando la FAO. Tienen a su disposición los resultados de las investigaciones y de la experiencia de múltiples proyectos que se conducen en todo el mundo y que constituyen un precioso campo de experimentación en la tecnología, en trabajo de campo, realizados "in situ" en muchos países en los cuales sin duda hay inversiones bilaterales de esos miembros de FAO.

¿Y eso no es ganancia? Precisamente los programas de campo y de cooperación técnica son los más fructíferos a ese respecto y no alcanzamos a comprender por qué son objeto de crítica y hasta de solicitud de reducción y eliminación.

Consideramos que son de gran utilidad para quienes reciben sus beneficios directos y como " casos de estudio" también para quienes estuvieren interesados en esas realidades. Y ya que entramos en el tema II de esta Conferencia acerca de si es o no necesaria la revisión de algunos aspectos de la Organización es justo recordar que la FAO ha respondido siempre a las necesidades de cambios en sus estrategias, prioridades y métodos operativos que periódicamente aplica, lo cual se traduce en una mayor flexibilidad para atender a solicitudes o necesidades sentidas de los países miembros.

Tal es el caso de la descentralización de actividades a nivel de países. La eficiencia de la FAO ha sido constatada por medio de auditorías y agencias de inspección independientes a requerimiento de los propios órganos rectores. Por ello deberíamos llegar a la conclusión de que la acción emprendida por los países en cuestión no es impulsada por un celo de perfeccionamiento de la Organización. Ello deja entrever una intención de carácter político y, por consiguiente, tai actitud descalifica el propósito expresado en los diversos planteamientos, presentados a la consideración de esta Conferencia.

Por ello debemos salir al paso al intento de aprovechar la crisis de liquidez de la Organización para ejercer presiones que por inadecuadas se vuelven contra quienes las ejercen, poniendo en evi-

dencia el trasfondo de los verdaderos propósitos perseguidos, por lo demás bien conocidos y que podemos resumir como la lucha contra el multilateralismo, la cual busca convertir a la Organización en un instrumento para la aplicación de políticas al servicio de las relaciones bilaterales entre los países desarrollados y aquellos en vías de desarrollo.

Sr. Presidente, es posible que estudios oportuna y adecuadamente conducidos por la Organización misma consideren conveniente cambiar la orientación de la FAO y los objetivos establecidos en su Carta Básica si se llegase a demostrar que nuevos objetivos responden mejor a las necesidades del mundo en desarrollo, en particular sobre aquellas cuestiones que en las esferas de la agricultura y la alimentación a nivel mundial aconsejan un cambio hacia un nuevo orden económico internacional más justo y equitativo para todos, tal como se expresa en la Resolución 3/75 adoptada unánimemente.

No negamos que el funcionamiento de nuestra Organización pueda mejorarse para ponerse a tono con los cambios tecnológicos, que son una realidad. Pero decididamente nos oponemos a la proposición presentada por algunos países industrializados sobre el establecimiento de un grupo de alto nivel para estudiar la reestructuración de la FAO. Debemos recordar al respecto que, por mandato de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, el Consejo Económico y Social creó una comisión especial para el estudio de la estructura del sector económico y social de las Naciones Unidas. Esta comisión debe terminar su estudio para el próximo año y es por ello que consideramos innecesario un estudio similar de la FAO hasta que no se conozcan las conclusiones y recomendaciones de dicha comisión, cuyo estudio incluye a la FAO.

Sr. Presidente: Venezuela, como país fundador de esta Organización, defiende los principios y objetivos formulados en su Carta Básica, pero considera que si fuese necesaria su modificación, debemos esperar los resultados del estudio antes mencionado. Ahora bien, en el marco de los principios de esta Organización el Gobierno venezolano viene conduciendo una política agrícola en cuanto a seguridad alimentaria; consolidación de la reforma agraria, en proceso; producción agrícola; mejoramiento de las condiciones de vida de la población en el medio rural, ampliando la superficie bajo cultivo en más de un millón de hectáreas el último año, introduciendo nuevos cultivos. Como un estímulo a los productores agrícolas se ha decretado la prohibición de importaciones agrícolas, al mismo tiempo que se promueve la política de exportación.

En este intento de promover las exportaciones agrícolas se ha visto afectada por los efectos del proteccionismo agrícola aplicado por los países desarrollados para proteger sus mercados. El mayor énfasis a la producción va dirigido a aquellos rubros deficitarios que se consideran básicos en la dieta popular.

Otro aspecto importante de este esfuerzo es el que se refiere a la investigación y la capacitación. El Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias pone en práctica medidas orientadas a generar tecnologías integradas por rubros y áreas de desarrollo. Nos complace anotar que en estas, actividades de investigación y capacitación participa la mujer en condiciones de igualdad, así como ocurre igualmente en los otros campos del trabajo relacionados con la agricultura, como técnicas, profesionales universitarios, en la administración y en la dirección de proyectos.

Queremos anunciar aquí que la delegación venezolana presentará en esta Conferencia una resolución solicitando la creación de un grupo de trabajo que se ocupe especialmente de la problemática de la mujer en el medio rural.

Finalmente, deseamos asimismo aprovechar esta oportunidad para anunciar la decisión de nuestro Gobierno de adherirse al compromiso que la FAO adelanta en relación con los recursos fitogenéticos.

Djama MAHAMOUD DOUALE (Djibouti): Je voudrais tout d'abord, au nom de Son Excellence le Président HASSAN GOULED APTIDON et en mon nom personnel, féliciter M. Edouard SAOUMA réélu au poste de Directeur général de la FAO. Cette élection répond à nos vœux de voir confirmer la politique d'étroite collaboration existant entre l'Organisation et le gouvernement de la République de Djibouti.

L'année 1987 est pour la République de Djibouti une année importante puisqu'elle marque l'entrée de notre jeune république dans sa deuxième décennie.

Cette année est aussi celle du renouvellement du mandat de son Président, Son Excellence HASSAN GOULED APTIDON, qui a été réélu pour six ans par la quasi-unanimité de la population.

Pour cette nouvelle décennie qui commence, la volonté politique est la continuité et le progrès dans l'effort déjà accompli. La priorité déjà donnée au secteur primaire et au développement rural est confirmée. L'accent est mis sur l'organisation et la planification de nos actions.

En 1985 je soulignais, à cette même Conférence, les points importants que nous souhaitons approfondir avec nos partenaires pour avancer dans notre lutte contre la faim et vers un développement harmonieux de notre société rurale.

Deux ans après, et en connaissance du bilan de notre première décennie après l'indépendance, nous sommes en mesure de mieux préciser les principaux thèmes d'action en milieu rural que nous serions heureux de voir aborder au cours de cette conférence conformément à son ordre du jour. Notre premier thème d'action en milieu rural est celui de la mise en valeur de notre patrimoine naturel.

Chacun connaît la fragilité de nos ressources, la faiblesse de la pluviométrie, la difficulté d'atteindre les nappes aquifères; à l'actif de la décennie écoulée nous pouvons inscrire une avancée significative en matière de lutte contre la soif et une meilleure estimation de nos ressources; il nous faut encore compléter nos connaissances dans ce domaine.

Mais il nous faut aussi enrayer le processus de désertification qui menace notre territoire et étendre nos premières expériences de conservation des eaux.

Il nous faut encore engager une action d'aménagement intégré sur l'ensemble de nos districts touchant nos espaces pastoraux et forestiers.

Il nous faut enfin compléter notre dispositif de protection de l'environnement pour lequel nous avons déjà préparé un cadre juridique.

Notre deuxième thème d'action en milieu rural est celui de la promotion des petites exploitations d'agriculteur, d'éleveur et de pêcheur.

Le phénomène dominant de la décennie écoulée a été celui de la sédentarisation partielle des populations semi-nomades éprouvées par la sécheresse. Des éleveurs tout en conservant un petit troupeau se sont mis à la culture irriguée des légumes et des fruits, certains se sont mis à la pêche artisanale. Nous voulons encourager ces initiatives individuelles, aider à leur organisation par le groupement des producteurs et le mouvement coopératif, faire en sorte que les populations prennent en main leur développement en créant des unités d'exploitation familiales économiques rentables. Ainsi nous retiendrons ces populations flottantes sur leurs terres et ralentirons l'exode rural qui menace notre capitale.

Pour cela il nous faut mettre en oeuvre les données de la recherche appliquée: pour la création de véritables oasis avec l'association des cultures maraîchères et fourragères, des arbres fruitiers et du palmier dattier - ainsi que pour la création d'un élevage sédentaire associé à l'agriculture. Il nous faut encore perfectionner nos moyens de pêche.

Il nous faut enfin permettre au système pastoral traditionnel, qui restera l'instrument prépondérant de la mise en valeur de la protection de nos espaces naturels, de s'organiser pour entrer véritablement dans une économie d'échange.

Voilà, Mesdames, Messieurs, quelles sont nos préoccupations et nos ambitions.

Nous entendons poursuivre notre effort et trouver, auprès de votre organisation, des éléments de réponses aux problèmes techniques et économiques que nous rencontrons.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Djibouti for his statement. Before continuing our work, I should like to say a word of special and warm welcome to a group of parliamentarians from the Federal Republic of Germany who have just arrived in this hall to make the acquaintance of our Organization and its work, which, as we all know, culminates in the Conference. We all know how important parliamentarians are, and I wish that they have a fair and good impression of the work we do and may go home with an even better feeling of support for the Organization. I wish them also a happy stay in Rome.

We will now continue our list of speakers. There was one distinguished representative of one country who has not had the floor before now. This is the distinguished representative of Pakistan. I would now like to invite him to pronounce his statement.

Afzal QADIR (Pakistan): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I apologise for not being able to take the floor earlier this morning when you had called for me. Extremely bad traffic had precluded my getting here in time. I thank you for your indulgence in giving me the floor now. Mr Chairman, may I begin by expressing our warmest felicitations to you on your election as Chairman of the 24th Session of the FAO General Conference. We look upon your election not as a matter of routine, but as an expression of our conviction that each and every member nation, regardless of its status as an agricultural country, has a constructive role to play in the work of this Organization. Mr Chairman, our sense of gratification at your election is heightened by the fact that you are an outstanding leader of Kuwait, a country with which we are bound by many indissoluble ties of history, culture and faith. We wish you, Mr Chairman, all success in your endeavours and assure you of every possible cooperation in the discharge of your responsibilities. I will take this opportunity to also felicitate the three distinguished Vice Chairmen, the representatives of the Netherlands, Bangladesh and Cape Verde, three countries with whom we also have very close, cordial and friendly relations. I also would like to extend to them our fullest cooperation in the work they are doing.

Mr Chairman, when we had assembled in Rome for the 23rd FAO Conference in 1985, it was the 40th anniversary of FAO, and the occasion was one of looking back, one of introspection and stock-taking. When we assemble now in 1987 for the 24th Conference, under your august chairmanship, the occasion is one when one must look ahead. As we look ahead, there is much that appears daunting and disturbing for the FAO, for the UN system, and the world at large. And this calls for a fresh resolve and a fresh vision. The FAO appears to be entering an unprecedented period of financial crisis, the UN system itself is under stress, and the world at large is bedevilled by a myriad of social, political and economic problems. Of course, Mr Chairman, in the vast kaleidoscope of issues and problems facing the world, the role and place of the FAO can, at best, be a relatively modest one. Yet, because FAO's activities directly or indirectly impinge upon the lives of thousands and millions of people around the world, especially the poorer and less privileged ones among them, FAO has a purposeful and significant function to perform. It is therefore important for us to preserve and enhance its role and function. The Organization seems to be entering into a difficult period, largely as a result of factors outside its control. But we are confident that under the dynamic leadership of Director-General Edouard Saouma, and with the fresh mandate he has now received, FAO will be able to surmount all difficulties and weather all storms. And, Mr Chairman, we would like to extend to Director-General Saouma, through you, our best wishes for his success in his endeavours in the future.

Mr Chairman, the immediate task facing the Organization relates to the passage of the Programme of Work and Budget. For the year 1988-89, Mr Chairman, Pakistan subscribes to the Programme proposed to the Conference, and we very much wish and hope that it will be adopted by consensus. The modest size of the programme should be acceptable to everyone. Also, its technical content, as reflected in the implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan and the Plan of Action on Fisheries, has already received the fullest possible support of member states. There are some other activities within the programme which we would also wish to strongly support - because of their future importance to developing countries. Among these are the work in support of biotechnology and the work of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

Mr Chairman, while a large part of our work in the Conference will be occupied with FAO's own internal financial, administrative and constitutional concerns, the Conference agenda will, at the same time, provide us an opportunity to reflect on the state of the world in which we live and must act.

The state of food and agriculture in the world today, and its prospects up to the year 2000, will also be matters for serious attention during the Conference. Mr Chairman, while the vision of a world of plenty in food is realizable, even the basic necessities and needs of life elude the majority of mankind. Among the necessities, food obviously stands at the top. It was with the utmost anguish that we had noted at the last session of the World Food Council in Beijing, that the incidence of hunger and malnutrition in the world has in fact accelerated in the 80s compared to the previous decade. It is obviously imperative that not only the world's conscience is awakened to the human gravity of the problem, but also urgent and effective remedies are adopted to solve these problems. While the goal of technical advancement and increase in agricultural production need to be constantly pursued, it is being increasingly realized that unless the problem of poverty and lack of purchasing power of the poor is successfully tackled, hunger and malnutrition will continue to persist, and possibly worsen. In this respect, the WCARRD Programme of Action, whose progress we will be reviewing during this session, is of great importance. We have to recognize that the stupendous problem of poverty and hunger has to be tackled mainly by the developing countries themselves, not only through increased production but also through more equitable distribution and increased levels of employment and incomes. External food aid, and the judicious utilization of the vast food surplus existing in the developed part of the world today, can play a useful role, especially in emergency situations. But, given the magnitude of the food problem and the limited size of food aid flows in relation to total world food consumption, the dent that food aid can make in solving the overall problem is rather limited - though it may be of considerable localized importance. A good example of its utility of food aid and importance is available from our own country, where the timely food assistance provided by the international donor community through the WFP and the UNHCR for the Afghan refugees in Pakistan, has proved to be of great humanitarian value. We would like to take this opportunity to record once again our sincere appreciation to the donors and to the WFP and UNHCR for what they have done.

Mr Chairman, it has to be acknowledged, as has already been stressed by several delegates, that suitable policies and solutions to problems have to be found by the developing countries themselves within the context of their individual, special, and sometimes unique, circumstances. But at the same time, the international organizations and community of nations also have a role to play in this respect. FAO's role in policy advice, information, dissemination and technical assistance is of course a foremost example. But one can mention other international organizations as well. To name only one, from our own region, CIRDAP, the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, which was established in Bangladesh in 1979 at the initiative of FAO, has been playing a useful role in assisting national action and promoting regional cooperation in rural development through exchange of research results, training and dissemination of information.

Mr Chairman, I thought I would mention a word about CIRDAP because of the well-known fact that the Governing Council of CIRDAP will meet in December 1987 in Islamabad. This Council meeting will be inaugurated by the President himself. The fact that the President will inaugurate this function testifies to the importance we in Pakistan attach to this Organization. Having made an assessment of the usefulness of the role of CIRDAP, it will be our expectation, it will be our hope, that the donor countries will come forward with donations so that this Organization becomes financially viable. We would also like to ask the countries of the area embraced by CIRDAP who are not members of the Organization to join it or those countries who used to be members in the past but are no longer so, should do the same, giving the Centre in Dhaka a helping hand in the service of the rural poor.

Mr Chairman, we feel that there still remains a tremendous scope for further cooperation between the international bodies working in the field of food and agriculture such as the FAO, IFAD, WFP, etc. Cooperation between FAO and IFAD, as exemplified in the work of FAO's Investment Centre, and between FAO and WFP as exemplified by co-financed projects in which WFP provides food resources for the labour component of IFAD's development projects, are good examples of collaboration between international organizations. We urge further collaborations of this nature in future.

Mr Chairman, neither the individual and collective efforts of international organizations, nor the political will and actions of the developing countries themselves, can resolve some of the unpropitious features of the international environment that exist today and are creating obstacles in the solution to the problems of food and poverty in the developing countries. The external trade environment facing the developing countries is a major stumbling block to their development. Protectionist policies in many developed parts of the world are shutting out exports of developing

countries, in respect even of those commodities in which they enjoy a comparative advantage. In this respect, some expectation (and we hope not a flimsy expectation!) can be pinned on the-current "Uruguay Round" of multilateral trade negotiations under GATT. All countries should be urged to play a positive role in matters of trade, and repudiate the sort of beggar-thy-neighbour policies that are now being pursued in many quarters. The FAO, through its work in the field of commodities, and in its monitoring and follow-up of the Uruguay Round, should exert the maximum possible influence to open up the world markets for the food and agricultur.il products of developing countries. Under the prevailing trade and commodities situation in the world, it would be a pity if the work of the Trade and Commodities Division of FAO and its Intergovernmental Groups were to be curtailed - as indeed is being proposed due to the financial squeeze.

Mr Chairman, the surplus food situation in the world to which we are becoming accustomed since the last few years, now appears to be showing some signs of strain. In Africa, famine still lurks in the background while in Asia, after a happy hiatus, food shortage appears to be rearing its head again. In some parts of Asia, including parts of my country, there has been an unprecedented drought; while in some other parts, there have been' unprecedented floods. With crop failures in parts of Asia, and production cutbacks in some important food surplus countries, the food supply position in the world could be heading towards some difficulty. Though it is too early to raise a general alarm, it is a timely warning against taking food self-sufficiency in over-populated Asia, and food surplus in the world as a whole, for granted.

Mr Chairman, I am on the point of concluding my statement and I will not take more than two minutes.

In my country, Mr Chairman, the crop sector has been performing well over the past many years. Both the main food crop, wheat, and the main cash crop, cotton, have reached record levels of output. Also, rice, our main foreign exchange earner, reached a record level of production last year. Because of the good crops, and the consequent build-up of stocks, the government was able to embark on a policy of deregulation of internal trade in these major food crops. This year, however, because of severe drought in some parts of the country, and a generally dry spell and erratic weather in most parts, the sugar-cane, rice and coarse grain crops have been adversely affected. But the cotton crop remains intact, and a bumper harvest is expected.

Mr Chairman, our aims and policies for the future, in the food sector, will be: to accelerate the pace of modernization of agriculture to increase the yields per acre of crops; consolidate our present self-sufficiency in grains, make a determined effort to regain self-sufficiency in sugar, and reduce our dependence on imported edible oil; diversify our agriculture towards high value fruit and vegetable crops; and provide an improved policy framework and supporting infrastructure and services for the livestock sector in order to bring about a major transformation in the productivity of this sector.

Mr Chairman, we are conscious that productivity increased and overall self-sufficiency in aggregate food production cannot in themselves be enough to ensure food security to all our peoples. To achieve the objective of food security the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has launched a Five Point Programme in the country designed to bring about a transformation in the life of our poor people living in the rural areas through social and economic upliftment projects. Mr Chairman, the programme is aimed at generating rural income, provision of facilities for health, housing, education, drinking water, roads and electricity to the rural areas of the country. Mr Chairman, the reason why the Prime Minister took this bold initiative introducing the Five Point Programme was because of his assessment that over the years the condition of the poor people living in the rural areas has been neglected, and that our development has been urban-biased to the detriment of 75 percent of the people who inhabit the rural areas, and the Prime Minister realizes that a reliable democratic process can only be ushered in the country when these people in the rural areas play a meaningful role in the affairs of the State, untrammelled by poverty, malnutrition and disease.

Mr Chairman, with this brief description of the efforts and achievements in our country, I would like to end my statement. But I cannot do so without hoping and praying that this Conference will be a successful one, and our deliberations in the Plenary under your able guidance, as well as in all the Commissions of the Conference, will proceed in a fruitful and harmonious manner.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le Secrétariat a reçu deux interventions avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal dans le cadre du débat général. Il s'agit d'une part d'une déclaration de Son Excellence le Ministre du développement rural de la République centrafricaine qui n'a pas été en mesure de prononcer sa déclaration en plénière, d'autre part, d'une déclaration du Secrétariat du Commonwealth.

Si la Conférence n'y voit pas d'objection et avec votre autorisation, Monsieur le Président, nous ferons insérer ses déclarations dans le compte rendu.

Théodore BAGUA-YAMBO (République centrafricaine): Cette 24ème session de la Conférence de la FAO se tient à un moment décisif pour l'Afrique. En même temps qu'elle devait faire face à ces problèmes immédiats tels que la sécheresse, la menace acridienne, la peste bovine, la malnutrition, l'analphabétisme, le continent se trouve confronté à une crise aiguë due principalement aux doubles effets de la chute du prix des matières premières, et de la baisse du cours du dollar réduisant davantage les ressources financières des Etats africains, déjà ployés sous ce poids de l'endettement.

Il y a dix-sept mois, en effet, la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies révélait les véritables dimensions de cette situation critique du continent.

Cette assemblée générale affirmait, avec une vigueur exceptionnelle, que le développement économique de l'Afrique ne peut se réaliser qu'en accordant une priorité à l'agriculture.

Mon pays, la République centrafricaine, est un pays essentiellement agricole. Il bénéficie de conditions naturelles favorables à une économie rurale diversifiée. Si aujourd'hui mon pays apparaît comme une terre d'espoir, c'est bien parce que nous avons compris que pour un pays qui ne connaît pas le miracle pétrolier, la révolution verte demeure sûrement la voie principale de la réussite.

Le secteur rural centrafricain en 1986 représente près de 41 pour cent du produit intérieur brut, fournit environ 60 pour cent des recettes d'exportation et fait vivre 85 pour cent de la population. Le Plan quinquennal que nous venons de présenter au mois de juin dernier à la table ronde de Genève prévoit que 26 pour cent des investissements seront dirigés vers le secteur rural.

Suite à cette table ronde, une réunion thématique sur ledit secteur est prévue à Bangui, capitale de la République centrafricaine au deuxième trimestre de l'année 1988. Il y sera défini, avec les bailleurs de fonds de Centrairique, la stratégie sectorielle du développement rural avec la mise en place d'une programmation pluriannuelle glissante appuyée sur des évaluations complètes et des estimations plus précises des charges récurrentes des projets envisagés.

J'évoquais tantôt la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Lors de cette Assemblée générale, il avait été adopté, le 1er juin 1986, par consensus, un programme d'action intitulé "Programme d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique 1986-1990". De surcroît, toujours dans le cadre de cette session extraordinaire, les pays africains et la communauté internationale ont décidé de s'engager résolument sur la voie du développement "dans un esprit de partenariat et sur un pied d'égalité". Or, que constatons-nous un an après l'adoption de ce programme d'action? La situation économique de nombreux pays africains s'est détériorée en raison d'un certain nombre de facteurs exogènes notamment l'augmentation de la charge de la dette et la dégradation des prix des produits de base qui a entraîné pour ces pays une diminution importante de leurs recettes d'exportation. Il est extrêmement urgent de rechercher des solutions à ces problèmes afin de réduire les difficultés que bon nombre de gouvernements africains, parmi lesquels celui de la République centrafricaine, rencontrent dans la mise en oeuvre des programmes de réforme et d'ajustements structurels.

L'étude de la FAO sur l'agriculture africaine largement débattue et approuvée à la Conférence régionale de la FAO à Yamoussoukro en septembre 1986 avance une conclusion essentielle. Je cite: "L'Afrique pourrait produire beaucoup plus et satisfaire la plus grande partie de ses besoins alimentaires... l'utilisation accrue d'intrants et de moyens de production plus efficaces constituerait la base d'un tel progrès". Fin de citation. Mais la situation qui prévaut actuellement sur la majeure partie du continent devient de plus en plus tributaire de l'environnement international.

Le cas de la République centrafricaine est assez symptomatique des éléments de la situation que je viens d'évoquer et que je me permets de vous exposer.

En juin 1987, le FMI a approuvé en faveur de la République centrafricaine un accord de confirmation de 12 mois portant sur 8 millions de DTS ainsi qu'un accord de 3 ans au titre de la facilité d'ajustement structurel (FAS) portant sur 14,3 millions de DTS. Depuis lors, les recettes d'exportation ont présenté une forte baisse par rapport aux prévisions en raison de l'effondrement des cours mondiaux de nos principaux produits d'exportation: café, coton, tabac, bois, ce qui a contribué aux difficultés d'application du Programme d'ajustement macro-économique et structurel à moyen terme. En outre, malgré des mesures correctives adoptées au deuxième semestre pour accroître les recettes budgétaires, les recettes ordinaires de l'Etat pour l'ensemble de l'exercice n'ont pas atteint le montant inscrit au programme, de sorte que les finances publiques ont accusé un déficit plus élevé que prévu.

Face aux exigences de cette situation économique et financière défavorable, nous avons pris d'importantes mesures dans le cadre d'un Programme d'ajustement en plus des actions de stabilisation pour contenir le déséquilibre extérieur et chercher à obtenir un redressement financier des secteurs productifs de l'économie conformément au Plan quinquennal 1986-1990. Ledit Programme d'ajustement structurel repose sur trois orientations statistiques fondamentales:

- premièrement: création d'un climat propice aux initiatives privées;
- deuxièmement: désengagement progressif des entreprises et organismes publics des secteurs productifs et commerciaux, parallèlement à l'amélioration de la gestion des entreprises maintenues dans le secteur public;
- troisièmement: amélioration de la gestion des ressources publiques, grâce à la réduction du déficit budgétaire de l'administration centrale et à l'extension d'un programme d'investissement bien conçu.

L'ajustement budgétaire sera renforcé par la réforme de la Fonction publique et du système éducatif. Le gouvernement décide à cet effet de constituer un Fonds destiné à fournir des encouragements financiers aux agents de l'Etat qui quittent la Fonction publique, en particulier à ceux qui envisagent de créer une entreprise agro-sylvo-pastorale ou d'exercer une profession libérale quelconque; l'appui financier des donateurs contribuerait au succès de cette initiative, car les ressources propres du pays sont limitées, le montant des aides ayant stagné depuis 5 ans, alors que le volume de nos investissements a quasiment triplé en 1985 et 1986.

L'assistance financière de la communauté internationale sous forme de nouveaux dons et prêts concessionnels extérieurs est l'un des éléments essentiels à la réalisation des objectifs du programme de la République centrafricaine. Il est clair que la stratégie de croissance de mon pays ne connaîtra pas de succès sans apports adéquats des donateurs au financement du Programme d'investissement.

A cet égard, le Président de la République centrafricaine, président-fondateur du Rassemblement démocratique centrafricain, le Général d'armée André Kolingba, devait déclarer à l'occasion de la table ronde de Genève, je cite: "Au niveau international, les deux conditions nécessaires pour que la République centrafricaine puisse se développer sont:

- premièrement: une amélioration sensible des cours mondiaux de nos principaux produits d'exportation, notamment, ceux du coton, du café et du bois.
 - deuxièmement: une augmentation des flux financiers sous forme de dons et de prêts à conditions douces".
- Fin de citation.

Monsieur le président.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

A l'ordre du jour de cette 24^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO, il est également inscrit, outre la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, l'état de l'ajustement agricole international, des points comme la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, l'étude de faisabilité sur l'élargissement de l'aide en nature sous forme d'intrants agricoles, le rôle des femmes dans le développement agricole, etc.

La bonne alimentation est un souci permanent du Gouvernement centrafricain qui ne cesse de mener depuis ces dernières années des campagnes de sensibilisation dans ce sens. La participation de la FAO à la J.M.A., depuis son instauration en 1981, a été plus que matérielle. Au fil des ans, la J.M.A. a pris des dimensions considérables en République centrafricaine. Cette manifestation a été même institutionnalisée et a été jumelée, depuis le 16 octobre 1985, à la fête annuelle des moissons où prennent part, dans une liesse traditionnellement africaine, d'importantes délégations de la masse rurale de toutes les préfectures du pays.

A propos de l'aide en nature, il est extrêmement urgent de dresser le bilan des résultats, d'évaluer ce que pourraient fournir les pays industrialisés et d'étudier les bases de l'élargissement éventuel d'une telle aide. J'évoquais tantôt le faible niveau d'emprunt et l'insuffisance de l'aide internationale aux pays africains pour relancer leur politique agricole; il faut un appui de la communauté internationale dans les quatre domaines décisifs du développement agricole que la FAO a appelés les quatre "i": incitations, intrants, institutions et infrastructures. Ce n'est pas du blé ou du riz que nos agriculteurs ont besoin. Une telle aide n'encourage que le chômage, la paresse et le ralentissement, voire même l'arrêt du processus d'industrialisation amorcé par les pays en développement. Ce qu'il nous faut, ce sont des engrais, des pesticides, des outils agricoles, des chaînes d'attelage, des moyens de transport sans oublier leur maintenance.

Voilà, Mesdames et Messieurs, les quelques réflexions que j'ai tenu à apporter à nos débats en ce moment opportun et crucial et qui pourraient contribuer à renverser certaines tendances défavorables qui continuent à prévaloir sur l'économie de nos pays caractérisée déjà par son faible taux de croissance, les déséquilibres des finances publiques et la balance des paiements ainsi que le faible taux d'investissement. Le souhait de mon pays est de rechercher des solutions à court, moyen et long termes aux problèmes de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en coopération avec des partenaires loyaux et surtout dans un cadre comme celui qui nous est offert présentement

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J.K. MUTHAMA (Observer for the Commonwealth Secretariat): The Commonwealth Secretariat feels honoured by the invitation to participate in the deliberations of the 24th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization as an observer and to reaffirm its strong links with FAO. It is particularly gratifying for us to be here and reaffirm our long standing association in the common cause of assisting developing countries in their efforts to abolish poverty and improve the quality of life of rural people.

It may be recalled that the traditional biennial meeting of the Commonwealth Agriculture Ministers which is normally held before the FAO Conference was held this year on 6th November in these very premises and over 40 countries who are also members of the FAO participated in that meeting. Commonwealth Secretariat is grateful to the FAO for the facilities extended to it for holding this meeting.

The Commonwealth as you know, Mr Chairman, is a voluntary intergovernmental organization and the functions of its Secretariat are mainly consultative. Among its 49 members, who represent one-quarter of the world population, there is a wealth of experience reflecting different stages of development. Further, in view of our historical links, shared language and traditions and special relations with governments of member countries, we are in a unique position to play a catalytic and gap-filling role in their development efforts. While our efforts may be modest in terms of material resources, they are significant, particularly in the area of human resources development through providing training, technical assistance and fostering cooperation and facilitating exchange of experience and thus complementing the efforts of other agencies.

As regards the work of the Secretariat, during the last two years most of the activities of the Secretariat have been focussed on Commonwealth Africa. As a follow up to the report of the Commonwealth Action Group, which submitted its report in August 1985, and which was subsequently endorsed by the Commonwealth Agricultural Ministers and Commonwealth Heads of Government in Nassau, the Secretariat initiated a number of programmes and activities aimed at assisting African member countries.

1/ ——— Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

It may be recalled that in his presentation of the Annual Report of FAO, the Director-General has made a reference to the Brundage Commission and its work in the area of Conservation for Sustained Development. The Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat was a member of this Commission and the Secretariat proposes to follow up the recommendations of this Commission. The recent meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government held in Vancouver has endorsed a report on Conservation for Sustained Development prepared by the Commonwealth Secretariat and has urged the Secretary-General to initiate action to implement the recommendations of this report. The Secretariat is at present actively engaged in implementing these recommendations. We are looking forward to a fruitful collaboration with FAO in this venture.

The Secretariat continues to provide technical assistance to member countries in terms of experts in a number of fields, to facilitate cooperation and exchange of experience in developing countries.

Some of the other activities organised by the Secretariat in the last two years are:

- Regional workshop on food production strategies for the Caribbean, Barbados;
- Training course on diagnostic and design of conservation strategies for smallholder farmers, Malawi ;
- Workshop on food supply information systems for Commonwealth Africa, India; and
- Workshop on small farmer comprehensive programme for Commonwealth Africa, Bangladesh.

Some of the areas identified by the Commonwealth Secretariat for special attention in the next two years are Conservation for Sustainable Development, Agricultural Diversification, Agricultural Services and Fisheries.

While the major focus of attention of the Secretariat in the recent past has been on Africa, activities in other regions of the Commonwealth are also being continued. The work of the Secretariat in Asia and the Pacific is being mainly looked after by the Consultative Group for Asia and the Pacific, which is based in Sri Lanka. During the last years, the "Group has organized activities in seed development, extension, small farmer development, dryland farming, etc. Its major focus has been on sponsoring short-term study visits for officials of member countries for commodity-specific studies in other countries of the region. The participants in most of these activities have been functionaries from small island states in the Pacific.

I hope this brief account of the activities carried out by the Secretariat in the recent past will illustrate the scope and potential for collaboration between the Secretariat and FAO.

We are grateful to FAO for their assistance in the implementation of our activities and look forward to a closer and more fruitful collaboration in future ^{1/}.

Mfanasckaya GQOBOSE (Pan Africanist Congress of Azania): Allow me on behalf of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) to congratulate you and the members of the Bureau elected to preside and conduct the affairs of this Session until it ends its work. Under your able hands we can perform our own work here with confidence.

The PAC further wishes to congratulate Mr Edouard Saouma upon his election for another six year term. The National Liberation Movements in Southern Africa, of which PAC is one, have for many years admired the tireless efforts of Mr Saouma in assisting these Movements. We are looking forward to another six years of fruitful cooperation with FAO through him. And we are certain that the needs of the National Liberation Movements in agriculture and food production will be served even better than in previous years. As a servant of over 150 Member States of FAO, Mr Saouma reflects the understanding and assistance which all these States provide to the National Liberation Movements. In this respect the PAC wishes to put on record that FAO could never have found a more dedicated man than Mr Saouma.

^{1/} Statement inserted in the Verbatim records on request.

Mr Chairman, the PAC has for many years benefited from FAO in technical and professional services rendered to us. The economic policy of PAC as a National Liberation Movement which is striving to be a future Government of Azania is firmly based on self-reliance with priority given to self-sufficiency in food. We believe that in our country the African people, after winning their freedom from racist political oppression, must also be freed from the oppression of hunger. The liberation struggle is teaching us, as well as experiences throughout Africa and other parts of the world, that hunger is an enemy that cannot be defeated by arms, guerrilla warfare nor even by revolution but by hard work of the sons and daughters of a country on their own farms and pastures. Consequently members of PAC in exile are engaged in self-reliance projects of various kinds in a farm settlement which the Government of Tanzania has allocated to us. Naturally we give priority to food production; first, to be able to feed ourselves and cease to be a burden on the host country and secondly: while in exile to qualify in agricultural skills which will be of use to us in our country after liberation. With these two considerations it can be appreciated therefore why PAC values the technical assistance we receive from FAO.

Mr Chairman, in our farm settlement in Tanzania we are already engaged in development projects of which agricultural activities are paramount. We have cultivated and produced rice, maize, sorghum, cowpeas, pineapples and bananas. Poultry has been introduced and is being sold for profit. Dairy cattle, piggery and fullscale horticulture will be introduced next year. Educationally we have 12 students in training at schools of agriculture in Tanzania and in other countries in Africa. They are taking different types of courses including agro-mechanics which is important to us because of the increasing inputs we receive in agricultural machinery, tractors, trailers, ploughs, planters, road scrapers and lately a bulldozer.

Mr Chairman, the settlement farm we are developing is meant to be a self-contained establishment consisting of agricultural activities, residential buildings, schools; health care centre, childrens'home, food storage facilities, outdoor and indoor activities etc. The construction of this village-type settlement was begun on the basis of a Plan drawn up by us for low-cost housing schemes. The relationship between agricultural activities and the construction of the village is the achievement of self-reliance since people living in the settlement must be self-sufficient in food.

Mr Chairman, the importance of assistance which FAO provides to National Liberation Movements in our country is not confined only to technical assistance. It is far greater than that if we realize that in our country 87 percent of the richest land is occupied by only 5 million white minority racists, while only 13 percent of the poorest land is occupied by 32 million Africans. The effect of this on the land occupied by Africans is heavy soil erosion, desertification and all other environmental hazards on the part of the soil, and hunger, poverty and disease on the part of the African people. Such conditions cannot fail to have an impact on FAO. Hence the importance of its technical assistance to National Liberation Movements and through them the African people. Under these conditions FAO is adding its contribution to the salvation of our people. This is the greater part FAO is playing.

We whose country has been usurped by the white minority racists, have been deprived of proper education to develop our human capabilities because of the existence of the politically abominable system of apartheid which regards all people who are not white as inferior and therefore not worthy of human dignity. Training in all aspects of agriculture which FAO is offering is therefore very vital to us.

Mr Chairman, the white minority racist regime, in order to entrench its hegemony in the whole of Southern Africa, has for some time been heavily engaged in the destabilization of the frontline states. It does this by supporting with arms and other war materials its puppets, the NMR in Mozambique and Unita in Angola.

As I am speaking at this moment, Mr Chairman, the white minority racist army is fighting the Angolan army in its own territory. And for the arrogance of it all, the racist President P.W. Botha a few days ago visited Angola in person to encourage the invasion by his troops of a foreign country. This is the glaring manifestation of destabilization. As a result the people in these countries are afflicted with hunger, malnutrition and disease.

This destabilization policy of the white minority racist regime has an effect on FAO because of the consequences of hunger and the environmental causes it brings about. In addition, Mr. Chairman, the racist regime invades the territories of these frontline states on the pretext of seeking for so-called terrorists whom they say want to enter racist South Africa. They kill the nationals of these countries and destroy their properties. In the process they also kill refugees from South Africa who have been granted legal status to reside in these countries. Again the pretext is that these refugees are terrorists, when they carry no weapons. The racist regime has unleashed a reign of terror in the whole region of Southern Africa. It is fully armed with all modern weapons. Seemingly it looks very powerful, but in fact it is weak because the balance sheet of moral imperatives is against it. Even its cousins Britain, West Germany and the United States who fully support it economically through massive investments and other business dealings and militarily through sanctions busting, are struggling with their consciences in the face of daily atrocities committed by their proteges in Southern Africa.

But, Mr Chairman, we wish to remind these cousins of the white minority racists in our country that no people has ever been oppressed for ever, that the African peoples are certain to win their freedom, and that the countries supporting the white minority racists will lose all their interests and influence in our country.

Finally, Mr Chairman, the PAC wishes to pay tribute to FAO for its excellent work world-wide especially in the trouble spots of the Middle East where the Zionists are committing atrocities against the Palestinian people as led by the PLO and in Southern Africa where the white minority racists are similarly engaged against the African people. The PAC and the PLO are engaged in a common cause against common enemies who have common backers.

I wish to encourage FAO to continue to assist National Liberation Movements and the PLO with full confidence. FAO provides assistance as a technical not a political body. The National Liberation Movements who are engaged in armed struggle need FAO's expertise not to use it politically or militarily. We have other friends who assist us with weapons to wage armed struggle. FAO must continue with its noble task of contributing to the elimination of hunger in the world for the benefit of all mankind.

ATIM Shamsui HAQUE (Observer for the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific)

Please allow me at the very outset to join the learned speakers before me in extending warm felicitations to you, Mr Chairman, and to the three Vice-Chairmen for your unanimous election to these offices and for conducting the proceedings of the Plenary Meetings so ably. Our heartiest congratulations to Mr Edouard Saouma on his re-election as the Director-General of FAO. We are confident that his continued leadership will enable the Organization to further gain in strength and stature.

I represent CIRDAP, the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific. This regional, intergovernmental and autonomous organization was set up in July 1979 by the Asia-Pacific countries at the initiative of FAO and with support from the concerned UN agencies and donors. Its headquarters are in Dhaka, Bangladesh. At present there are eleven member countries of CIRDAP - five from South Asia - Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and six from South East Asia - Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. A number of other countries of the Asia-Pacific region, although not yet members of CIRDAP, participate in the activities of the Centre.

CIRDAP is mandated to assist national action, promote regional cooperation and act as a servicing institution for its member countries with respect to integrated rural development. The principal objective of CIRDAP is to help alleviate rural poverty through people's participation in the development process and through research, action research, training and information dissemination, CIRDAP tries to achieve its objectives. The Centre functions through a network of link institutions in its member countries with the aim, in particular, of improving the production, income and living conditions of small-scale farmers and other needy rural groups. CIRDAP, whose creation coincided with the WCARRD, promotes exchange of experience and analysis in agrarian reform and rural development opinion among developing countries in line with the programme of action developed by WCARRD, whose follow-up action will be discussed in the course of this Conference.

The research projects of CIRDAP deal with key issues of rural development in general, and of integrated rural development in particular. Of late, more and more emphasis is being given on action-oriented programmes. Starting from 1986, CIRDAP has been offering regular training courses on various aspects of rural development. CIRDAP has recently initiated video documentations of success stories in rural development, and has completed a project on the state of the art, a report on rural development.

Mr Chairman, FAO and the Government of Japan have been supporting CIRDAP from its inception. The Centre has recently begun to have collaborative programmes with, among others, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Asia and Pacific Development Centre, the UN International Research and Training for the Advancement for Women, the Ford Foundation, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Asian Development Bank and the Government of the Netherlands.

The first ever Ministers' Meeting on Rural Development in Asia-Pacific, organized by CIRDAP in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh, was held in Dhaka in April this year. The highlight of the meeting was the adoption of the Dhaka Declaration on Rural Development which underscored the significance of regional co-operation in rural development. In the Dhaka Declaration, the Ministers of the Asia-Pacific Region appreciated the performance of CIRDAP and called on the international community to provide all support to strengthen the role of the Centre. They also invited other countries of the Asia-Pacific Region to join the CIRDAP family. To strengthen rural development activities both at national and regional levels, on a sustained basis, the Ministers emphasized the importance of having a formal ministerial forum to exchange knowledge, experience and expertise, and to provide quality guidelines in the sphere of rural development.

The next meeting of the CIRDAP Governing Council, as already stated by the distinguished representative of Pakistan, is to be held in Islamabad in the first half of December 1987. It will be attended by a number of Ministers from the CIRDAP member countries. The President of Pakistan has agreed to inaugurate the meeting.

Coinciding with this meeting, the Government of Bangladesh has allowed the historic Chameli House in the heart of the city of Dhaka, worth about \$3 million, for the permanent headquarters of CIRDAP. The President of Bangladesh laid the foundation stone of the multistorey building during the meeting.

It will be recalled that the CIRDAP member countries have already agreed to enhance their contribution to CIRDAP in what has now come to be known as the Jakarta formula. A six-member evaluation team led by Professor Hiroyuki Nishimura of Japan has just concluded an evaluation of CIRDAP activities. The team observed that compared to other similar bodies set up in the last decade, our performance has been commendable. Our projects and related activities have been considered to be in the right direction.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, may I draw your attention to the message sent by Mr Saouma on the occasion of the Bangladesh-CIRDAP meeting. The Director-General stated that the establishment of CIRDAP was an important step in the collaborative efforts in rural development of the countries of the Asia-Pacific Region. An inter-governmental organization like CIRDAP was a strong complement to the efforts of the United Nations system in promoting rural development. The role of CIRDAP in promoting regional cooperation had been well recognized and FAO was proud of its financial and administrative support to CIRDAP. FAO was also glad to cooperate with the innovative programmes of CIRDAP on landlessness, women in development and the monitoring and evaluation of agrarian reform and rural development.

On the same occasion, the distinguished representative of the Government of Japan stated that the two basic thoughts lying behind the Japanese financial support to CIRDAP were the expectation of improvement in the lives of the rural poor of the region through the well-thought-out activities of the Centre, and the belief that a predominantly rural economy could never be developed without a major breakthrough in rural development.

Against the backdrop of what has been said, I fervently appeal through you, Mr Chairman, to the CIRDAP member countries, to the Director-General of FAO, and to the donor countries' agencies to provide adequate support to CIRDAP to enable the Centre to further intensify its efforts in helping to alleviate rural poverty, thereby improving the quality of life of the teeming millions in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Chairman, may I avail myself of this opportunity to thank the delegates who have referred to the role and activities of CIRDAP in their statements.

CHAIRMAN: We have come to the end of the list of speakers. I have had a request from the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to insert his statement in the verbatim record of today because he is not in a position to deliver his speech orally. This brings us not only to the end of the programme for this morning, but also to the end of the general debate. We are pleased to see that we are half-a-day ahead of the timetable.

Syed SHARIFUDDIN PIRZADA (Observer for the Organization of the Islamic Conference): It is an honour and a privilege for me to address the 24th Session of the General Conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. I would like to express my profound gratitude to you Mr Chairman and to His Excellency Mr Edouard Saouma, the Director-General of the FAO for inviting me to speak on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference which has a membership of 46 Muslim countries, all of whom belong to the Third World.

Allow me, Mr Chairman to congratulate you on your well-deserved election as the Chairman of the current Session of the General Conference of the FAO. I am sure that under your wise and experienced guidance, this Session will adopt far-reaching recommendations and plans to banish the threat of famine, hunger and malnutrition from our planet.

May I also avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency Mr Edouard Saouma on behalf of the OIC and on my own behalf, on his re-election as the head of the FAO for a third term of office. I am confident that under his able and dynamic stewardship the FAO will continue to move towards the achievement of the noble objectives for which it was established more than four decades ago.

I would like to compliment the Director-General for his frank and forthright appraisal of the situation in the field of food and agriculture as contained in his Report to the Conference. The high level of the debate during the past few days has clearly demonstrated the determination of the Organization and its Member States to overcome the major problems in the field of food and agriculture through effective planning, policies and programmes.

The current Session of the FAO General Conference is taking place against the backdrop of serious and continuing threat of famine, hunger and malnutrition in the developing world, particularly the least developed countries of Africa and Asia. The problem of food and agriculture has to be viewed in the overall context of the economic situation of the developing world which continues to be bleak. The development plans of the under-developed countries have been inhibited and curtailed in the face of increased protectionist measures, limited export earnings, higher import bills, adverse terms of trade, reduced international assistance and accumulated debt burdens. As a result the urgently required resources for essential investments in the agricultural sector leading to increased production have not been available to the necessary extent. It is a pity that the more affluent nations seem to be indifferent to this situation and are unwilling to support solutions which would wipe out these scourges from the life of people all over the world.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference, whose Member States are developing countries, with a large majority having agro-based economies, has since its inception, been dealing with the problems of food security and agricultural development. The Plan of Action to strengthen economic cooperation which was adopted at the Third Islamic Summit Conference in 1981 and which has since then served as the basis for economic cooperation activities of the Organization, has given the highest priority to food and agriculture. The Plan of Action deals with the problems of food security, the need to create regional food reserves, the establishment of agro-based and agro-related industries, improvement of agricultural infrastructure and transport facilities and assistance to Member States affected by natural calamities and natural phenomena such as desertification, deforestation, water-logging and salinity.

The Casablanca Summit Conference held in 1984 and the Kuwait Summit Conference held in 1987, as well as the Ministerial Meetings on Food Security and Agricultural Development of the OIC Member States and the Coordination meetings held in Rome during FAO General Conferences have discussed these issues and adopted programmes of cooperation for the Member States involving exchange of information and expertise, compilation and preparation of studies on key agricultural issues and other cooperative measures in order to develop a coordinated approach to food security and agricultural issues. These efforts, Mr Chairman, are meant to benefit not only the Member States of the OIC but also other, developing and least developed countries.

While there has been some progress in the international production of food specially in Asia and Latin America, including the Islamic countries, during the last decade, the rise in domestic food production could not keep pace with the rapid increases in population. Unfavourable agro-ecological conditions, under-utilization of existing land resources, lack of proper education and absence of advanced farming equipment and implements, coupled with a shortage of funds necessary for land reclamation and improved irrigation projects were other factors responsible for this situation. The failure to raise domestic production to the level required for meeting the domestic demand for food in some OIC countries, led to a rapid rise in the import of food and other agricultural commodities, while exports lagged behind, leading to ever-growing deficits on this account. Consequently, a number of our-Member States still face acute food deficit problems which acquired grave proportions in the case of African countries, particularly those of the Sahel, adversely affected by the drought of recent years.

FAO's programme and activities are geared to the achievement of sustained increases in the production of food and agriculture in the developing world, and the cooperation between the OIC and the FAO in these problem areas has proved beneficial. FAO, together with the International Fund for Agricultural Development, has supported the work of the OIC in these areas. The Islamic Conference hopes to continue to draw upon the vast expertise of FAO in the implementation phase of its own Programme of Action and is ready to extend full cooperation to FAO in its activities.

The Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference are determined to attain food self-sufficiency in collaboration with other developing countries and to invest the necessary human, material and financial resources to support efforts in this direction. A coherent set of measures

has been devised and a common strategy evolved. I am sure that the deliberations of this Session will further contribute to bring about food autarky and agricultural self-sufficiency, in the developing world, including the Islamic World. This is a gigantic undertaking and I pray that our joint endeavours will succeed.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you once again for giving me this opportunity to address this august gathering.^{1/}

RIGHT OF REPLY

DROIT DE REPONSE

DERECHO DE REPLICA

John Cook (United States of America): Mr Chairman, the United States of America wishes to exercise its right of reply. My delegation strongly rejects the statement by the representative of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, in which he made reference to the United States while discussing matters not on the Agenda of this Conference. The United States delegation regrets that statements of such a political nature were delivered here, as they are not appropriate to this forum.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45 I

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas

^{1/} Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 87/PV/16

Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARYVingt-quatrième session
PLENIERE24° período de sesiones
PLENARIASIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
16ª SESION PLENARIA

(20 November 1987)

The Sixteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.30 hours,Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Chairman of the Conference, presidingLa seizième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 30,sous la présidence de Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, président de la ConférenceSe abre la 16ª sesión plenaria a las 10.30 horas bajo lapresidencia de Faisal Abduí-Razzak Al-Khaled, Presidente de la Conferencia

ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY PART I (from Commission II)
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE PREMIERE PARTIE (de la Commission II)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA- PARTE I(de la Comisión II)

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): During this morning's session we have before us the Adoption of Commission II Report on Item 13. Item 13 involves the Programme of Work and Budget 1988-89 and the Medium-Term Objectives. The documents are C 87/REP/1 and C 87/REP/1-Sup.1.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: A la Commission II, la délégation des Etats-Unis d'Amérique avait-exprimé le désir d'être associée aux notes de bas de page insérées par le Royaume-Uni aux paragraphes 8, 24 (b), 26, 42 et 43.

Par inadvertance, mention de ce fait a été omise dans la préparation du rapport C 87/REP/1 qui vous est soumis. Mais le nom des Etats-Unis d'Amérique sera joint à celui du Royaume-Uni dans ces notes.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I would like to ask Mr Eckert, who chairs Commission II, to be so kind as to introduce this Report.

Fred J. ECKERT (Chairman, Commission II): I shall introduce the Report by being very brief and not commenting in any detail on the quality of the Report or the quality of the effort that led to the Report, except to say that many hours went into discussion on the Report - too many hours - and we unfortunately had to resort to an en bloc consideration yesterday. We want to express the appreciation of the member countries who participated in the long hours of drafting the Report, and with only those very brief remarks there is nothing further to say on the Report except here it is - a bit late but it is here for your consideration and we are pleased to offer it to the Plenary at this. time.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Thank you very much, Mr Eckert, for that presentation of the work of Commission II, and before we open discussion, as you have just heard from the Chairman of Commission II, I remind you of the fact that this Report was prepared after a lengthy process - quite a number of hours had to go into the preparation of this document. We hope it is in an acceptable form to all. Quite clearly, every single section and word and sentence of this Report is not totally acceptable to every single delegate. No doubt comments, observations may be in the minds of certain delegations. Possibly you may wish to amend the text or report to this body the positions of some of your governments. But given the very considerable efforts which have been made by the Drafting Committee to shape this text, we think - indeed we hope - that this morning discussion will not be lengthy. Given the quality of the Report also, we hope that we will get through in the time which we have allotted to us and will thus get an adoption of this Report, so as to lead on to adopt the Draft Resolution which we also have before us, so that the General Conference's work can move forward reasonably well.

I hope I have not spent too much time on this introduction. I certainly will withdraw now and open the discussion on this Draft Report. The Report will be considered paragraph by paragraph. I need to take more than one paragraph sometimes due to the shortness of the paragraph or when no comments are raised, I will try to expedite matters and bring in two paragraphs together sometimes, so please allow me that.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 4

PARAGRAPHEs 1 à 4

PARRAFOS 1 a 4

Daniel Gerald NUTTER (Australia): Australia would like to associate itself with footnote 2 of paragraph 2.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): También quisiera hacer un pequeño comentario, ya que entendí a usted que teníamos un tiempo asignado. La práctica es, Señor Presidente, que tenemos que discutir esto en forma profunda y detallada para que dé sus efectos. No es tener una ligera discusión y sacar un texto cualquiera. Creo que la historicidad de esta Conferencia nos obliga a discutir esto como hay que discutirlo y me parece que no debemos fijar el tiempo; si es poco, nos alegramos.

Ya en el punto del párrafo 3 quiero expresarle, que en el último párrafo de este repetido párrafo 3, nuestra Delegación quiere proponer que se elimine la palabra "Estados Unidos de América". Creo que no debemos hacer propaganda a los problemas internos de un proceso presupuestario de un miembro, porque si no aquí tendríamos que poner todos los miembros que tenemos criterios. Me parece que__ aquí oneste párrafo debería decirse: una Delegación.

No hacer propaganda específica a la presupuestación de ningún país en particular. Este es el criterio de la Delegación de Cuba que no participó en la discusión en bloque, ni participó por no estar, ni participa de esta nota.

CHAIRMAN: This reference will be corrected as I have been informed by the Secretariat. If there are no more comments we move to paragraph 4.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Según la manifestación que usted acaba de hacer entendemos que la propuesta de Cuba fue aceptada. En ese caso, deseáramos saber como va a quedar la última frase del párrafo 3 porque nosotros compartimos plenamente las inquietudes expresadas por nuestro colega de Cuba, o sea que debe atribuirse esa expresión solamente al Representante del principal país contribuyente.

CHAIRMAN: Well, as I have said, the Secretariat will take care of it and it will be corrected, as the distinguished delegate from Cuba wanted it to be corrected.

LI ZHENHUAN (China)(original language Chinese): just now the delegate from Cuba mentioned that in the third paragraph, last sentence, the name of the United States of America appeared. In the Chinese version the same problem exists. In the Chinese version the name of the United States of America also appeared in the last sentence of the third paragraph. We also wish to delete the name of the United States of America from the Chinese version.

CHAIRMAN: Again, it will be corrected and the name will be deleted and the main contributor as stated in the English version will be in all languages in all the Reports. There are no more comments?

Mustafa ALIESH (Libya) (original language Arabic): The Latin American Caribbean delegations have referred to the suppression of the last sentence. It is stated here that the delegations of Member Nations of the Latin America and Caribbean version would have preferred that the last sentence of paragraph 3 would be eliminated. But may I remind that during the discussion of this matter my delegation stated also that it wished to strike out that last sentence of paragraph 3 and I would like my country's name to be added in the list in the footnote.

CHAIRMAN: No problem there. It will be added. If there are no other comments we will move to paragraph 4.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nosotros entendemos que este asunto no trata solamente de adaptar los textos en los distintos idiomas, sino que el colega de Cuba plantea una cuestión más de fondo, que nosotros compartimos. En la forma actual, el párrafo 3 atribuye a la Conferencia el contenido de la última frase de este párrafo 3. Este párrafo 3, es tan desafortunado y tan inexacto que el propio Presidente de la Comisión II, distinguido y eminente Embajador de ese país, dijo que no era cierto que por primera vez, repito, por primera vez, esto sucediera en su país. Esto consta en las Actas. De manera, que nosotros creemos que la redacción correcta de la última frase, que nos permitiría suprimir la reserva, al menos por parte de Colombia debería ser la siguiente: "el representante del primer contribuyente manifestó que su país se veía seriamente afectado por su situación financiera interna, y los factores presentes relativos al proceso de presupuestación nacional". Punto.

No podemos involucrar a la Conferencia. Colombia es parte de esta Conferencia, en una afirmación que es desafortunada, que es inexacta y que es parcial.

CHAIRMAN: The distinguished delegate from the United States of America has asked for the floor, but before that the Chairman of Commission II has asked to speak.

Fred J. ECKERT (Chairman, Commission II): Since I was represented in a manner somewhat different from the statement that I made, I think it would be best if the representative of Colombia let the United States of America speak for the United States of America and not interpret for us. What I said in presiding there was - and I made it very clear that the contents of this sentence did not make any difference to me but that as a former member of Congress I could argue fine points if we wanted to argue fine points - that some persons could argue that there was a time before the first time. That is because of the way the counter falls in the fiscal year in the United States of America.

It is of no substance, and it was clearly pointed out to you that if you wanted to really argue about splitting hairs one could say that; that I did not advocate any position on that issue. Do not say that I did.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): I think it remains unclear to some delegations that the issue raised by Cuba had more to do with the translation from the English language. Yesterday some of us discussed the text on the basis of the English version and when the document was printed, apparently in the Spanish and Chinese versions the United States got substituted as the main contributor. However, that is a mechanical problem and, as you have said yourself, it will be solved. I do not think it needs to be raised. Secondly, I just do not see what objective can be reached by reopening a discussion on this particular sentence. I said yesterday myself that it really does not make any difference to me and in commenting with some friends from Latin America delegations I expressed bewilderment over understanding what the problem was. As far as my delegation is concerned, it can go either way. If you want to keep it there, it does not matter but that was discussed yesterday. There is a footnote from that group. What is the problem? Why do we not just go on?

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): In the Commission there was considerable discussion of the way we should approach this, report, given the problems that had arisen in trying and failing to complete a text that was fully discussed and agreed by the Drafting Committee. My country then proposed that we should examine certain paragraphs on which it appeared several different countries had points of substance to make on the record. We were defeated on that by a vote and a separate proposal which was made by another delegation concerning a specific amendment to this paragraph was then withdrawn. As a result the vote was then taken on whether we should simply adopt the report with all its deficiencies and consequent limitations, as a possible mandate for the acceptance there-after en bloc, with a guillotine motion.

We voted against that, but it was accepted. I would say that in the spirit of trying to get on with this and reach the decisions which are important and which we have to take today, and as one who originally supported a more detailed discussion of this text, it seems to me desirable that we should abide by the vote which took place yesterday in Commission II and not make any changes. Obviously it is not a very equitable proceeding if some paragraphs then get changed despite that vote, and others do not. I would be very reluctant to see us being led into reopening a discussion on the text elsewhere, or indeed on this paragraph. I think this is a matter of principle and I would appeal to all therefore to enable us to get on, as we were trying to do yesterday.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Creo que la discusión ha dado ya algún fruto. De todas maneras, la cuestión mecánica que no trascendió a las versiones española y china, en parte se ha resuelto. Digo en parte, porque no creo que aquí estemos a nivel de mecánicos. Creo que la Conferencia no es de mecánicos, es de personas políticas que tienen sus intereses, todos. Por lo tanto, nosotros tenemos una preocupación con dos expresiones: una, que si en la Comisión "se discutió ya" o que si en la Comisión "se votó ya".

Esta es la 24ª Conferencia de la FAO. Los aires de reforma todavía están soplando, pero todavía no se ha aprobado ninguna reforma. Entonces no podemos quitarle a la Plenaria la facultad que tiene de discutir, revisar, enmendar y cambiar todo lo que venga de la Comisión, porque la Comisión es un paso intermedio anterior, no es definitiva, así que no creo que tenga ninguna validez lo que se aprobó en la Comisión hasta tanto esta Plenaria no lo santifique. Por lo tanto, quisiera que no nos hicieran sugerencias de reformas aquí que no estamos discutiendo todavía.

Por lo demás, desapareciendo la palabra "Estados Unidos", nosotros estamos de acuerdo.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair and the Secretariat have said that this sentence will be changed so as to be exactly the same in the five languages.

Paragraphs 1 to 4 as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 4 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 4 así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 5 to 7 approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 7 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 7 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 8 to 17

PARAGRAPHERS 8 à 17

PÁRRAFOS 8 a 17

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Casi contra nuestra voluntad sentimos la obligación de expresar nuestra insatisfacción por la tendencia preocupante que podrá observarse en la nota de página que aparece en relación al párrafo 8, y también con otro párrafo más adelante. Creemos que no es conducente que tal vez se sientan precedentes graves, que se hagan reservas tratando de vincular a esas reservas a países cuyos representantes no las han autorizado.

.La costumbre, la sana erudición, indican que cada país deja las reservas a su propio nombre y si otros países como en los casos anteriores en este mismo Informe desean adherirse, lo hacen expresando los nombres de sus países. Pero aquí en esta reserva dice: "En opinión de la Delegación del Reino Unido y algunas delegaciones", "algunas delegaciones" Y ¿Cuáles son esas delegaciones? Si este Informe llega a mis autoridades, podrían preguntarme ¿La Delegación de Colombia está incluida entre esas delegaciones? Yo creo que esto es peligroso, que es sibilino, que es tendencioso, y que no se puede permitir.

Si hay otras delegaciones que están de acuerdo con esas reservas del Reino Unido, que lo digan, como lo han hecho sobre otros párrafos, pero de lo contrario, que el Reino Unido limite sus reservas sólo a ese país. Si hay otros que lo acompañan, que lo hagan públicamente.

Es más grave todavía la última reserva del Reino Unido, pero lo haré más adelante donde se trata de involucrar a los países en desarrollo. Creemos que se está llegando ya a límites intolerables.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos apoyar lo que ha expresado la distinguida representación de Colombia. Creo que realmente estas formas y modos no ayudan a la aspiración suya de hacer una discusión clara, rápida y suficiente. Ha habido algunas cuestiones que hay que atajar a tiempo aquí en la Plenaria y es que no se quiera involucrar en cuestiones confusas como ha dicho la delegación de Colombia. Estas formulaciones en estos términos lo que traen es confusión y queremos que se eliminen de estas propuestas estas palabras.

Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Vamos a expresar nuestro absoluto acuerdo con la proposición que ha hecho la delegación de Colombia. También nosotros consideramos que la expresión vaga de "algunas delegaciones" haciendo un juicio contra los procedimientos vigentes para el examen del programa, en primer lugar no corresponde a la verdad, en segundo lugar involucra a países que no hemos expresado tal criterio; por consiguiente, como Venezuela no se siente identificada con esta resolución vamos a apoyar la posición de Colombia para que esto sea enmendado.

Chavaly S. SASTRY (India): We would like to support the solution that has been put forward and we suggest that in the footnote, line 1, the last three words "some delegations expressed" and in the second line "the view that" may be delegated. If any other countries want to be associated with this sentiment their names could come separately in a sentence just as has been done on page 14, footnote 2.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): La délégation congolaise pense également pour sa part que les déclarations faites successivement par les délégations de la Colombie, de Cuba, du Vénézuéla, et par l'Inde tout à l'heure, se justifient. Nous pensons en effet que la délégation du Royaume-Uni a le choix entre exprimer son propre point de vue ou alors préciser quelles sont ces délégations qui ont le même point de vue qu'elle.

C'est pourquoi nous proposons concrètement que cette note de bas de page soit libellée de la façon suivante: "selon la délégation du Royaume-Uni, les procédures actuelles... etc." jusqu'à la fin.

Si la délégation du Royaume-Uni croit avoir des appuis à travers certaines autres délégations, nous demandons alors que ces autres délégations soient désignées nommément.

CHAIRMAN: One more speaker wishes to speak but may I venture here to say that one member has already associated itself with what was said when we missed one of the pages: to point out one of the members and several members agreed, I will ask the delegate from the United Kingdom to give us his views to see whether he accepts the suggestion made by India.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): Thank you for recognizing me, Mr Chairman. Actually I think I had my flag up as the same time as the delegate from India, which only demonstrates that great minds think alike and also the ties of anglophilia and the Commonwealth perhaps. I should like to say that I intended in any case to redraft this point and allow those delegations which wished to be associated with the footnote, to do so. However, perhaps as the fount of the Queen's English, I will make a further change since it is our country's footnote, expressing our point of view. We will say "In the view of the United Kingdom delegation" and then cut out "some delegations express the view that the current programme review procedures did not provide adequate and meaningful opportunities to make Member Nations' views known during the consideration of the Programme of Work and Budget". It is a general point, but it is expressed in a particular way. When we come to later footnotes I will of course be prepared to deal with those, but I hope that redrafting this as I propose will be seen as an ironical move by those whose apprehensions have been needlessly aroused by the fact that I might possibly name their delegations.

Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh): Just in order to help you proceed with the work, I do not think I need to make any views known, because my preoccupations have been taken care of by the statement that has been made by the delegate of the United Kingdom.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): We very much agree with the comments that have been made by Colombia and a number of others, and indeed with the amendment that has been made by the United Kingdom. I think the process we had yesterday in Commission II did lead us to some expediency. I think the footnote here was drafted more in the sense of the sentence that should have been included in paragraph 8 in place of the square brackets rather than as a footnote observation on the paragraph itself. As a member of the Commission II drafting group and as a participant in the adoption of this report yesterday we are reluctant to intervene but insofar as this sentence in paragraph 8, the final sentence, was an unfinished portion of business we feel that we are entitled to have a comment and that comment would be that we would like to associate our delegation with the footnote put forward by the United Kingdom.

Srta. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Nosotros también fuimos miembros del Comité de redacción, por lo cual me atenderé exclusivamente a opinar en relación con los pies de páginas, y en ese sentido mi delegación se asocia a los comentarios hechos por la distinguida delegación de Colombia apoyados por otras. Creemos que estas notas de pie de página deben tener una personalidad y no ser atribuidas vagamente porque tendríamos la impresión de que delegaciones que estamos totalmente conformes con el proceso actual que rige nuestra Organización se vean involucradas.

Abdal Halem AL NOMAN (Iraq) (original language Arabic): As regards the Arabic text I think that the last sentence of paragraph 8 in square brackets is superfluous because what precedes shows that the Organization has followed the necessary procedures to establish priorities. This is already stated in the paragraph, at least as far as the Arabic text goes. This sentence may be deleted, and we may allow the rest of the paragraph to stand. If you wish I could read you the text of the paragraph as regards the Arabic: "The Conference recognized that in FAO, the determination of strategies and priorities and the specification of medium-term objectives for various programmes were the result of a long consultative process. The latter involved FAO Regional Conferences, the Committees of the Council and the full range of advisory expert committees and commissions, in addition to the views expressed at sessions of the Council and Conference by Member Nations.

All these fora provided recommendations and programme guidance from their respective point of view, from which the substantive content of the Programme of Work and Budget had to be derived." If we say that some Member Nations questioned the manner in which these priorities had been carried out I think we go too far.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I thank the delegation of Iraq for that contribution. We will see that this is taken into account. Thank you for your comments anyway. If there are no further comments on paragraph 8 at the time I think we can go on with the discussion, still on the footnote.

Apolinaire ANDRIATSIAFAJATO (Madagascar): Je voudrais dire que je souscris à la proposition faite par la délégation de l'Iraq qui consisterait tout simplement, pour avancer, à supprimer cette phrase entre parenthèses au paragraphe 8, phrase qui est d'ailleurs expliquée par la réserve faite par la délégation du Royaume-Uni. Il s'agirait de la supprimer et de mettre un renvoi pour expliquer la position de la délégation du Royaume-Uni sur le paragraphe 8 en entier.

Et je me rallierai d'ailleurs au point de vue de la délégation du Congo qui a proposé que le renvoi soit libellé comme suit: "En cela, la délégation du Royaume-Uni a exprimé l'avis que les procédures actuelles d'examen du programme ne lui permettaient pas..." et a demandé que les pays qui veulent s'associer à cette réserve puissent se manifester.

Huaberto CARRION MCDONOUGH (Nicaragua): En la Comisión II ayer precisamente el Comité General propuso que este informe se adoptara como un paquete; los motivos los conocemos todos. La única delegación que se opuso al procedimiento de adoptar el informe en bloque fue el Reino Unido, que tuvo también su derecho de hacer los comentarios pertinentes sobre los párrafos en los que deseaba una modificación, y recuerdo que lo que hizo fue leer rápidamente las reservas o notas que pondrían en pie de página en relación a lo que no estaba de acuerdo. También recuerdo, sin embargo, que esto quedaría necesariamente abierto a esta discusión puesto que no habíamos tenido la oportunidad de leer todos los miembros de la Comisión II el contenido de esa reserva.

La intervención en este caso no es solamente para la reserva establecida en el párrafo 8, sino que es para el resto de las mismas, sería más bien como una opinión de carácter general y también sugeriría que en los párrafos siguientes donde hay reservas del Reino Unido sea esa delegación, como ya se mencionó, la primera que haga su propuesta de modificación a la fraseología utilizada: en este sentido deseo aprovechar la oportunidad para manifestar la sorpresa de que esa delegación, siendo miembro del Comité General y habiendo participado en la Comisión II ayer en el debate sobre la adopción del informe, como ya expresé anteriormente, sólo una delegación se opuso al procedimiento de adoptar en paquete el informe y, sin embargo, en el comienzo de este Informe aparece una reserva en donde se menciona que hay tres países más que criticaron el procedimiento utilizado en la Comisión II.

Solamente quería manifestar nuestra sorpresa respecto que nos parece que el procedimiento utilizado en la Comisión II fue de acuerdo a una decisión tomada en esa misma Comisión.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): En primer lugar, quisiera dar mi apoyo a lo propuesto por Iraq recientemente.

En segundo lugar, quiero solicitar de la Secretaría, por favor, lea lo que fue redactado por la delegación del Reino Unido porque nosotros no pudimos captar exactamente cuál es la nueva redacción, si se elimina alguna delegación. Rogamos que nos lean cómo es la nueva redacción de esta nota.

Daniel Gerald NUTTER (Australia): We associated ourselves with the earlier footnote relating to en bloc voting. The Commission decided not to discuss the Report in detail but rather to respect the right of all members to make their views known if necessary through footnotes. We share the views of the Canadian delegation and wish to be associated with the United Kingdom footnote as amended.

Mourad BENCHEIKH (Algérie): Je voudrais intervenir sur le paragraphe 8 en appuyant la délégation irakienne concernant la suppression de la phrase, dont je rappelle qu'elle était entre crochets; et que la note en bas de page étant faite précisément pour donner une explication, la phrase du paragraphe 8 n'a donc plus de raison d'être.

En ce qui concerne les notes en bas de page, j'appuie naturellement les remarques faites par le délégué de la Colombie, appuyé par d'autres délégations.

Et, si j'ai bien compris, s'agissant de la rédaction, le délégué du Royaume-Uni finit la phrase qu'il a lue en disant: "ne permettent pas aux Etats Membres de présenter leur point de vue". J'avoue que c'est une rédaction qui me gêne beaucoup dans la mesure où elle parle des Etats Membres sans les nommer. Ce qui revient à dire que la délégation algérienne préfère la proposition formulée initialement par le Congo, appuyée par Madagascar, et qui se lirait ainsi: "La délégation du Royaume-Uni, ainsi que les délégations suivantes, ont exprimé l'avis que les procédures actuelles... etc." Je crois que nous serions en cela beaucoup plus près de cet esprit démocratique que nous voulons préserver ici.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos apoyar en todas sus partes la proposición de la representación de Iraq en cuanto a que esta frase entre corchetes es porque una frase ya no está insertada en el contexto del párrafo, debe desaparecer completamente, no tiene sentido.

Queremos también referirnos a las preocupaciones de algunos colegas aquí, que compartimos, en que la frase a pie de página de la delegación de Reino Unido trata de confundirnos y trata de hacernos participar a todos en una cuestión que es muy particular de dos o tres; pero no habíamos hecho fuerza en eso porque este tipo de acciones de quienes nos tienen acostumbrados a discutir a profundidad estos temas en seis consejos anteriores, en los que he participado personalmente, esa delegación ha discutido con mucha profundidad, mucha oportunidad, con mucho tiempo, ha tenido oportunidad de discutir varias veces inclusive con nosotros, que somos testigos de ello, por lo tanto creo que la señal de confusión sólo puede confundir a aquellos que quieran confundirse, creo que todos los que hemos trabajado en FAO sabemos cuál es la verdadera intención de la frase. La frase puede quedar como ellos soberanamente quieran ponerla, están en el ejercicio de su derecho soberano y todos tenemos el derecho soberano.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): I am somewhat concerned about the attitude adopted by some of our colleagues here in this Conference because yesterday this Report was adopted by Commission II en bloc and that meant that my delegation did not have the opportunity to discuss paragraph 8, and in paragraph 8 our attitude would have been, if anything should have been removed that the square bracket should have been removed. I did not have a chance to put forward my proposals to take the sentence totally out. I think we will have to follow a rule where we cannot break up the agreement which we had yesterday. If we cannot do that I would reserve my right to go back and participate in the debate which I hoped this was not going to turn into.

While I have the floor I would like to associate the name of Denmark with the footnote on page 2 of this Report.

Antonio R. PIRES (Cap-Vert): Ma délégation souhaite appuyer l'intervention du collègue de Madagascar.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I have the impression that this has been continuing rather long, possibly because the translation has not been so easy for some of our friends whose original tongue is not English.

Let me say, first of all, that I am grateful for the strong support of the Delegation from Cuba for the right of sovereign nations to state their own point of view in their own terms and helpful though the interesting suggestions are which have come from different parts of this meeting about how we might like to word our own reservation, I must of course say that we will word it in the way that we consider it to be appropriate. We will not, however, and I already made that clear, include those words that "some other delegations expressed the view". We accept that that is a matter for them.

I asked for the floor again not only to make that clear and so to help you forward but because the wording of the footnote will depend on the outcome of the discussion which has now been launched about either the deletion of the last sentence of paragraph 8 or the deletion of the square brackets

I do wish to point out that the reservation that my delegation expresses in the footnote is a much narrower reservation than the general point that is covered by the last sentence of paragraph 8 and therefore if the Conference decides to make a change in the text of paragraph 8 as it has come from Commission II my delegation will wish to alter and expand the reservation which it has put in footnote I so that that appears in the Conference Report and of course, finally, ex abundante culte... I am sorry, that is not a language of the Conference; as the lawyers say to avoid any doubt at all, the footnote attaches to the whole paragraph and not to the last sentence of that paragraph.

Mohamed Sidya OULD BAH (Mauritanie): J'appuie totalement, pour le texte arabe, ce qui a été dit par le délégué de l'Iraq. Mais je crois que, dans la version française, les parenthèses entretiennent davantage la confusion dont certains délégués ont parlé. Il s'agit sans doute d'un problème de traduction, comme l'a dit le délégué du Royaume-Uni.

Au cas où cette phrase resterait, je suggère qu'au lieu de la mettre entre parenthèses, on a joute la phrase suivante: "Il est cependant à noter que telles délégations ont contesté - ou ont proposé une amélioration - la façon dont les priorités de la FAO ont été fixées".

Anwar Mohamed KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of)(original language Arabic): I share the view of Iraq, namely to delete the last sentence of paragraph 8. If there is a reason behind this deletion it is not a new one and I would like here to refer to what has been said by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. When he presented the document he said "This sentence does not find any other place in the Report, therefore we were forced to insert it at the end of paragraph 8 between brackets". Therefore I believe that this sentence has led to some difficulties and it is not related logically to paragraph 8. Therefore I do agree to delete this sentence.

Harald HØSTMARK (Norway): As a member of the Drafting Committee of Commission II, I am bound to uphold those parts of the text that we did discuss, did agree on in that drafting room. I will do so here. This particular sentence was discussed at some length and as our Chairman of that group stated, it was agreed on. The only reason why it was put in brackets was that it might conceivably be better later to place it in another part of the report. However, we did not have time to get back to that discussion and it was originally agreed that this was not an illogical place to have, it, it was a logical place to have it. The sentence does point out certain additional views to those descriptive sentences that are contained in the first part of the paragraph. In other words the substance of the sentence was agreed, there was consensus on that. There was a slight question of where to place it, but it was also agreed that this was not illogical to have it here. So I am bound to defend the decision of the Drafting Committee to have it here and the square brackets should be deleted.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): I have been very impressed by the wisdom contained in the interventions of Denmark and Norway, particularly since the Norwegian intervention we find out that indeed the substance of this sentence was agreed, there was no issue with that. It seems to me that we would be wise in following the suggestions of the Danish delegate that as we all agreed and adopted this report en bloc yesterday, that we either do not reopen the discussion, although every Nation has the right to do so if they want and in the final analysis, since there was agreement-in the Drafting Committee in the substance of this sentence, that it be allowed to stay as it is or without the brackets. That would facilitate the completion of this discussion that is going on for long enough.

I want to take advantage of having the floor, since the footnote has been changed, to reaffirm my delegation's association with the footnote.

Chavaly S. SASTRY (India): I apologize for making a second intervention but I am making it in the interest of quickening up the discussion. I am speaking on the basis of the English text. On page 5, I had an impression until the United Kingdom Delegate spoke just now, I thought the footnote referred only to the last sentence because of the brackets. Since he has made it abundantly clear that the footnote refers entirely to paragraph 8 I would submit for the consideration of the Conference that while, the last sentence in the paragraph does remain, the bracket before and after the sentence may be deleted. That is one submission.

The second submission is for the revised footnote, a number of other Member Nations have also indicated, I have noted down Australia, Canada, Denmark and the United States of America, that they too have associated with the reservation expressed by the United Kingdom. At an appropriate stage I would request the Secretariat to verify from the Verbatim Records, whether, when the subject item 13 was discussed in Commission II, this sentiment was expressed, in which case those names can be added.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Delegate from India, for your very constructive pauses and suggestions and ideas. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee has asked for the floor to speak at this moment.

Joseph TCHICAYA (President, Comité de rédaction): Je ne devrais pas intervenir directement dans le débat mais, en tant que Président du Comité de rédaction, je me sens l'obligation de tirer au clair certains propos qui ont été avancés par certains membres.

J'avoue sincèrement que j'aurais souhaité que les membres du Comité de rédaction ne soient pas partie prenante de certaines notes de bas de page. Je dis bien "certaines". En dehors de la note de bas de page de la page 2, je considère que les membres du Comité de rédaction ne devraient pas s'associer aux notes de bas de page, étant donné qu'ils ont eu le loisir de pouvoir discuter ce rapport au niveau du Comité de rédaction.

En ce qui concerne les crochets du paragraphe 8, je crois que nous n'avons pas épuisé la discussion sur la phrase mise entre crochets mais que nous étions parvenus à un consensus pour que cette phrase soit réexaminée après que nous aurions passé en revue l'ensemble du rapport pour savoir à quel endroit il fallait la placer. La discussion n'avait donc pas été épuisée au sujet de cette phrase entre crochets. Je crois qu'il faut le dire et je me souviens que le Secrétariat l'avait même signalé: nous devons reprendre la discussion sur cette phrase après avoir terminé l'examen du rapport. Malheureusement, nous n'avons pas eu le temps matériel d'achever l'examen de tout le rapport puisqu'il restait deux paragraphes à examiner et que nous n'avons pas eu le temps de revenir sur cette phrase. Il convient donc de dire que cette phrase n'a pas été vraiment adoptée au niveau du Comité de rédaction.

Cependant, je tiens à dire ici que le rapport a été adopté en bloc à la Commission II et je considère qu'à l'exception des corrections qui peuvent y être apportées sous forme de notes de bas de page qui n'ont pas fait l'objet de grandes discussions, tous ceux qui ont participé à l'adoption de ce rapport à la Commission II - même en bloc - devraient pouvoir y souscrire.

D. J. MACKAY (New Zealand): As members of the General Committee, we supported the General Committee's proposals in Commission II that the Report be adopted en bloc. We also supported initially the United Kingdom proposal that those countries which had particular problems with the Report should have an opportunity to express them, but as the United Kingdom delegation has noted that was lost.

The basis on which we agreed with this proposal in the General Committee, and indeed subsequently in Commission II, was that the Report should, as is always the case, accurately reflect the discussion which took place in Commission II. Secondly, in accordance with the normal practice adopted in this Organization those countries which have particular points to make and which they did not feel were accurately reflected in the Report, should have the opportunity - to insert footnotes.

We believe from our own records of the meeting that the words contained in square brackets accurately reflect some general reservations which were expressed in the discussion in Commission II. This has been confirmed to one degree or another by the comments made by Norway - a member of the Drafting Committee, which we were not - and by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. We believe it would be appropriate to remove the square brackets around that sentence. As far as concerns the footnote by the United Kingdom, my delegation did not express this view in Commission II and is not in a position to associate itself with that footnote. However, we believe that any delegation (be it the United Kingdom or any other delegation) has the right to reflect its position by way of footnotes and this was abundantly clear from the decision that was taken in Commission II yesterday. On that basis we believe that the United Kingdom and those other delegations who have spoken in support of the footnote should be able to maintain it. In this respect we observe that the particular problems that some delegations had with the language of it have now been met. We really think that we should be in a position to dispose of the matter at this stage and move on.

Ms Anna-Liisa KORUONEN (Finland): Finland would like to associate itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegate of Denmark, and also with the remark in the last sentence of paragraph 8 footnote 2 on page 2. Therefore, we would like to see the name of Finland added to that footnote.

I would like to recall that yesterday in Commission II Finland voted in favour of the United Kingdom proposal and also voted against the en bloc adoption of the Report. For these reasons we think it is opportune for us to state that we would like to have the square brackets in paragraph 8 removed.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): En primer lugar quiero agradecer la intervención muy informativa del Señor Presidente del Comité de Redacción que ha puesto en su verdadera luz lo que realmente está ocurriendo y que, en consecuencia, podemos estar tranquilos de que no estamos objetando la permanencia de esta última frase en el párrafo 8 que está propuesta por Iraq y que tiene nuestro apoyo.

En segundo lugar, no quiero dejar pasar que solicité la lectura de la proposición enmendada del Reino Unido, que nos gustaría saber por fin como quedó redactada.

Por último, que no queremos que se pase por alto, o inadvertidamente, algunas observaciones hechas aquí, muy importantes para nuestras posibilidades de hacer un debate clarificado en esta instancia, y es que lo que ha sido aprobado en la Comisión II o en la Comisión I, o en cualquier Comisión no pueda ser rediscutido en la Asamblea. Esta Asamblea es la instancia suprema de la Conferencia y, jurídicamente tiene absoluto derecho de enmendar cualquier propuesta, cualquier informe, cualquier modificación que se traiga de la Comisión, que todas están, desde el punto de vista de su jerarquía, por debajo de la Asamblea. Por consiguiente, no es cierto que nosotros estamos obligados a aceptar de una manera irrefutable cualquier proposición e informe que vengan de las Comisiones, porque es aquí, en la Asamblea, en la última instancia de la Conferencia, donde se toman las Resoluciones definitivas y se establecen los criterios definitivos que pueden ser mandatos para la Conferencia.

Quería hacer esta aclaración porque si no la objetamos pudiera pasar a ser como una especie de hermenéutica para las futuras instancias de la FAO.

CHAIRMAN: Before I recognize any other speakers, I should like Mr Walton to intervene.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Perhaps I could try my hand at proposing a decision to the Plenary on this particular paragraph. It seems to me that the question of the footnote has been resolved with a change in the wording proposed by the United Kingdom, which is so to speak the owner of the footnote, and with the addition of the names of some other countries that wish to be associated with it. So far as concerns the last sentence of paragraph 8 I would recall that this is not a sentence which binds the Conference as such. It is a sentence referring only to the views of some Member Nations.

If the square brackets could be removed, and if those delegations which have other views as to the placing of this sentence in the Report were to withdraw their hesitations on this score, then I believe that paragraph 8 including the last sentence without square brackets and with the footnote as amended, could be adopted by the Plenary without further discussion.

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to any speakers after Trinidad and Tobago, I should like to hear your reaction to the suggestion made by the Deputy Director-General.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): I tried hard not to add our delegation to the list of speakers because I am concerned about process, that is to say pulling this matter together, which is in fact what Mr Walton has just attempted to do. I do not know what you intend to do about that suggestion. However, as we see it, the issue in paragraph 8 really relates to "consultative process" which are the words in the third line. That is what brings about the problem with the last sentence. Then we have to ask ourselves whether or not a Member Nation, or a few Member Nations, can or cannot indicate reservations if they so desire. Of course, the Conference has some control over the language in these footnotes and I suspect the answer is "yes" based on many years experience in this and other fora. That being so, there are a few possibilities. One, as indicated earlier, is that the brackets can be removed, the footnote properly worded and those countries who wish to associate themselves with the footnote so indicate and we agree. Another suggestion, and this is because I maintain that the issue concerns "consultative process", and I regret to have to put this forward, is a sentence which replaces that problematic sentence in brackets, which would read as follows: "However, a few Member Nations indicated that they did not consider the said consultative process to be adequate." To me this is what the issue is all about. If we accept that there is a right to footnotes, then put in the footnote and control the wording.

CHAIRMAN: May I ask the distinguished delegates who wish to speak to give their views on the Deputy Director-General's suggestion instead of speaking about the sentence between the brackets or the footnote.

Yacoub Y. AL-YOUSUFI (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): The report we have before us has been transmitted to the Plenary by the Drafting Committee through Commission II. As far as I know the Drafting Committee worked for twelve hours to produce this Report and then Commission II had an excessively detailed look at it, and there was a lot of debate to try and reach the text we now have in our hands. Personally, I remember that in Commission II we spent a lot of time on paragraph 3, but now we are getting stuck on paragraph 8. I wonder what will happen about the footnotes because we have footnotes later on, on pages 9, 10, 12 and 14. I am becoming worried about these footnotes.

It seems to me that what we are doing now is looking back on what happened in Commission II, so we are moving backward rather than forward I would submit. So I would support Mr Walton's proposal on this and I suggest we should now try and just get to a solution, to an agreement. Either we take the Report section by section or paragraph by paragraph, or as a whole and then let each country make whatever reservations it likes.

Wolfgang A. F. CRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): My delegation did not intend to take part in this debate since we are not concerned with the substance of the last sentence in paragraph 8. We have listened very carefully to what everybody has been saying so far and we cannot but note that it is really regrettable that the Report was adopted en bloc in Commission II. We feel that was a pity because if it had been discussed in detail there, then perhaps we would not have any footnotes in it, or perhaps only one or two. We must not forget that precisely this section of the Conference Report is the substance of all our work and we would have been very glad to see as few footnotes as possible in this core part of the Report. As regards the substance, the question for my delegation is very simple. Either in Commission II a number of

countries said what is mentioned in the last sentence in paragraph 8 - in square brackets for the moment - or they did not say it. Now I gather from what the Chairman of the Drafting Committee told us, and also from what a number of members of the Drafting Committee said that these views were in fact expressed by Member Nations in the Commission and if this is the case then our Report has to reflect it in some way. Where we put it is another matter and it is one which I will not address now. I have listened very carefully to the Deputy Director-General's proposal and I understood him to say that he was proposing we should remove the square brackets from this last sentence. We would entirely agree, and this might make it possible even for the footnote to this paragraph to be no longer a concern to some member states.

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to other speakers, may I ask Mr Walton to read again or state again what he proposed. One member has supported or has accepted what has been proposed by Mr Walton. The distinguished delegate from the Federal Republic of Germany has no strong objection to that I think. May I ask Mr Walton to read it again and then ask you whether you agree to it by raising your hand or not, and then we will see how we move from there.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I must reiterate that my proposal is merely intended to bring together remarks that have been made from all sides of the house into a kind of consensus decision which I feel is probably acceptable to the Plenary as a whole. This proposal is to remove the square brackets from the last sentence of paragraph 8 which would then stand as it is and in the position where it now stands. Footnote 1, the footnote of the United Kingdom delegation, would be as amended by the United Kingdom delegation and with the addition of the names of those countries that have expressed the desire to be associated with the footnote. If this proposal is generally acceptable I believe it should be possible to move to paragraph 9.

CHAIRMAN: I ask you if there are any objections? If there is agreement on this we can move ahead.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros, en función de darle posibilidad a Usted de ir adelante, podríamos estar de acuerdo con la proposición que hizo el Director General adjunto y, eliminando los corchetes, si es su opinión, de esta Plenaria. De esta Plenaria que es la soberana. Nos preocupa a veces la forma en que profesionales de muchos años, vienen aquí a hacernos, o a querernos hacer valer los mecanismos intermedios. Los mecanismos intermedios son precisamente para eso, para proponernos, y nosotros decidir. Entonces, no sé porqué se trata de querer limitarnos. Primero vamos a discutir aquí, sencillamente podríamos ahorrarnos todas estas polémicas y con un comité de redacción hacer una conferencia. Ya hacemos la Conferencia con un Comité de Redacción, por eso, no creemos que esa impaciencia sea buena, hay que venir aquí pacientemente," a utilizar el tiempo en discutir. Creo que se ha hecho, Presidente, creo que ha sido también útil el que se hayan expresado los criterios que se han hecho aquí.

Nosotros estamos de acuerdo con lo que ha planteado el Sr. Director General Adjunto, en cuanto a buscar solución. Lo que sí creemos es que se redunda en una cuestión, porque definitivamente, si queda el párrafo como está, sin corchetes, la opinión de la distinguida Delegación del Reino Unido es redundando en una situación, que creo que está solamente apoyada por cuatro o cinco de ciento cincuenta y ocho miembros que tiene esta Organización. Así que la fuerza moral no es por ningún lado desde el punto de vista de la soberanía de cada Estado aquí. Porque quería explicar otra situación para tratar por nuestra parte de no interrumpir sus labores más, y no utilizar más tiempo disculpándonos de que hay que tener en cuenta la situación interna que tenía la Comisión II. Creo que debemos estar muy conscientes de que una discusión de esto, todavía estuviéramos discutiendo en la Comisión II. Porque veo prepotencia, incapacidad para dirigir los debates.

CHAIRMAN: There is a point of order here, the distinguished delegate from Canada.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

George Henry MUSCROVE (Canada): I do apologize for interrupting. I do so on a point of order. I wonder if you could read the speakers' list you had in front of you and indicate the position the distinguished delegate of Cuba had on that list.

CHAIRMAN: I would remind the distinguished delegate from Canada that I have asked Mr Walton to read the proposal. He just did again and I wanted reactions on that proposal. Sure I said I had a list of speakers that I did not give the floor to, and that is why the floor was not given to you. But your name sure is there and if you have to speak on the paragraph itself, I think what I proposed -and what Mr Walton read - I was expecting reactions on that. I am sorry if I did not give you the floor but I ask you to understand why and appreciate my position. So if you want to speak now on Mr Walton's proposal.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): I did ask for the floor quite some time ago.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegate from Cuba, you want to speak on the proposal from Mr Walton - is that so? If that is so, I will give you the floor and then the distinguished delegate from Canada will follow to speak on the subject matter.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Solamente quería recordarle, Sr. Presidente, que fui interrumpido, que no había terminado y además expresarle a la representación de Canadá que no tengo la culpa de que me dieran la palabra, no fui yo quien lo eliminó de hablar primero.

Quiero decirle que analice realmente esta Plenaria la forma en que la Comisión II se está conduciendo porque ésta es la que nos puede traer problemas en la discusión en esta Plenaria.

CHAIRMAN: The United Kingdom on a point of order.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): My point of order is this. I thought I heard you say it was your intention to take the sense of the meeting by a show of hands after Mr Walton had read out his proposal, and I thought that was what we were going to do rather than enter another long debate about it. For my part I am quite ready to take part in such a show of hands. Have we now changed the procedure?

CHAIRMAN: If the Conference wishes I will do that. I will ask for a show of hands in support of what Mr Walton proposed. If you agree, please raise your hand.

Vote by show of hands
Vote à main levée
Votación a mano alzada

CHAIRMAN: I see that the hands raised are more than adequate to approve what Mr Walton has proposed and I consider paragraph 8 as amended with the footnotes as being accepted.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): I will move very cautiously in the event there are any further interruptions before I begin to speak. I did ask for the floor quite some time ago. It was to support the proposal put forward by Mr Walton and thank him for his wisdom in doing so. I will not, like a previous speaker, go back and lament Commission II or wring hands. I had asked for the floor both to support Mr Walton's proposal and to indicate that we would wish to withdraw our name from association with the footnote to that particular paragraph now that the brackets have been removed from the final sentence. We do so as a member of the Drafting Committee which supports this draft and while the sentiments of our delegation do lie with the United Kingdom's footnote, as a member of the Drafting Committee we support the text as it is and as proposed by Mr Walton.

CHAIRMAN: I now consider paragraph 8 as amended approved.

Paragraphs 8 to 17 as amended, approved
Paragraphes 8 à 17 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Párrafos 8 a 17 así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 18 to 24
PARAGRAPHES 18 à 24
PARRAFOS 18 a 24

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I have to request the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to bear witness to the fact that at 3 o'clock in the morning the 65 year-old Ambassador left the Committee owing to the stress of that day. What I am proposing, with my Chairman's permission, is an addition at the end of the paragraph and I read from the English text - "This should allay fears of a 'legislative vacuum' in case adjustments to the approved programs for 1988-89 would prove necessary."

My delegation would propose - and I leave it to you and to the Conference - to add a sentence or a footnote. May I dictate? "On the subject a resolution was submitted to the Conference by the delegation of Italy, but was eventually dealt with under Item 25.4 of the Agenda (see paras.... to below". This is very important for my country. '

CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to what the delegate of Italy has asked should be added?

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous avons demandé la parole en même temps que la délégation de l'Italie. Nous ne sommes pas contre la proposition de la délégation de l'Italie.

Nous voudrions plutôt nous exprimer sur la note de bas de page concernant ce paragraphe 24 et vous dire ici que nous regrettons particulièrement la présence de cette note de bas de page dont nous venons de prendre connaissance. En effet, il nous avait été dit en Commission II que la délégation du Royaume-Uni avait une note de bas de page à mettre. Nous venons de lire cette note de bas de page ce matin et nous nous rendons compte d'abord que si la délégation du Royaume-Uni continue à jouer un rôle moteur pour peut-être entraîner une certaine catégorie de pays qui ont le même point de vue, nous sommes préoccupés, en dehors de cette concertation qu'on ne donne pas ici un avis mais qu'on nous propose un paragraphe supplémentaire au paragraphe 24 sous une forme voilée, et nous ne pensons pas que ce soit la bonne formule. Nous pensons donc que si la délégation du Royaume-Uni a un avis à émettre, elle doit exprimer son point de vue et non pas essayer de nous "glisser" un autre paragraphe sous forme de note de bas de page.

Nous ne sommes donc pas d'accord pour qu'on adopte un nouveau paragraphe 24, qui est libellé ainsi par la délégation du Royaume-Uni, tout en reconnaissant les droits de cette délégation d'exprimer son point de vue sur la teneur du paragraphe 24. Et nous proposons à la délégation du Royaume-Uni de remodeler ce paragraphe de bas de page en donnant carrément son point de vue au lieu de nous donner un paragraphe 24 bis en entier, dans lequel deux Etats Membres sont cités, dont on ne connaît d'ailleurs pas l'identité.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): First, let me say that we support the insertion of the proposal by Italy as a footnote. It is very clear that that would be acceptable to that delegation and it seems to us the proper way to proceed. We think that in any case it would be valuable in its own right. In response to the point that has just been made elsewhere, I would say that the text was very carefully read out during the session in which the footnotes were put to the meeting of Commission II yesterday at the appropriate time. Nevertheless, I am quite prepared to make the change which is suggested: that is to alter the second line as it is in English: "In the view of the United Kingdom delegation the following text should have been added to paragraph 24" - and then continued. That would fully reflect the point which we made in the discussion, which was not taken up in the report which was put before us.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Yo iba a referirme primero a la proposición que hizo la distinguida delegación del Congo apoyándola en todas sus partes; creemos que tiene toda la razón. En cuanto a que no podemos permitir (jue un enfoque o un párrafo contradiga a otro párrafo ya aprobado por la mayor parte de los Estados Miembros quisiéramos también expresar que no entendimos la traducción, no nos llegó clara, no hilvanamos la propuesta de la delegación del Reino Unido ahora en su intervención, no sabemos qué ha expresado, la traducción no nos ha llegado clara, no sé si fue contestando al Congo o si es una proposición ya directa; quisiéramos que tuviese la amabilidad de repetirla.

CHAIRMAN: Could I ask the United Kingdom delegate to answer?

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): Certainly, we will alter our text to say: "In the view of the United Kingdom delegation the following text should have been added to paragraph 24" - and then continue with the rest. That deals with the formal point that was brought forward by the delegation of the Congo.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): I wish simply to say that since the footnote has been modified by the original author, I wanted to make sure that you knew that our association with it remains in the new form.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I accept that if the Chairman of the Drafting Committee accepts the footnote concerning Italy, but I gathered that I had proposed to put it into the text. This is extremely important and the document was amply treated by myself and' by the delegate of Canada during the discussion. The only reason it has not been put into the text is because I was absent. So I maintain my first proposal, that it be included in the text and not put as a footnote. Absent from my mind is the consideration of the "cohabitation" with the United Kingdom in the same footnote. The only thing is that I want it in the text.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nosotros apoyamos la reciente aclaración del colega Pascarelli, de Italia; tal vez él prefiere quedarse en mejores compañías.

Deseamos dejar nuestra constancia por la manera tan desafortunada como se pretende, bajo forma disfrazada, introducir nuevas párrafos en un informe. Creemos que la reserva del Reino Unido en la manera que se presenta, extensa y con su contenido, sienta un precedente grave que nos puede crear dificultades en el futuro.

Quisiéramos pedir, de manera muy cordial y respetuosa, al Reino Unido que por favor rectifique esa actitud y trate de reducir, de concentrar, de redactar más breve y austeramente su punto de vista para que nos evite problemas en el futuro.

Haráld HØSTMARK (Norway): I do not wish to speak on the subject of footnotes but on the subject of the proposal by Italy. I hope that is in order? I have of course, as I stated previously, a certain obligation to uphold the present text. However, if my Chairman of the Drafting Committee would find no difficulty in having that in the text, I would not in substance have any objection either. My recollection is not clear as to whether it was or was not discussed in Commission II. This is after all a report of that Commission. No doubt my question would have been answered had we been able to discuss this report in Commission II but, as I am sure you are well aware, it was not discussed there. That is why I regret having to put this question here and now.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): J'avoue que cette question n'a pas été discutée effectivement au niveau du Comité de rédaction. Mais je pense que la Conférence est souveraine et je crois que c'est une question qui est posée. A priori, en tant que Président du Comité de rédaction, si j'ai un avis personnel à donner, je ne vois pas d'inconvénient à ce que ceci figure dans le texte, mais je pense que cela dépend de toute la Plénière réunie ici.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I am afraid that the delegate of Norway has no good knowledge of the English language, because I think I was very clear. I said I was absent from the debate in the Drafting Committee by permission of the Chairman. Secondly, I said I would not ask for a footnote if the Chairman were not in agreement. Thirdly, I said that I wanted it in the document that this was discussed in the Commission and not the Drafting Committee.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo sólo deseo dejar testimonio de que el Embajador Pascarelli en la Comisión II cuando discutíamos el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto anunció la presentación del proyecto de resolución, luego esto hace parte del debate sobre el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

Después de que se adopte la propuesta de Italia quisiera preguntar al colega del Reino Unido si tiene alguna redacción sobre mi solicitud muy cordial y respetuosa, Sr. Presidente.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): Let us deal with the two points separately. It is true, and I am sure that I heard it myself, that Ambassador Pascarelli for his country mentioned the introduction of this draft resolution, which by the way we consider very interesting. But it is equally true that it was a subject which was allocated to Commission III, as indeed the delegate of Italy has reminded us when making this specific proposal. Consequently there was no discussion in Commission II - it was mentioned but there was no discussion - and therefore there can be no report upon that discussion, since no discussion took place. It is with a desire to be helpful to the delegate of Italy that I therefore put forward my proposal before, which in fact was one of his proposals. He said "a footnote or" in the text, that he should prepare an appropriate footnote which would go in here saying that one Member State drew attention to, and then the draft resolution saying words he considers appropriate.

On the other point, yes, I have considered the suggestion and consider that the wording that I have in my footnote now cannot be improved.

Harald HØSTMARK (Norway): I would certainly admit that my knowledge of the English language might be deficient and that it certainly could be improved; I would be happy if it was. But it seems to me that I -am not the only one who sometimes has some confusion with the English language. To the best of my recollection I did ask for clarification of what happened in Commission II, not what happened in the drafting group. I had some clarification of what happened in Commission II, and it seemed to me that the present proposal presented to us here could usefully go through some redrafting, since as I have it down here it says "it was presented" whereas the discussion now seems to bring out only a declaration of intent to present it. I think we should be precise, particularly when we are dealing with interventions from experts of the English language.

CHAIRMAN: May I ask the delegates of Italy and Norway to refrain from this kind of exchange on knowledge of language. I think we are not here to know whether you know the language or not. I think we have more important issues to be discussed, so I appeal to you please.

Chavaly S. SASTRY (India): After the delegate of the United Kingdom has said that in relation to the footnote the revised draft is the best draft that is possible, I make my intervention with considerable hesitation.

The first point I would like to submit to the delegate of the United Kingdom is the location of the footnote. According to my understanding paragraph 24 deals with the proposal to have a core activity and stand-by activity, whereas this particular footnote indicates the methodology for improving the income from trust fund donors so that the financing of the Regular Programme and Budget for trust fund activities could be reduced. So one request that I would like to make is whether this could be re-positioned at any appropriate place in the recommendations of Commission II, this document that we are considering.

The second submission is one of form, because I understand that the convention is that through footnotes member countries have the right to indicate their own opinion on a particular matter and not to introduce a draft, in this context whether it would be possible to modify this to reflect the opinion of the delegate, of the United Kingdom with such association with other countries, as the United States has done.

CHAIRMAN: The Chairman of Commission II has asked to intervene at this moment.

Fred J. ECKERT (Chairman, Commission II): We are discussing whether or not an item was discussed in Commission II. I must say that the delegate of Norway speaks English extremely well, equally as well as the delegate of Italy, who speaks English very well. I make mistakes in it. I do not speak it quite as well as the delegates of the United Kingdom but they have been longer at it.

I have heard the discussion in Commission II and perhaps we could clarify this quickly, that the delegate of Italy did approach the Chair, did ask that we make note of the fact that this item was going to be discussed in Commission III. But the point raised as to whether or not it was discussed in Commission II, it was not discussed in Commission II, and it is certainly a point of importance and perhaps we cannot report on the discussion, since no discussion took place, but a footnote is certainly totally appropriate, which is what I heard the delegate indicate. It would seem to me that we tried to facilitate their good work in our Commission and took note of the fact that it was referred to in Commission III. We discussed many things. We discussed 'as' and we discussed 'but'. However, we did not discuss this particular item.

CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a proposal submitted by Italy. If there is no objection to his proposal being embodied in the text I would say that you approve.

Then on the footnotes, the delegate of the United Kingdom has amended the footnote to reconcile with the views of Congo and other speakers who have wished it to be corrected, and he did. If it is accepted by you all I think we can approve it as it is, amended by the delegate of the United Kingdom. I see no objection. It is approved.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Je m'excuse de devoir vous interrompre. J'avais demandé la parole bien avant que vous n'ayez décidé de faire adopter ce paragraphe 24 avec la note de bas de page proposée par le Royaume-Uni.

Je dois dire que je ne suis pas d'accord et qu'ayant déclenché les hostilités sur cette note de bas de page, c'est avec beaucoup d'intérêt que j'ai suivi l'accueil qui a été réservé à mes commentaires. Or, de tout ce que j'ai entendu, je me suis rendu compte que la délégation qui m'a le mieux compris est celle de l'Inde.

En effet, le délégué du Royaume-Uni nous dit que sa délégation ne peut pas faire d'amélioration. Toutefois, j'ai noté qu'il avait supprimé l'allusion au paragraphe 24, et notamment qu'il pouvait supprimer le paragraphe 24 bis contenu dans la note de bas de page.

A mon avis, c'est justement une des raisons pour lesquelles cette note de bas de page devrait disparaître. En effet, puisque nous ne faisons plus allusion au paragraphe 24, cette note de bas de page trouverait sa place dans les "Considérations et avis généraux" de la Commission II à l'intention de la Conférence ou de la Conférence elle-même.

Nous ne voyons pas comment nous pourrions mettre maintenant une note de bas de page qui, en fait, ne serait plus à sa place. Pour notre part, nous pouvons adopter le paragraphe 24 mais la note de bas de page doit disparaître ou trouver place ailleurs et non pas au paragraphe 24.

Voilà notre position.

CHAIRMAN: I think there is not much reservation on this paragraph except for the footnote which has been corrected as the delegate of Congo asked. If no other speakers have strong reservations on this footnote I would ask our delegate of Congo to go ahead with the rest of the Conference here and approve this as amended by the delegate of the United Kingdom. So if you do not have strong objection to that we can consider it approved and moved.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I have two points. The first concerns the substance of the footnote. Because we thought it would help some delegations we were quite happy to propose the amended text proposed by my colleague earlier. In view of what Congo said we would be equally happy to revert to the original text. The preference is for the amended text, but if this causes difficulties we would be happy to revert to the original text.

This brings me to the next point, which is a procedural one, and it is just to make sure there is no misunderstanding, because we would not let this part of the discussion slip past without explaining that our position is that any nation can have a footnote to a text without having to seek the approval of Member States. We do not feel that any footnote we have made is subject to the approval of the delegate of the Congo or any other delegate. I would like to make this point strongly.

On the question of whether we have the text as amended or the original text we are quite relaxed; „ our preference would be for the original text.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous ne voulons pas retarder les travaux de la plénière mais, puisque la délégation du Royaume-Uni insiste, je propose d'ajouter une deuxième note de bas de page - une contre-note de bas de page - qui se lirait de la façon suivante:

"La délégation congolaise a fait valoir que les réserves émises par certaines délégations à propos de ce paragraphe 24 devraient trouver place dans le chapitre des "Considérations et avis généraux" de la Conférence."

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): No tenemos el ánimo de retardar sus trabajos, pero deseamos que conste en las actas nuestro firme apoyo a los puntos de principio que viene planteando la Delegación de Congo.

Creemos que cada Delegación tiene derecho a hacer sus reservas, pero sin tratar de involucrar a otros países y sin que el texto que se presente pueda ofender la dignidad , la soberanía y el respeto que merecen los Estados soberanos.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): De la misma forma en que no queremos utilizar el tiempo que usted quiere guardar celosamente para hacer una buena gestión, nos vemos de todas maneras impelidos a hablar.

Nosotros queremos apoyar en todas sus partes la propuesta del Congo, que en ninguna forma limita el derecho soberano del Reino Unido a hacer su nota. Sin embargo, también el derecho soberano de los países a calificar los criterios que se dan, porque esto es una posición de principio que debe constar. Por lo tanto, opinamos que la reserva emitida por el Reino Unido debe aparecer en el capítulo de opiniones de la Conferencia.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Solamente para hacer constar que Venezuela apoya y se asocia a la posición del Congo en este punto.

CHAIRMAN: Congo wished to add a footnote and if there is no objection to that, the Conference approves it. I see no objection to that. We will add your footnote as you have asked.

Omofe James OYAIDE (Nigeria): I think we have to exercise a little caution here, that if we are going to go on with so many footnotes we may find that at the end there may be more than two or three or four divergent points of view. Looking at the text of the footnotes, the view of the United Kingdom, it is not strictly a dissenting opinion from paragraph 24. That is why I thought the amendment which the delegates from United Kingdom proposed of saying that that text ought to have been added to paragraph 24 should be what we are considering and if we accept the substance of that footnote then we clearly incorporate it as part of paragraph 24. I would suggest that that should be a better approach than several footnotes as have been proposed now, a counter footnote to the original footnote. I do not think that is the way we should proceed.

CHAIRMAN: I think the delegate from Congo is only asking for his rights and I think the Conference is not raising objections.

Georges EGAL (France): La délégation française s'étonne de toute cette procédure sur un sujet très largement débattu au Comité de rédaction. Je me suis laissé dire que la chose est tout à fait inhabituelle et nous éloigne du consensus que l'on recherche toujours ici, à la FAO.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I should just like to put on record my views regarding these footnotes. I believe that every delegation has the right to put a footnote and he is the supreme authority in what he wants to put in the footnote. It is just a mere reservation on the text that is indicated in the paragraph to which the footnote is attached. But there are many footnotes here that are not really reservations. They are just as much a part of the Report as the paragraphs themselves so I was wondering whether some of them could be incorporated in the text and then they would be introduced with "some delegations" or "one delegation" or "this delegation felt" such as in paragraph 24, but I am entirely in your hands. In a text like this I think it is as much a part of the report then it should be subject to the examination of the Body. I just want to put that on record, that if a footnote is just not a reservation but a pretext to introduce another idea into the report, which is just as much a part of the report as the preceding paragraphs, then I think it should be subject to the ruling of the Body.

CHAIRMAN: Again, if there is no objection on the Congo proposal to put a footnote then the Chair thinks you are in agreement and it is therefore decided. Paragraph 24 is therefore adopted.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): I must express my concern with a bit of the procedure you have just followed in terms of footnotes. It seems to me that the Congo Delegation has the perfect right to introduce a footnote into this report and that that footnote need not be subject, need not be subject, to the acquiescence of the Body. So we do not have to decide on the Congo footnote, it is their right and we will defend it all the way.

Paragraphs 18 to 24 as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 18 à 24 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 18 a 24 así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 25 to 28 approved

Les paragraphes 25 à 28 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 25 a 28 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 29 to 43

PARAGRAPHEs 29 à 43

PÁRRAFOS 29 a 43

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Il y a eu dans la version anglaise du document C 87/REP/I une erreur matérielle à la quatrième ligne du paragraphe 41. Il y est dit par erreur: "the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean"; en fait, on devrait lire: "the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean".

Les textes français et espagnol disent correctement "le Bureau de la région Amérique latine/ Caraïbes".

Il s'agit d'un bureau au Siège et non pas du Bureau régional qui se trouve à Santiago.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Secretary General for his remarks on paragraph 41.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): In order to take up the point which was made previously by the delegation from Colombia and others I wish to amend the second footnote on this page, which as it stands talks about the views of some countries, and I wish to alter it as follows, "'The Delegation of the United Kingdom" then cut out those next four words, "expressed concern", etc. and then at the beginning of the next sentence instead of "These countries believe", "It believed".

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): As we indicated previously, as members of the Drafting Committee we support the Draft with the exception of those small portions that had not been subject to purview and completion by the Drafting Committee, as it is with respect to paragraph 43 which is one of those paragraphs which was not discussed in the Drafting Committee. Our delegation has some concern about that paragraph and would have wished to address it more fully both in the Drafting Committee or in Commission II yesterday. Because this was not possible we should like to enter a footnote to paragraph 43 and this would be perhaps footnote No. 3 insofar as there are two pre-existing footnotes. The footnote would read as follows, "The Delegation of Canada did not feel that this paragraph took sufficient note of the concerns expressed by a number of delegations on the operation and management of the Technical Cooperation Programme".

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think it is only fair to mention which are the "several, delegations". My remark is also valid for the first footnote of the United Kingdom: "...drew attention to the statement by a number of developing countries..." We should like to know which are the developing countries. The representative Canada also mentioned "several countries" and we should like to know which are those countries. This information will enable us to follow the matter better.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): I wanted to reassociate myself with the footnote, but in view of what is happening I will yield.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Je n'ai pas l'intention de demander une note en bas de page, mais je voudrais quand même faire une remarque. Nous avons signalé au cours des débats que nous apportons notre appui au Programme de coopération technique qui nous paraît important. Le but de ce Programme est de répondre à un certain nombre de demandes à court terme et à des situations d'urgence imprévisibles.

Je voudrais simplement que l'on en fasse mention en bas de page. Il me paraît difficile de parler de programmation préalable d'événements imprévisibles.

Antonio R. PIRES (Cap-Vert): La délégation cap-verdienne est, elle aussi, étonnée de lire "plusieurs pays en développement" ... concernant la note de bas de page de la délégation du Royaume-Uni.

J'ai personnellement suivi les travaux de cette Commission avec beaucoup de sagesse, de dynamisme et de présence et je ne me souviens pas que "plusieurs pays en voie de développement" aient dit cela.

Concernant le PCT, je soutiens ce qu'a dit l'honorable délégué Ambassadeur de Belgique, car je pense, en ce qui concerne le PCT, ses objectifs, ses actions et son caractère spécifique, que le débat a été très animé.

Harald HØSTMARK (Norway): This is a slightly different point to that under discussion at the moment so if you prefer to continue with the present matter and give me the floor before you approve the Report - I am in your hands.

Fotis G. POULIDES (Cyprus): Our delegation wishes to support the declaration made by the delegation of Belgium concerning TCP. We consider TCP indispensable for the developing countries.

Sami SUNAA (Jordan) (original language Arabic): In Commission II we all approved the Technical Cooperation Programme and many points were raised concerning this programme. They were also approved. We also discussed the need to make available all the necessary resources for this programme. Therefore, we believe that certain comments should be amended. We also approve all the previous footnotes. We believe that it is the right of each and every country to express its opinion in a footnote and it is possible for various countries to have their opinions expressed in a footnote to preserve their sovereignty.

Leopoldo AJRIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos, en primer lugar, adherirnos a la preocupación de Bélgica, en cuanto a que debemos conocer quiénes son los países en desarrollo que han expresado su preocupación por el PCT. Hemos sido testigos de la discusión del ataque al PCT por lo que constituye el PCT de multilateralismo. Hemos sido testigos en cinco años de los ataques. Por lo tanto, sabemos como se han expresado estas cuestiones, pero nos extraña no haber oído hasta ahora, como dicen algunas delegaciones, un ataque directo hecho por un país en desarrollo.

Queremos unirnos también a la propuesta que hizo la distinguida representación de Bélgica, y por lo tanto, apoyar este párrafo. Específicamente, sobre el párrafo tenemos una propuesta que posiblemente contradiga lo que vino del Comité de Redacción, pero vamos a seguir repitiendo lo que han dicho muchos delegados: Esta Plenaria es soberana.

En la tercera línea en español, donde se expresa, después de "historial de asistencia directa y oportuna a los países beneficiarios" dice: "algunos miembros lamentaron". Propongo eliminar "algunos miembros" y "lamentaron que no hubiera sido posible aumentar en términos reales la asignación". Porque no conocemos que sean "algunos". La discusión de la Comisión fue bastante unánime por parte de los países en desarrollo a la necesidad de aumentar los fondos para ésta, o por lo menos, para no afectar los fondos de este programa. Por lo tanto, repito, creo que sería muy interesante saber cuáles son las insatisfacciones de algunos miembros de países no en desarrollo. Apoyamos la proposición de Bélgica, y apoyamos en todas sus partes este Capítulo Cuarto: Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT). Por lo tanto, lamentamos nosotros que haya una nota de pie de página, que sencillamente repite los ataques que se vienen haciendo desde hace mucho tiempo, y que no creo que tengan mucha fuerza.

Sumiji NAKAZAWA (Japan): With regard to paragraph 43, I should like to point out that Japan expressed its concern about the management of TCP in Commission II and this is not duly reflected in the Report. In the spirit of cooperation I do not intend to ask that our position should be spelt out in a footnote or elsewhere. However, I hope that the Conference takes note of the fact that Japan expressed such a concern in Commission II.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): At the outset I should like to make a general remark, namely that some countries were accustomed to expressing the points of view of other countries and at this stage we should like to express our concern about this trend. It should not be the practice at all that any country should express the point of view of another country. This is totally unacceptable.

My second point has also been referred to by a number of previous speakers and concerns TCP. I have attended the meetings of Commission II. All members of developing countries in Commission II expressed their full support for TCP. This is a programme which deals directly with the problems of agricultural development in developing countries and therefore it is strange to find reference here to the fact that TCP does not do its duty as we wish, and this is unrealistic.

Temei ISKIT (Turkey): Turkey was a member of the Drafting Committee, so we refrained until this point to take the floor. However, in view of the present discussion we have certain points to make. First, I should like to thank the delegation of the United Kingdom for their consistency. In view of the remarks we have made concerning the first footnote that they have on page 3 they admitted that they should change the second footnote on page 14 since the remark concerned reference to some other countries. May I invite the same delegation to be consistent - it is an invitation to them, of course, I do not deny their right - and to reconsider their first footnote in view of the fact that this footnote also makes references to other countries and commits other countries. Perhaps the United Kingdom delegation may consider this matter.

My second point concerns TCP. My delegation was one of the delegations which supported TCP and which underlined its emergency nature and the fact it could not be preplanned. Therefore my delegation fully associates with the declaration made by Belgium.

Mapela NGA-MA (Zaïre): Je voulais aussi appuyer la délégation de la Belgique et, en second lieu, faire remarquer que, lorsqu'on a parlé des bureaux régionaux en Piénière au moment où la question a été discutée, il a bien été souligné qu'en ce qui concerne cette question de bureaux régionaux dans le pays, il arrive parfois que les représentants de la FAO soient placés dans le même bâtiment que le Ministère de l'agriculture, et si nous tenons compte de la note de bas de page du Royaume-Uni, ceci signifie simplement qu'on demande aux pays en développement de construire des bâtiments à étages pour abriter des services.

Je demanderai donc, comme l'a fait le délégué de la Turquie, que le Royaume-Uni considère un peu ce problème. Nous ne pensons pas que ce serait là une façon de faire des économies, mais comme il s'agit là d'une note de bas de page demandée par un pays souverain, en l'occurrence le Royaume-Uni, et afin que nous soyons en bons termes avec nos gouvernements en particulier, nous, pays en développement qui sommes ici concernés, il faudrait peut-être, si le Royaume-Uni insiste, qu'il cite le nom de ces pays qui veulent regrouper les services de la FAO avec d'autres ensembles. Ainsi, quand nous rentrerons dans nos villes respectives, nous serons en paix avec nos gouvernements.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): It seems to me that the fairly extended discussion we are having on this paragraph demonstrates yet again the inadequacy of the arrangements for preparing a Report on the work of the Commission and the procedures which have led to the present discussion.

The second point is, of course, that I am grateful to the distinguished delegation from Turkey for recognizing that we had in fact, already amended the second footnote which I think would otherwise have caused yet more debate.

But on the first, I must say that I was somewhat surprised at the intervention of the Director-General in this, not only because I supposed the servant of the Organization is there to help us when we ask questions of him rather than the other way round, but because of course the papers and the views which my delegation referred to in the discussion had been circulated by the Director-General to the Conference some time ago. He has asked for the names of the countries which are mentioned in this footnote, and I will read them out, and I want to underline that it is not a matter of my Government committing any of these governments to what they say. It is simply to underline that they themselves have committed themselves to this statement. You will find this particular reference on page A61 of C 87/30, and the developing countries which are responsible for that paper are the following: Mexico, Congo, Cuba, India, Nicaragua, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yugoslavia.

George Henry MUSGROVE (Canada): I was prompted to intervene to ask for your guidance in clarifying what it is we are discussing. At various times we were discussing one of two or three footnotes. Other interventions have suggested changes in the Draft itself, and quite a number of delegations have been speaking to the substance of the Technical Cooperation Programme as to its merits and demerits. I think the debate on the substance is long past us. What we are talking about is the Draft and it is the Draft Report that is in front of us. We, a few minutes ago, entertained or proposed a reservation in the name of our delegation and it was pointed out, and I had anticipated it may be pointed out by others, that we had used the term: "by a number of delegations" when in fact we should perhaps have put the reservation forward in our own name and by ourselves. The use of the term "by a number of delegations" I guess was a spin-off of the sentence we would have proposed in Drafting Committee for the Report and it was in this sense we had suggested it in the footnote. We will, however, amend our reservation by the removal of that term "by a number of countries" so that it reads in the sense by Canada itself.

We were interested in the intervention by the Director-General and would have welcomed him in Commission II, and indeed in the Drafting Committees, to discuss and assist us with our work.

Perhaps I could finally plead that we confine ourselves to this Draft and not to substance. We, like other delegates, do find the Technical Cooperation Programme to be an extremely useful one - one that is very popular. We have expressed concerns repeatedly over the years as to its management and the style of its operation, and it is a matter that is of concern to us and will be pursued in the future.

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to the next speaker, the Director-General has asked to intervene at this point.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Le distingué délégué du Royaume-Uni avait raison, et je n'aurais donc pas dû demander ces détails -puisque'ils figurent dans le texte d'une soixantaine de pages distribué par le Secrétariat. Je suis bien sûr au service de tous les Etats Membres, et pour mieux les servir, la constitution permet au Directeur général d'intervenir sur tous les points de l'Ordre du jour en discussion. Quant au fait que je n'ai pu être en Commission II ou au Comité de rédaction, c'est une question qui relève du Directeur général. J'ai dû recevoir chez moi plus de 80 Ministres de l'Agriculture; mais j'ai été très bien représenté par Monsieur Walton et par tous mes collègues. Je remercie Monsieur Musgrove, délégué du Canada, d'avoir bien voulu changer le texte de sa "foot-note".

Le Directeur général est obligé de tenir compte des points de vue de tous les pays et il doit donc être pleinement informé pour pouvoir servir les Etats Membres.

Ibrahirna KABA (Guinée): La délégation guinéenne soutient fermement les observations faites par le distingué délégué de la Belgique en ce qui concerne le PCT. En effet, ce programme trouve son succès justement dans son caractère d'intervention d'urgence dans un pays où la rigueur de la planification fait encore défaut.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous voudrions d'abord dire, concernant le PCT, que nous sommes tout à fait d'accord avec la déclaration faite par la délégation de la Belgique; nous le sommes d'autant plus qu'en Commission II, lorsque, à la suite de la déclaration de la délégation de la Belgique, qui fait d'ailleurs preuve d'une certaine suite dans les idées sur cette question en soutenant le PCT, nous avons indiqué que nous la soutenions totalement. Il est donc tout à fait naturel, en ce qui nous concerne, que nous profitons de cette occasion pour répéter une fois de plus que tout ce qu'il a déclaré recueille notre aval.

Autant je constate que la déclaration de la Belgique est logique et cohérente, autant je ne comprends pas très bien la position de la délégation du Royaume-Uni. Que je sache, le Royaume-Uni appartient à la catégorie des pays développés et non pas à celle des pays en développement. Dans les notes de bas de page qui précèdent, nous avons constaté qu'elles engagent en fait, jusque-là, les pays de sa catégorie, autrement dit, les pays développés; mais nous constatons maintenant qu'elles engagent la catégorie des pays en développement, qui, d'ailleurs, --sont bien représentés ici et ont toute liberté de s'exprimer.

Nous avons comme l'impression qu'il y a une confusion qui s'instaure. La délégation du Royaume-Uni a eu la gentillesse de nous donner la liste des pays auxquels elle faisait allusion et nous nous sommes rendu compte que le Congo est cité sur cette liste à côté du Mexique et de bien d'autres pays en développement. Au moment où je vous parle, je n'ai pas le document auquel il a fait référence, j'en sais, que je sache, il y a un document à propos duquel les avis des pays en développement se sont exprimés.

Je dois dire que la position des pays en développement vient même contrebalancer la position des pays développés et je crois savoir que c'est 9 contre 9, ou 8 contre 9. Il y a eu une certaine balance dans ces termes-là. Mais en tout état de cause, nous pensons que la position des pays en développement doit être exprimée par les pays en développement et non pas par les pays développés; je crois que c'est une position de principe et, sans vouloir nier le droit de chaque délégation de mettre des notes de bas de page, je suis loin de comprendre pourquoi la délégation du Royaume-Uni veut entraîner à la fois le clan des pays développés et celui des pays en développement. Je ne comprends pas que le Royaume-Uni aille jusqu'à englober les pays en développement. J'aimerais avoir plus d'explications au sujet de cette note de bas de page que je ne comprends pas.

Mohammed BENNIS (Maroc): Dorénavant, je me penche avec autant d'attention sur le texte même du rapport que sur les notes de bas de page car on a maintenant tendance à vouloir introduire des idées nouvelles ou à atténuer l'apport d'idées de base mentionnées dans le texte même du rapport. Cette pratique est dangereuse et nous devons être prudents afin de ne pas créer des précédents fâcheux qui deviendraient une règle générale.

Ceci dit, je voudrais m'associer totalement au point de vue exprimé par la Turquie et je voudrais féliciter à ce propos la délégation du Royaume-Uni qui a modifié la rédaction de la deuxième note de bas de page; dans un souci de cohérence, je lui demande de modifier la première note dans le même sens.

Le voudrais dire également qu'il ne faudrait pas que des délégations, à titre individuel, s'érigent en Comité de rédaction. Une délégation a toute latitude pour donner son point de vue à titre individuel et c'est aux délégations qui veulent s'associer à ce point de vue de se manifester et d'adjoindre leur nom à la liste des pays qui expriment ou partagent ce point de vue.

En tout cas, concernant la note 1, nous sommes parmi les pays en développement, et nous ne partageons pas le point de vue exprimé dans cette note.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Seré muy breve porque solamente quiero expresar aquí que Venezuela ha estado entre los países que apoyan el Programa de Cooperación Técnica; por consecuencia, va a apoyar la declaración de Bélgica y demuestra, asimismo, su incompatibilidad con la nota presentada por el Reino Unido porque consideramos que adolece de la misma falla de la primera nota en que menciona de manera indefinida países asignándoles determinadas ideas o posiciones que no corresponden exactamente a la realidad. Por esa razón nosotros vamos a estar identificados con la posición adoptada por Bélgica en su declaración y por el Congo, que también ha expresado sus ideas muy claras.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola): Je voudrais tout simplement m'associer aux délégués qui m'ont précédé. Il est vraiment étrange d'avoir une note de bas de page du Royaume-Uni disant que plusieurs pays en développement vont souvent à l'encontre du PCT. Franchement, depuis que nous sommes ici, nous participons très activement aux travaux de la Commission II et nous n'avons jamais entendu de représentant de pays en développement parler du PCT comme le dit le délégué du Royaume-Uni.

Nous avons déjà un porce-parole dans le Groupe des 77. S'il y a un avis à donner, ce n'est pas à un pays comme le Royaume-Uni de parler à notre place. De ce fait, ma délégation appuie entièrement la déclaration du délégué de la Belgique et celle de mon collègue du Congo.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Je dois rappeler, comme nous l'avons fait hier en Commission, qu'effectivement les paragraphes 41 et 43 n'ont pas été discutés au Comité de rédaction et que j'avais moi-même autorisé que les membres de ce Comité puissent intervenir sur ces deux paragraphes à la Commission.

Mais je voudrais profiter du temps qui m'est accordé pour dire également que, tout en approuvant le principe des notes de bas de page, nous pensons qu'il faut être discipliné car, lorsque je lis la note de bas de page 1, où il est question des pays en développement, je note qu'il y a une discordance entre ce que contient cette note de bas de page et le document auquel on fait allusion ici. Je crois qu'il faut très bien lire ce qui est dit dans notre document par rapport à ce qui est dit ici. Ici, on parle des bureaux et services généraux pour toutes les Organisations. Ce n'est pas ce que les pays en développement auteurs du document C 87/30 ont dit. Ils ont dit qu'il faut que la FAO puisse être dans des bureaux publics, c'est-à-dire que, si les gouvernements ont des bureaux disponibles, ils y installent la FAO pour diminuer les coûts. Cela n'a donc rien à voir avec l'association entre organisations du système des Nations Unies.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I do not know if I am-going to be really all that helpful but I should like to try to summarize as far as I can where we have got and where a consensus appears to be emerging. First, I would point out that footnote 1 on page 14 of the English text does not apply to the Technical Cooperation Programme but to a paragraph dealing with country offices. There may have been some confusion in the debate about that.

I should like, if I may, to say something about the contents of footnote 1, which is the United Kingdom footnote on reducing costs. There is nothing in this footnote with which the Secretariat would disagree in the slightest. What it says is: "Reduce costs through inter alia shared offices and general services with other UN organizations." We have at the moment 15 joint offices shared with UNDP, and whenever a new country office is opened the first option explored is joint premises with UNDP. It is very seldom possible for practical reasons. Therefore, although in the context this may appear to the reader as a controversial statement, in fact it is not-controversial at all. I would think that probably all countries which submitted papers which are reproduced in document C 87/30 would agree to it.

That having been said, it seems to me there is no disagreement within this assembly to paragraph 42, which includes the United Kingdom footnote to which I have just referred. For paragraph 43, which did not go through the Drafting Committee, the basic trouble is that it expresses the majority view but not the minority view; and the minority view has therefore sprung up in the form of footnotes. That is really what has happened, I think.

As regards the text of paragraph 43 as it stands, one formal amendment was proposed early in the debate, if I remember correctly, that the second sentence would read "Regret was expressed that it had not proved feasible to increase in real terms the level of the TCP appropriation but it was hoped that this would be done in future biennia." This was moved as a formal proposal, as I understood it at the time.

Then there are two footnotes expressing what I would refer to as the minority viewpoint. If paragraph 43 as amended and with the two footnotes could be accepted, I believe the Commission can complete consideration of the textual part of this draft report and proceed to the Resolution.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We have some 14 speakers and perhaps the list will grow. Before recognizing the next speaker let me say that if we can consider the proposal put so helpfully by Mr Walton and if we can agree what he has just proposed, we can save ourselves time and speeches. There are speakers on the list already but what I am proposing now is that if Mr Walton's proposal is agreed, shall we again do as we did before: raise hands to agree to it and approve it? There is a point of order, I think.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): My point of order is this. Certain mis-statements or misinterpretations of the United Kingdom position have been made. I think it is only fair and right that my country's position should be expressed upon those so as not to leave anyone under misapprehensions. For instance, it was alleged by the delegate for Venezuela that my delegation was opposed to the TCP and that the footnote somehow was opposed to the TCP. That is completely wrong. There was never any such suggestion. Our position is well-known. We have always supported it. If you will permit me, I will make these points later but I wish to ask you to give us the floor in order to make the corrections at the right point.

CHAIRMAN: I think Mr Walton was very clear, again clarifying the misunderstanding or misinterpretation of certain interventions, statements or comments that were made. I thought he made a very constructive proposal and I have asked for approval to be signified, or disapproval to be signified, by the raising of hands, and you have raised your hands in approval of what Mr Walton has proposed. Shall we now raise our hands again? No hands. You do not approve. If there are no points of order we will continue with the list of speakers.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Zbigniew KARNICKI (Poland): My point of order is that you asked us to raise our hands for approval or disapproval of the Deputy Director-General's proposal. Unfortunately, it was interrupted by a point of order, so you had no time to look carefully at the hands that had been raised. May I ask you kindly to repeat the question and ask us whether we do or do not support the proposal put forward by the Deputy Director-General.

CHAIRMAN: I would remind the Conference that I repeated the request to raise hands in approval or disapproval of what Mr Walton had proposed.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Temei ISKIT (Turkey): I have a question relating to the proposal by Mr Walton concerning the first footnote on page 14. Did I understand correctly that the first footnote will remain as it is? My question is answered. Thank you.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Je voudrais que M. Walton répète toute sa proposition avant que nous ne procédions au vote.

CHAIRMAN: We will repeat what Mr Walton has proposed, and then we will vote on it again. May I ask Mr Walton please to repeat it.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The suggestion is that paragraph 42 be adopted with the footnote I which applies to it. On paragraph 43 I have incorporated one change which was suggested from the floor that seems to me quite non-controversial, so that it would read: "The majority of Member Nations reiterated their attachment to the TCP in view of its proven record of direct and timely assistance rendered to beneficiary countries. Regret was expressed that it had not proved feasible to increase in real terms the level of the TCP appropriation, but it was hoped that this would be done in future biennia."

There would then be two footnotes. The first is, so to speak, the property of the United Kingdom: they have altered their wording. The second one, which is in fact footnote 3, has been read out by the delegation of Canada. That would be a Canadian footnote.

Vote by show of hands
Vote à main levée
Votación a mano alzada

CHAIRMAN: I see it is approved by a majority.

Harald HØSTMARK (Norway): After having listened to the whole debate I believe that there has been some demonstration of some practical consequences of adopting reports en bloc when there is not a basis in consensus. For the principles involved and my views upon them I refer to the Nordic statement in Commission II yesterday. May I request that my delegation be associated with footnote 2 on page 2.

Ms Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden): Just to add my country to the list of countries in footnote 2 on page 2, paragraph 2.

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): La delegación Argentina, señor Presidente, quisiera dejar constancia en actas que lamenta profundamente que el procedimiento de adopción del Informe sobre este punto de la Agenda en la Comisión II, haya dado como resultado una notable inflación de notas a pié de página. Estimamos que esto es demostrativo de que la Comisión no agotó el proceso de consultas y negociaciones que es inherente, y permítame realzar el término, inherente a todo foro multilateral. Sólo me resta agregar la esperanza de mi delegación de que los Estados Miembros de esta Organización aprendamos de nuestros errores, de modo que se asegure en el futuro que nuestros informes puedan ser la expresión de un trabajo concluido.

Srta. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): En vista de que el nombre de mi país ha sido aludido por el Representante del Reino Unido para justificar la inclusión de su pie de página, he querido expresar que si bien nuestra delegación expresó la conveniencia de utilizar recursos en términos e instalaciones, lo ha hecho en un contexto diferente que se ha permitido darse por satisfecho de la inclusión del espíritu de su declaración en el párrafo aludido por el Delegado que lo señaló. Y nos reservamos nuestro derecho de haberlo traído a este Informe por lo cual no admitimos que se nos invoque para justificar un pie de página e incluir reservas; por lo cual pedimos que una nota de pié de página se haga en nombre propio y no se aluda a otros.

Paragraphs 29 to 43 as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 29 à 43 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 29 a 43 así enmendados, son aprobados

- Draft Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations (1988-89) (Resolution .../87)
- Projet de Résolution sur les ouvertures de crédits 1988-89 (Résolution .../87)
- Proyecto de resolución sobre Consignaciones presupuestarias para 1988-89 (Resolución.../87)

CHAIRMAN: I think we have one more item because this is the resolution and this is part of the Report. We can go ahead making our statements, but can we delay them until we have finished with the resolution. We can consider the resolution. I submit it to the vote if it has been read and considered by the delegates. If they do not have substantial objection to it or comments, then I submit it to be voted on, whether agreed or disagreed, on a roll call basis.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Ian BUTST (United Kingdom): You asked whether we could move straight to a vote on this. My delegation wishes to move an amendment to the draft resolution. If you wish I will proceed with that, since I suppose it is now open for discussion.

It is our understanding' from the Plenary sessions of previous conferences that there is no specific provision in the Basic Text which requires today's conversion rate to be the basis for establishing the budget total. The United Kingdom therefore wishes to move that the draft resolution should be amended by substituting the average daily rate of exchange over the six months ending 31 October for the rate upon which the present figures have been calculated and for revised figures to be accordingly substituted in the draft resolution. The reasons for moving this amendment are as follows:

In the first place it is clear that there are great variations in exchange rates over the financial period. We have experienced these in the past, we can expect to experience them in future.

In the second place there have been suggestions in Commission II, which indeed are recorded in the Report which we have just adopted, for using exchange rates other than that which is now put before us, and indeed on one occasion one country suggested using the rate for the present biennium. We would think that that went too far back. But the principle of an average exchange rate over a period of six months up to the last day of the month which precedes the relevant decision is now established in virtually all international financial institutions following suggestions originally made some years ago by France. The present system on which basis we are now asked to approve this resolution leads to great uncertainty in capitals over the provisions which they are to make in their national budgets. Often those budgets will run from 1 January and thus budget planning in such countries is far advanced. Delegates therefore come to the Conference with their positions drawn up on the basis of the documents already circulated and they find themselves on a single day faced with figures which are significantly different.

I would like to emphasize in conclusion that the United Kingdom view remains, as well known, that the Organization should be protected from the effects of exchange rate movements, and of course discussions in relation to this are proceeding separately in Commission III.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Can the Representative of the United Kingdom be more specific? We are proposing the rate of today as has been the case with all previous Conferences so far as I recall. What exactly is the rate being proposed by the delegate of United Kingdom?

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of the United Kingdom is not presenting a specific exchange rate as I understand it. He is presenting a system by which exchange rates can be calculated on a period of time.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I am proposing a specific rate. I am proposing that the rate which is used should be the average of the exchange rate, the average daily rate over the last six months to 31 October. It should not be difficult to calculate that rate and to bring forward after lunch, If we are going to have a break for lunch, a group of figures which would then be based on that single exchange rate, the average rate over the last six months. This is exactly what is applied in the other institutions that I have mentioned.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I wish to explain that the rate which was applied to the Budget of 1986-87 was fixed in November 1985 at the rate of 1 760; today the rate is 1 234. So we have lost about US \$ 30 million. If we take the average rate for the last six months it will be not 1 234 but about 1 310, we do not know. So we would begin the biennium losing several million dollars from the first day. Our intention is that once the rate of 1 234 has been fixed we will (Miter into forward contract to cover the Organization's lira requirements for one year taking into consideration

the exchange rate of today. However if we establish a rate of 1 300, we could already foresee losing approximately US \$ 5 million. I just wanted to draw your attention to this material information.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): Since my currency is involved, I would like to underline what on more than one occasion I have already proposed in the Finance Committee. I am very far distant from the proposal of the United Kingdom. Nevertheless I do not agree that the erratic rate of exchange; of today can benefit the Organization. I see the point that the Director-General made. We could incur in depleting our Special Reserve Account in a matter of months if we adopt a rate much higher than this. So to be more honest my idea was to take into consideration the last 15 days with ups and downs but not over that: otherwise, as Dr Saouma said, we start with a terrible loss. So my suggestion has been made for one week, I could say for two weeks, or you could add a reference point, the starting day of the Conference. It is very clear. The starting day of the Conference was a Saturday.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, I have put the resolution to vote and the delegates of the United Kingdom have come up with an amendment, as he read it or stated it and the delegate from Italy has again proposed another adjustment to what the delegate of the United Kingdom has proposed. I can consider the amendment presented by the United Kingdom as an amendment to the resolution and we can vote on that.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I think it might be helpful to us since we now have two different suggestions, if there was an adjournment and if the staff could work out what the implications are. The fact is, of course, that rates go up as well as down; they can go down as well as up. It is slightly a matter of chance and I think we would be in a better position to know what the effects might be if we had those figures worked out. So I suggest we might adjourn and then come back when the calculations have been made.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I would have thought that the calculation would have been done so that we would know where we stand. Moreover there is no text with the proposed amendment. There is one resolution before us. There is no other text, or paragraph which indicates what exactly we are going to vote on this afternoon. We will try certainly to find out but if you had done it yourself, you would have helped us.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Perdóneme que la pida como moción de orden, pero la he estado pidiendo hace más de media hora en el punto anterior y no se me ha concedido, lamentablemente. Primeramente queríamos pedirle a Usted que tratara de controlar, para no tener los mismos efectos de la Comisión II. Se lo digo sinceramente. Sr. Presidente, Usted ha permitido que le falte el respeto al Director General un funcionario. Usted ahora me ha dado la moción de orden. Yo quiero expresar lo siguiente: creo que el Director General tiene razones para pedir que cuando se haga en Plenaria una proposición se traigan los elementos y los cálculos. Mientras no veamos una redacción clara de lo que se nos presenta, no podemos aceptar. No creo que podamos, tampoco, dar plazos aquí para empezar a hacer cálculos. Esto tiene su mecanismo, que lo ha cumplido. Los mismos que están planteando ahora poner en tela de juicio ese mecanismo, son los que están creando problemas ahora de dilación. Porque éste es un problema de ganar tiempo, de obstaculizar, Sr. Presidente. Dése cuenta de eso y maneje la situación. Porque se le va a ir de las manos la situación.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Humberto CARRION MCDONOUGH (Nicaragua): También he tratado de llamar su atención para que me concediera la palabra anteriormente. Queremos coincidir con la expresión de Cuba. Creemos sinceramente que aquí estamos tratando tácticas de carácter dilatorio para evitar votar sobre un proyecto de resolución que tenemos ante nosotros. Anteriormente, en otra Conferencia nos sucedió como la que se nos presenta. Creemos que, sencillamente, no es posible ni práctico suspender una sesión como ésta para hacer cálculos que ni siquiera están en este momento planteados claramente. Independientemente de que podamos o no realizar este tipo de cálculos, el resultado será muy parecido al que tenemos en el Proyecto de resolución en relación con el tipo de cambio. Por lo tanto, yo le propongo a Usted como moción de orden, que pasemos directamente a cumplir con el procedimiento que hemos utilizado anteriormente en otras conferencias y someter este proyecto de resolución a votación.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): My point of order is in fact indent ici I to the one just raised by Nicaragua. So I am just supporting Nicaragua. This resolution is before us for voting. We know Commission I and Commission II are still going on and they have to meet this afternoon so you cannot adjourn now and come back this afternoon, so I recommend Nicaragua's resolution to you, it is a motion to proceed to the vote.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Si, Sr. Presidente, para pedir la votación inmediata, siguiendo la costumbre de la FAO y no introduciendo novedades de procedimiento. Son tres días o más que estamos asistiendo a procedimientos obstruccionistas. Estamos un poco hartos. Tenemos mucha confianza. Así que Usted, termine con todo esto.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Chavaly S. SASTRY (India): I would like to submit the problem of exchange variations which has not been unknown to FAO. It has been discussed in detail in many Council meetings and also in the Commission II and also in the earlier Conferences. Secondly, for the last 45 years this Organization has been following a particular convention for voting on the budgetary programme. Thirdly, if the Delegate of the United Kingdom wanted a particular change of procedure to be introduced this year, it would have been more appropriate to have given an indication of this in the discussion that took place in Commission II so that the Secretariat could have got all the information ready, and if need be an alternative resolution ready. Lastly, since there is no alternative resolution before us I would submit that we go ahead to vote on the resolution which is before us.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia presenta la moción formal de cierre del debate. A la luz del reglamento esto quiere decir, primero, que usted, Sr. Presidente, puede conceder la palabra a dos delegaciones que quieran oponerse a esa moción y luego proceder a votar el proyecto de resolución.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): I do not want to be accused of not speaking English well. This is a point of order for compromise and in the spirit of the Deputy Director-General who has intervened so effectively in the past, I would like to say that, first, I am surprised at the negative reaction that good ideas have in this forum all the time. Innovation, which is the stock of FAO is not the stock of members. I think that the British Delegation has proposed a good idea. I do not see it as an obstructionism of any kind, but in the spirit of the time we have, and maybe because I am partially hungry, I would like to suggest a compromise solution and that would be that the Secretariat uses the next several weeks to study this suggestion in depth and produces a short report to the next meeting of the Finance Committee to move this idea along and in the meantime we then proceed to the resolution of the budgetary appropriation.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I welcome very much this proposal but I want to say that the Secretariat must see what are the financial implications for the Member States since the proposal made by the United Kingdom, to take the average of six months, was not specific. We know that the dollar has been declining for the last six months, and we know that one month ago it was 1 330. This is why I want to see what are the financial implications. We welcome your proposal and we shall study this with the Finance Committee in the future.

CHAIRMAN: I think we have to move on voting this resolution but before we do that there is an amendment being presented by the Delegate of the United Kingdom and there are speakers who want to speak against that. Otherwise we will move on voting again on the amendment, unless the Delegate of the United Kingdom withdraws his amendment and we will vote on the resolution itself.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): Well, first let me say that I do not consider that it is necessary for my delegation to be able to tell you exactly what the average rates over the last six months were'. I certainly would expect that the Organization, with its large computer resources would be able to do that very, very quickly. However, I do not want to press this point. It certainly would have been possible to go ahead in that way.

The second point is that my delegation has been accused of obstructionism; absolutely I reject that. That is untrue and it certainly was not my delegation which spent hours and hours arguing about whether we should have 'as', 'but' or 'by' in Commission II. Indeed, we abstained on the vote in that unintelligible discussion. However, I do sense the feeling of the meeting that they would wish to proceed with the main resolution and I think therefore that in the interests of going ahead we will withdraw our amendment as appealed to the United States on the basis that there is a reference of this subject, as the Director-General has indicated there will be, to the instances of the "Organization.

I wish at the same time, in case there is any doubt about this, formally to request a roll call vote on the main resolution.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Je partage les avis qui viennent d'être exprimés par le représentant des Etats-Unis mais je souhaiterais que, " dans le cadre de l'examen, on étudie la possibilité de

l'apport d'un certain nombre de contributions en devises européennes. Comme vous le savez, un pourcentage relativement important de dépenses de la FAO sont effectuées en liras (40 pour cent au minimum du budget de l'Organisation).

Je crois qu'il serait donc utile d'examiner la possibilité, dans le cadre des relations entre les pays de la Communauté économique européenne, que les principaux contributeurs, qui représentent plus de 35 pour cent des contributions, puissent s'acquitter de leurs contributions soit en écus soit en monnaie européenne. Et je voudrais que ce point puisse être examiné à l'avenir.

CHAIRMAN: So we now call the vote.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, nous arrivons au vote de la résolution portant ouverture de crédits pour l'exercice 1988-89.

L'article XVIII, paragraphe 5 de l'Acte constitutif stipule que "les décisions relatives au montant du budget sont prises à la majorité des 2/3 des suffrages exprimés".

Selon l'article XII, paragraphe 7, alinéa a) du Règlement général, un vote par appel nominal a lieu si une majorité des deux tiers est requise en vertu de l'Acte constitutif.

L'article XII, paragraphe 3, alinéa c) du Règlement général stipule que, lorsqu'en vertu de l'Acte constitutif "une décision doit être prise par la Conférence à la majorité des deux tiers, le nombre total des suffrages exprimés, pour ou contre, doit être supérieur à la moitié du nombre des Etats Membres de l'Organisation". Il faut donc en l'occurrence que le nombre de voix pour et contre qui vont être émises soit d'au moins 80.

Le Secrétariat doit maintenant informer le Président du nombre de délégués présents dans la salle: il y en a au moins 114.

Selon l'article XII, paragraphe 7, alinéa a) du Règlement général, le vote par appel nominal se fait de la manière suivante: "Le vote par appel nominal se fait en appelant dans l'ordre alphabétique anglais les noms de tous les Etats Membres ayant le droit de prendre part au vote", en commençant par un Etat dont le nom est tiré au sort par le Président.

L'Etat qui a le privilège d'être le premier votant est le Luxembourg. Le vote va donc commencer par le Luxembourg. Je précise que le représentant de chaque Etat Membre, à l'appel de son nom, devra répondre par "oui", "non" ou "abstention". A l'issue du vote, il sera procédé à un nouvel appel de tous les Etats Membres dont les délégués ou représentants n'auraient pas répondu au premier appel. Le vote de chaque Etat Membre prenant part à un vote par appel nominal est consigné au procès-verbal.

Vote

Vote

Votación



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

ROLL CALL VOTING
APPEL NOMINAL
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on
Vote sur
.....Votación para APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION 1988-89
.....

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	99
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	4
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	7
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	45

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	103
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	69
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ADOPTED
ADOPTÉE
ACEPTADA

Date ..20.11.87..... Elections Officer ..G. Tedesco.....
Fecha Fonctionnaire électoral.....
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) GRO

If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting to be held not less than one hour after the conclusion of the meeting at which the equally divided vote occurred. If the second vote is also equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

En cas de partage égal des voix lors d'un vote ne portant pas sur une élection, on procède à un deuxième vote au cours d'une séance ultérieure, qui ne peut avoir lieu moins d'une heure après la fin de celle à laquelle s'est produit le partage égal des voix. Si les voix restent également partagées lors de ce second vote, la proposition est considérée comme repoussée.

Si hubiera empate en un asunto que no sea una elección, se repetirá la votación en una sesión subsiguiente la cual no deberá celebrarse hasta que haya transcurrido una hora, por lo menos, desde la conclusión de aquella en que se produjo el empate. Si en la segunda votación hubiera también empate se considerará rechazada la propuesta.

Session of the Conference
Session de la Conférence
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT
APPEL NOMINAL DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN
VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on
Vote sur
Votación para APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION 1988-89

COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR
Afghanistan				X	Gambia				X	Pakistan				X
Albania				X	Germany (Fed. Rep. of)				X	Panama	X			
Algeria	X				Ghana	X				Papua New Guinea				X
Angola	X				Greece	X				Peru	X			
Antigua and Barbuda	X				Grenada	X				Philippines	X			
Argentina	X				Guatemala				X	Poland	X			
Australia		X			Guinea	X				Portugal				X
Austria	X				Guinea-Bissau	X				Qatar				X
Bahamas			X		Guyana	X				Rwanda				X
Bahrain			X		Haiti				X	St. Christopher & Nevis				X
Bangladesh	X				Honduras	X				Saint Lucia				X
Barbados	X				Hungary	X				St. Vincent & the Grenad				X
Belgium	X				Iceland				X	Samoa			X	
Belize				X	India	X				Sao Tome and Principe				X
Benin	X				Indonesia	X				Saudi Arabia	X			
Bhutan	X				Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	X				Senegal	X			
Bolivia	X				Iraq	X				Seychelles				X
Botswana	X				Ireland	X				Sierra Leone	X			
Brazil			X		Israel	X				Solomon Islands				X
Bulgaria	X				Italy	X				Somalia				X
Burkina Faso	X				Jamaica				X	Spain	X			
Burma	X				Japan				X	Sri Lanka	X			
Burundi	X				Jordan	X				Sudan				X
Cameroon	X				Kenya	X				Suriname	X			
Canada	X				Korea (Rep. of)	X				Swaziland	X			
Cape Verde	X				Kuwait	X				Sweden	X			
Central African Rep.				X	Laos	X				Switzerland	X			
Chad				X	Lebanon	X				Syria	X			
Chile	X				Lesotho	X				Tanzania	X			
China	X				Liberia	X				Thailand	X			
Colombia	X				Libya	X				Togo	X			
Comoros			X		Luxembourg	X				Tonga				X
Congo	X				Madagascar	X				Trinidad and Tobago	X			
Cook Islands			X		Malawi	X				Tunisia	X			
Costa Rica	X				Malaysia	X				Turkey	X			
Côte d'Ivoire	X				Maldives				X	Uganda				X
Cuba	X				Mali	X				United Arab Emirates				X
Cyprus	X				Malta				X	United Kingdom		X		
Czechoslovakia	X				Mauritania	X				U.S.A.		X		
D.P. Rep. of Korea	X				Mauritius				X	Uruguay	X			
Denmark	X				Mexico				X	Vanuatu				X
Djibouti	X				Mongolia	X				Venezuela				X
Dominica	X				Morocco	X				Viet Nam	X			
Dominican Rep.				X	Mozambique				X	Yemen Arab Republic				X
Ecuador			X		Namibia				X	Yemen (P.D. Rep. of)	X			
Egypt	X				Nepal	X				Yugoslavia	X			
El Salvador	X				Netherlands	X				Zaire	X			
Equatorial Guinea				X	New Zealand				X	Zambia	X			
Ethiopia	X				Nicaragua	X				Zimbabwe	X			
Fiji				X	Niger				X					
Finland	X				Nigeria				X					
France	X				Norway	X								
Gabon				X	Omran				X					
	36	2	2	13		36	0	4	13		27	2	1	19

Draft Report of Plenary, Part I and Part I-Sup.I as amended, were adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, première partie et son supplément ainsi amendés sont approuvés

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte I y su suplemento así enmendados son aprobados

CHAIRMAN: I now call on the distinguished delegate of Mexico, for its explanation of vote.

Srta. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): La Delegación mexicana quiere dejar asentado en actas la aclaración sobre su voto de abstención al presupuesto, toda vez que quiere se vea disociada de otras posiciones. Nuestro Gobierno le da la mayor importancia y confianza a nuestra Organización y a su Director General, y también apoya al Programa en todas y cada una de sus partes, como ya lo hemos señalado reiteradamente.

Desafortunadamente la coyuntura económica actual de nuestro país con la carga del servicio de la segunda deuda más grande, el deterioro de los precios de los productos de exportación en el contexto de un mercado lleno de barreras proteccionistas, el encrudecimiento del problema monetario, en el cual para nuestro país no ha sido suficiente la medida de un deslizamiento diario de nuestra moneda, sino que en el día de ayer ha tenido que sufrir una devaluación adicional de cerca del 40 por ciento, por lo cual se ha requerido tomar medidas de ahorro extremo, particularmente de divisas, razón por la cual no puede contraer compromisos adicionales.

Esta es la única razón de nuestra abstención; pero reiteramos la voluntad política de mi Gobierno de cumplir con sus obligaciones con nuestra Organización.

Augusto DE MÉDICIS (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation wishes to reiterate its wholehearted support for the principles guiding this Organization - its purpose and objectives. We have already also expressed our clear agreement with the Programme of Work. My delegation regrets nevertheless that it was not in a position to endorse the increase in the budget caused by exchange rate fluctuations as it will affect adversely and substantially the amount of our contribution, an amount that we will find extremely difficult to absorb due to the burden of our external debt, the deterioration in the export prices of our commodities in the world, the economic and financial crisis faced by the developing countries. The position of my delegation is consistent with the attitude taken by my Government regarding this issue in other multilateral fora. This position should in no way be misconstrued as an endorsement of the zero growth principles or any other negative or obstructionist policy which aim at debilitating our Organization.

Ms Anna-Lisa KORHONEN (Finland): I should like to make an explanation of vote after the vote on the election of the Resolution dealing with the budgetary appropriations for 1988-89 on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. The Nordic countries would like to place on record their position on the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89 as follows. We have voted in favour of the level of the proposed budget. Nevertheless we are most concerned about the uncertainty as regards the possibilities of being able to implement the proposed Programme of Work as a whole. A prerequisite for the budget to be implemented is that all Member Nations meet their financial obligations. Thus we strongly urge that all members of this Organization meet their obligations in a timely and orderly fashion.

We are also about the priority-setting in the programme, as explained in our statements in Commission II, the Nordic countries concur only with some programme priorities of the budget, and would therefore have liked to have a more thorough discussion on the issue of priority-setting in the Commission.

As regards the adoption of the Report in Commission II, our delegation would have liked to state once again our dissatisfaction with the procedure by which the Member States were prevented from exercising their democratic right to express their views on matters which were left open in the Drafting Committee.

Philippe PIOTET (France): J'avais en fait demandé la parole avant lo vote puisque mon pays avait été évoqué dans la déclaration de la Grande-Bretagne. Je n'ai pas insisté pour obtenir la parole car le délégué de la Belgique a tout à fait bien reflété la position de mon pays.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): The Federal Republic of Germany welcomes the setting of priorities for the new programme budget 1988-89, as was pointed out by Federal Minister Kiechle here in Plenary on 10 November. But my delegation has not been able to approve the budget, because it does not include in our opinion, the necessary provisions to cope with the financial emergency situation presently faced (by the Organization) and to be expected in the near future. We do hope, however, that these difficulties will be overcome soon.

Guillermo GONZALEZ (Argentina): La Delegación argentina votó favorablemente el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1988-89 porque comparte y apoya plenamente sus objetivos programáticos y porque reconoce los esfuerzos realizados por el Director General para reducir los costos de apoyo administrativo sin afectar a los programas para el desarrollo. Sin embargo, debe dejar constancia de su preocupación por el impacto financiero en el monto del presupuesto sujeto a cuota del tipo de cambio lira-dólar que se ha establecido. No hay duda que el mismo responde a una realidad; pero su aplicación perjudica doblemente a los países en desarrollo cuyas monedas se han devaluado frente al dólar.

La Delegación argentina reitera que, a su juicio, las diferencias presupuestarias debidas a las fluctuaciones de cambio deberían ser absorbidas principalmente por aquellos países que se han beneficiado en esta situación. En este sentido estima que el Comité de Finanzas debe estudiar otras alternativas que tiendan a una distribución más equitativa de dichas cargas.

Leo HERTOOG (Netherlands): The Netherlands has voted in favour of the Resolution on the budgetary appropriations 1988-89. We wish to explain the reasons which led to this decision. As far as the level of the budget is concerned we would have preferred real zero growth - 0.0 percent - in conformity with our adherence to the principle of zero growth throughout the United Nations System. -However, we accept the 0.25 percent for the following reason: namely, a priority area in Dutch development assistance policy is rural development in which we still consider that FAO has to play a leading role.

On the programme itself, I would remark that the voting on the budget precedes the final discussion on agenda item 12 entitled "Consideration of Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations, including the Need for Reform in the Programme Budget Process". My country is looking forward with the utmost interest to the outcome of this discussion since, as the Dutch Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries said in his statement to the Conference, the Dutch Government feels that, and I quote: "If FAO is to perform its important task effectively essential reform will be imperative." I should like also to refer to what the Director-General said in a Statement to the Conference on this subject. We all know that today the whole United Nations system is in the process of reorientation. FAO being the largest of the Specialized United Nations Agencies, should not play a passive role in this process, but rather a leading role. Furthermore, speaking about the role of the FAO, we for our part cannot imagine FAO not playing a more protagonistic part as policy adviser, especially in view of the important, ongoing and future structural programmes and the effects of trade liberalization. Therefore, we think that FAO will need an appropriate ranking of, priorities in its Programme of Work to effect, in balance with the available resources, the reorientation advocated. On the assumption that our views will soon be shared by the Organization, we decided to vote in favour of the budget and the programme for 1988-89.

Sumiji NAKAZAWA (Japan): On behalf of my delegation, I should like to make a brief statement regarding the position which Japan has taken on the resolution of the budget. The delegation of Japan has repeatedly expressed its view that the appropriate amount of Members' contributions should be kept at such a level as to avoid any possibility of causing an increase in the arrears, which might put the financial situation of the Organization in the next biennium in difficulty.

While appreciating the efforts made by the Secretariat in reducing the budget level, my delegation cannot but express its concern that at the increase of the total Member Nations' contributions could not be more modest. This is why my delegation has taken a position of abstention in regard to the Resolution. This was indeed a difficult one for my country to reach because the budget level of the next biennium cannot be discussed without considering the impact made by the introduction of the short-term or medium-term financial measures now under consideration by Commission III.

Lastly, I should like to underline the fact that our abstention does not in any way indicate less support on behalf of my Government for FAO. In fact, my Government has been one of the strongest supporters of this Organization, recognizing its key role in the field of food and agriculture in the world.

G. MUSGROVE (Canada): Our country voted against this particular budget and we should like to offer an explanation of that vote. While we have noted the Secretariat's effort in presenting the budget to keep the budget level modest in light of the financial burden it will place on Member States, we nevertheless feel that the budget is somewhat high and represents a sharp increase in assessments for many countries in terms of local currencies, including our own.

We were also disappointed in this proposal that the Programme of Work and Budget did not provide clear instructions from the Organization's Governing Bodies to the Secretariat for priority setting among substantive programmes. "

Finally, we do not feel that the proposal in front of us includes an appropriate contingency plan, nor adequate provision for member input into realigning programme priorities in the possible event of a shortfall in financial resources during the forthcoming biennium. All three of these points have been addressed repeatedly by our delegation over the last 18 months as this Programme of Work and Budget was being formed and developed. We still find the proposal wanting in those particular areas.

We would wish to note, while we have the floor, that countries whose contributions account for 36 percent of the budget have voted against this particular Resolution. Indeed, if we were to consider adding those countries who have abstained, 62 percent of contributors have cast some doubt on the Programme of Work and Budget for our forthcoming biennium. We would not wish this fact to go unnoticed in our future consultations, and particularly in respect of our deliberations and proposals for review and reform within our Organization.

Daniel Gerald NUTTER (Australia): The Australian Government has had to oppose the budget as presented in Council and in Finance Committee. We have consistently made clear our opposition to a budget which fails to take realistic account of income receipts and which fails to contain growth in a responsible manner by clearly identifying programme priorities to enable the rational containment of costs through responsible programme cuts and further streamlining of administrative procedures. Many Member Nations are facing such problems of adjustment and we cannot see why our Organization should ignore them. The Australian Government had hoped that the Organization would see fit to impose a degree of restraint and discipline on this budget for the next biennium that took account of the international economic environment on which multilateral organizations now operate and which is adversely affecting most Member Nations.

Hans POPP (Suisse): La délégation suisse a voté "oui" car nous approuvons le niveau du budget; en effet, la politique de mon pays a toujours été de renforcer cette organisation dans sa noble tâche. Nous nous associons à l'explication de vote donnée pour les pays nordiques par la voix de la Finlande.

Nous faisons certaines réserves sur le Programme de travail. Je ne répéterai pas ici toutes nos suggestions et propositions à ce sujet et d'ailleurs vous pourrez vous référer aux procès-verbaux, à nos interventions au Conseil et dans la Commission II.

En résumé, nous pensons surtout que la FAO devrait renforcer son rôle et son influence dans le domaine d'une politique agricole efficace pour améliorer la sécurité alimentaire, selon le concept élargi, dans les pays les plus critiquomont touchés.

Nous suivons avec attention les efforts faits pour la réalisation des réformes que le Directeur général nous a promises, et nous l'assurons de notre soutien et de notre collaboration dans la poursuite de ces tâches.

Ian BÜIST (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom has voted against this Resolution because we do not consider that it provides an appropriate solution to the very serious problems which unfortunately face this Organisation. Our views were explained in detail in Commission II and I will not rehearse them at length here. I will only say that priorities are not properly articulated and ranked, which is an even more urgent necessity in the present financial circumstances, that transparency is lacking, particularly on cash spending and that the budget level is too high, particularly when viewed against the actual programme of US\$ 412 million in the current biennium. The severe difficulties encountered by many member countries in meeting their obligations under the current programme illustrate the dangers for the Organization of adding to their burdens to the extent established by this Resolution.

Roberto PONCE (Ecuador): Mi delegación desea dejar en claro que el Ecuador apoya el Programa de Labores de la Organización y reconoce el mérito de sus acciones. La abstención que ha debido hacer en esta votación no debe de interpretarse como una cuestión de respaldo o no a la gestión de la Organización, sino que debe entenderse exclusivamente motivada por la crítica situación económica por la que atraviesa mi país que, no obstante este hecho, hará un esfuerzo para cumplir con las obligaciones financieras asumidas. No deseamos, de ninguna manera que se nos identifique con otros países que, a través de su voto negativo a esta resolución, expresan críticas a la FAO.

Pensamos que al igual que lo manifestado por la delegación argentina, deben buscarse otras fórmulas para solucionar los problemas financieros de la Organización. Nosotros nos sentimos coautores de esa propuesta por el hecho de ser latinoamericanos.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia voted in favour of the Resolution and the budget level for the next biennium. We also approved the priorities set out in it. This is because of our complete and full conviction and our entire satisfaction with the pioneering and important role being undertaken by this Organization especially in certain developing countries, and in recognition of the immense responsibilities being shouldered by this Organization in seeking to meet the needs and requirements of member countries. We voted in favour of the budget because we are also convinced and confident about the excellent and wise manner in which this Organization is being administered and run. This has proved to us and to everyone else that it is being run properly and appropriately. We supported the budget level, though our contributions under this budget have increased from 1.04 percent to 1.6 percent of the overall budget level. This unfortunately does situate us at the level of many developed countries. This does not reflect at all the reality. We had requested that the United Nations scale of assessments be reviewed. We wish to affirm to one and all that the management of this Organization, the responsibilities shouldered by this Organization, are a reflection of the entire responsibility assumed towards developing countries, and which we fully support.

Mourad BENCHEIKH (Algérie): Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, car la salle est ainsi faite que je suis situé à votre gauche et que j'échappe à votre regard; j'espère qu'il n'y a là aucune interprétation à donner autre que l'absence de votre regard.

En votant en faveur du budget malgré les difficultés économiques qu'elle traverse en raison d'une chute sévère de ses recettes d'exportation, l'Algérie a voulu donner une expression concrète à son attachement à la coopération multilatérale, ainsi que son appui sans réserve aux efforts entrepris par notre Organisation pour faire face aux graves défis de cette fin de siècle et qui sont l'éradication de la faim dans le monde et la pleine réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Ce faisant, l'Algérie lance un appel à tous les pays qui ne l'ont pas fait pour qu'ils règlent au plus tôt leurs arriérés et se conforment sans retard aux dispositions de la résolution qui vient d'être votée.

Adel Helray EL-SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabe): Egypt voted in favour of the resolution and the budget on the basis of our support and believes in the purposes of this Organization, and out of faith in international cooperation we urge all member countries to pay up their contributions and to seek to support multilateral cooperation.

Amador VELAZQUEZ GARCIA-MONTERROSO (Perú): Voy a ser lo más rápido posible y, para permitir que el delegado de Italia pueda ser el último como es su deseo. Solamente, el Perú desea adherirse en todo el contenido y al alcance de la explicación de voto positivo que ha hecho la hermana Delegación de Argentina.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for recognizing "do facts" that it is the privilege of the host country to be the last speaker. I will not speak for long. I have no prepared text, but I think it is the duty of the representative of the host government to finish the debate on a rosy note, not a gloomy one. Of course we voted for the budget, but this is not all.

I think among the privileges that I should enjoy is to have all the distinguished collaborators from the booths to know Italian, and I want to quote what my Prime Minister said right here a month ago, if I have the permission of the interpreters. He said: "Nel rinnovare il sentimento di particolare apprezzamento per il ruolo che la FAO svolge, desidero ribadire che noi non le faremo mancare la nostra convinta collaborazione ed il nostro attivo sostegno." Because of that Italy will go beyond the pure approval of PWB and prompt payment of the contributions that come out of the budget that a large majority of this Conference approved, I would say the overwhelming majority. We do more than that. I would just recall what the delegate of Argentina said that the donor countries should at least give in addition what they save by the play of the exchange rates. We have been in the list at an 8 percent advantage. Believe me, FAO will receive from Italy more than 8 percent, not through the ' channel of contribution but through other channels.

It is three o'clock and I don't want to sound like a demagogue, but I would like to say that I think it is our duty to support this Organization to overcome the difficult times ahead.

There is a point in the agenda of Commission III at which very modestly I will announce later on, to whoever is interested, what Italy has in mind. But there is no limit to our efforts to keep FAO afloat during the two coming years, because we do foresee very hard moments. I did not put any condition, but it was quite implicit when I approved the Report of Commission II that I wanted to mention a resolution put forward by the Italian delegation.

This is a note of prudence, so that we are not termed as unrealistic. We want to have the continuous presence of governing bodies in full power to decide what the Director-General will be forced at a certain moment to propose. We do not want to say "the Conference is not on, let us wait for two years;" because I do not envy him in this very difficult task of "cutting". We hate cutting, and, believe me, we will do our best not to cut anything, especially in the most precious programmes of this Organization.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, distinguished delegate of Italy, for the spirit that you have shown over this institution.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, je serai bref mais je ne voudrais pas laisser passer cette occasion du vote du budget sans dire quelques mots.

J'accueille en effet avec satisfaction le vote massif du Programme de travail et Budget qui vient d'avoir lieu. Ce budget reflète en réalité les conditions économiques et financières que nous vivons, et les circonstances politiques qui prévalent aujourd'hui dans l'ensemble de la famille des Nations Unies.

En tout état de cause, il est le résultat non d'une imposition mais d'un long processus de consultation au cours duquel les Etats Membres ont eu l'occasion de s'exprimer. Leur avis m'a d'ailleurs amené à apporter divers ajustements à mes propositions initiales.

Le vote que vous venez d'émettre nous encourage à poursuivre nos efforts et nous nous efforçons de faire toujours davantage, même si c'est en réalité avec moins de ressources.

Je tiens en tout cas à ajouter ceci.

Je comprends les délégations qui auraient aimé une expansion plus vigoureuse de nos programmes plutôt qu'un budget en croissance symbolique et, en pratique, négative.

Je le dis à ceux qui ont parié de la croissance zéro; ce budget est en croissance négative du fait d'une budgétisation volontairement sous-évaluée des coûts. Je suis cependant satisfait que ce Programme de travail et Budget continuera à bénéficier aux pays les plus pauvres par les avis et les aides très variées que la FAO est à même de leur fournir. Cette assistance a un effet catalytique qui ne peut se mesurer en termes quantitatifs. Son effet multiplicateur et d'entraînement est d'ailleurs reconnu de tous.

D'autre part, je respecte tout autant la position des délégations qui n'ont pas pu se rallier à ce budget. J'ai pris note de leur point de vue, et je sais d'ailleurs que je peux compter sur la collaboration de tous les Etats Membres; et je voudrais redire à cette occasion que je reste ouvert à la discussion et au dialogue avec toutes les délégations.

Evidemment, le budget voté, la crise de trésorerie demeure. Et si nous devons adopter la proposition faite tout à l'heure par un délégué dans le but de fixer le taux du dollar sur la base de la moyenne des taux des six derniers mois, nous l'aurions fixé à 1317 (nous sommes rapides avec nos ordinateurs "made in USA") alors que le taux fixé est de 1234. Nous aurions perdu d'ores et déjà quelque 7 millions de dollars.

Je voudrais donc faire appel à tous les Etats Membres pour qu'ils versent leur contribution dans les meilleurs délais, et en particulier aux pays dont la monnaie s'est appréciée par rapport au dollar -et ils sont nombreux - pour qu'ils le fassent dès que possible au début de 1988... peut-être qu'ils auraient à y gagner parce que le dollar pourrait remonter après... Je leur lance cet appel comme les textes de base de l'Organisation en font d'ailleurs une obligation à tous.

Je voudrais remercier sincèrement les pays qui ont accepté de différer le recouvrement de leur part de l'excédent de trésorerie ou d'y renoncer. Je remercie également les pays qui viennent de prendre des dispositions pour le versement de leurs arriérés; le Brésil nous a versé 3 300 000 dollars il y a à peine quelques jours. Je remercie également les pays qui ont annoncé leur intention de fournir des contributions spéciales pour aider l'Organisation, et je pense plus spécialement au Gouvernement italien.

Je remercie aus-si le Japon qui a bien voulu également avancer le paiement de sa contribution de 1988 pour un montant de près de 3 millions de dollars.

Je fais également appel à tous ceux qui ont accumulé des arriérés pour qu'ils s'en acquittent dans les plus brefs délais.

L'action de la FAO est vitale; elle ne peut pas reculer; le nombre de personnes dans les pays en voie de développement qui naissent chaque année est de près de 80 millions, et en six ans, la croissance budgétaire a diminué et n'a pas augmenté mais bien évidemment nous sommes tributaires des circonstances économiques et politiques; par conséquent, je considère le budget que je vous ai présenté comme un budget minimum. Je m'efforcerai de gérer nos ressources avec le maximum de prévoyance et de parcimonie; ne l'ai-je pas démontré quand j'ai distribué 45 millions de dollars qui étaient le surplus du budget 1982/83, et 35 millions de dollars de surplus de ressources non dépensées et accumulées à cause des intérêts des autres ressources provenant du budget 1984/85?

En 1986-87, nous finissons malheureusement avec un déficit, mais j'espère que la situation s'améliorera par la suite.

Je promets donc à tous les Etats Membres de gérer les fonds avec parcimonie, de m'efforcer à assurer un recouvrement aussi rapide que possible des contributions, et de maximiser nos ressources accessoires.

Mais vous savez que la FAO n'a pas pris sur tous les facteurs, que ce soit l'évolution du taux du dollar ou le processus législatif de notre principal pays contributeur.

Si des ajustements de programme se révélaient nécessaires - ce qui dépend de Etats Membres, et ce qui dépendra de l'administration - je ne manquerai pas de consulter à ce sujet le Comité du programme et le Comité financier, et de saisir le Conseil de la FAO. Le Conseil de la FAO peut se réunir à la date prévue en novembre 88 ou avant, ou même tenir une session supplémentaire. Il n'y aura donc pas de vide législatif.

Pour terminer, je voudrais remercier les Etats-Membres pour le vote qu'ils viennent d'émettre et les assurer que le Secrétariat mettra tout en oeuvre pour valoriser au maximum les ressources ainsi allouées dans l'intérêt de tous les Etats Membres de l'Organisation, et en particulier des pays qui ont le plus besoin de ses services.

CHAIRMAN: We conclude our meeting this morning.

The meeting rose at 15.00 hours

La séance est levée à 15 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 15.00 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 87/PV/17

Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARY

Vingt-quatrième session
PLENIERE

24° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE PLINI EKE 17ª SESION PLENARIA

(23 November 1987)

The Seventeenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dix-septième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence de
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 17 sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): In the name of Allah the merciful, the compassionate, the meeting is called to order.

This is the Seventeenth Session of the Plenary, and we will start by hearing an oral account of the result of the meeting of the General Committee that was held this morning. I will therefore request the Secretary-General kindly to give this oral report.

- Sixth Report of the General Committee 1/
- Sixième Rapport du Bureau
- Sexto Informe del Comité General

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le Bureau s'est réuni ce matin pour examiner l'organisation des travaux de la dernière semaine de la Conférence. Il a étudié le calendrier de la plénière et des différentes commissions, et il est apparu que, pour faciliter les travaux de la Commission II qui a encore plusieurs questions importantes à traiter, il serait utile qu'un nouveau vice-président de cette commission soit élu.

En réponse à une question, il a été précisé que la disposition pertinente du Règlement général est le paragraphe 2 de l'Article XIII: "La Conférence, après avoir examiné les recommandations du Conseil et du Bureau, élit le Président et le ou les Vice-Présidents de chaque commission". Il apparaît donc 1) que le nombre de vice-présidents n'est pas limité; 2) qu'aucune date n'est fixée pour une telle élection.

A la suite de ces explications, il a été proposé que le Bureau recommande à la Conférence d'élire comme vice-président de la Commission II Son Excellence Temei ISKIT, Représentant permanent de la Turquie.

Dans le même temps, le Bureau, constatant les difficultés rencontrées pour maintenir le quorum dans les commissions qui siègent en même temps, a décidé de faire appel à toutes les délégations pour qu'elles s'efforcent de participer aussi pleinement que possible aux travaux, en particulier lorsque des séances de nuit sont prévues, ce qui est le cas pour la Commission II ce soir et demain.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I thank the Secretary-General for his oral report.

As you have heard, the General Committee has submitted a proposal for the nomination of Mr Iskit', the representative of Turkey, as Vice-Chairman of Commission II in order that that Commission may be able to complete its work in the time available.

The Secretary-General has also addressed an appeal. This appeal was made on behalf of the General Committee, an appeal addressed to all distinguished delegates and representatives of member countries to attend the meetings of the various Commissions to enable them to have the necessary quorum for the adoption of the necessary measures required by their work.

Before we hear any statements from the floor, I should like first of all to know if you approve the proposal put forward by the General Committee on the election of the Vice-Chairman of Commission II.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

I take it by your acclamation that you approve the appointment of Mr Iskit as a Vice-Chairman of Commission II.

1/ Fifth Report. of General Committee was submitted to Commission II (see C 87/11/PV/14, p. 1).

It was so decided.
Il en est ainsi décidé.
Así se acuerda.

Before we move on to the next item on our agenda this morning, the representative of Costa Rica...

Noise
Bruit
Ruido

If the representative of Colombia has a point of order, he has the floor. If it is not a point of order the representative of Costa Rica had requested the floor before the representative of Colombia. If it is a point of order you have the floor, Sir.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente: Ud. está faltando constantemente el respeto a la delegación de Colombia. Hemos pedido la palabra hace diez minutos. Nos vio Ud.; nos vio el secretario y aún así no nos dá la palabra. Le ruego que, en adelante, respete a un país soberano. Y ojalá que Ud. no coadyuve la afirmación de que ésta es una Conferencia antidemocrática. Nosotros creemos que cada representante de país debe intervenir cuando quiera, como quiera y en la forma que quiera.

Deseábamos intervenir, y lo hacemos ahora, porque hay una propuesta del Comité General y es obvio que cada delegación pueda referirse a ella. Queremos felicitar al Comité General presidido por Ud., por la propuesta de elegir al Sr. Iskit como Vicepresidente de la Comisión II; pero si hemos intervenido es porque pensamos que al elegir ahora al Sr. Iskit, él está fresco, tiene todos los bríos, todas las energías posibles, y por ello desearíamos que el Sr. Iskit junto con el colega Said de Libia presidiera el mayor número posible de reuniones en la Comisión II, ojalá, el resto de los trabajos de la Comisión II, para que esa Comisión pueda concluir satisfactoriamente sus trabajos.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Costa Rica has asked for the floor. Please, Costa Rica.

Carlo di MOTTOLA .BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Como Presidente del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, a nombre de nuestra Región, sentamos nuestra más enérgica protesta por la forma irrespetuosa, desordenada y provocativa cómo ha ejercido sus funciones el Presidente de la Comisión II. Consideramos que la manera cómo ha actuado el Presidente de la Comisión II es contraria a los más elementales principios de la cooperación internacional, y constituye un grave precedente nunca antes registrado en esta Organización. Los Representantes de América Latina y el Caribe pensamos que el Presidente de la Comisión II ha faltado el respeto a muchos de nuestros Gobiernos, hasta el punto de que se ha referido en términos inaceptables a la República de Panamá y a su Ministro de Agricultura. Al Gobierno de Panamá, reiteramos nuestra solidaridad y simpatía.

Pedimos que en el Informe de la Conferencia conste el rechazo nuestro a los métodos desafortunados e inaceptables usados por el Presidente de la Comisión II.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Thank you. If there are no other comments we shall move to the next item on our Agenda, item 26.

José Manuel WATSON (Panamá): Gracias Sr. Presidente, Sres. Delegados. Ante todo, nuestras más expresivas gracias al Grupo Latinoamericano y el Caribe por su apoyo irrestricto en momentos en que mi Patria y su Ministro de Desarrollo Agropecuario han sido insultados por el Presidente de la Comisión TI. Insultos groseros y falaces que rechazamos enérgicamente, y que como se ha demostrado, no existen precedentes en la historia de la FAO de una actitud tan retrógrada.

Muchas gracias Sr. Presidente; muchas gracias hermanos latinoamericanos y del Caribe y muchas gracias a España igualmente.

CHAIRMAN: Cuba and Peru have asked for the floor. I would ask the representatives of Cuba and of Peru to limit themselves to the subject matter in front of us, I would urge them again that, in order to save time and to finish our business, to be brief. Cuba has the floor.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Remitiéndome al tema específico, digo que la delegación de Cuba apoy en todas sus partes la declaración que ha hecho el Presidente del Grupo Latinoamericano y el Caribe en nombre de nuestra Región.

Consideramos que la actitud del presidente de la Comisión II ha sido ofensiva, provocadora oxprofeso y muy lejana de los principios que han primado siempre en el seno de las Naciones Unidas.

La delegación de Cuba apoya al Gobierno de Panamá, dignamente representado en esta Conferencia por un Ministro de Gobierno y por su Embajador y por sus Delegaciones, que fue objeto de ofensas sin precedentes por parte de dicha Comisión.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Peru has the floor.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): En nombre del Perú quiero solidarizarme con la sexpresiones de rechazo de nuestro Presidente, hacia una actitud que no coincide con la conducta del pueblo norteamericano, para quien va mi admiración y mis respetos. Conozco al pueblo de los Estados Unidos que es un pueblo digno, y un pueblo respetuoso de los derecho humanos, y por eso me extraña la actitud del Presidente...

CHAIRMAN: Please limit yourself to... Please do not mention any countries.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): ... y nos solidarizamos con el hermano pueblo de Panamá y le expresamos en este momento nuestra más profunda y estrecha admiración.

CHAIRMAN: Nicaragua has the floor.

Humberto CARRION McDONOUGH (Nicaragua): Nuestra delegación desea asociarse plenamente con las decía raciones hechas por el Embajador di Motrola de Costa Rica como Presidente del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe. No podemos dejar de expresar nuestro más firme apoyo y solidaridad con el Gobierno y la delegación de Panamá, y rechazamos categóricamente las ofensas hechas a este país hermano y a su Ministro de Agricultura por parte del Presidente de la Comisión II, el Embajador Eckert de los Estados Unidos.

CHAIRMAN: Mexico has asked for the floor.

Raúl LOPEZ LIRA (México): Mi delegación va a ser muy breve porque en sus palabras solamente quiere solidarizarse con la declaración que ha leído el Presidente del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe. Lamentamos realmente que estos incidentes se produzcan en estos foros.

CHAIRMAN: Dominica has asked for the floor.

Mc Donald Phillip BENJAMIN (Dominica): My delegation fully supports the statement made by the delegate from Costa Rica, and we have full sympathy for the feelings expressed by the delegate from Panama.

CHAIRMAN: Venezuela has the floor.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Brevemente, para expresar nuestra solidaridad con el documento leído por el Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe y, al mismo tiempo expresar nuestro apoyo en estos momentos a los representantes del Gobierno de la República de Panamá.

CHAIRMAN: Libya has asked for the floor.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): After having heard the statement made by the Head of the Latin American Group, Ambassador Di Mottola, I would like to express my support for that statement on behalf of my own country as such offensive behaviour affects the sovereignty of Member Countries, and we do hope that this will not be repeated.

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

IV. NOMINATION ET ELECTIONS (suite)

IV. NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

26. Election of Council Member

26. Election des membres du Conseil

26. Elección de miembros del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: Now we move to the next item, item 26, election of the Council Members. The reference document is C 87/LIM/34, which we approved last week. I now give the floor to the Secretary-General who will explain the procedure.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le Journal de la Conférence d'aujourd'hui contient, en première page, un modèle de bulletin de vote pour l'élection des membres du Conseil. En utilisant des noms fictifs de pays, nous avons indiqué la façon correcte de remplir ces bulletins qui vont vous être délivrés.

Comme la Conférence l'a décidé, nous allons procéder en deux étapes. Tout d'abord, la Conférence va élire, pour chacune des six régions intéressées, un ou plusieurs membres qui siégeront au Conseil pendant la période qui va de novembre 1987 au 31 décembre 1990- Nous procéderons à autant de tours de scrutin qu'il sera nécessaire.

Une fois cette première opération achevée, nous passerons à la seconde phase, c'est-à-dire à l'élection, pour chacune des cinq régions intéressées, d'un ou plusieurs membres qui siégeront au Conseil pendant une période allant du 1^{er} janvier 1989 à novembre 1991. Là encore, nous procéderons à autant de tours de scrutin qu'il sera nécessaire.

Conformément au paragraphe 9 a) de l'article XII du Règlement général, ces élections se font au scrutin secret, même lorsqu'il n'y a pas plus de candidats que de sièges à pourvoir.

Il sera remis à chaque électeur un bulletin de vote distinct pour chacune des régions intéressées. Chaque bulletin doit être rempli conformément aux instructions qui s'y trouvent portées. La majorité requise est spécifiée aux paragraphes 3 a) et 3 b) de l'article XII du Règlement général.

J'attire votre attention sur le fait que le nombre de sièges à pourvoir varie d'une région à l'autre, comme l'indique le document C 87/LIM/34. Lorsque le nombre des candidats dépasse celui des sièges à pourvoir, il y a lieu de marquer d'une croix la case correspondant à chacun des pays que l'on désire voir élire, comme il est indiqué sur le bulletin-témoin.

Conformément au paragraphe 11 a) de l'article XII du Règlement général, chaque électeur, à moins qu'il ne s'abstienne, doit voter pour chacun des sièges à pourvoir en désignant un candidat différent pour chaque siège. Tout bulletin qui ne se conformerait pas à ces indications serait déclaré nul. Le paragraphe 4 c) de l'article XII du Règlement général prévoit que tout bulletin blanc sera considéré comme une abstention. Le paragraphe 4 d) du même article précise que les bulletins ne doivent porter aucune indication ni aucun signe autre que ceux par lesquels s'exprime le suffrage.

Un bulletin désignant plus de pays qu'il n'y a de sièges à pourvoir sera considéré comme nul. De même, un bulletin désignant moins de pays qu'il n'y a de sièges à pourvoir sera également considéré comme nul. Cela veut dire que, pour être valable, un bulletin doit porter exactement autant de croix "x" qu'il y a de sièges à pourvoir.

Je rappelle qu'en vertu du paragraphe 9 f) de l'article XII du Règlement général, tout délégué qui aurait accidentellement rempli un bulletin de manière défectueuse peut demander un autre bulletin vierge, qui lui sera délivré par le fonctionnaire électoral en échange du bulletin défectueux.

Le premier tour de scrutin sera suivi d'autant de tours qu'il sera nécessaire pour conclure les élections portant sur la première période; ensuite, nous procéderons de la même façon pour la seconde période.

Pour la première période, qui va de novembre 1987 au 31 décembre 1990, la Conférence va maintenant élire: quatre pays pour l'Afrique, trois pour l'Asie, quatre pour l'Europe, un pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes, trois pour le Proche-Orient et un pour le Pacifique Sud-Ouest.

Je dois encore appeler l'attention des délégués sur le paragraphe 14 de l'article XII du Règlement général qui stipule qu'une fois que les opérations de vote ont commencé, aucun délégué ou représentant ne peut interrompre le vote, sauf pour soulever une motion d'ordre touchant au vote lui-même.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Secretary-General. I should like to draw the attention of the delegates to paragraph 14 of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, which states that once voting has commenced no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with the voting. I should like to remind you that Rule XLI of the General Rules of the Organization lays down that the quorum for these elections is the majority of the Member Nations, that is, 80. I am told that at least 120 delegations are represented in the room.

I should also like to appoint two tellers. I am going to ask the delegations of Canada and Dominica to please act as tellers. If there are no objections, then we shall go to the vote.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Pendant que les scrutateurs prennent leur poste, je précise que, à l'appel du nom de son pays par le Secrétaire général adjoint, chaque délégué Voudra bien se rendre au bureau de vote où il prendra un bulletin de vote pour chacune des régions intéressées, passer ensuite dans l'isoloir pour remplir ses bulletins, puis déposer ceux-ci dans l'urne et enfin regagner sa place.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN: Voting is now completed and the tellers will leave to count the votes. The results will be announced this afternoon, before we continue with voting operations. We shall now adjourn and meet this afternoon at 2.30. Meanwhile, may I urge delegations to ensure that a quorum is maintained in both Commission II and Commission III. So please make sure that the quorum is maintained. Thank you very much.

The meeting rose at 11.35 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.35 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 87/PV/18

Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARY

Vingt-quatrième session
PLENIERE

24° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 18ª SESION PLENARIA

(23 November 1987)

The Eighteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours,
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dix-huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence de
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 18 sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Presidente de la Conferencia

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)
IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)
IV. NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

26. Election of Council Members (cont'd)
26. Election des membres du Conseil (suite)
26. Elección de Miembros del Consejo (cont.)

CHAIRMAN: We now have the results of the voting.

C87/RS/2

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AFRICA REGION: Nov. 1987 - Dec. 1990 ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION AFRIQUE: Nov. 1987 - Dec. 1990 ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION AFRICA: Nov. 1987 - Dic. 1990
	1	

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	132
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	6
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	125
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	4
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	500

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	101
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
GUINEA	125				
KENYA	125				
LESOTHO	125				
NIGERIA	125				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Exscrutadores

Signature Ms H.K. BENJAMIN HANNELORE (DOMINICA)
Firma

Signature G. MUSGROVE (CANADA)
Firma

23.11.1987
Date
Fecha

B. LINLEY
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

C87/RS/3

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS ASIA REGION: Nov. 1987 - Dec. 1990 ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION ASIE: Nov. 1987 - Dec. 1990 ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION ASIA: Nov. 1987 - Dic. 1990
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	132
2. Ineffective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	5
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	126
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	378

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	95
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Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Eligidos			
INDIA	126				
PAKISTAN	126				
PHILIPPINES	126				

Tellers/Scruteurs/Scrutadores

Signature Ms H.K. BENJAMIN HANNELORE (DOMINICA)
Firma

Signature G. MUSGROVE (CANADA).....
Firma

23.11.1987.....
Date
Fecha

B. LINLEY
.....
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

C87/RS/4

REPORT OF BALLOT	NO.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS EUROPE-REGION: Nov. 1987 - Dec. 1990
RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN	1	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION EUROPE: Nov. 1987 - Dec. 1990
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION		ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION EUROPA: Nov. 1987 - Dic. 1990

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	132
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	9
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	121
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Escaños que hay que cubrir	4
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos válidos	484

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	97
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
FINLAND	121				
FRANCE	121				
ITALY	121				
UNITED KINGDOM	121				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Enscrutadores

Signature Ms H.K. BENJAMIN HANNELORE (DOMINICA)
Firma

Signature G. MUSGROVE (CANADA)
Firma

23.11.1987
Date
Fecha

B. LINLEY
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

C87/RS/5

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION: Nov. 1987 - Dec. 1990 ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION AMERIQUE LATINE ET CARAIBES: Nov. 1987 - Déc. 1990 ELECTION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE: Nov. 1987 - Dic. 1990
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	132
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	7
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	123
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	123

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	62
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
PERU	69	COSTA RICA	54		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Scrutadores

Signature Ms H.K. BENJAMIN HANNELORE (DOMINICA)
Firma

23.11.1987

Date
Fecha

Signature Mr G. MUSGROVE (CANADA)
Firma

B. LINLEY

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

C87/RS/6

REPORT OF BALLOT	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS NEAR EAST REGION: Nov. 1987 - Dec. 1990
RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN	1	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION PROCHE-ORIENT: Nov. 1987 - Dec. 1990
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION		ELECTION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION CERCAÑO ORIENTE: Nov. 1987 - Dic. 1990

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	132
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	7
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	125
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	375

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	94
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
EGYPT	125				
IRAN (ISLAMIC REP. OF.)	125				
SAUDI ARABIA (KINGDOM OF)	125				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurutadores

Signature Ms H.K. BENJAMIN HANNELORE (DOMINICA)
Firma

23.11.87

Date
Fecha

Signature G. MUSGROVE (CANADA)
Firma

B. LINLEY

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

C87/RS/7

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS SOUTHWEST PACIFIC REGION: Nov. 1987 - Dec. 1990 ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION PACIFIQUE SUD OVEST: Nov. 1987 - Dec. 1990 ELECTION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION PACIFICO SUDOCCIDENTAL: Nov. 1987 - Dic. 1990
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	132
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	8

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	123
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	123

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	62
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Elected - élus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas élus - No Elegidos			
AUSTRALIA	123				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Secretarios

Signature Ms H.K. BENJAMIN HANNELORE (DOMINICA)
Firma

23.11.87

Date
Fecha

Signature G. MUSGROVE (CANADA)
Firma

B. LINLEY

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRMAN: May I congratulate the delegates elected for the first period. Now we pass to the election and voting of Council members for the second period.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Pour cette seconde période, la Conférence est maintenant appelée à élire trois pays pour l'Afrique, six pour l'Asie, trois pour l'Europe, trois pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes et un pour le Proche-Orient.

Conformément aux règles en vigueur, un pays qui n'a pas été élu pour la première période est automatiquement candidat pour la deuxième période à moins qu'il ne se désiste. En l'occurrence, c'est le cas du Costa Rica, qui n'a pas été élu pour la période novembre 1987-décembre 1990 et qui devient d'office candidat pour la deuxième période, c'est-à-dire du 1^{er} janvier 1989 à novembre 1991.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to ask the delegates of Burma and Dominica to act as tellers. I have been informed that there are at least 95 delegations represented in the Hall, so there is a quorum. If there are no comments we will now start to call the Member Nations to vote.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN: Having finished the casting of votes, I would ask the tellers to leave to count the votes. To give them time to finish the process of counting, I will adjourn this meeting for a recess for an hour and twenty minutes and ask you to be back here at 16.45 to listen to the results of the vote. Before we leave this room, I would ask the Secretary-General to make some announcements.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Ja n'ai qu'un seul avis à donner: je me permettrai de rappeler aux délégations l'appel que leur a adressé le Bureau pour que tous les efforts soient faits afin que les commissions ne perdent pas leur quorum en cours de travail.

The meeting was suspended from 15.25 to 16.55 hours

La séance est suspendue de 15 h 25 à 16 h 55

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.25 a las 16.55 horas

CHAIRMAN: We have the result of the vote.

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: AFRICA REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: REGION AFRIQUE ELECTION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AFRICA
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	131
2. Defective ballots Bulletins avariés Papeletas defectuosas	5
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	125
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	375

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	94
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
ANCOLA	125				
CONGO	125				
ETHIOPIA	125				
	-				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Scrutadores

Signature Ms H.K. BENJAMIN HANNELORE (DOMINICA)
Firma

23.11.87
Date
Fecha

Signature U. SAN MAUNG (BURMA)
Firma

B. LINLEY
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

C 87/RS/9

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: ASIA REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: REGION ASIE ELECTION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION ASIA	1989 - 1991
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	131
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	5
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	125
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	6
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	750

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	108
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Elected - élus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas élus - No Eligidos			
CHINA	121	THAILAND	103		
JAPAN	118	BANGLADESH	96		
INDONESIA	111	KOREA (REP. OF)	91		
MALAYSIA	110				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature Ms. H.K. BENJAMIN HANNELORE (DOMINICA)
Firma

Signature U. SAN MAUNG (BURMA)
Firma

23.11.87
Date
Fecha

B. LINLEY
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

C 87/RS/10

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: EUROPE REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: REGION EUROPE ELECTION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION EUROPA
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	131
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	7
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	124
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	372

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	94
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Elected - élus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas élus - No Elegidos			
GERMANY (Fed. Rep. of)	108	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	89		
GREECE	103	TURKEY	72		

Tellers/Scruteurs/Scrutadores

Signature Ms. J. K. BENJAMIN JIANNELORE (DOMINICA)
Firma

Signature U. SAN MAUNG (BURMA)....
Firma

23.11.87
Date
Fecha

B. LINLEY
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

C 87/RS/11

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: REGION AMERIQUE LATINE ET CARAIBES ELECTION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	131
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	8
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	123
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	369

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	93
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Elected - élus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas élus - No Elegidos			
ARGENTINA	111	NICARAGUA	92		
VENEZUELA	104	COSTA RICA	62		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Scrutadores

SignatureMs...U.K...BENJAMIN JIANNELORE (DOMINICA)
Firma

SignatureU...SAN MAUNG (BURMA)...
Firma

23.11.87
Date
Fecha

B. LINLEY
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRMAN: As you have heard, we need another round of elections for three regions: Asia, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Are there any comments, please? If none, then we will go ahead with the voting, and I will ask the Secretary to proceed with it.

Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh): Thank you for giving me the floor, Mr Chairman. I did not wish to stop you from proceeding with the next round of voting, but I should like to seek your indulgence for a few minutes. We are having consultations in our group about the possibility of having a consensus. If you could give us five minutes, I could come back to you with the outcome of the consultations in our group.

CHAIRMAN: May I ask the rest of the delegates to remain with us. We need a quorum, and I would ask you not to leave the room, please.

Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh): Mr Chairman, may I express my sincere thanks for your indulgence. I regret to have to inform you that we have not been able to reach a consensus, although I had thought that we could do so. That leaves us with no alternative but to have a vote.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We will proceed with the voting.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, having gone through the process of voting again, I would ask the tellers to leave in order to count the votes. As we are short of time, the Secretariat will make an announcement about the voting.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Vu l'heure tardive, vu aussi la charge de travail dans les commissions, il apparaît que la solution la plus raisonnable n'est pas de vous faire revenir dans deux heures pour vous annoncer les résultats du vote, ce qui nous poserait d'ailleurs des problèmes d'interprètes, mais de proclamer officiellement les résultats demain matin à l'ouverture de la séance plénière. Les résultats seront en outre imprimés dans le Journal de la Conférence.

Mais nous comprenons fort bien qu'un certain nombre de délégations soient assez impatientes de connaître les résultats. D'ici une heure et demie ou deux heures, les scrutateurs auront fini leur travail et les délégations qui le désirent pourront prendre connaissance de ces résultats en s'adressant au Bureau du Secrétaire général adjoint, Bureau A 139.

CHAIRMAN: If there are no objections to that, no comments, then we will close our business for today. We will adjourn our meeting, and we encourage you, please, to attend the other Commissions in order to help our work to proceed.

The meeting rose at 17.40 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.40 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 87/PV/19

Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARY

Vingt-quatrième session
PLENIRE

24° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

NINETEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
19ª SESION PLENARIA

(24 November 1987)

The Nineteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at. 10.20 hours
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dix-neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 20 sous la présidence de
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 19ª sesión plenaria a las 10.20 h bajo la presidencia de
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Presidente de la Conferencia

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

IV. NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

26. Election of Council Members (continued)

26. Election des membres du Conseil (suite)

26. Elección de miembros del Consejo (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): We now have the results of the election of Council Members, and therefore I shall now call on the Secretary-General so that he can read this report.

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 2	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: ASIA REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION ASIE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION ASIA 1987 - 1991
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	120
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	5
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	115
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	230

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	77
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
KOREA (REP.OF)	83	BANGLADESH	65		
THAILAND	82				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature Ms. H.K. BENJAMIN HANNELORE (DOMINICA)
Firma

Signature U. SAN MAUNG (BURMA)
Firma

23.11.87
Date
Fecha

B. LINLEY
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

C 87/RS/10A

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 2	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: EUROPE REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: REGION EUROPE ELECTION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION EUROPA
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	120
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	118
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	118

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	60
------------------------------------	----

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Eligidos			
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	67	TURKEY	51		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Scrutadores

Signature Ms. H.K. BENJAMIN HANNELORE (DOMINICA)
Firma

Signature U. SAN MAUNG (BURMA)
Firma

23.11.87
Date
Fecha

B. LINLEY
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments? Then we congratulate those who have been elected to the Council.

27. Appointments (continued)

27. Nominations (suite)

27. Nombramientos (continuación)

27.2 Appointment of Independent Chairman of the Council

27.2 Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil

27.2 Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Now we move to the next item, item 27, Appointments. We have to appoint the independent Chairman of the Council. There is one candidate, Mr Lassaad Ben Osman from Tunisia. Details of the candidate are given in document C 87/15. The appointment will be by secret ballot and delegates will be called to the voting area one by one, where they will be given one ballot each with the name of the candidate on it. Voters must indicate with a cross in the corresponding box whether they wish to vote for the candidate or vote against the candidate or to abstain.

I should like to remind you that Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization lays down that the quorum for this election is the majority of the Member Nations, that is eighty. I am told that more than eighty are present now. We have eighty-eight present. Voting will now commence and may not be interrupted until its conclusion.

I now invite the delegates of Czechoslovakia and Nicaragua to act as tellers.

I ask the Secretary-General to call the delegates, please.

Vote

Vote

Votación

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT INDÉPENDANT DU CONSEIL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	103
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	97
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	4
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	101

7. Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	51
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LASSAAD BEN OSMAN

Is accordingly appointed Independent Chairman of the Council
Est nommé Président indépendant du Conseil
Ha sido nombrado Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Recrutadores

Signature 1. HULINSKI (CZECHOSLOVAKIA)
Firma

Signature H. CARRION McDONOUGH (NICARAGUA)
Firma

24.11.87
.....
Date
Fecha

B. LINLEY
.....
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Son Excellence Monsieur Mohamed Lassaad Ben Osman est nommé Président indépendant du Conseil.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: May I, on your behalf, congratulate the Independent Chairman for his election. He has asked for the floor. May I give him the floor to speak to us, please?

Mohamed LASSAAD BEN OSMAN (Président indépendant: du Conseil) (langue originale arabe): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Honorables Délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs, vous m'avez honoré aujourd'hui pour la seconde fois en me confiant la Présidence du Conseil de la FAO pour un nouveau mandat de deux ans. Je voudrais tout d'abord exprimer mes chaleureux et vifs remerciements à tous ceux qui ont manifesté leur soutien à ma candidature, considéré par moi-même ainsi qu' par mon Gouvernement comme un appui à la Tunisie dans l'ère nouvelle qui vient de commencer pour elle.

La Tunisie a toujours tenu à fonder ses relations avec tous les pays du monde sur la confiance, le respect mutuel et la recherche du bien et du développement pour l'humanité; ce sont là un principe immuable et un fondement essentiel de sa politique étrangère et dans cet esprit, son action a toujours été marquée par un engagement constructif dans la mission et les activités du système des Nations Unies.

Ce soutien très large dont j'ai bénéficié me rend plus conscient encore de la lourde responsabilité qui m'incombe et constitue également un encouragement pour le Conseil à poursuivre sa tâche avec le même enthousiasme et afin de s'acquitter de sa mission dans les meilleures conditions.

Permettez-moi, à cette occasion, de remercier vivement tous ceux qui m'ont aidé à accomplir ma tâche à la tête du Conseil durant le mandat précédent et ce, dans des conditions favorables et avec un esprit de collaboration et de renforcement des acquis de notre Organisation.

Mes remerciements vont tout particulièrement au Directeur général qui n'a ménagé aucun effort afin de fournir au Conseil toutes les données, tous les documents, toutes les explications nécessaires à ses délibérations.

Je remercie aussi l'ensemble des délégués des Etats Membres et du Conseil qui, en dépit des difficultés et divergences qui ont parfois caractérisé les débats au sein du Conseil, se sont toujours efforcés de préserver les conditions d'un dialogue constructif, de contribuer par leurs idées et suggestions à un débat riche et fécond sur tous les aspects de l'activité et de la gestion de notre Organisation et ont montré ainsi un haut degré de responsabilité.

Je saisis cette occasion pour rendre un vibrant hommage aux Présidents ainsi qu'aux membres des comités du Conseil pour les efforts inlassables qu'ils ont déployés et les travaux hautement minutieux qui ont été accomplis, enrichissant ainsi les débats du Conseil sur la base des documents clairs, précis et bien étudiés.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, nous sommes pleinement conscients que les activités du Conseil revêtent une importance particulière pendant cette période de la vie de l'organisation, période qui exige de nous un attachement toujours plus grand à sa noble mission et à la consolidation de son action. Ma réélection à la Présidence du Conseil intervient en effet à un moment difficile de la vie de notre Organisation qui doit s'adapter à une crise de trésorerie sans précédent et qui aborde par ailleurs une période de réflexion sur l'introduction éventuelle de réformes destinées à renforcer son efficacité et son rayonnement pour le plus grand bien du développement de l'agriculture dans le monde et, en particulier, dans les pays en voie de développement.

Cependant, l'expérience vécue depuis deux ans à la Présidence du Conseil m'a permis de constater le haut degré de responsabilité qui anime les membres du Conseil ainsi que leur volonté de contribuer au renforcement de l'Organisation. C'est dans ces conditions que je suis pleinement confiant dans la réussite des travaux du Conseil et dans sa contribution qui sera significative et appréciée dans les activités et l'impact de l'Organisation.

Je suis en effet persuadé que, grâce à l'attachement unanime de ses membres à doter l'Organisation de tous les moyens destinés à lui permettre de renforcer son action pour le plus grand bien de l'agriculture dans le monde, notre Conseil remplira son mandat dans les conditions souhaitées et contribuera à donner à la FAO une image dynamique.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Permettez-moi d'adresser mes chaleureuses félicitations à Monsieur le Ministre Ben Osman pour sa brillante réélection comme Président indépendant du Conseil.

Il y a deux ans, Monsieur le Ministre, alors que j'avais l'honneur de vous congratuler pour votre élection, j'insistais sur votre haute compétence technique et sur votre exceptionnelle réussite politique, deux atouts maîtres dans ce mandat qui vient de vous être renouvelé, deux qualités primordiales aussi pour guider l'agriculture de votre pays.

Rien d'étonnant donc qu'après huit années comme Ministre de l'agriculture cette charge vous ait à nouveau été confiée.

Rien d'étonnant non plus que la Conférence de la FAO vous ait demandé de continuer à guider les travaux du Conseil de l'organisation.

Au cours de votre premier mandat, le Conseil a fait preuve d'un dynamisme exceptionnel dans des conditions extrêmement difficiles d'incertitude financière et de crise de liquidités.

Le rôle du Conseil au cours de ces deux prochaines années ne sera pas moins délicat puisqu'il devra encore faire preuve de courage et d'imagination pour faire face à une situation difficile de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture avec des moyens administratifs et financiers réduits au minimum.

Au cours de ce second mandat de président indépendant du Conseil, vous pouvez être sûr, Monsieur le Ministre, que nous resterons à votre entière disposition.

Veuillez accepter une fois de plus nos meilleurs souhaits de succès.

Merci.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, soy el único ex Presidente independiente del Consejo de la FAO en esta sala y siento la necesidad de pronunciar unas breves palabras al haber sido hoy merecidamente reelegido mi distinguido colega y amigo, Lassaad Ben Osman, Ministro de Agricultura de Túnez, para presidir el Consejo en el próximo bienio.

Usted, señor Presidente Lassaad, ha cumplido sus importantes responsabilidades con mucha altura, gran dignidad y notable respeto por la voluntad de los representantes soberanos de todos los Estados Miembros.

Como ha dicho el Director General, ha correspondido a usted presidir el Consejo en momentos difíciles, cuando se han discutido temas muy controvertidos, y gracias a su tacto, a su inteligencia y a la manera neutral e independiente como usted ha actuado, se han logrado las mejores resoluciones para nuestra Organización y para toda la comunidad internacional.

Pienso que usted va a iniciar su segundo mandato rodeado de la admiración, la simpatía y el respeto de todos quienes tenemos el privilegio de trabajar bajo su dirección. En la Presidencia del Consejo usted, señor Ministro Ben Osman, ha imprimido una huella sobresaliente y ejemplar. Sus actuaciones nos han producido gran satisfacción a quienes, como yo, le hemos antecedido en su importante posición, y su forma de presidir servirá de estímulo no sólo para los futuros presidentes del Consejo, sino también para todos quienes ejercerán la presidencia de cualquier otro organismo.

Sabemos, señor Ben Osman, que en su país usted goza de una sólida posición de prestigio y respeto. El Gobierno de Colombia, de manera fraterna y solidaria, pide a los representantes de Túnez en esta Conferencia que transmitan al honorable Gobierno de ese noble y generoso país del tercer mundo los sentimientos de gratitud y reconocimiento del Gobierno Colombiano porque el Gobierno de Túnez haya permitido que uno de sus mejores y más ilustres hijos siga al servicio de nuestro Consejo.

De todo corazón, Señor Presidente Ben Osman, distinguido colega y amigo, le deseo todo el éxito en la seguridad de que usted contará siempre con el más pleno y decidido apoyo de los representantes de Colombia. Gracias.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Musa ABU FREWA (Libya) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, heads of delegation, I am very glad, in the name of the Near East group, which I chair, to present to you, in the name of this group and particularly in the name of my delegation, our very sincere congratulations to our friend, Mr Lassaad Ben Osman, who is Minister of Agriculture for Tunisia, as independent Chairman of the Council for the forthcoming biennium. We consider that the ability and experience of Mr Ben Osman will enable him to take up the responsibilities of Chairman of the Council. He has shown during the last two years proof of his great ability. From this forum we should like to assure him of our group's cooperation and support in his task in helping to achieve the objectives of the Organization.

Mr Ben Osman has very long experience in the development of agriculture, and he has contributed effectively in the general development of his country, particularly as concerns rural development and small farmers, and has conserved the natural resources of the country. He has much experience of FAO's work, and the international conferences in which he has taken part enable him to chair the Council and to assure the successful conclusion of FAO's activities. Present international circumstances will no doubt increase the burden of work for the Council of FAO during the next biennium. We are sure that, under the Chairmanship of Mr Ben Osman, the Council will be able to work well during this difficult stage in FAO's life and with the same enthusiasm which he has shown during the last two years. Once again, we should like to wish him every success. We welcome and congratulate all the new members who have joined the Council.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): On behalf of the OECD Member States, it is for me a great honour and pleasure at the same time, through you, Mr Chairman, to congratulate Mr Lassaad Ben Osman on his re-election as Independent Chairman of the FAO Council. We appreciate the fact, and we thank Mr Ben Osman for having made himself available for a second time for this highly important post in FAO. The tremendous support of his re-election here in this forum is a clear signal and proof of how he is appreciated and esteemed by all because of his performance. Mr Ben Osman, you may rest assured that the OECD Member States, in particular those who belong to the Council, will give you their full support in your task - a responsible task, but not an easy one. As we have done in the past, we will continue to support you during your next term. Mr Ben Osman, we wish you all the best.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Apolinaire ANDRIATSIATAJATO (Madagascar): Voulez-vous me permettre, Monsieur le Président, de m'adresser à Son Excellence M. le Ministre Lassaad Ben Osman, nouveau Président indépendant du Conseil pour cette réélection à un second mandat.

Monsieur le Président du Conseil, la République tunisienne et la République démocratique de Madagascar entretiennent des relations privilégiées et vous comprendrez aisément la satisfaction particulière que la délégation malgache ressent à vous voir réélu à cette très importante fonction de Président du Conseil de la FAO.

Je vous saurais gré, Monsieur le Président, de recevoir toutes nos chaleureuses félicitations pour cette brillante réélection. Cela nous réjouit à double titre tout d'abord parce qu'en votre personne nous saluons un représentant d'un pays du tiers monde, et singulièrement de l'Afrique, qui s'est toujours manifesté lorsqu'il s'agissait de défendre les intérêts de notre Organisation dans sa lutte contre la faim, la misère, la malnutrition. Ensuite nous ressentons une vive satisfaction du fait que les qualités exceptionnelles que nous vous connaissons, alliées à votre grande maturité et à votre sagesse, ont toujours prévalu au cours de votre premier mandat afin que le Conseil, dans la sérénité, puisse toujours atteindre aux objectifs qui étaient les siens.

La FAO aborde en ce moment une conjoncture et un contexte très difficiles. Nous savons que par votre grande expérience, votre talent et votre dynamisme vous saurez aborder avec nous ces prochaines années difficiles.

En tout cas, vous pouvez compter sur l'appui toujours actif de la délégation malgache dès lors qu'il s'agissait et dès lors qu'il s'agira de défendre les intérêts de notre Organisation. Au nom de ma délégation, je ne puis que vous souhaiter plein succès dans cette importante fonction, que Dieu vous y aide par sa générosité habituelle.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh): Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to join the previous speakers in conveying our most sincere and wholehearted congratulations to His Excellency Mr Ben Osman, the distinguished Minister for Agriculture of Tunisia on his re-election as Independent Chairman of the Council of FAO.

The election of Minister Ben Osman is of particular importance to my country which has very close and fraternal relations with Tunisia, a country to which I have the singular honour to be accredited as the representative of my country. We have seen Minister Ben Osman lending his leadership to the Council meetings which have had on the Agenda very important items which have a bearing on the lives of millions of people all over the world. On the other hand, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations stands today at the crossroads, as it were. I refer to the unprecedented financial situation which the Organization is facing today. At this moment, the experience and expertise of Minister Ben Osman will be a great asset in helping the Organization to steer clear of the difficult situation and to reach a successful resolution. Minister Ben Osman can, in his efforts, count on the fullest and wholehearted support of my delegation.

One more thing, Mr Chairman. With his dedication, Minister Ben Osman, keeping fully to tradition, with the full commitment of his great country Tunisia to the chartered principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, has a unique position through which he can help the Council and help us all in the FAO.

Very simply, Mr Chairman, another distinguished son of Tunisia whom I have the personal privilege of knowing, Minister Mistiri Mahmoud, has been appointed as Foreign Minister of Tunisia. He has come to take up this new position from New York with his full knowledge and background of the necessity and importance of the total support which we, all the Members of the United Nations, the members of FAO, have to lend to the United Nations system and its chartered principles.

In this context, the re-election of Mr. Ben Osman has been one of the best decisions perhaps which the FAO Member States could take. My congratulations again to you Sir, and we wish you success and a successful tenure in the next two years. I thank you, Sir.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): Tengo el encargo del Grupo Latinoamericano de hacer llegar su complacencia al Sr. Ministro de Agricultura de Túnez, Sr. Ben Osman por su reelección.

El tiene una doble cualidad para esta función tan delicada. Como Ministro de Agricultura conoce y domina los temas agrícolas, y por su amplia experiencia tiene amplios conocimientos de nuestra Organización. A estas cualidades, se unen la de su ponderación y experiencia que seguramente van a ser muy importantes porque nuestra Organización tiene que resolver asuntos tan delicados como los que se van a presentar el próximo año.

Sr. Ben Osman, reciba la complacencia del Grupo Latinoamericano por su reelección.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Jan ORZESZKO (Poland): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Group of Socialist Countries of Eastern Europe, my delegation wishes to congratulate the newly re-elected Independent Chairman of the FAO Council, His Excellency Mr Ben Osman.

Poland and Tunisia are linked by excellent relations and the election today is of great pride to the Polish people. We are happy that such an experienced son of Tunisia is to chair the Council during the next biennium. We would like to wish His Excellency Mr Ben Osman every success in his important and difficult task.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Afzal QADIR (Pakistan): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Pakistan delegation I would like to join in the chorus with other delegations in being very happy in congratulating the Independent Chairman of the Council on his re-election. This re-election for the second term is an expression of our abiding confidence in his competence and ability. It is also a reflection of the respect of the Member States for his culture and the amiable way in which he has guided the Council deliberations during his previous term. It is also a reflection of our regard for a man who enjoys such high prestige in his own country and whose unequalled erudition and knowledge add lustre to the deliberations of the Council.

With these words, I would like once again to congratulate him and assure him of our fullest possible support in the discharge of his responsibilities.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mohamed ABDELHADI (Tunisie): Je suis très fier de prendre la parole au nom de la délégation tunisienne pour adresser nos félicitations les plus chaleureuses à M. Ben Osman, Ministre de l'agriculture de Tunisie, qui a été élu par la Conférence générale pour un deuxième mandat à la tête du Conseil de la FAO.

La Tunisie est fière que pour la deuxième fois le Ministre de l'agriculture de notre pays, préside aux travaux du Conseil, malgré les lourdes tâches nationales qui lui incombent. C'est la preuve irréfutable que la politique du Gouvernement tunisien vise toujours à consolider les institutions internationales et surtout la FAO dans les conditions difficiles que nous connaissons tous, et la situation que traversent toutes les instances des Nations Unies, y compris la FAO. Nous sommes persuadés que grâce à ses qualités que tout le monde connaît, M. Ben Osman dirigera les travaux du Conseil avec l'expérience et la sagesse qui lui sont propres au cours des deux années à venir. Il ne ménagera aucun effort à la tête du Conseil pour faire aboutir les activités de cet organisme, avec l'appui du Secrétariat et la FAO.

Enfin je voudrais, au nom de la délégation tunisienne, exprimer nos remerciements les plus sincères au Directeur général et aux chefs des délégations qui ont exprimé leurs félicitations à M. Ben Osman à l'occasion de son élection à la tête du Conseil. Je vous remercie.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you all for your statements and the kind words.

27.3 Appointment of Member Governments' Representatives to the Staff Pension Committee

27.3 Nomination des représentants des Etats Membres au Comité de la Caisse des pensions

27.3 Nombramiento de los representantes de los Estados Miembros en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal

CHAIRMAN: The next item on our agenda is Item 27.3, Appointment of Member Governments' Representatives to the Staff Pension Committee.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: La Conférence est saisie du document C 87/16, nomination des représentants des Etats Membres au Comité de la Caisse des pensions de la FAO.

La Caisse commune des pensions du personnel des Nations Unies assure des prestations de retraite, en cas de décès, d'invalidité permanente, etc., au personnel de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et des autres organisations qui, comme la FAO, font partie de la Caisse. Cette caisse est administrée par le Comité mixte de la Caisse des pensions des Nations Unies et par des comités de la Caisse des pensions dans chacune des organisations membres.

Le Comité mixte se compose de membres des comités des différentes organisations dont les membres les suppléants sont choisis, les uns par l'organe directeur, d'autres par le chef de Secrétariat, et d'autres enfin par le personnel de chaque organisation.

Vous trouverez dans le document C 87/16 la liste des représentants actuels des Etats Membres au Comité de la Caisse des pensions de la FAO. Trois d'entre eux ne sont pas en mesure de continuer à faire partie du Comité après la fin de 1987, et nous apprenons que certains membres des délégations ont indiqué qu'ils seraient intéressés à être nommés au Comité pour un mandat de deux ans.

Je vais vous lire les noms des trois personnes qui sont disposées à continuer de faire partie du Comité. Ce sont:

M. V. Isarankura, Conseiller agricole, Représentant permanent de la Thaïlande auprès de la FAO. M. I. Kaba, Conseiller, Représentant permanent adjoint de la Guinée auprès de la FAO. M. A. Daniel Weygandt, premier Secrétaire, Représentant permanent suppléant des Etats-Unis d'Amérique auprès de la FAO.

Nous avons également trois nouveaux candidats:

M. McDonald Phillip BENJAMIN, Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent de la Dominique auprès de la FAO; Mme Astrid BERGQUIST, Conseiller agricole, Représentant permanent de la Suède auprès de la FAO; M. Anwar Mohammed KHALED, Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent de la République démocratique populaire du Yémen auprès de la FAO.

A ce que le Secrétariat croit comprendre, les trois premiers candidats, qui ont déjà fait partie du Comité, serviraient en qualité de membres, et les trois candidats nouveaux, en qualité de membres suppléants.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Secretary General. You have now heard the proposals. Are there any objections? There are none. I take it that the Conference agrees with the proposals. The proposals are adopted. Congratulations to those who have been appointed to the Staff Pension Committee.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda..

V. OTHERS MATTERS

V. QUESTIONS DIVERSES

V. OTROS ASUNTOS

28. Date and Place of the Twenty-fifth Conference Session

28. Date et lieu de la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence

28. Fecha y lugar del 25º período de sesiones de la Conferencia

Now we move to the next item on the Agenda, that is the date for the next Conference, the Twenty-fifth Conference of FAO. May I ask the Secretary General to introduce this item?

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Il est propose que la prochaine session de la Conférence, qui sera la vingt-cinquième, se tienne à Rome du samedi 11 novembre au jeudi 30 novembre 1989.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Secretary General. You have heard the proposed date for the Twenty-fifth Conference, 11-30 November 1989. Are there any comments?. There are no comments.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Tout d'abord, nous avons indiqué qu'il était proposé de tenir la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence du 11 au 30 novembre 1989. Nous avons omis, tant la chose paraissait aller de soi, de préciser qu'il était proposé qu'elle ait lieu à Rome.

29. Any Other Matters

29. Autres questions

29. Otros asuntos

IN MEMORIAM

CHAIRMAN: Our next item is any other business.

In Memoriam.

I will read this: it is traditional at every Conference that we turn our thoughts to those staff members who have passed away since the Conference last met. May I, therefore, request a minute of silence in memory of the sixteen staff members who have died in service during this period. I now call upon you kindly to rise and to observe a minute of silence.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

Guinea wants to speak at this moment. I give the floor to Guinea.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Je voulais simplement demander s'il était possible de nous rappeler les noms de ces collaborateurs qui sont décédés au cours du biennium écoulé. Cela aurait peut-être été utile.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, distinguished delegate of Guinea. I will ask the Secretary-General to read out the names.

SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Voici les noms de nos collègues qui sont décédés en service dans la période novembre 1985/octobre 1987.

M. Roger Wieme

M. Yehia S. Kanaan

M. Jean Emile Carroz

Mme Betty Chung-Rosati

M. Giuseppe Martello

Mme Lidia Torelli-Aveni

M. Carlo Grandoni

M. Victor Valverde

Mme Ann-Jacqueline Berio

M. Nicola Ambrosi

M. Rashid K. Kassab

M. P.A. Ragnhage

M. Evangelos Fytizas

Mme G. Pastore-Gagliardi

Mme Alma Rivera-Placidi

Mlle J.M. Hammond

CHAIRMAN: We now have some announcements to be made by the Secretary-General. May I ask him please to make his announcement?

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: La Commission I va se réunir aussitôt après la plénière dans cette même salle. Les Commissions II et III n'ont pu se réunir ce matin faute de quorum, alors qu'elles ont des décisions à prendre, la Commission III en particulier. Je rappelle que le Bureau a demandé que les délégations fassent tous leurs efforts pour que les commissions puissent finir leurs travaux. Dans la mesure du possible, il est demandé aux délégations qui comptent plusieurs membres de se répartir entre les commissions. Les Commissions II et III vont se réunir également tout de suite après la séance de la plénière.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Secretary General. With this, we have now finished the business for this morning, there are no comments. I declare the meeting adjourned, I thank you all.

The meeting rose at 11.30 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.30 h

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 87/PV/20

Twenty-fourth Session
PLENARY

Vingt-quatrième session
PLENIERE

24° período de sesiones
PLENARIAI

TWENTIETH PLENARY MEETING VINGTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 20a SESION PLENARIA

(26 November 1987)

The Twentieth Plenary Meeting was opened at 19.00 hours
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La vingtième séance plénière est ouverte à 19 heures sous la présidence
de Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 20a sesión plenaria a las 19 horas bajo la presidencia
de Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): In the name of God, the compassionate the merciful, I welcome you once more and I call to order the Plenary Session of this evening and we hope that we shall be able to finish our work tonight, if this is possible of course and before we deal with the substantive items I call upon the Secretary-General to introduce the order of business of the day.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Il est proposé de procéder ainsi:

-La Conférence pourrait adopter le troisième rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs distribué sous la cote C 87/LIM/47-Rev 1.

-Elle passerait ensuite à l'adoption du rapport de la première, c'est-à-dire les rapports sur les questions de procédure où des décisions ont déjà été prises sans renvoi à des commissions, documents C 87/REP/2, C 87/REP/3 et C 87/REP/3-Sup.1.

-La Conférence passerait ensuite au projet de rapport de la Conférence émanant de la Commission I, quatrième partie, document C 87/REP/4.

-Puis, toujours émanant de la Commission I, le document C 87/REP/7.

-Interviendrait à ce moment l'examen d'un document que nous n'avons pas encore reçu mais qui est en fabrication - j'espère que nous allons l'avoir sous peu - c'est le document C 87/REP/7-Sup.1.

La Conférence aurait alors achevé l'examen de la partie de son rapport qui émane de la Commission I, et elle pourrait entreprendre l'examen de la partie de son rapport qui émane de la Commission III, c'est-à-dire les documents C 87/REP/6, puis C 87/REP/8, et C 87/REP/3-Sup.1 qui est également en fabrication.

Elle passerait enfin à l'examen du rapport émanant de la Commission II, c'est-à-dire les documents C 87/REP/5 et C 87/REP/9; ce sont les seuls que nous ayons pour l'instant, mais il y aura également le C 87/REP/10 et le REP/11 qui se rapportent aux travaux de la Commission II durant ces dernières heures.

CHAIRMAN: (original language Arabic): Thank you for this introduction. If there are no observations or objections to this procedure of work which we shall follow in the Plenary we shall support that.

PART V - OTHER MATTERS

PARTIE V - QUESTIONS DIVERSES

PARTE V - OTROS ASUNTOS

29. Any Other Matters

29. Toutes autres questions

29. Otros asuntos

-Adoption of Third Report of the Credentials Committee

-Adoption du troisième Rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

-Aprobación del tercer informe del Comité de Credenciales

CHAIRMAN: The Third Report of the Credentials Committee you have before you. Are there any observations or comments? If there are no comments I shall consider that this Report is adopted. I have received two requests of inserted statements on the subject of Credentials, from the delegations of Cuba and Grenada respectively. Their statements will therefore be inserted in the records.

Leopoldo Ariza HIDALGO (Cuba): La Delegación de Cuba quiere dejar constancia de su rechazo a la presencia en esta Conferencia de la Delegación de Granada por considerar que no representa los verdaderos intereses del pueblo granadino.

En nombre de mi Gobierno solicito que esta Nota aparezca en el informe final del 24º Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia. 1/

Denis NOEL (Grenada): The Delegation of Grenada would like to place on record that Cuba's objection to Grenada's presence at this Conference is without basis since it is a non-subject and should not be entertained.

It should be noted that this so-called reservation was entered after the Plenary had earlier approved without any dissenting voice, the very credentials of the said Grenada Delegation in the presence of the full membership of Ministers and Heads of Delegations including Cuba.

This belated ploy is nothing but an attempt by Cuba to seek to discredit the Grenada Delegation and is thereby interpreted as an insult to the Government and People of Grenada. It further constitutes undue and unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of Grenada. In this regard, Grenada Delegation wishes to draw attention to the fact that this Delegation represents a Government elected by the democratic process such that is provided for through national elections conducted under the duly established Constitution of the Sovereign State of Grenada, and allows for the participation of all the people of Grenada irrespective of political affiliations. Record shows that over 80% of the electorate actually participated during the last election held in December 1984.

Furthermore, Cuba's action of writing to the Credentials Committee is nothing but blatant "petty politicking" and negates the very spirit of functional cooperation that we strive to achieve through this Organization. 2/

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 2

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DEUXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 2

CHAIRMAN: The second document before you is C 87/REP/2, Draft Report of Plenary Part 2. Any observations or comments?

Paragraphs 1 to 2 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 2 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 2 son aprobados

Paragraph 3 approved

Le paragraphe 3 est approuvé

El párrafo 3 es aprobado

Paragraph 4 approved

Le paragraphe 4 est approuvé

El párrafo 4 es aprobado

1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

2/ Statement inserted in the Verbatim records on request.

PARAGRAPHS 5 TO 8
PARAGRAPHE 5 A 8
PARRAFOS 5 A 8

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Il y a lieu de signaler, au paragraphe 8 de ce document C 87/REP/2, sous "Vice-Présidents de la Commission II" après "B. El Mabrouk Said (Libye) et H. Sucre (Panama)": "Temei Iskit (Turquie)".

Paragraphs 5 to 8, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 5 à 8, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 5 a 8, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 9 to 11 approved
Les paragraphes 9 à 11 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 9 a 11 son aprobados

Paragraph 12 approved
Le paragraphe 12 est approuvé
El párrafo 12 es aprobado

Paragraph 13 approved
Le paragraphe 13 est approuvé
El párrafo 13 es aprobado

Paragraphs 14 to 16 approved
Les paragraphes 14 à 16 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 14 a 16 son aprobados

Paragraph 17 approved
Le paragraphe 17 est approuvé
El párrafo 17 es aprobado

Paragraph 18 approved
Le paragraphe 18 est approuvé
El párrafo 18 es aprobado

Paragraph 19 approved
Le paragraphe. 19 est approuvé
El párrafo 19 es aprobado

Paragraph 20 approved
Le paragraphe 20 est approuvé
El párrafo 20 es aprobado

Paragraphs 21 to 22 approved
Les paragraphes 21 à 22 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 21 a 22 son aprobados

Paragraph 23 approved
Le paragraphe 23 est approuvé
El párrafo 23 es aprobado

Paragraphs 24 to 28 approved
Les paragraphes 24 à 28 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 24 a 28 son aprobados

Paragraphs 29 to 31 approved
Les paragraphes 29 à 31 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 29 a 31 son aprobados

Paragraph 32 approved
Le paragraphe 32 est approuvé
El párrafo 32 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 2, was adopted
Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie 2, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 2, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 3
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - TROISIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 3

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 3 SUPPLEMENT
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - TROISIEME PARTIE SUPPLEMENT
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 3 SUPLEMENTO

CHAIRMAN: The next documents are C 87/REP/3 and C 87/REP/3-Sup.1, the Draft Report of Plenary, Part 3
Are there any observations? Since there are none, the Report is adopted.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 3, was adopted
Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie 3, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 3, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 4 (from Commission I) (C 87/REP/4)
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - QUATRIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission I) (C 87/REP/4)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 4 (de la Comisión I) (C 87/REP/4)

CHAIRMAN: We now move to document C 87/REP/4, Draft Report of Plenary, Part 4 (from Commission I).
The Chairman of Commission I and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee have been invited by us to ask for any questions or queries to be raised. If there are no comments on this part of the report or on the whole report and the resolution, we shall consider that the report and the resolution are adopted.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 4, was adopted
Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie 4, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, parte 4, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 5 (from Commission II)
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - CINQUIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission II)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 5 (de la Comisión II)

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Now we move to the next Item, C 87/REP/5 which is Part 5 from Commission II. The Report is before you. Commission II has approved it. If there are no objections we will consider the Report as adopted.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 5, (from Commission II) was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, partie 5 (de la Commission II), est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, parte 5 (de la Comisión II), es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 9 (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - NEUVIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 9 (de la Comisión II)

Paragraphs 1 to 8 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 8 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 8 son aprobados

Paragraphs 9 to 13 approved

Les paragraphes 9 à 13 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 a 13 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 14 TO 29 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHES 14 A 29 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFOS 14 A 29 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): In page 9 of document C 87/REP/9 my delegation believes that no adequate opportunity has been given to member countries in Commission II to present their views in relation to this Resolution, which was adopted almost unnoticed by many delegations.

In our view, the Resolution does not reflect the comprehensive conclusions of the Brundtland Report, as it indicates "environment protection and prudent management of renewable resources" as the only factors to improve food security, disregarding many others such as the establishment of a more equitable world trade system, for instance.

Finally, the Brundtland Report recognizes that environmental policies and priorities are sovereign decisions of Member Governments to which recommendations could be addressed. This fact also has not been considered by this Resolution.

My delegation would therefore have preferred to offer some amendments to the Resolution. We are sure that had our proposals been considered and eventually approved we would have had a stronger and more balanced text. However, in a spirit of true multilateral cooperation we decided not to present any reservations to the present text, and offer our support to the Resolution.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): If there are no other comments, we will consider the Draft Resolution as having been adopted.

Paragraphs 14 - 29, including Resolution, are adopted

Les paragraphes 14 - 29, y compris la résolution, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 14 - 29, incluida la Resolución, son aprobados

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I should like to apologize to you, because I should have asked the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and the Chairman of Commission II to join us here. I should like to ask them to do so now, please.

PARAGRAPHS 30 TO 35 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION
PARAGRAPHE 30 A 35 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION
PARRAFOS 30 A 35 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

Srta. Margarita LIZZARRAGA (México): No sé Señor Presidente si ha quedado este error en el párrafo 34. Anoche, cuando salíamos del Comité de Redacción yo hice la corrección, pero no sé si quedó en las otras lenguas. Es en el último párrafo, al inicio dice: la Conferencia aseñaló que la cooperación con esta Organización... No es la Conferencia, Señor Presidente, es la Secretaría. Cuando se le preguntó a la Secretaría fue la que contestó que esto no entrañaba.

CHAIRMAN: Can we ask the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to clarify this, please.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Président du Comité de rédaction Commission II): La remarque du Mexique est juste.

Roger P. LEWIS (United States of America): I am asking for an intervention with respect to document C 87/REP/9, paragraph 35, the Resolution for FAO to provide Support to the Action Committee on Latin American Cooperation and Consultation on Plant Genetic Resources (CARFIT).

We note that in the Resolution as provided it refers to a number of countries which reserved with respect to this Resolution, of which my country was one. The United States would like to reiterate the reservation my country made to this Resolution, and I would like to ask that our reservation appears as a footnote to the Resolution itself.

I will read the text of the reservation again: "In the absence of a clear statement within the Resolution requiring the proposed plant genetic resource activities to be carried out within existing budget resources, and lacking adequate information concerning the scope of work envisioned by the Resolution, and an inadequate amount of time to study the implications of the proposed activity, the United States would like to ask that the record reflect that it reserves with respect to this Resolution".

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): May I ask the representative of the United States to be good enough to hand in the written text of what he has just read out.

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): Australia agrees with the United States on this matter. We would also like to be associated with that footnote.

Shigeki YAMAMOTO (Japan): Concerning the Draft Resolution on Support to the Action Committee on Latin American Cooperation and Consultation on Plant Genetic Resources, the Japanese delegation associates itself with the United States.

G. MUSGROVE (Canada): That applies to our delegation as well, Mr Chairman.

Wolfgang F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): For the same reasons as those stated by the United States delegation, we wish to record our reservation and we ask that our name also be included in the footnote.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): For similar reasons, we should also like to be associated with the reservation made by the United States.

Paragraphs 30 - 35, including Resolution, as amended, are adopted

Les paragraphes 30 - 35, y compris la résolution, ainsi amendés, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 30 - 35, incluida la Resolución, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft report of Plenary - Part 9 (from Commission II) as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière - Partie 9 (de la Commission II) ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 9 (de la Comisión II) así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 10 (from Commission II) (C 87/REP/10) (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DIXIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission II) (C 87/REP/10) (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 10 (de la Comisión II) (C 87/REP/10) (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Gentlemen, document C 87/REP/10, which you were waiting for, is now being distributed. That is the Draft Report of Plenary - Part 10. You will note that there is a footnote in this document. If you have any comments to make in relation to it, please ask for the floor in order that it can be discussed. If there are no comments on the document we are now debating, I shall consider it to have been adopted.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 17

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 17

PARRAFOS 1 A 17

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (-United States of America): I have a couple of suggestions to make on this draft, because we were not able to complete it in the Commission.

In paragraph 12 of the original text, which is still paragraph 12 in this document, I would like to propose that the sentence which starts "In relation to coordination..." be put first in that paragraph, because that is what the paragraph speaks about.

I would also like to insert the words "at the sector level" after "such work" - "the Conference called for the strengthening of such work at the sector level in future ", in what now will be the third sentence of that paragraph.

At the end of that paragraph I would like to add "Some delegations expressed the view that field level coordination of United Nations system activities needed substantial improvements".

I have another addition on paragraph 13, the paragraph on training and human resources development -it would be a last sentence, reading as follows: "But the Conference noted that training still accounts for only 11 percent of field programme resources, while experts account for 55 percent".

Ms Susan ULBAEK (Denmark): A minor point in the last line of paragraph 16 which reads "and role of women in larger FAO development projects". That word "larger" is in error - it should be "all FAO development projects".

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Como cuestión de orden, Señor Presidente, tal vez conviene que en primer lugar nos concretemos al párrafo 12. Sobre el párrafo 12 la Delegación de Estados Unidos hizo dos propuestas, la primera no la entendimos, no sabemos exactamente lo que propuso ni cómo quedaría el párrafo al alterar el orden de la frase.

La segunda propuesta, aunque está a nombre de algunas Delegaciones, nos causa cierta preocupación. Seguimos el debate en la Comisión y no nos pareció que se planteó este asunto. Como esto no pasó por el Comité de Redacción, o el Comité no tuvo tiempo de tratarlo, quisiera que la Secretaría confirme cuántas Delegaciones trataron el asunto a que se refiere la adición propuesta para el párrafo 12.

Luego veríamos la adición al párrafo 13 a fin de ordenar un poco el debate.

A. SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Sur l'ajout qui vient d'être fait par la représentante des Etats-Unis, je voudrais compléter en disant "il est bien entendu que les experts ont une activité de formation importante". Parce que vouloir simplement donner des chiffres en ce qui concerne les rapports et les experts voudrait dire que les experts n'ont aucune tâche de formation; il me paraît très important de souligner le rôle important des experts en matière de formation.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Président du Comité de rédaction Commission II): Monsieur le Président, je ne sais pas ce que je pourrais vous dire. Cette question n'a pas été évoquée au niveau du Comité de rédaction. C'est une idée nouvelle qui est exposée ici. Il appartient à l'Assemblée plénière d'en discuter.

Nils Ragnar KAMSVAG (Norway): I apologize for referring to an earlier point, but we are sitting in a far corner from the Chairman. We have been trying to get your attention on the first Belgian amendment. We did not get where it was and what it was. We would appreciate it if the Belgian Ambassador would repeat his suggestion.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): También nosotros estamos confundidos porque el Embajador de Colombia ha hecho referencia al párrafo 12 y ahora vemos que se está haciendo referencia a la enmienda belga que no sabemos a qué párrafo se refiere. No sé si sería mucho pedir que pudiéramos escuchar la lectura del párrafo 12, como pidió Colombia para ver donde encaja la enmienda de Estados Unidos, ya que estamos ausentes de este panorama.

CHAIRMAN: May I ask the Secretariat to read paragraph 12 as amended by the United States and added to by Belgium?

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): If I may clarify, I have proposed amendments in paragraphs 12 and 13. The proposal that I made for paragraph 12 was a very simple one: it was to take a sentence in the middle of the paragraph that starts, in the fifth line down, "In relation to coordination, the Conference noted the increasing integration of technical with capital assistance and the need to support governments in the overall coordination..." and to put that at the beginning of the paragraph, because everything that is in that paragraph has to do with coordination and that makes a better opening for the paragraph.

My second proposal was that after the words "work in future" which is the fifth line down - the sense reads, "the Conference called for the strengthening of such work in future" - to insert the words "at the sector level". Therefore, the paragraph would start out with a reference to the Conference noting the increasing integration of capital and technical assistance, and so on, first. Then it would talk about the Round Tables and Consultative Groups. It would then call for the strengthening of such work at the sector level.

With relation to the delegate who remarked that this did not come up in the debate, it did come up in the debate, we included it in our statement, and frankly the mention of the integration of technical with capital assistance was I think made by Mr Lignon; it was in the Secretariat's response.

I can deal with training, but that is in the next paragraph.

CHAIRMAN: What is the sentence you have added at the end of paragraph 12?

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): The sentence that comes at the end says, "Some delegations expressed the view that field coordination of UN system activities needed substantial improvement".

CHAIRMAN: I would ask the Secretariat, if they have everything, to read paragraph 12 as amended by the delegate of the United States, so that everybody is clear about it.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Paragraph 12: "In relation to coordination, the Conference noted the increasing integration of technical with capital assistance and the need to support governments in the overall coordination of aid. The Conference stressed the importance of FAO's assistance in planning, designing and implementing agricultural policies including its partnership in UNDP-sponsored Round Tables and World Bank-sponsored Consultative Groups. In commending the contribution which FAO had already made to such mechanisms, the Conference called for the strengthening of such work in future at the sector level. In this connection the role of the UN system at country level was noted, including the function of UN Resident Coordinator. It underscored the importance of close collaboration between FAO, UNDP, other UN and bilateral agencies, including for practical coordination support to governments at sectoral and sub-sectoral levels. Some delegations expressed the view that field level coordination of UN system activities needed substantial improvement."

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Señor Presidente, después de oír la proposición de la Delegación de Estados Unidos y oír la lectura que ha dado la Secretaría tenemos algún problema con esta proposición. Queremos llamar la atención de que este párrafo, bastante grande como estructura, podría tener algún análisis como estructura, pero nos parece que hay dos ideas diferentes que no pueden mezclarse, a no ser que se le quiera restar importancia a la primera idea. Si el objetivo es querer restarle importancia a la primera idea, estaríamos totalmente en contra de la proposición, porque la primera idea es que la Conferencia recalca la importancia de la asistencia de la FAO en materia de planificación, formulación y ejecución de políticas, incluida su participación, en el punto este reforzaría esa labor, hasta ahí una idea fundamental. Creo que no se puede entremezclar en las otras ideas porque es quitarle importancia.

Después dice con respecto a la coordinación, eso es otra cosa. La coordinación, la Conferencia observó la creciente integración de la ayuda técnica con la ayuda en forma de capital y la necesidad de apoyar a los gobiernos en la coordinación general de la ayuda.

Creo que son dos cuestiones que no pueden mezclarse, a no ser que la intención sea quitarle fuerza. En esto, Señor Presidente! estaría en contra.

Referente a lo de algunas Delegaciones, esta es otra cuestión. Algunas Delegaciones expresaron que se recoja lo que ellos dijeron.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La propuesta de los Estados Unidos de que el párrafo 12 empiece con la actual frase "con respecto a la coordinación...", me parece aceptable y pensamos que mejora el texto. En cambio, con la agregada "a nivel sectorial y la declaración de algunas delegaciones", queremos llamar la atención de que en la frase final del párrafo 12 ya se habla de nivel sectorial, y también porque, justamente, la última frase del párrafo 12 subraya la importancia de una colaboración más estrecha entre la FAO y el PNUD para establecer una coordinación práctica. Pensamos que esa última frase del párrafo 12 ya contiene las dos ideas propuestas por los Estados Unidos.

Pienso muy respetuosamente que quizás debido a las prisas con que esta parte del proyecto de informe se hizo, no se haya podido considerar en el Comité de Redacción, o tal vez haya pasado inadvertido, este hecho que estamos señalando, y de manera muy cordial quisiéramos que, con la aceptación de la primera parte de la propuesta de Estados Unidos, adoptáramos el párrafo 12, y cuando llegemos al 13, le ruego me conceda la palabra.

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I am not sure I understand exactly what the delegate of Colombia was saying, but I think he has a good point about "at the sector level". It is true that we had very little time in which to look at this. I note that the draft says "the strengthening of such work", so I would be willing to withdraw the words "at the sector level", but I would hold to the idea of keeping this sentence at the beginning of the paragraph if the House could go along with it, and of keeping the last sentence that I proposed.

In this context, in respect to what the delegate of Cuba said, I might say that when I first looked at the text I was going to propose that a new paragraph started there, and that 12 be broken into two separate paragraphs, but that seemed an even more complicated proposal than the one that I made. For my Government the whole process of preparing for Round Tables and Consultative Group is part of the coordination process. However, I do take Cuba's point that the first sentence talks first about planning, and second about Round Tables and Consultative Groups. So I could live with either the proposal I made, or break it into two separate paragraphs. I would like to thank the delegation of Colombia for their support.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Lamentamos insistir mucho, pero es que tal vez el aire fresco y de serenidad que se respira en esta sala nos impulsa a hacer frecuentes declaraciones. Queremos de nuevo señalar que la frase final del párrafo 12 se atribuye a toda la Conferencia. De manera que es superfluo ahora atribuir a algunas delegaciones el mismo deseo que ya está expresado en la última frase del párrafo 12. Pero naturalmente, yo no puedo resistir demasiado a una insistencia cordialmente femenina y a ese respecto repetiría mi pregunta. Si como esto no se trató en el Comité de Redacción, rogaría a la Secretaría me confirmara cuántas delegaciones se refirieron a esto en el debate que tuvo lugar en la Comisión II. Si fueron una o dos, poner en este último caso unas pocas delegaciones, y si fue una, poner una delegación, porque queremos dar satisfacción a la distinguida colega y amiga Gayoso, de los Estados Unidos.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Creemos que se podría aceptar la proposición que ha adelantado la delegada de Estados Unidos en cuanto a que podríamos tener dos párrafos totalmente diferentes. Nosotros damos también importancia a la coordinación, pero creo que - como ha dicho Colombia - si esto no pasó por el Comité de Redacción, no creo que habría ningún problema para la Secretaría porque dejara la primera parte como el párrafo 12 y un párrafo 12 a) o uno consecutivo, que lo arreglaría la Secretaría después refiriéndose específicamente a la coordinación y a la proposición que hace la delegada de Estados Unidos.

Referente al añadido de "algunas delegaciones", creo que si algunas delegaciones lo expresaron, no habría ningún problema en aceptar esa parte también.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think we have spent enough time on paragraph 12. We have many reports to approve today and tomorrow. I do not see any problem here. The question was raised as to whether there was more than one delegate who expressed views about field coordination, etcetera. Yes, Mr Lignon has confirmed to me that there was more than one delegate. It was not expressed in the same way but it was around the subject, so I think the words "some delegates" can be justified. Otherwise, since the words "at sectoral level" have been deleted, I think the paragraph can stand, as amended by the United States, starting with "In relation to coordination", or making it into two paragraphs, 12(a) and 12(b). There is no problem at all. The substance is the same. I suggest that we accept the amendments proposed by the United States and pass on to the next paragraph. I have no problem with that.

Ms Susan ULBAEK (Denmark): I am perfectly happy with the Director-General's proposal. I just wanted to be sure that the amendment by the United States was going to stay in, because this was certainly one of the central points in my statement.

Ms Anna-Liisa KORHONEN (Finland): The Finnish delegation is also happy with the proposal by the Director-General and would like to see the United States amendment retained in the text as it was proposed.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to that?

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): No es para oponerme, es para saber cómo va a quedar la redacción porque el Director General dijo que podía haber dos párrafos. Queríamos saber cómo va a quedar.

CHAIRMAN: If the United States has no problem with separating the paragraph into two paragraphs, or dividing it, and with the consent of the distinguished delegate of Cuba, we will have them as two separate paragraphs, with the amendment of the United States. If this is approved, that is so decided.

We move to paragraph 13, which now has to be renumbered.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Je voudrais intervenir sur le paragraphe 13, précisément en ce qui concerne la proposition américaine dont la lecture nous a été faite.

Nous constatons pour notre part que la délégation américaine fait un constat à la fin d'un paragraphe. Nous pensons que ce n'est pas la place qu'il faut donner à cette adjonction. Nous sommes d'avis que cette phrase devrait être au début du paragraphe 13 et pourrait, si la délégation américaine est d'accord avec nous, se lire comme ceci: "Ayant constaté que la formation ne représente que 11 pour cent des ressources allouées au Programme de terrain contre 55 pour cent pour les experts, la Conférence..." et le reste pourrait s'enchaîner.

A moins que la délégation américaine ait oublié de donner un complément nous ne voyons pas comment on pourrait mettre un constat à la fin d'un paragraphe alors qu'il y a bien des choses qui précèdent. Dans le fond, nous n'avons pas d'objection mais cette adjonction devrait être liée au reste du paragraphe 13, ce devrait être le chapeau de ce paragraphe 13.

CHAIRMAN: I thought that the distinguished delegate of Norway had some clarification on the addition that the distinguished delegate of Belgium had made on the proposal of the United States for an amendment. Can we repeat that before we continue discussion on that?

A. SAINTRAINT (Belgique): J'ai dit ce que j'avais à dire, ça suffit, (continues in English) The main task is to train people.

CHAIRMAN: is that satisfactory to Norway?

A. Nils Ragnar KAMSVAG (Norway) : The point of clarification I wanted was only to have the sentence repeated. If I can have that, I am perfectly satisfied.

CHAIRMAN: What sentence? There was no sentence put forward by Belgium. I think he just wanted to clarify it further. He did not add anything to the sentence that was proposed by the United States.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): C'est sur une autre question que je voudrais intervenir toujours au paragraphe 13. J'aimerais intervenir sur la forme de la première phrase qui se lit ainsi: "La Conférence a déclaré soutenir fermement les efforts déployés par la FAO pour renforcer les capacités des bénéficiaires dans le domaine des ressources...". A mon avis, malgré l'existence de l'adverbe "fermement" dans cette phrase, la tournure donne plutôt le sens d'un soutien fort hésitant.

Je souhaite proposer simplement: "La Conférence a exprimé son soutien aux efforts déployés par la FAO..."

Ms Joan DUDIK-CAYOSO (United States of America): I want to thank the delegation of Congo for a very excellent suggestion. I think it makes much more sense to put this at the beginning of the paragraph, and I would be very happy to see it there.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): I have a comment on the proposal made by the United States. We should not mention here that the Conference expressed its point of view about the percentage of 11 percent. We could keep the text as it is, and we would add, "a limited number of members" or "a small number of members" or "some delegates" "indicated..." and so on. We should not speak on behalf of the Conference because it was a limited number of delegates who held this viewpoint.

AKBAR MIRZA (India): I hate to intervene, but I should like to point out here that some of the amendments, in my opinion, appear rather unnecessary. If we go on in this way for each paragraph, adding a line or two, it will be very difficult. While we respect everybody's right to do it, it would make it very difficult to improve on the rather slow pace we have kept in the last two days. For example, when a Conference meets, I do not think that, after first mentioning that it was noted that 500 000 men and women are trained in the last decade, we should refer to the fact that only 11 percent are in training and so many are 'experts'. That in itself is a contradiction. We should not eliminate adjective here or an adjective there after it has gone through drafting and other things. I think there should be a quicker procedure and that we should all exercise constraint except on substantive matters.

CHAIRMAN: I think the United States has made the proposal and it was accepted. I think there was no strong objection to that. Again, it has been brought to the beginning of the paragraph. If there is no strong objection to that, please consider paragraph 13 adopted, as amended by the United States.

Paragraphs 1 to 17, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 17, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 17, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 18 TO 28 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHES 18 A 28 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PÁRRAFOS 18 A 28 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

A. SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Au paragraphe 25, il est noté "la Conférence s'est félicitée des progrès de la coopération entre la FAO et le PAM et a encouragé les deux organisations à maintenir cette association féconde", je crois que si on se félicite des progrès. Monsieur le Président, on n'arrête pas le progrès, alors je suggérerais de compléter cette phrase par les mots "à maintenir et renforcer cette association féconde". Je voudrais que non seulement on maintienne, mais que l'on renforce l'association.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on what the Belgium representative has said?

Paragraphs 18 to 27, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 18 à 27, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 18 a 27, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 28, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 28, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 28, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Draft report of Plenary - Part 10, (from Commission II) as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière - Partie 10 (de la Commission LI), ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parte 10 (de la Comisión II), así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 6 (from Commission III)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - SIXIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission III)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 6 (de la Comisión III)

CHAIRMAN: We now move to document C 87/REP/6. May I invite the Chairman of Commission III and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to speak? Are there any comments on this report? Since there are none, the report and the resolution are adopted. I have received a request for insertion of a statement from the delegation of Venezuela, indicating their reservation on the resolution on Scale of Contributions. The Statement will be inserted.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Nuestra delegación quiere dejar constancia que la propuesta de Escala de cuotas basada en la escala de las Naciones Unidas, aprobada en diciembre de 1985, no refleja la situación económica actual, en la que el peso de la deuda externa representa una carga extraordinaria, a la cual no está en capacidad de responder positivamente. Por tai razón, mi delegación se opone a dicha escala de cuotas para el bienio 1988-89. 1/

Paragraphs 1 to 19 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 19 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 19 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 20 to 27, INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

PARAGRAPHERS 20 à 27, Y COMPRIS LES PROJETS DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFOS 20 a 27, INCLUIDO LOS PROYECTOS DE RESOLUCION

Ronald DEARE (United Kingdom): My delegation certainly objects to the adoption of the resolutions on the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account. We shall request rollcall votes on both resolutions.

CHAIRMAN: (original language Arabic): There is a proposal which has been moved, asking for voting or putting these two resolutions to the vote. Are there any objections? If there are no objections, we shall procede to the vote.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Gracias, Sr. Presidente. Nosotros no nos oponemos a que se saque a votación si el país lo pide; pero queremos saber si en el Comité de Redacción, o en la Comisión, hubo alguna declaración en este sentido! por si es oportuno ahora pedir la votación: si se discutió en la Comisión o en el Comité de Redacción y se aceptó; cómo vino de la Comisión y cómo vino del Comité de Redacción. Porque me parece que podemos caer un poco en retrasos pidiendo votaciones, si en la Comisión no hubo objeción y si en el Comité de Redacción tampoco la hubo. Muchas gracias.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I would like to thank Cuba for putting this question. We shall ask the Chairman of Commission III to be so kind as to reply to the representative of Cuba's question. Where there any objections when the question was debated within this Commission? I should also like to emphasize that there is a proposal for a vote on these two resolutions, but before we proceed to the vote, may I repeat that I shall ask the Chairman of Commission III to be so kind as to reply to the question from the representative of Cuba?

Mold Mazlan JUSOH (Vice Chairman of Commission III): The matters in these two resolutions were debated quite thoroughly and the vote was taken on both resolutions in the Commission. Both these resolutions were approved by the Commission on a majority vote. I do not recall exactly right now whether there was any statement made by any delegation in the Commission that they would raise the question again in the Plenary. But I stand to be corrected on that.

CHAIRMAN: (original language Arabic): Are there any further observations? Does the representative of Cuba have any other comments?

1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

Ronald DEARE (United Kingdom): Just to supplement the response of the Chairman of Commission III, we had a discussion in Commission III, when it was explained to us that the practice is that even though there is a vote in the Commission, this is not reflected in the report of the Conference unless there is a vote in the Plenary. My delegation for one made it clear that we were going to ask for votes on both these resolutions in the Plenary.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): Je voudrais une petite clarification au sujet de la résolution concernant le compte de réserve spécial. Il est dit au paragraphe 1 de cette Résolution qu'il sera demandé aux Etats Membres une contribution extraordinaire pour assurer à 50 pour cent le Compte de réserve spécial de 12 309 000 dollars. Le mode par lequel la contribution sera faite n'est pas précisé. J'aimerais avoir des précisions sur ce point, si possible avant que l'on ne passe à la mise aux voix.

Dean K. CROWTHER: (Assistant Director General, Administration and Finance Department): The assessment for the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account will be in accordance with the scale of the contributions and as is shown in the resolution, it will be one-half the authorized amount or the dollar figure which is shown here. Rather than the full 5% it will be 2½% of the approved Programme of Work and Budget, assessed basis of the percentages for each nation, the scale of contributions.

CHAIRMAN: (original language Arabic): if there are no further-comments, can we proceed to a vote on the two Draft Resolutions together? Do you have any objections? Since I hear no objections, perhaps we might start the vote.

Ronald DEARE (United Kingdom): May we have separate votes please, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: (original language Arabic): Then we will have two votes. We will vote on the first Resolution first.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Mrs Astrid BERQUIST (Sweden): Could the voting procedures kindly be explained to us?

CHAIRMAN: (original language Arabic): We are voting at the moment on the Resolution entitled "Increase in the Level of the Working Capital Fund".

VOTE
VOTE
VOTACION



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

ROLL CALL VOTING
APPEL NOMINAL
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on
1st Vote sur
.....Votación para ..Increase in the Level of the Working Capital Fund
.....

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	66
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	13
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	16
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	60

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	79
--	----

Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	40
--	----

ADOPTED
ADOPTÉE
ACEPTADA

Date ..26.11.87..... Elections Officer ..B. Linley.....
Fecha ..Fonctionnaire électoral.....
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) GRO

If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting to be held not less than one hour after the conclusion of the meeting at which the equally divided vote occurred. If the second vote is also equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

En cas de partage égal des voix lors d'un vote ne portant pas sur une élection, on procède à un deuxième vote au cours d'une séance ultérieure, qui ne peut avoir lieu moins d'une heure après la fin de celle à laquelle s'est produit le partage égal des voix. Si les voix restent également partagées lors de ce second vote, la proposition est considérée comme repoussée.

Si hubiera empate en un asunto que no sea una elección, se repetirá la votación en una sesión subsiguiente la cual no deberá celebrarse hasta que haya transcurrido una hora, por lo menos, desde la conclusión de aquella en que se produjo el empate. Si en la segunda votación hubiera también empate se considerará rechazada la propuesta.

CF 13 1185 654321 - W/22644/c

Session of the Conference

Session de la Conférence

Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT

APPEL NOMINAL DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN

VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on

1st Vote sur

..... Votación para Increase in the Level of the Working Capital Fund

COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs.	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs.	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs.	NR
Afghanistan				X	Gambia				X	Pakistan	X			
Albania				X	Germany (Fed. Rep. of)	X				Panama	X			
Algeria	X				Ghana	X				Papua New Guinea				X
Angola	X				Greece			X						
Antigua and Barbuda	X				Grenada				X	Peru	X			
Argentina			X		Guatemala				X	Philippines	X			
Australia	X				Guinea	X				Poland	X			
Austria	X				Guinea-Bissau				X	Portugal			X	
Bahamas			X		Guyana				X	Qatar	X			
Bahrain	X				Haiti	X								
Bangladesh	X				Honduras	X				Rwanda				X
Barbados			X		Hungary	X				St. Christopher & Nevis				X
Belgium			X		Iceland				X	Saint Lucia				X
Belize			X		India	X				St. Vincent & the Grenad				X
Benin			X		Indonesia	X				Samoa				X
Bhutan			X		Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	X				Sao Tome and Principe				X
Bolivia			X		Iraq				X	Saudi Arabia	X			
Botswana	X				Ireland	X				Senegal			X	
Brazil			X		Israel				X	Seychelles				X
Bulgaria	X				Italy	X				Sierra Leone				X
Burkina Faso			X		Jamaica				X	Solomon Islands				X
Burma			X		Japan		X			Somalia				X
Burundi			X		Jordan	X				Spain		X		
Cameroon			X		Kenya			X		Sri Lanka				X
Canada	X				Korea (Rep. of)	X				Sudan	X			
Cape Verde	X				Kuwait	X				Suriname				X
Central African Rep.			X		Laos				X	Swaziland				X
Chad			X		Lebanon	X				Sweden	X			
Chile	X				Lesotho	X				Switzerland	X			
China	X				Liberia				X	Syria	X			
Colombia	X				Libya	X				Tanzania	X			
Comoros			X		Luxembourg				X	Thailand	X			
Congo	X				Madagascar	X				Togo				X
Cook Islands			X		Malawi				X	Tonga				X
Costa Rica	X				Malaysia	X				Trinidad and Tobago	X			
Côte d'Ivoire	X				Maldives				X	Tunisia	X			
Cuba	X				Malì				X	Turkey				X
Cyprus	X				Malta				X	Uganda	X			
Czechoslovakia	X				Mauritania				X	United Arab Emirates	X			
					Mauritius				X	United Kingdom		X		
D.P. Rep. of Korea			X		Mexico	X				U.S.A.		X		
Denmark	X				Mongolia				X	Uruguay				X
Djibouti			X		Morocco				X	Vanuatu				X
Dominica	X				Mozambique				X	Venezuela	X			
Dominican Rep.			X		Namibia				X	Viet Nam				X
Ecuador			X		Nepal				X	Yemen Arab Republic	X			
Egypt	X				Netherlands		X			Yemen (P.O. Rep. of)	X			
El Salvador	X				New Zealand		X			Yugoslavia				X
Equatorial Guinea			X		Nicaragua	X				Zaire				X
Ethiopia	X				Niger	X				Zambia	X			
Fiji			X		Nigeria				X	Zimbabwe				X
Finland	X				Norway	X								
France		X			Oman	X								
Gabon		X												
	22	6	7	18		23	4	3	23		21	3	6	19

CHAIRMAN: The resolution is therefore adopted.

Paragraphs 20 to 22, including draft resolution, adopted

Les paragraphes 20 à 22, y compris le projet de résolution, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 20 a 22, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): The Chairman of the Drafting Committee has some amendments to introduce to one of the pages of the document, so I would like to ask him to draw the Conference's attention to these corrections.

Elio PASCARELLI (Chairman, Drafting Committee Commission III): in C 87/REP/6 page 11, in the Spanish edition, four lines from the bottom: (continued in Spanish) Al objeto de alcanzar un consenso. En lugar de la palabra "consenso", "apoyo más amplio". (continued in English) So please cross out "consenso" and write "apoyo más amplio".

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): We will now proceed to the voting on the second Draft Resolution which begins "Noting that the Special Reserve Account has ...".

VOTE

VOTE

VOTACION



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

ROLL CALL VOTING
APPEL NOMINAL
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on
Vote sur
.....1st.....Votación para Replenishment of the Special Reserve Account for 1988-89
.....

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	60
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	11
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	25
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	59

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	71
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	36
--	----

ADOPTED
ADOPTÉE
ACEPTADA

Date .26/11/87..... Elections Officer G. Tedesco.....
Fecha Fonctionnaire électoral.....
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) CRO

If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting to be held not less than one hour after the conclusion of the meeting at which the equally divided vote occurred. If the second vote is also equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

En cas de partage égal des voix lors d'un vote ne portant pas sur une élection, on procède à un deuxième vote au cours d'une séance ultérieure, qui ne peut avoir lieu moins d'une heure après la fin de celle à laquelle s'est produit le partage égal des voix. Si les voix restent également partagées lors de ce second vote, la proposition est considérée comme repoussée.

Si hubiera empate en un asunto que no sea una elección, se repetirá la votación en una sesión subsiguiente la cual no deberá celebrarse hasta que haya transcurrido una hora, por lo menos, desde la conclusión de aquella en que se produjo el empate. Si en la segunda votación hubiera también empate se considerará rechazada la propuesta.

CF 13 1185 654321 - W/22644/c

Session of the Conference

Session de la Conférence

Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT

APPEL NOMINAL DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN

VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on

Vote sur

Votación para Replenishment of the Special Reserve Account for 1988-89

COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR
Afghanistan				X	Cambodia				X	Pakistan		X		
Albania				X	Germany (Fed. Rep. of)		X			Panama		X		
Algeria		X			Chad		X			Papua New Guinea				X
Angola		X			Greece			X		Peru		X		
Antigua and Barbuda		X			Grenada			X		Philippines		X		
Argentina			X		Guatemala			X		Poland		X		
Australia		X			Guinea		X			Portugal				X
Austria		X			Guinea-Bissau			X		Qatar		X		
Bahamas			X		Guyana			X		Rwanda				X
Bahrain		X			Haiti		X			St. Christopher & Nevis				X
Bangladesh		X			Honduras		X			Saint Lucia				X
Barbados		X			Hungary		X			St. Vincent & the Grenadines				X
Belgium			X		Iceland			X		Samoa				X
Belize			X		India		X			Sao Tome and Principe				X
Benin			X		Indonesia			X		Saudi Arabia		X		
Bhutan			X		Iran (Islamic Rep. of)		X			Senegal			X	
Bolivia			X		Iraq			X		Seychelles				X
Botswana			X		Ireland		X			Sierra Leone				X
Brazil			X		Israel			X		Solomon Islands				X
Bulgaria		X			Italy		X			Somalia				X
Burkina Faso			X		Jamaica			X		Spain			X	
Burma			X		Japan		X			Sri Lanka				X
Burundi			X		Jordan		X			Sudan		X		
Cameroon			X		Kenya			X		Suriname				X
Canada		X			Korea (Rep. of)		X			Swaziland				X
Cape Verde		X			Kuwait		X			Sweden			X	
Central African Rep.			X		Laos			X		Switzerland		X		
Chad			X		Lebanon		X			Syria				X
Chile		X			Lesotho		X			Tanzania		X		
China			X		Liberia			X		Thailand		X		
Colombia		X			Libya		X			Togo				X
Comoros			X		Luxembourg			X		Tonga				X
Congo		X			Madagascar		X			Trinidad and Tobago		X		
Cook Islands			X		Malawi			X		Tunisia		X		
Costa Rica		X			Malaysia		X			Turkey			X	
Côte d'Ivoire		X			Maldives			X		Uganda		X		
Cuba		X			Mali			X		United Arab Emirates		X		
Cyprus		X			Malta			X		United Kingdom			X	
Czechoslovakia		X			Mauritania			X		U.S.A.		X		
D.P. Rep. of Korea			X		Mauritius			X		Uruguay			X	
Denmark			X		Mexico		X			Vanuatu				X
Djibouti			X		Mongolia			X		Venezuela		X		
Dominica		X			Morocco			X		Viet Nam				X
Dominican Rep.			X		Mozambique			X		Yemen Arab Republic		X		
Ecuador			X		Namibia			X		Yemen (P.D. Rep. of)		X		
Egypt		X			Nepal			X		Yugoslavia				X
El Salvador		X			Netherlands		X			Zaire				X
Equatorial Guinea			X		New Zealand		X			Zambia				X
Ethiopia		X			Nicaragua		X			Zimbabwe				X
Fiji			X		Niger		X							
Finland			X		Nigeria			X						
France		X			Norway			X						
Gabon		X			Oman		X							
	19	6	11	12		22	3	5	23		19	2	9	19

Paragraphs 23 to 27, including draft resolution, adopted

Los párrafos 23 à 27, y compris lo projet de resolution, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 23 a 27, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

A. SAÏNTRAI (Belgique): Rapidement, pour ne pas retarder nos travaux, je voudrais justifier le vote d'abstention que nous avons émis. Nous l'avons explicité très longuement lors des travaux à la Commission et je voudrais dire que sur le point 1, en ce qui concerne le Compte de réserve spécial, nous émettons le souhait, compte tenu de la proportion des sommes dépensées en liras italiennes, qu'un certain nombre des pays de la Communauté économique européenne puissent s'acquitter de leur contribution en liras italiennes ou en ECU. Je demanderai au Comité financier de se pencher rapidement sur le problème. Cela permettra d'éviter les fluctuations dans la monnaie de référence actuelle et cela permettra en même temps de faire face d'une manière régulière aux obligations que la FAO doit assumer ici, à Rome.

En ce qui concerne la première résolution d'augmentation du Fonds de roulement, nous nous sommes abstenus parce que nous estimons que nous n'avons pas à nous substituer aux débiteurs défaillants et que l'entière responsabilité des pays doit assumer ses obligations à temps. Nous souhaitons qu'un système soit très rapidement mis en place pour inciter les pays à remplir leurs obligations dans les premiers mois de chaque exercice.

Alfred AMISI (Kenya): I should like to take this opportunity to explain the reason why my delegation has felt it necessary to abstain from taking any specific vote on these two resolutions, the resolutions contained in document C 87/REP/6, concerning the increase in the level of the Working Capital Fund and in the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account for 1988-89.

We are a small country. We face serious economic difficulties. We face serious budgetary problems. As such, we are not going to be able to fulfil our obligations to this important Organization if increases in our contribution are going to be approved in this forum. Of course, we have always been meeting our obligations, our payment is up to date, but any increase, however small it may be, will put a burden on our already-strained financial situation. This is the reason why we have abstained.

However, based on the level of the current contributions, we undertake to pay our contributions, even right now, for the year 1988-89.

Elio PASCARELLI (Chairman, Drafting Committee Commission III): I should like to assure the delegate from Belgium that his concern is widely shared by Europeans, but I may not speak as such, only as Chairman of the Drafting Committee. I should like to call the attention of all the delegates to this concern and to the need for discussing in the Finance Committee the adoption of a dual currency or a basket of currencies, which has been taken care of on page 13, paragraph 26, of our report.

Antonio C. DE ALMEIDA RIBEIRO (Portugal): I should also like to give a short explanation of our vote. We abstained, not because we do not understand the reasons presented by the Secretariat, or because we oppose the substance of the two resolutions; on the contrary, we abstained on a simple question of principle. In fact, we do think that such extra contributions are a penalty for countries like mine which have always accomplished in time their obligations vis-à-vis this Organization.

Ismael DIAZ YUBERO (España): Muy breve; solamente para decirle que estamos total y absolutamente identificados con lo expuesto por Portugal y esa ha sido la razón que nos ha llevado a votar como lo hemos hecho.

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 6, (from Commission III) as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière - Partie 6 (de la Commission III), ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parte 6 (de la Comisión III) así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 7 (from Commission I)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - SEPTIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission I)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 7 (de la Comisión I)

CHAIRMAN: We now come to document C 87/REP/7 and C 87/REP/7-Sup.1, the Draft Report of Plenary - Part 7 (from Commission I) and the Supplement, Progress Report on the Implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. May I call on the Chairman of Commission I and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of Commission I to join us.

Paragraphs 1 to 18, including draft resolutions, adopted

Les paragraphes 1 à 18, y compris les projets de résolutions, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 1 a 18, incluido los proyectos de resolución, son aprobados

Paragraphs 19 to 31 approved

Les paragraphes 19 à 31 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 19 a 31 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 32 to 43 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

PARAGRAPHES 32 A 43 Y COMPRIS LES PROJETS DE RESOLUTIONS

PARRAFOS 32 A 43 INCLUIDO LOS PROYECTOS DE RESOLUCION

CHAIRMAN: Before we go into discussion of the draft resolutions in paragraph 43 I would ask the Chairman of the Drafting Committee I to explain to us the difference between the two resolutions which are there.

I. Ismael DIAZ YUBERO (Vicepresidente de la Comisión 1): Este tema ha sido el último punto de la Comisión I y tengo que decir que ha sido un punto que más complicaciones nos ha creado; se estuvo discutiendo en Sesión Plenaria de la Comisión I aproximadamente durante cinco horas; posteriormente se formó un grupo de trabajo especial junto con el Comité de Redacción que duró otras ocho horas más; ayer tuvimos alguna hora más y esta mañana media hora para intentar llegar a un acuerdo. A pesar de todo ha sido imposible llegar a un acuerdo por lo que la decisión que hemos tomado esta mañana ha sido de presentar la resolución que en principio proponía el documento y pedir a los países que quisiesen hacer alguna reserva o modificación que lo expusiesen esta mañana de palabra y que las presentasen por escrito a la Secretaría. Como consecuencia de eso tenemos el documento que tenemos en estos momentos entre las manos en el que hay una primera resolución que era la que se estuvo discutiendo y a la que se agregaron unas reservas por parte de siete países que están expuestos en el pie de página 3 en el texto español.

Como consecuencia de esto, las delegaciones de Colombia, Filipinas, Venezuela y Zambia que habían hecho un proyecto de resolución transnacional volvieron otra vez al proyecto primitivo y, por otra parte, los países nórdicos, que también habían presentado un proyecto de resolución, volvieron a hacer suyo el proyecto puesto que no había sido posible llegar a un consenso.

Como podrán ver, dentro de cada una de las resoluciones hay una serie de notas de pie de página que señalan la posición de diversos países en relación con cada una de los tres modelos de resolución.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nuestro colega y amigo Ismael Díaz Yubero, activo Vicepresidente de la Comisión I, ha explicado muy bien la situación.

A estas horas no pretendemos reabrir el debate; ya el Vicepresidente de la Comisión ha explicado muy bien la situación; quisiéramos, simplemente reiterar la propuesta que aparece ya en la última página de este documento y en la penúltima nota al pie de página que se refiere a la delegación de Colombia.

La propuesta original de cuatro países más Colombia contó con el apoyo de la gran mayoría de la Comisión; sin embargo, al constatar que para nuestro proyecto original no podíamos contar con el apoyo de los países nórdicos, países que han demostrado ser muy positivos en estas actividades, hemos decidido como compromiso y cediendo mucho de nuestra parte, acceder a apoyar el proyecto de resolución presentado por los países nórdicos que aparece en el Apéndice B de este documento.

En cuanto a la reserva de siete países que aparece en la página 3 de este documento debemos dar testimonio de que las delegaciones de esos países demostraron ánimo constructivo al haberse asociado todas para presentar una reserva en forma relativamente discreta que nos causa menos problemas. Sin embargo, es conveniente aclarar que la redacción de esa reserva se hizo con base en el proyecto de resolución que había surgido del Comité de Redacción, de manera que proponemos de forma muy formal y con el ánimo de no prolongar el debate, que se adopte el proyecto de resolución de los nórdicos y que aquellos siete países que expresaron reservas queden en libertad de hacer lo que consideren conveniente.

Queremos agradecer al Sr. Sønnergaard, de la delegación de Dinamarca, Presidente del Comité de Redacción, los esfuerzos que hizo junto con todos los miembros de ese Comité, así como al Sr. Díaz Yubero, el interés que tomaron en lograr un consenso.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Desea mi delegación ratificar el contenido de la nota de pie de página número 2 de la página 7 del documento que estamos analizando.

Mi delegación desearía que se lograra la aprobación del proyecto de resolución enmendado por los países nórdicos, y aunque le hubiese gustado que este proyecto de resolución no contase con ninguna reserva, en aras de lograr un consenso podríamos aceptar que este proyecto de resolución contuviese la reserva que fue expresada en nombre de los siete países mencionados en la primera resolución y que fue expuesta en los trabajos de nuestra Comisión por el distinguido delegado de Alemania.

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Trataré de ser muy breve, pero considero de todas formas útil para la sala aclarar que la primera resolución, la primera de las tres que estamos considerando, es una resolución de compromiso que salió del trabajo del Comité de Redacción que se convirtió en un Comité negociador durante el día del lunes.

Esta resolución tenía razón de existir y era apoyada por nosotros sólo si se lograba su adopción por consenso. Este no fue el caso. Cuando la resolución volvió a la Plenaria de la Comisión I, siete países pusieron una reserva. Nosotros habíamos planteado la resolución original que consta en el Apéndice A. Se pedía que se enmendara el Código de Conducta sobre Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas inmediatamente, pero en vista de que consideramos precioso el apoyo de los países nórdicos vamos a apoyar la resolución presentada por los países nórdicos del Apéndice B del documento que tienen ante ustedes.

Leo HERTOOG (Netherlands): I would like to support the proposal made by the delegate of Colombia. I think that it is a very good idea and my support for this proposal is based on the firm hope that this Draft Resolution may meet with a very large consensus.

Namukolo MUKUTU (Zambia): My delegation is willing to accept the Nordic version of the original resolution. In our view the Nordic version sufficiently takes into account the reservations of some developed countries and gives ample time within which modalities for the implementation can be worked out. My delegation therefore supports the views of Colombia, El Salvador, Venezuela and the Netherlands.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros queremos dar todo nuestro apoyo a lo expresado por la distinguida delegada de Venezuela en cuanto a la forma en que se discutió, en cuanto a la situación presentada en la Comisión a la hora de discutir la proposición. Teniendo en cuenta lo que la distinguida delegada de Venezuela ha puesto de manifiesto nosotros podemos apoyar en todas sus partes el proyecto de resolución enmendado por los países nórdicos, y estando de acuerdo con lo propuesto por Colombia y otros.

A. SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Bien que je sois d'accord sur le fond de la proposition, je m'abstiendrai à son vote pour la raison suivante: à l'heure actuelle, la Communauté économique européenne, consciente de son rôle important en la matière, examine l'ensemble de la question du commerce des produits chimiques dangereux au niveau du Conseil de ministres; une décision doit intervenir dans un proche avenir. Je crois que ce domaine est particulièrement important et que nous devons arriver à un consensus, et compte tenu du fait que la décision n'est pas intervenue, j'estime devoir m'abstenir.

Washington ZUÑICA TRELLES (Perú) : Únicamente con el deseo de apoyar el proyecto de resolución enmendado por los países nórdicos, ya que en el proyecto de resolución original presentado por las delegaciones de Colombia, Filipinas, Venezuela y Zambia, se había puesto una nota del apoyo de mi país; por eso retiro el primer apoyo para apoyar el proyecto de resolución de los países nórdicos.

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): Since the introduction of the original resolution, my delegation has taken the position that some more homework has to be done to make the original resolution more meaningful and workable. I am happy to know that the Nordic Resolution has taken care of the consensus which we expressed. I am also happy to know that the reservations by the seven countries are well taken care of by the Nordic Resolution so I have no hesitation in recommending to my colleagues that they accept the position taken by the Nordic delegation.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Thank you all very much. I see that the Draft Resolution as amended by the Nordic countries gains your approval. If my assessment is right, I take it that there is approval and acceptance of the Draft Resolution. Is that so? It is so decided.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): With the footnote which we proposed as regards the first decision which was dealt with thoroughly in the Commission, our legal position is not fully covered, so that as regards the resolution which you have just adopted we find ourselves in the position of having a reservation.

This is a text which is different from the one to which we agreed before, so with your permission, Mr Chairman, I should like to read this text.

"The Federal Republic of Germany reserves its position on the first operative paragraph because this text prejudices any decision to be taken by the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference on the basis of the outcome of the actions and deliberations envisaged in the following operative paragraph. It recalls that the present Code of "Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides does not preclude importing countries which wish to do so from adopting measures like "prior informed consent". Having already incorporated this Code into its legislation, the Federal Republic of Germany continued to be open for further improvements of the Code.

I am prepared to send you that note, Mr Chairman, so that it could be incorporated at the end of the Resolution.

John COOK (United States of America): I would like to have asked the Federal Republic of Germany to re-read their reservation, but I believe that I understood quite clearly the first two sentences which were a reservation in general. The United States would like to associate itself with the first two sentences of that reservation.

Masahito YAMAMOTO (Japan): For the same reason as that given by the delegate from the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan wishes to reserve on this paragraph.

Peter A. WIESMANN (Switzerland): Switzerland would also like to associate itself with the reservation expressed by Germany, but only for the two first sentences, because the last sentence refers to Germany's legislation and this does not apply to Switzerland.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Bien que mon pays soit très attaché au consensus sur le code des pesticides qui a prévalu jusqu'à présent, nous estimons qu'il convient, dans ce domaine, de réaliser encore un certain nombre d'études. C'est le cas des études qui ont été faites dans le cadre de la Communauté Economique comme l'a cité le délégué de la Belgique, et c'est aussi le cas des études entreprises dans le cadre du PNUD. Pour ces raisons, nous estimons que les décisions soumises aujourd'hui à la Conférence anticipent sur les études. Pour ces raisons, ma délégation s'associe aux réserves qui ont été mentionnées par la République Fédérale d'Allemagne.

James T. AITKEN (United Kingdom): My delegation was pleased to support this Resolution on a consensus basis. However, we would like to be associated with the first two sentences of the reservation made by the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Srt^a Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): La delegación de Venezuela desea expresar una reserva de las reservas formuladas que acabamos de oír, con relación a la resolución que acabamos de adoptar.

Procedo a leer el texto: "La delegación de Venezuela quiere dejar constancia de que el deseo original de la gran mayoría de los países presentes era que el Código de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas se enmendara inmediatamente para incluir en él el principio de consentimiento previo. Sin embargo, teniendo en cuenta que un número muy limitado de países expresaron objeciones, y convenidos de que era deseable llegar a un acuerdo por consenso, se trató por todos los medios de lograr una solución de compromiso que reflejara los puntos de vista de ambas partes. A tal efecto fue presentada una resolución muy parecida a aquella adoptada por consenso en el PNUMA sobre el mismo tema, la cual aun así no encontró el apoyo aquí de estos pocos países.

A nuestro entender las reservas formuladas por ellos a la presente resolución, la cual toma en cuenta algunos de sus planteamientos, van en contra del espíritu del Código, así como de los esfuerzos desplegados por la mayoría de los países por preservar la salud, la vida humana y el medio ambiente."

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos unirnos a la reserva de las reservas que se están haciendo en esta Conferencia. Queremos unirnos totalmente a lo expresado por la distinguida delegada de Venezuela. Lamentablemente, la discusión no dio los frutos que se esperaban a pesar de la buena intención que existió y los que reservan en esta forma este texto del compromiso realmente inconscientemente no se están dando cuenta que están contribuyendo a que podamos pasarlo mientras estudian pacientemente la situación. Por lo tanto quiero unirme a la distinguida delegada de Venezuela en su reserva.

Raúl LOPEZ LIRA (México): Mi delegación desea sumarse a los que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra.

Namukolo MUKUTU (Zambia): My delegation fully supports the footnote proposed by Venezuela.

Mme Anna Teresa FRITELLI ANNIBALDI (Italie): Jusqu'ici l'Italie n'avait pas trop pris la parole sur cette question puisqu'on avait pensé qu'une solution de compromis avait été trouvée, et on avait apprécié tout à fait cette façon d'arriver à une solution de bonne volonté, ce que l'on avait retrouvé dans la solution de compromis. En effet, nous considérons qu'il faudrait arriver à régler de la façon la plus appropriée cette matière très délicate. Nous sommes convaincus qu'il faut vraiment étudier tous les aspects qui y sont liés. L'Ambassadeur de la Belgique a rappelé que sur cette matière il y a, dans plusieurs enceintes, des études et des négociations qui sont en cours; je crois que nous pouvons arriver à des résultats meilleurs avec de la bonne volonté.

C'est ainsi que l'Italie se voit, étant donné que l'effort de compromis qui avait été fait au sein de la Commission est ici tombé, obligée d'exprimer une petite considération sur ce qui vient d'être appuyé. On se trouve, si vous permettez l'expression, obligé de faire une "réserve de prudence", pas sur le fond de la question, mais parce que l'on pense que c'est une matière qui doit être étudiée jusqu'au fond.

Mme Malika SACI (Algérie): Nous appuyons entièrement la déclaration que vient de faire le Venezuela et nous voudrions nous associer à cette réserve.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panama): Señor Presidente, también la Delegación de Panama se suma a las reservas presentadas por la representante de Venezuela.

P.N. KHADI (Lesotho): My delegation would like to support the reservation expressed by Venezuela and to be associated with it.

Mrs Hannelore H. BENJAMIN (Dominica) : The delegation of Dominica gives full support to the reservation made by Venezuela.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous n'aimons pas beaucoup les notes de bas de page et encore moins les réserves sur les Résolutions. Nous pensons que le projet de résolution amendé par les pays nordiques-, constitue un compromis sur lequel on a pu obtenir un consensus. Malheureusement, il n'en est pas ainsi. Nous sommes dans l'obligation, dans ces conditions, de ne pouvoir qu'associer le nom de notre pays aux réserves, disons aux contre-réserves, qui ont été proposées par le délégué du Venezuela.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Como expresamos anteriormente no nos gusta, Señor Presidente, que tengamos una Resolución con reservas y mucho menos con reservas a las reservas, pero lamentablemente nos vemos obligados a ello. Apoyamos el contenido de lo planteado por la delegada de Venezuela y solicitamos se incluya nuestro nombre a la reserva aquí planteada.

Reza ASKARIYEH (Iran, Islamic Republic of): We wish to have our name included in the toot note, and support what has been said by the delegation of Venezuela.

Washington ZUNICA TRELLES (Peru): Unicamente para decir que mi país apoya la decisión de Venezuela. Nada más, Señor Presidente.

Humberto CARRION MCDONOUGH (Nicaragua): Señor Presidente, nos asociamos a las reservas expresadas por Venezuela y queremos que nuestro país aparezca incluido en ella.

Amilcar SPENCER LOPES (Cap-Vert): Nous aussi nous nous associons à la contre-réserve émise par le Venezuela.

CHAIRMAN: I suggest that if we wish names to be associated with one of the reservations we send the names to the Secretariat and have them listed there. Would you be satisfied with that, so that we can let you go and have a rest, and then meet tomorrow?

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

M. M. SIDDIQUILLAH (Bangladesh): I am a little confused about the procedure, if we have to adopt a resolution with so many reservations. I do not know what the rules are. Does this not call for throwing the whole thing open and 'starting right from the beginning? Besides, on the merits of Appendix B which I think we have been trying to adopt with reservations, this gives the impression that it will really delay the implementation of our intentions with regard to the use of fertilizers in developing countries. We are not often well informed on, these things, and their literature encourages us to use certain pesticides which are not used in their own countries.

I would like to have a legal opinion at this point on how many reservations can throw an adopted Resolution open for further discussion - or may it not be better to have some form of vote?

CHAIRMAN: The Resolution has been adopted - there are only some reservations. So, once again, if there are no more interventions of substance, if you wish to associate your country's name to any of the reservations you may care to inform the Secretariat and your country's name will be added to the lists of those associated.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Pedro SEBASTIAO (Angola): Il y a une quinzaine de minutes que j'ai demandé la parole et on ne me l'a pas accordée. Tout simplement je voudrais associer mon pays à la réserve qui a été faite par le Venezuela et je voudrais que notre nom figure dans la liste de pays qui ont émis des réserves.

CHAIRMAN: If you would send your names to the Secretariat, it will save us all the time and effort of speaking.

Paragraphs 32 to 42, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 32 à 42, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 32 a 42, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 43, including draft resolutionn, adopted

Le paragraphe 43, y compris le projet de résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 43, incluido el proyecto de resolución es aprobado

Draft report of Plenary - Part 7 (from Commission I) as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière - Partie 7 (émanant de la Commission I) ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe - Parto 7 (de la Comisión I) así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY, - PART 8 (from Commission III)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - HUITIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission III)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 8 (de la Comisión III)

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 11 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHES 1 A 11 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFOS 1 A 11 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

CHAIRMAN: Are there any corrections to the drafting?

Elio PASCARELLI (Chairman, Drafting Committee Commission III): Because of reasons that were explained to us at the end of the last session of Commission III, there was absolutely no time for the Drafting Committee to meet and to judge, comment or amend the Report on this subject. So it has been kindly given to me, and I am one member of the Committee; so I cannot speak on behalf of the whole Committee. Whether this reflects exactly what was said, in principle, I do not want to move objections from here, but I want to dissociate my responsibility from whatever is wrong. There is something at the end, but I hope that members of the Committee will participate in the discussion if they so think.

Jean-Luc GRAEVE (France): Ma délégation voudrait aborder brièvement le point relatif à la Résolution qui figure au paragraphe 16 de notre document dans la version française et qui est relatif à l'exécution du Programme approuvé pour 1988-89. Ma délégation ne souhaite pas s'opposer au consensus très large qui s'est dégagé en Commission III sur l'adoption de cette Résolution. Elle souhaite cependant rappeler les réserves de nature juridique qu'elle a exprimées lors des débats et qui figurent sur la page 5 du procès verbal de la 9ème Séance de la Commission III: Ma délégation souhaite que ces réserves soient mises à leur place appropriée par le Secrétariat, dans le projet de rapport qui nous est soumis, et que le texte, avec notre réserve mise à la place appropriée, lui soit communiqué.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Since we are waiting for the supplement to document C 87/REP/8, would Mr Crowther please clarify what the procedure is for the discussion of this document?

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): The Conference has before it in REP/8 two specific items, both of which have resolutions. The second resolution, that has just been mentioned by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, was approved by consensus. The first resolution could not be totally agreed upon, but, because we did not have a quorum and we could not go to a vote and it is required for adoption in Plenary, it is for the Plenary to decide whether or not a vote would be required on it.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Would the distinguished delegates prefer to adopt this first Resolution, Procedure for the Election of the Chairman and Members of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee?

Elio PASCARELLI (Chairman, Drafting Committee Commission III): I do not think that we reached a consensus in the Commission. This draft has never been examined by the Drafting Committee but was prepared by the Secretariat, and I only received it this afternoon. I could not call the Commission together so I do not think that we can use this. That is why I asked your permission to leave this post. May I repeat the reason why Italy would not vote in favour of this Resolution if a vote were taken? I shall ask for a vote on the Resolution, because it is absolutely useless. The CCLM spent hours and hours and hours to come to us with an unnecessary Resolution. The risk that we want to prevent is that one region wishing to serve on the Finance Committee would not be elected. This actually happened two years ago. The risk is there again this year. This Resolution is very theoretical and a mass of parole, parole, parole. I am sorry that the work we have done in the Council - and we recommended alternative 3 to the CCLM - was not taken seriously, and I use the word "seriously" responsibly. It has taken three meetings of the CCLM to come up with a useless Resolution, whereas we had thought of a proposal that did not become a resolution but is a paper that is known and is available to all members to judge. You have it. It disappeared. Why? It is not in the report. I ask the Secretariat to explain to me why.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Members who attended the Commission III meeting will recall that there was an alternative proposed to that which was submitted by the CCLM, endorsed by the Council and submitted to the Conference for decision. This alternative proposal is reflected in paragraphs 8 to 10 of the draft report. I distinctly remember, towards the concluding part of the Commission's discussion, asking the Commission whether the alternative proposal, which was in the shape of a resolution, should be passed on as such or whether the contents - its substance - should merely be reflected in the report without submitting the whole draft resolution. I may be wrong, but I gained the impression that the Commission intended to forward the resolution which had previously been endorsed by the Council and also to reflect the main lines of the alternative proposal because the Commission recognized that there were certain elements of that proposal which merited further study. The Secretariat has done its best to reflect these conclusions in the report. It is also perfectly true that, it is the Secretariat which takes the full responsibility for this because, as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee pointed out, there was no time to submit this part of the Report to the Drafting Committee. However, I believe that it reflects what the Commission intended to do. Naturally in this Plenary the Conference may, if it so wishes, change the contents and discuss the matter further.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El Embajador Pascaroili tiene razón cuando dice que este Proyecto de Informe se presenta bajo responsabilidad de la Secretaría, porque el Sr. Roche ha explicado muy bien la situación, y desde luego es adecuado que el delegado de Italia intervenga en este momento.

Sin embargo, convendrá recordar! y ojalá lo confirme así el Presidente de la Comisión III, que ayer, cuando se debatió este punto, el debate se dividió en dos aspectos. El primero sobre el Proyecto de Resolución que había enviado el Consejo, relacionado con el procedimiento de elección de los Presidentes y Miembros de los Comités del Programa de Finanzas, y yo no recuerdo que haya existido ninguna oposición en la Sala, ni siquiera del Embajador Pascarelli. Varias delegaciones, listados Unidos y Colombia, reconocimos que tal vez esa no era la solución más adecuada al problema, pero que representaba un esfuerzo notable que hacía el Consejo, después de haberse ocupado el Consejo dos veces de este asunto, después de haber oído en dos ocasiones también el asesoramiento del CACJ. Ese es un punto; sobre esa Resolución no creo que haya discusión y fue aprobada en la Comisión III.

Paralelamente, el segundo punto fue una propuesta del Embajador Pascarelli y ya el Consejero Roche explica que sobre esa propuesta, aparecen los párrafos 8, 9 y 10. En la primera frase del párrafo 9 se reconocen los méritos de la propuesta del Embajador Pascarelli, y yo le reitero mi reconocimiento. Pero, la Conferencia decidió que no había llegado el momento de examinarla a fondo. Fue por eso por lo que la Secretaría, muy adecuadamente, no incluyó en el Proyecto de Informe el texto presentado por Italia sino el resumen de las deliberaciones sobre ese punto en la Comisión III. Yo espero que esto aclare la situación y que podamos así aceptar este documento que es correcto.

Elio PASCARELLI (Chairman, Drafting Committee Commission III): I think that Ambassador Bula Hoyos, a dear friend and the distinguished representative of Colombia, is a little too kind to the Secretariat. I want to put on record that we are very displeased with the action and procedure of the Secretariat. It is absolutely incorrect. First, there is no Ambassador "Pascarelli's Resolution", there is just a paper, because I refused to push forward this Resolution; Alas, it had not the sponsorship of countries benefiting from the activities of FAO - Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Near East, etcetera.

Secondly, the resume that is produced here is not satisfactory at all because, if any of the delegates tonight would like to resume this discussion before, the sovereign body of the Conference which must replace the Commission whenever the Commission does not have time, as in fact has happened, we have no document in front of us, and this document has been in the hands of the Secretariat for fifteen days. It was produced before the Resolutions Committee and was approved by the Resolutions Committee. On that subject there was ample time to reach an agreement because it was only to correct an imbalance that I recognized tonight that a negotiating point was put in. I think that by correcting the number from 11 to 12 we could have reached agreement the same night but it was prevented, not because of lack of goodwill on the part of the Chairman, but because we were practically physically thrown out of that hall. This is the sovereign body. If Great Britain has the right to make us lose one hour to vote on two resolutions that had already been voted on and re-voted on and were very clearly defeated there, I think any delegate would have the right to call attention to this quite useless resolution, and I have said so since the beginning of Commission III's work. This resolution has already been disattended. What better proof do you need? (microphone switched off).

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Ronald DEARE (United Kingdom): I must register an objection to the implied criticism in the statement just made by the Ambassador of Italy. It is perfectly within the right of any delegation to call a vote on any resolution, particularly when we were advised in Commission III, when Ambassador Pascarelli was present, that there would be no record in the report of the Plenary of a

voto unless that vote took place in the Plenary, and so a vote in the Commission does not exist, as I understand it, for the purposes of the report of the Plenary.

For Ambassador Pascarelli's information, the name of my delegation is "the United Kingdom delegailon".

Atif Y. BUKJIARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): This Resolution referred to by His Excellency Pascarelli was considered first in the Third Commission, and many delegations in Commission III considered the subject of this resolution and its contents. There has not been any agreement on the contents of this resolution. However, some delegations, including the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, referred to the fact that it is possible that this resolution be considered and be put to the vote if it is amended and the members of the Finance Committee were eight from developing countries and four representing developed countries. Regrettably, however, at that time I left the hall in order to join Commission II and did not know what happened afterward as regards the deliberations of Commission III. Would the Chairman of Commission III be able to keep us informed of the destiny of this resolution and how discussions were closed as regards this resolution?

Mohammed Mazlan JUSOH (Vice-Chairman, Commission III): This matter on procedure for election of chairman and members of the Finance Committee and Programme Committee was debated quite extensively by the Commission. At that time it was chaired by the Chairman himself, the Ambassador of Poland. There seems to be no objections to the original resolution as tabled before us, except that Ambassador Pascarelli said in a discussion that he had another resolution which he wished to put to the Commission for consideration. But then because of the problem of getting sponsors for the resolution the matter was left in suspension for quite a number of days. But then the matter was brought up again, I think during the last session yesterday afternoon and the whole problem was that I was not chairing that session myself and I also had to go into Commission II.

At this point perhaps the Secretary, Mr Crowther, or someone from the Secretariat would be able to enlighten the Plenary.

A. Daniel WEYGANDT (United States of America): I really do not wish to pre-empt a response from the podium if such is indicated. If that is your wish, Mr Chairman, I would be happy to speak perhaps after the response from the Secretariat member, in compliance-with the request of the Chairman of Commission III.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I thought I had summed up how the discussion ended because in view of the fact that the Secretariat was going to take responsibility for drafting this part of the report, I specifically sought the guidance of the Commission in order to be sure that the text which you would have before you now reflected what the Commission wanted to do.

Of course, I stand to be corrected by Ambassador Pascarelli, but my understanding was that there was general support for the CCLM's and the Council's draft resolution, and that different views were expressed on the other proposal which the delegate of Italy stated that he did not wish to be associated with in view of the fact that he had not got any co-sponsors. Therefore, we ended up by referring to it as either "the anonymous resolution" or "the non-Italian resolution". But the substance was discussed at some length. Various views were expressed on how, if at all, the composition of the Finance Committee should be changed; whether it should be increased. A number of different views were expressed, but I distinctly recall having asked whether the resolution in that form should be sent on to this Plenary Session or whether, on the other hand, it would be sufficient for its contents to be forwarded. I suggested to the Commission that only the substance be forwarded. I heard nobody dissenting. This is precisely what we did.

A. Daniel WEYGANDT (United States of America): Mr Chairman, I thank you for giving me the floor at this time because I would like to take the opportunity to confirm quite clearly the understanding that Mr Roche has conveyed to the Plenary. This was a discussion which was carried out at some length and certainly it is my recollection of what transpired. It do not believe that the verbatims are yet available from our discussions, but I am quite confident that if they were they would confirm indeed what Mr Roche has said.

In fact, I was tempted when I received this document to make the comment that I thought it was a relatively balanced job of drafting, given the fact that there was no opportunity to send it to the Drafting Committee. If anything, I would perhaps criticise in this draft that there is perhaps excessive mention of a discussion about a resolution which was never agreed to by the Commission.

Therefore, I think it is important for us to bear in mind that this resolution was not agreed to by the Commission and it is also important to bear in mind that there was no consensus on this resolution. If there is an effort to press this, there will not be a consensus in this Plenary tonight.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, después de la declaración que acaba de hacer nuestro amigo y colega el Sr. Weygandt, de los Estados Unidos, casi no tengo nada que agregar. Una vez más, el Sr. Roche ha estado perfectamente adecuado en los detalles que da sobre el debate. Seguramente los colegas que estuvieron ayer en la Comisión III recuerdan que yo hice una segunda intervención, en la que me excusé ante el Presidente si me anticipaba a su resumen y propuse lo que luego el Sr. Roche repitió ante la Comisión de manera muy clara, y estaba presente el distinguido, eminente y queridísimo amigo, el Embajador Pascarelli. También confirmo lo que ha dicho el Sr. Roche: la resolución de Italia quedó huérfana, y él mismo lo reconoció. El Embajador Pascarelli se lamentó de que nadie le había apoyado.

De manera que yo concuerdo con Estados Unidos en que estos tres párrafos hasta son excesivos, en relación con el debate que tuvo lugar, pero los acepto como homenaje a mi amistad y al respeto que debo al Embajador Pascarelli. Creo que esta parte del informe de la Comisión III debe ser aprobada tal como se ha presentado.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): The representative of Italy has asked for the floor, but before giving him the floor I deemed it appropriate to put this issue before you in order to take a decision on whether you wish to agree on this or to accept it in its form as a draft resolution or to enter some amendments on the draft resolution and thereafter take the appropriate decision. I see that the discussions taking place now through the various statements might be lengthy and this might not lead us to any tangible outcome. Therefore, once again I put this matter before you. Would the representative of Italy, Ambassador Pascarelli, agree not to take the floor now? Then after taking a decision on this resolution he can explain his position.

Elio PASCARELLI (Chairman, Drafting Committee Commission III): Which resolution are you referring to?

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): This is on procedures for the Election of the Chairman and Members of the Programme and Finance Committee, page 6 of document C 87 REP/8 .

Elio PASCARELLI (Chairman, Drafting Committee Commission III): I stated at the very beginning of the item under discussion that this was a useless resolution. That was fifteen days ago, the document disappeared. I want the document to appear as it came from the Resolutions Committee. I request an answer to my query as to why it was kept for fifteen days and not circulated. These answers must be given.

I think we have to vote on this because I want a vote on the resolution which is useless in my view. I do not want to make comments on the three speakers who have agreed on one point, that is a useless polemic. The fact is that many countries in that room were not permitted, because of lack of time, to state their position. The Ambassador of Colombia said that I ignored mathematics, that four and eight would be perfectly suitable to him.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Without reference to any further speakers, let us decide on this resolution by a show of hands. If you approve of the resolution in front of you, if you agree with what is in front of you as a draft resolution, please raise your hands? Those against kindly raise your hands? Abstentions, please? Thank you.

The resolution was adopted by 65 votes to 1 with 14 abstentions

La résolution est adoptée par 65 voix contre 1 et 14 abstentions

Por 65 votos contra 1 y 14 abstenciones queda aprobada la resolución

Paragraphs 1 to 11, including draft resolution, adopted

Les paragraphes 1 à 11, y compris le projet de résolution, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 1 a 11, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 12 TO 16 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHES 12 A 16 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFOS 12 A 16 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): We still have another resolution which has already been adopted by the Commission.

Ms Janet Lesley TOMI (Australia): I have taken the floor because I require clarification concerning some of the business that was conducted in Commission III. My understanding is that there were a couple of resolutions which were going to be voted on and we ran out of time in Commission III. I am wondering if it is now the intention in Plenary for a vote on C 87/LIM/9 and then again there was C. 87/LIM/14 which had two supplements. Australia certainly would wish to call for a vote on C 87/LIM/9.

Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): The delegate from Australia is correct. These resolutions that were discussed but not voted on in Commission III because there was not a quorum, or are at this moment being finalized in the supplement, will come forward as soon as they are completed; there is every intention of bringing them forward to the Plenary for the decision that will be taken according to the members.

A. Daniel WEYGANDT (United States of America): I have a procedural question to follow-up what Mr Crowther has told us. How is it proposed to deal with the reflection of our debate on these two items? My understanding is that normally before a vote goes to Plenary it should be seen at least by a Drafting Committee or a Commission. In this case it seems as though we will not have a chance to see any report until - I do not know - until a report is issued. I should like some clarification on what it is that the Secretary would propose as a means of conveying the Report to the Members.

Dean K. Crowther (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): As a result of finalizing the discussion late yesterday in Commission III on this subject, there was no follow-on time for the Drafting Committee to meet. Therefore, a Draft Report has been prepared and is to be included in the supplement that is coming forward. It will therefore be considered the same as REP/8 which is being reviewed at this moment. Certainly if there had been time and a quorum, full discussions would have taken place, but it will come before the Plenary for its review.

Elio PASCARELLI (Chairman, Drafting Committee Commission III): I have two points. I would again call the attention of the Spanish-speaking members of FAO because there is a mistake or an omission in C 87/REP/8, the last page of the Spanish text. Accepting a British amendment, we added the words - this is point 4 of the Resolution that you have in front of you, the line before the last - "cash spending". It does not appear in Spanish. It should be set between the words "fondos y la situación de los atrasos"; would you kindly add "gastos en efectivo"? It is the last page of REP/8, page 9, point 4 of the resolution. I hope that is clear.

Secondly, since, from this moment, I think that the Chairman of the Drafting Committee is no longer needed on this podium because there is nothing more produced for lack of time, may I humbly ask to be allowed to take my seat again and to fight for an issue that is going to be raised? I thank the Australian delegate for raising it. With your permission, I have nothing to add.

A. SAÏNTRAIT (Belgique): Le principe proposé tout à l'heure par la délégation française me paraît, sur le plan juridique, extrêmement contestable et je me permettrai de poser la question de savoir si la procédure suggérée par la France est la bonne en ce qui concerne les objections que mon pays comme la République française ont. J'aimerais obtenir sur ce point l'avis du Conseiller juridique.

LE CONSEILLER JURIDIQUE: Avec votre permission, j'aimerais obtenir quelques éclaircissements concernant la question posée par la France. Si mes souvenirs sont exacts, ce que le délégué de la France cherchait à savoir était comment ses réserves seraient exprimées dans le rapport.

Il ne s'agit pas nécessairement d'une question d'ordre juridique parce qu'il a déjà exprimé les vues qu'il a à cet égard. Il s'agit uniquement d'une question de forme, la question étant de savoir comment les réserves seraient reflétées dans le rapport tel qu'il sera publié à la fin de la Conférence. D'ailleurs, je me dois d'ajouter que c'est une question qui n'est pas tout à fait de mon ressort. Mais le Secrétariat de la Conférence trouvera sans doute moyen d'ajouter dans le texte, sous une forme ou une autre, les réserves qui ont été faites par ces deux délégations.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Is this response sufficient?

Elio PASCARELLI (Chairman, Drafting Committee Commission III): In this Resolution the sponsor does not appear. It was Italy. I am glad at least the Resolution was carried, because tonight I was very kind to a certain party of this meeting to let them win at least once!

On this Resolution, we decided to change one word, but I am told it is not good English. In the operative part "1. Delegates exceptionally to the Council" should read "Delegates to the Council on an exceptional basis". It appears that is better English than my formulation. Yet it was thoroughly examined by the Secretariat.

Mr Chairman, I am still waiting for the answer to the query that I formerly put to the Conference. Where is my document?

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): Mr Chairman, once you find the document, I wonder what you can do with it now. (laughter)

CHAIRMAN: We will not go into that. Excuse me for saying that, Mr Pascarelli, but whenever they find the documents they will give them to you I am sure. (laughter)

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Tengo un pequeño problema en el párrafo 15 de la página 7, antes de entrar a considerar la resolución. El párrafo 15 comienza diciendo: "Varios Estados Miembros expresaron sus dudas sobre que la Conferencia hubiera actuado sabiamente al delegar en el Consejo su importante prerrogativa de tomar decisiones respecto de cuestiones presupuestarias, puesto que en opinión de todos los Estados Miembros ...".

Por lo tanto, en español, nos parece que no es correcto que varios delegados opinen por todos los Miembros. Creo que ahí lo que debe decir es: "puesto que opinaban". Estos sí puede opinar, opinaban que todos los Estados ..., pero no pueden opinar en nombre de todos los Estados. Ahí debe decir en español, "Puesto que opinaban que todos los Estados Miembros tienen derecho", y en español dice lo contrario. "Que en opinión de todos los Miembros". Se lo dejo a la Secretaria para que lo pueda arreglar.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I think that will be taken care of in the Spanish version by the Secretariat. Now we shall go back to the second Resolution.

I would like to remind you that this Resolution has already been adopted by Commission III. If there are no observations or objections, this Resolution is adopted.

Paragraphs 12 to 16, including draft resolution, adopted

Les paragraphes 12 à 16, y compris le projet de résolution, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 12 a 16, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): There is a supplement to this document which will be coming soon, I hope (C 87/REP/8-Sup.1).

Draft Report of Plenary - Part 8 (from Commission III) not concluded

Projet de rapport de la Plénière - Huitième partie (émanant de la Commission III) est en suspens

Proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte 8 (de la Comisión III) queda pendiente

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I would like to summarize what lies ahead of us. There are pieces of unfinished business, one from Commission II and the other from Commission III. In both cases the REPs are now being processed and will be ready tomorrow morning.

From Commission II, there is item 12 which deals of course with the review question. This REP contains both the text of the Resolution which was adopted by Commission II this evening right at the end of its discussions, and two draft resolutions which the Commission did not have time to consider.

From Commission III there is a section of draft report covering items which were considered so late that in fact the draft report could not even go through the Drafting Committee. There was a question from the United States about this earlier on and an explanation was given by Mr Crowther. That section of the draft REP will also be up tomorrow morning.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): I have a request for clarification. On item 12 of Commission II, no report was prepared or sent to the Drafting Committee, I would like to inquire how this will be handled, in terms of tomorrow's programme.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: At the meeting of the General Committee this morning I suggested - and there was no disagreement - that, in order to avoid any problems with the adoption of a draft report without going through the Drafting Committee on such a delicate item, we would give the Plenary a one line entry saying something like this: "After extended discussions the Conference adopted the following Resolution", and then give the text of the Resolution. That is what will be in front of Plenary tomorrow morning. We have not attempted in any way to produce a textual description of what happened, as we believe this would create far more problems than it would solve.

I would just repeat the recommendation of the General Committee, that the Conference itself wind up its business by 13.00 hours - one p.m. - tomorrow so that the Council can then meet in the afternoon. So - lunch time tomorrow is the deadline for the completion of the Conference.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Del resumen de lo que nos queda pendiente se deduce que ya no falta nada de la Comisión I. Porello, la delegación de Colombia quiere pedir al Embajador de India que transmita al Gobierno de ese fraterno- país del Tercer Mundo nuestro reconocimiento por la manera dinámica, inteligente y ponderada como el Señor Sastry, de la India presidió esa Comisión I en forma ejemplar.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): I don't want to disturb your sleep, Mr Chairman, nor mine, tonight, and I shall have to sleep on it. I do not intend to call for a report or anything like that, but many important thoughts "on both sides of the hall", as we say in the States, were put forward during the Commission II discussions. It would be a great pity if those thoughts were lost from our record. Perhaps, with the wisdom which is so characteristic of the manner in which you have performed your task, you might come up with some thoughts tomorrow that would permit us, in a very broad sense, to have those thoughts expressed. I agree with you that we do not want to reopen the debate - that would not be conducive to anything. However, it was a very sensitive issue, and some very deep thoughts were expressed. Perhaps we could find a way, without reopening the debate or embarking on polemics or diatribes, to reflect how these matters were at least put on the table.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): We fully appreciate the sentiments expressed by the Deputy Director-General, and also the comments made by our distinguished colleague from the United States. We think that possibly the way to tackle this is to have perhaps a little longer, but not much longer, statement than the one proposed by the Deputy Director-General - one in which there was some reference to the verbatim report, without necessarily quoting them, but some signpost to the verbatim report so that there would be an indication of where the arguments and counter arguments could be found, without necessarily reopening them.

Akbar Minza KHALEELI (India): First of all, I would be failing in my duty if I did not thank my distinguished colleague from Colombia who has graced so many Conferences, for conveying his best wishes to Mr Shastri. I shall certainly do what is necessary in this regard.

Regarding the point raised by the distinguished representative of the United States and also by the United Kingdom, I agree with them because the exact nature of the vote in Commission II will perhaps only be known to us tomorrow. (laughter) No - I am not trifling about this. The verbatim report will tell us exactly what was discussed whereas individual impressions may well be mistaken. We were under pressure, and the Chairman was doing a remarkable job with great energy and control over the situation. For example, on paragraph 1, whether the Nordic, or Norwegian, or French preamble is adopted - I am sure that if we held a rollcall people may have a completely different idea of what they were voting on. In any case, the verbatim report will not be very long, because there were a lot of adjournments - (laughter) I am not making light of this. It would be impossible to summarize, because there is quite a lot of discussion on certain items. Either you accept Mr Walton's suggestion, or, if it is possible for the Secretariat - we do not wish to place a heavy burden on them - perhaps we need only the verbatim report of the last part of our meeting in Commission II. We can then perhaps be clear as to what exactly we voted for. It is important from the point of view of the record that we know exactly what happened.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Apoyamos plenamente lo que ha dicho el distinguido Embajador de India, aunque pensamos que tal vez una radiografía del proceso cumplido en la Sala Roja podría ser lamentable. Por ello, más bien preferimos apoyar lo que el señor Walton ha dicho que ha recomendado el Comité General, con la esperanza de terminar mañana, al final de la mañana, y no pasar en esta Sala Plenaria el fin de semana próximo.

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): It is so rare for my delegation to be in agreement with the United Kingdom delegation that I can not resist this opportunity! I think that the proposal made by the United Kingdom delegation was a very fruitful one. We do not want, as the United States delegate pointed out, to lose the discussion and the differing viewpoints from both sides of the hall: a reference to where certain matters could be found in the verbatim record would assist, at least, and would not I think cause further discussion.

Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): La delegación argentina pidió la palabra para expresar que, en su opinión, el reflejo más objetivo y más exacto de lo que ocurrió esta mañana y esta tarde en la Sala Roja, estará sin duda en los verbatim, y no creemos nosotros que debemos cargar a la Secretaría con el trabajo adicional de hacer resúmenes de nuestras deliberaciones cuando no hemos podido tener tiempo de hacerlo nosotros mismos. En ese sentido, apoyamos lo expresado por la delegación de la India.

A.J.M. OOMEN (Netherlands): My delegation associates itself with the suggestion made by the delegates of the United States and United Kingdom of having a report on today's discussion on the reform item. My delegation also thinks it may be of interest for the Expert Group, and also those within FAO, both the Secretariat and Member Nations, to have a reflection of the views voiced today. It is therefore the opinion of the Netherlands that the thoughts and arguments put forward today during the discussions need to be in a compact form and discussed tomorrow if possible.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think we must be realistic about this. We are supposed to start at 9.30 tomorrow morning but it may be more like 9.45. There is unfinished work for Commission I: there is a Resolution to be discussed, perhaps voted on, and there may be reservations, and yet further reservations. You then have the unfinished work of Commission II: there are two very important resolutions by the United States, and India and Costa Rica which have not been discussed. They must be introduced; the Legal Counsel has been asked to give his point of view: you have to vote on them, and to explain the vote; you have to make footnotes, etc.

Then you have to deal with the resolution which has been voted on in Commission II, and with the Review. If you start first by discussing the two pages, reporting how things were done, there will be no agreements on those two pages. We will then lose time and you will not pass the resolutions. Then there will be no review. I think you have to be realistic. If the Chairman of Commission II or the Chairman of the Contact Group, or friends of the Chairman, would like to write the report, they are most welcome, but you will never finish. If you do not finish by one o'clock tomorrow, if you continue for the whole day, then the Council has to meet on Saturday. I know that many members of the Council would like to leave. We will have some difficulty with the interpreters. Many of the interpreters have contracts finishing tonight at midnight, they have commitments elsewhere for Saturday and Sunday. So we have to be reasonable. If you want to finish tomorrow by midday, and let the Council meet in the afternoon, we cannot go through this Report. We are ready to comply with the wishes of the Conference, but it is ten o'clock now and we have no Drafting Committee. We will be doing something of our own responsibility. There was no agreement for many days, and I take this opportunity to say that I very much regret this. I even went so far as to make some proposals unofficially to try to reach a consensus, if not at this Conference, in some weeks' or in a few months' time, on those two important issues which are dividing the member countries. In my acceptance speech I said I would do everything to prevent a division. I want to have a united FAO.

To come back to the Report, it is an impossible task to do it. If it is done, it will delay and delay and complicate matters. We want to save the Conference, we want to save FAO, save the Organization. We are dealing with the very important problem of hunger in Africa. We and the World Food Programme are fully committed to helping the African countries at this time. We have the problem of desert locusts in Africa, and many other things, so please bear with us.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voulais intervenir avant le Directeur général parce que je voulais aborder exactement le point qu'il vient d'aborder. Je crois sincèrement que nous avons suffisamment travaillé, nous ne pouvons plus demander au Groupe de contact de rédiger un rapport et encore moins au Comité de rédaction de "plancher" sur un projet de rapport.

Ce qui s'est dit au niveau de la Commission II est très bien reflété dans le verbatim, nous pensons que le mécanisme qui aura à travailler sur les réformes aura tous ces documents devant lui et pourra les consulter. Par conséquent, nous ne comprenons pas les craintes qui ont été exprimées ici et nous pensons que toutes les dispositions seront prises pour assurer la diffusion des verbatim afin de tranquilliser tout le monde.

Aussi, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais associer le nom de ma délégation à ce qu'a dit notre ami de l'Inde. Cela est sage et nous devrions pouvoir nous en tenir là. Nous ne voudrions pas éterniser le débat au sein de cette Conférence, nous savons déjà les difficultés que connaît l'Organisation et nous ne voulons pas lui en créer d'autres. Voilà ce que nous tenions à dire.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Creo que debemos asociarnos, en todas sus partes, a lo expresado por el Director General en busca de realismo y razón. Realmente, como han dicho otros colegas, los verbatim los tienen a su disposición para que todos los que quieran saber lo que pasó dentro de la Comisión puedan leer esa novela trágica. Esa lectura va a ser muy interesante para muchos, pero muy amarga para otros. Realmente, señor Presidente, la propuesta del señor Walton es la más realista para poder terminar mañana en paz los trabajos de esta Conferencia porque, lamentablemente, vamos a tener que expresar que no fue feliz la forma en que se dirigieron los debates de la Comisión II.

Elio PASCARELLI (Chairman, Drafting Committee Commission III): I am going to be very brief because it is so late. I would also express in the name of my Government our best thanks and feelings of appreciation to the distinguished Ambassador of Poland who chaired the Commission III for his wisdom and patience. We had very smooth sailing. I also extend the same appreciation for the Vice President, the distinguished colleague from Malaysia. I speak in the name of my Government, and I think I also express the feelings of other Members of the Drafting Committee.

A.SAINTRAIN (Belgique): Il serait non seulement totalement déraisonnable mais sur le plan pratique absolument impossible d'obtenir un document dégageant la synthèse des discussions relatives au point 12.

Je crois que notre collègue, l'Ambassadeur du Brésil, a raison de demander que peut-être dans l'avenir on puisse dégager certaines conclusions d'un débat. Le verbatim est un document largement suffisant pour nous permettre de nous prononcer en connaissance de cause. Nous sommes parfaitement capables, parce que nous connaissons les enjeux et nous connaissons les options qui ont été prises, de nous prononcer dans une totale clarté demain. Mais rien n'empêcherait que dans quinze jours, trois semaines, un mois, un document de synthèse puisse être établi de façon à permettre une certaine réflexion d'un certain nombre de délégations, réflexion qui leur permettra de comprendre la position d'un et chacun, et probablement, d'ici un certain temps, quand ils verront ce qui a été réalisé dans la formule de compromis, d'en arriver à se rallier à cette formule.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I have a point of clarification or a question. I can imagine that it would be rather difficult to reflect today's discussions in the Report. I think the suggestion made by the delegate of the United Kingdom was wise, but two weeks ago we had a discussion and most delegations had the opportunity to speak there. I can well imagine that the Secretariat was able in these two weeks to put forward something which would reflect our discussion; maybe not the last, heated part of the discussion, but at least the first part. I would consider it rather unusual not to have a chapter in the Report of this Conference on an item which has certainly marked this Conference, even if it were only for historians.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): I am the first to recognize - because I talk with all levels of FAO staff and support staff - how hard people work in this building, and how continuously hard they work; how they put themselves forward at all times to serve us and to serve the Organization. I do not want to add to their burden. However, what we have discussed in item 12 is, in the view of my delegation, of such critical importance to FAO that, as my Swiss colleague just said, having a one-liner in a report is like having Tolstoy's War and Peace described by the last line. It does not even come close to giving any depth of feeling of what has happened. It was not my suggestion to have a typical report from a commission. Since we are on the last day, there is no drafting committee, and so on and so forth. I express myself very clearly, it was not my intention nor my desire to initiate debate tomorrow on what the Report did or did not say. I will say though that I may have more faith in the quality of the staff than others because in looking, for example, at C 87/30, which was the document on which our discussions were based, the Secretariat did what I felt was an excellent, objective job in preparing a summary of the positions at the beginning of that document. The usual practice, as I know it, is that, as a Commission goes over a theme, summaries are being prepared so that at the end the chairman is helped with a summary of what has happened. Perhaps one could search the files and find if such a draft summary exists. What I was thinking of was not something which said that some delegations said this and some delegations said that. It was more substantive and shorter: the following ideas were expressed. You see, during the discussions, however bitter they may have been for some delegates, one major conclusion came out, and that was that all Members of this Assembly fully support FAO, fully desire FAO to be a better agency, to be more effective, to deliver more goods for the money. I think that it is crucial to express that conclusion, even of itself. Concurrently, it is very important to say that some of the major ideas that were expressed are not reflected, I am afraid, in the Resolution that was finally adopted.

Therefore, if all that, people see in the Conference Report is a one-liner, and the Conference Resolution on this matter, they will never know whether it was the butler or the maid who did the deed, whichever it was. I think the UK suggestion that the Secretariat search the files for that draft summary, that most have been reading as the first segment of the discussion which took place, in which all of the major ideas were put on the table. it would be a good parting gift for us when we left tomorrow. I am not suggesting it would be open for debate.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): We should like to try to be constructive here. First of all, I should like to thank India for their support of our proposals. This emphasizes the usefulness of the verbatim records. Another example has just sprung to mind: when I listened to the intervention of the delegate of Brazil, searched my emotions to identify the feelings I had at that moment when he

associated himself so sensibly with the United Kingdom delegation's position. Indeed it was in a verbatim record that I was able to find what I was looking for: it was at page 37 of C 87/III/PV/7, which reports the workings of Commission III. I found the word which summed up my emotions; essentially it is a word which I will always associate with the Ambassador of Italy. It was he who used it very properly and correctly. He said - and I read from the verbatim record. Elio Pascarelli, Italy, "bouleversé". I think this expresses how we feel in relation to Brazil.

More seriously, as is often the case, we find ourselves here in consensus with the Director-General. We very much thought that the suggestions he was making about how we treat this item were in line with the ideas which would help to keep FAO together and to reach sensible conclusions in the work ahead.

I also was very seized by the suggestion from our American friends that we should have some sort of fairly short, simple, precise summary. I think that here, probably, the answer is to have this, perhaps not as long as our US colleagues might like, but perhaps slightly longer than a single sentence from the Deputy Director-General, something along the lines that full discussions are set out in the verbatim records of Commission II and quoting some reference to them. Perhaps for clarity one might wish to have the verbatims of Commission II, exceptionally, circulated as some sort of annex to the report, but I only put this forward very tentatively. However, thinking about this, this would possibly meet the points raised by Brazil, Switzerland, India, the USA and others.

Harald HOSTMARK (Norway): I was very heartened by the words of the Director-General. This is the spirit in which I want to lend my voice to this idea that there must indeed be something more than a one-liner on this report. It has been said before, so I shall not be too long about it. We are not intending to have a very long report here, a report of the type on which Plenary will sit as a drafting group and discuss. "some", "few", "many", "a couple", "a majority" or anything of that nature but will include events on this which was to many the most important issue, the one really central issue in this whole Conference. A one-liner is too small for it, it deserves a short description of the events that took place, because the events were somewhat surprising and do not in any way describe what took place. I am afraid that if we do not get that we shall waste the time of the resting hours of the Conference. I think it would save time. I am sure the Secretariat would be able to draft a few short, objective paragraphs. I know I am asking for an additional burden to be put on the Secretariat, but I think it would be a saving of time and avoid what I fear could be a long debate tomorrow which would upset the workings of this Conference and prevent it ending in the dignified way that we all want it to end.

Goran ANKARBERG (Sweden): The Swedish delegation would like to associate itself with the statements made by the delegations of Norway and Switzerland.

R. MACINTOSH (Canada): I should simply like to associate my delegation with the remarks of the distinguished delegate of Norway.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je pense effectivement qu'il faut éviter de demander qu'il y ait un débat prolongé sur un rapport. Je comprends aussi qu'il est peut-être nécessaire de laisser une trace des discussions qui ont eu lieu dans la Commission II. Je suggérerais donc qu'on examine la possibilité d'un rapport très bref d'une page ou deux, qui, de manière très synthétique, présenterait les principales conclusions de la discussion de cette Commission.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): I should like to associate my delegation with the remarks made by the previous speaker. I think it would do a service to the group of experts when they start work and could provide a starting point which could be a little more than the resolution itself.

A.E. MACDONALD (Australia): We have one small practical problem with one of the proposals and, if I may also speak on behalf of eight of the other countries of the south-west Pacific region, in that we have not had the historical enrichment of the Spanish and French cultures in our part of the world, we would have some difficulty if we had to rely exclusively on the verbatim reports for the historical record of this. We all know that the Secretariat has quite extraordinary skills in drafting. Could I propose that we have something quite succinct, perhaps a page, or certainly less than two pages, that would encapsulate the essence of the debate? We would appreciate that very much.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The Secretariat is in a position to be objective, and the document mentioned by the representative of the USA prepared by the Secretariat for item 12 on the review was estimated to be of good quality and objective. It took us two months to prepare it. He also said, because he was the prime mover of this proposal, that it would not be discussed. I want to make a deal with you tonight. We will prepare one and a half or two pages, as was kindly suggested, under the responsibility of the Secretariat in the most objective way. We will describe what has happened, and it will not be discussed because it is not prepared either by the Drafting Committee or by the delegates. We will, I promise you, be most objective in preparing this document, in telling the story or in summarizing. We could not summarize what was discussed over many days. The report is, in fact, a synthesis of the verbatim. If you want to discuss it and amend it, etcetera, it is up to you. Of course, you are free to do so. I am saying that, in order to move quickly, we could put something in under our own authority in the most objective way, giving a description, the film of the whole history.

There is another proposal, made by the representative of Belgium, that after tomorrow, in the ensuing weeks, we could write something more substantive which could be checked with some permanent representatives here who are interested. We could clear it with those. We know who are the most interested. We can circulate it under our own responsibility.

We can even do both, because any committee that has to work will need this document. We will have a short one now and later on something a little more substantive, which will also be done in a very objective way. You can have both.

I am worried about the report on the question of the budgeting process. For this you will not have the possibility of having a report because there are two straightforward resolutions, and on this item, which might be of interest, it would be difficult to have a report unless the report also should be done later on.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Director-General, for your very constructive and very spirited proposal. I have speakers on the list here who have asked to speak. To come with a report and ask the Conference not to discuss it is, I think, rather impossible. I cannot sleep with this idea tonight unless you promise me and promise yourselves not even to look at it. Can you do that? You will have it with the resolution, but reflect on it after we decide on the resolution. As the Director-General has said, we shall have ample time later on for representatives who reside here in Rome to discuss it among themselves and add to it, inflate it, whatever they like, referring to the verbatim report. If this is the case, OK. If not, I would leave the floor open for you to speak in the morning, because I do not want the Secretariat to commit itself to something on which you will be accusing them later on that they have not taken care of a word that you said, a sentence that you said, a proposal you made or a suggestion you produced. I do not know whether the Secretariat will be able to put in one page or two pages the gist of the discussions that have taken place in considering this issue, which, as so many of you have acknowledged, is a very important issue, the backbone,

the essence of this meeting of our Conference. I do not know. I want your reaction on that. If you approve the proposal that the brief summary of the discussions will not be discussed tomorrow and that we shall concentrate on the resolution, we can leave that today and finish our work. If you approve that, let us have a show of support for this proposal by clapping our hands.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

With that, I will not have any more speakers. I think you are all tired. You want to relax and be ready for tomorrow.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): It would be discourteous of me to leave the room without answering the kind proposal of the Director-General. If you will allow me, I will just spend two or three sentences on it (microphone not on)

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I want to be clear. I think you said - and I agree with that, for my part and that of my delegation - that we should discuss the resolution first and deal with it and then with any draft report that is produced. I am quite content with that proposal. However, it does not seem possible to my delegation in principle - and I think the Director-General recognized this - to say now that we shall have no comments on a draft which we have not seen. But, for the order of the procedure, I am entirely content with what I think everybody else has agreed is the right way to proceed.

Harald HØSTMARK (Norway): I asked to be on the speakers' list when I heard the Director-General's proposal. I want to thank him for it and receive it in the spirit in which he offers it, even if I cannot, on behalf of my Government, promise anything outright. We are doing serious business here, after all. What I can promise, on behalf of my delegation, through you Mr Chairman, is that we shall certainly put on our most objective looking glasses to find this report objective.

CHAIRMAN: If you want to continue with the discussion, I am ready. I have a list of speakers who want to speak. Otherwise we shall proceed as I said: the report prepared by the Secretariat will be brief and we shall deal with it after the resolution has been dealt with. I see no objection to that. With that, we shall finish our business for tonight and meet tomorrow at 9.30 hours.

The meeting rose at 22.45 hours

La séance est levée à 22 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 22.45 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 87/PV/21

Twenty-fourth Session

PLENARY

Vingt-quatrième session

PLENIERE

24° período de sesiones

PLENARIA

TWENTY-FIRST PLENARY MEETING
VINGT ET UNIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
21ª SESION PLENARIA

(27 November 1987)

The Twenty-first Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.30 hours,
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La vingt et unième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 30, sous la présidence de
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 21ª sesión plenaria a las 10.30 horas, bajo la presidencia de
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I welcome you once more and I call to order the 21st Plenary Session. I give the floor to the Secretary-General so that he may brief us on the order of the day.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Contrairement à ce qui figure dans le Journal de la Conférence, il est envisagé de commencer les travaux de ce matin par ce qui reste en suspens du rapport de la Commission III sur le point 25, c'est-à-dire le document C 87/REP/8-Sup.1 et passer ensuite à ce qu'il reste de l'adoption du rapport de la Commission II; il s'agit des documents C 87/REP/11, Résolution, et C 87/REP/12, qui est le document du Secrétariat dont il a été question hier soir.

Mais auparavant, je voudrais, avec la permission du Président, informer la Conférence qu'à propos de la Résolution figurant au paragraphe 11 du document C 87/REP/8 la Conférence a reçu de l'Ambassadeur d'Italie le texte d'une note de bas de page dont il demande l'insertion. Pour l'information de la Conférence, je vais en donner lecture.

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 8 (from Commission III) (continued) and PART 8 PLUS SUPPLEMENT

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - HUITIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission III) (suite) et HUITIEME PARTIE AVEC SUPPLEMENT

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 8 (de la Comisión III) (continuación) y PARTE 8 CON SUPLEMENTO

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 11 including Resolutions (continued)

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 11, y compris les Résolutions (suite)

PARRAFOS 1 a 11 incluidas las resoluciones (continuación)

SECRETARY-GENERAL: The Resolution in paragraph 11 of document C 87/REP/8 was adopted last night, and Italy has proposed a footnote. The text is as follows: The Delegation of Italy explaining its lonely vote against this Resolution, regretted that Conference document C 87/LIM/46 had not even been mentioned in the Commission III Report (which owing to the lack of time had not been approved by the competent Drafting Committee). The Delegation felt that the Draft Resolution proposed by Italy and open to sponsors and obviously to amendments could have been the object of a full and timely discussion at the Conference and provided a final solution, not only to the problem of updated and equitable representation of Europe in the Committee, but also to avoid the risk of one or more regions not being represented, notwithstanding the principles stressed in the Resolutions approved.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): If there are no objections we will consider the foot not submitted by Italy to be adopted.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je désire simplement attirer l'attention des délégués et rappeler que le Conseil doit se réunir cet après-midi. Il serait donc souhaitable que vous terminiez vos travaux ce matin. Sinon, nous pourrions tenir une session du Conseil demain matin, pour 3 heures seulement, et une demain après-midi, pour 3 heures encore, et ceci non pas à cause du Secrétariat même mais parce que les interprètes ne sont libres que 3 heures le matin et 3 heures l'après-midi; c'est une simple information, utile pour tous.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I thank the Director-General. We sincerely hope that we shall dispense with our work this morning. If there are no further observations we shall take up document C 87/REP/8-Sup.1.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 13 (including 2 Resolutions) (continued)

PARAGRAPHS 1 à 13 y compris 2 Résolutions (suite)

PARRAFOS 1 a 13 incluidas 2 resoluciones (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): This document includes two resolutions. I should like to inform you that these two resolutions, after being amended, would call for adoption by the two thirds majority. We shall proceed with them by a roll call vote and we shall take each one separately. However, I have a question. There is an amendment to the first Resolution and also an amendment to the second Resolution. Would you agree that we put to the vote the two draft resolutions as amended, separately?

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): These Draft Resolutions, as far as I can see, have not yet been discussed in detail. Before we deal with them I think we should be able to express our views on what is proposed in this document. The first Resolution came from France and the second one (which also concerns the first Resolution) has been made by Italy. If I may, I will now proceed to give our comments. The proposal of the Resolution made by France can be supported by my delegation but we would not be in a position to agree with the Italian proposal, which also involves an addition to paragraph 8 of the Resolution. We cannot support the Italian proposal because we think we should stick to the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations which enshrines the sovereignty of countries. Therefore we cannot prescribe anything to national governments as regards their budgetary arrangements and as regards their payments cycle. We feel this proposal in fact could be construed as an encroachment on national sovereignty. These two proposals from France and Italy were not discussed in Commission III and so I believe we should express our views about them, which I have now done.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I should like to recall that as regards the text in French there is a mistake because it says that the second amendment is also submitted by France. The correction is that the second amendment is presented by the Delegation of Italy and not France. Are there any further observations as regards the two Draft Resolutions or the amendment to them?

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Este documento REP/8-Sup.1, Señor Presidente, no fue discutido en la Comisión III ni creemos que tampoco pasó por el Comité de Redacción. Quiero preguntarle, Señor Presidente, si antes de ocuparnos de los dos proyectos de resoluciones podemos referirnos a los párrafos 1 a 6 de este documento, porque sobre tres de esos párrafos tendríamos algunas propuestas que hacer, que esperamos no sean controvertidas, pero que juzgamos necesarias.

Le ruego a usted si me puede autorizar a hacer propuestas a párrafos 2, 5 y 6 de este documento REP/8-Sup.1.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I think you can go ahead.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, presentaremos las tres propuestas en conjunto, porque pensamos que son sencillas.

En el párrafo 2, hacia la mitad del párrafo 2, se habla de "proporción cada vez mayor a América Latina". Hay que poner el nombre completo de nuestra Región: América Latina y el Caribe.

En el párrafo 5, en las dos frases del párrafo 5, se habla de: "Muchos Estados Miembros y diversos Estados Miembros". Nosotros pensamos que ese párrafo 5 contiene conceptos que son generalmente aceptados y apoyados por toda la Conferencia. Proponemos, por tanto, una revisión de la redacción cambiando solamente la parte referente a la Conferencia que diría así: La Conferencia destacó la importancia de la contribución anunciada en apoyo del PCT y de la asistencia que tal contribución proporcionaría a numerosos Estados Miembros y, "acogió complacida" las garantías, etc. etc. hasta el final. "acogió complacida" refuerza el contenido del párrafo y lo simplificamos, en nuestra modesta opinión.

La última se refiere al párrafo 6. Siempre hemos compartido el sano criterio de austeridad con que se redactan los informes en esta Organización. Las personas pasan, son muchos los hombres y las mujeres que servimos a la FAO, pero hay casos particulares en que conviene hacer referencia a las personas, sobre todo cuando no se trata de resoluciones sino, de textos de informe. Proponemos que al final del párrafo 6, se diga el sincero aprecio de toda la Conferencia a Italia y a la eficaz colaboración del Embajador Pascarelli. Esta adición sería consecuente con la primera frase del párrafo 6 y con el párrafo 4, que deben reflejar el contenido del mensaje que se enviaría al Primer Ministro de Italia.

Espero haber expuesto, Señor Presidente, con claridad las tres propuestas, que no son de gran trascendencia y que, ojalá no le causen dificultades a usted y a la Conferencia.

A. Daniel WEYGANDT (United States of America): I had asked for the floor, but obviously I could not anticipate the previous speaker's intervention, but since he has proposed some amendments I would feel somewhat constrained to respond, that is to say that as far as I am concerned his addition to paragraph 2 is a correct factual addition, so I support it..

I wonder whether we need to get into precise drafting at this stage. I am less enthusiastic about the other additions. This is up to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of Commission III to respond to, but I note particularly that he asks us not to single him out by name. I would be happy to do that. It is really in deference to his wishes that we should decide on this, not to put him in the position of being singled out, but I certainly defer to his views.

I would like to propose a very modest amendment to paragraph 10. I would like to insert the word 'generally' at the beginning of the second sentence of paragraph 10. I am sorry to make those drafting changes, but there are some people who oppose this for one principle and some for another principle and I think that by including the word 'generally' we should take both of those under one sentence. I hope this is not too much of a problem. It would then read: "generally they believed ..." and so on.

I am a little confused about how we are proceeding now. You said you were going to take the votes separately on the two items, but with respect to the first resolution, the measures to deal with the problems of delayed payments, I do not recollect from the discussion in the Commission that there was actual opposition to this Resolution. Some delegations were not very enthusiastic about it, but I wonder whether we need to have a vote on this. I think we could probably take it by consensus. I do not want to prejudice anybody's position. I am somewhat less than thrilled by this Resolution but would be happy to join the consensus.

I would like to support what was said by the delegate of Germany with respect to the second amendment. I appreciate the spirit in which it was put forward, but I am wondering whether this is an advisable step at this stage. So I could support the Resolution by consensus as it is and with the French amendment but I think for anything further we would need to have more discussion.

CHAIRMAN: In answer to your query on the vote process, I think yes. I have asked the Legal Counsel whether we can have it by consensus and he said no, because of Regulation 6.1 (b) this has to be done by roll call vote. Thank you for your other comments.

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand): I would like to state our position concerning measures to deal with the problem of delayed payment of assessed contributions. I refer to the amendment made by Italy. It said that all member countries should contribute to the Organization not later than the end of February. I would like to say that in the case of Thailand with our fiscal year system it is impossible for Thailand to contribute before the end of February. If we add this amendment my delegation would have to vote against.

A. SAINT-TRAIKT (Belgique): Je voudrais vous dire que nous sommes entièrement d'accord et que pour des raisons statutaires il faudra voter sur le plan d'incitation conçu pour encourager les membres à verser leurs contributions en temps voulu. En d'autres enceintes internationales, ce problème a déjà été discuté; un Plan d'incitation a déjà été approuvé à l'OACI et à l'Organisation mondiale de la météorologie.

Je voudrais simplement signaler que je marque mon complet et entier accord à l'amendement français en faisant remarquer que nous sommes partisans de ce qu'on appelle "la courbe en S".

En ce qui concerne la proposition de la délégation italienne, un problème peut se poser pour un certain nombre de pays qui n'ont pas le même système financier que le nôtre. Avant de se prononcer sur l'amendement présenté, on devrait étudier les conséquences qui découleraient de l'adoption de ce type de projet pour les pays dont l'année fiscale ne correspond pas au cycle 1^{er} janvier -31 décembre. Un problème pourrait se poser pour ces pays.

Quant à nous, cette résolution recueille notre entier agrément.

Pour la seconde résolution, qui est la modification des procédures d'allocation de l'excédent de trésorerie, nous avons eu l'occasion de dire en Commission que nous émettions des doutes sur les possibilités de délégation, même exceptionnelles, au Conseil, dans le domaine budgétaire.

Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Unicamente para apoyar al Embajador Bula Hoyos en que, para una mejor definición de la región, se incluya el Caribe. Entonces, tiene que decirse "América Latina y el Caribe", especialmente en lo que refleja a las palabras de aprecio que hicieron Italia y el Embajador Pascarelli.

No es norma nuestra el seguir en los informes esta clase de situaciones. Sin embargo, creo que lo que está haciendo Italia en estos momentos merece ser mencionado en el informe como forma de agradecimiento por parte de toda la Conferencia.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: It is ten minutes to eleven, Mr Chairman. Ladies and Gentlemen, may I suggest to the Conference, first that you agree with the amendments made by Italy, then there could immediately be a roll call vote which is imperative, on the first resolution as amended by France; also kindly see whether Ambassador Pascarelli would insist on his amendments; so we then can proceed to vote by roll call, which is imperative, on the first resolution, and then we move to the other resolution, also by another roll call. Those who are against the resolution by just voting, against they will express their views, because at this stage we are not going to change any positions. So we can have two roll calls, one after another, and move on to the other topic.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy) (Chairman, Drafting Committee Commission III): I heard what the Director-General proposed. I do not want to cause any delay in the proceedings. Since I am called by the Ambassador of Colombia and by the delegate of the United States to express my views as a person interested, I have something to say on it.

First, I apologize to the Caribbean countries because I used in my statement the expression "Lat in America", which is the usual way the region is named. We have the South West Pacific, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America. I present my apologies to the Caribbean countries for that mistake. Of course they are in the region. I propose that we use the expression "Latin America and the Caribbean."

Thank you for the proposal of my being singled out. Actually, when the Chairman summed up, the reactions of the Conference to that lonely statement the other day - I like lonely positions - I did not approve that my name should come in a resolution because I am a public servant; what I did is nothing exceptional, but I have no opposition to being mentioned in a message to my Government. I cannot be promoted any higher because I am already at the top. But I think for a retiring Ambassador that would be very rewarding and I thank the Conference.

Finally, I heed the Director-General's wishes. I have always accepted his advice, and I hope he will accept mine sometimes - he will - and I relinquish my amendment. But please, Mr Chairman, we never thought that by this amendment we would encroach in the sovereign rights, would like to hear whether Mr Roche, the Legal Counsel, finds it normal that many countries with a different fiscal year should constantly and permanently violate our Regulations.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Thank you, Ambassador Pascarelli.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I wanted to say the same thing as the Director-General about the vote and I have nothing to add. I just want to press that we should go to a vote as quickly as possible because time is running out.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Thank you very much.

G.H. MUSGROVE (Canada): I think in the course of the brief discussion we have just had there have been a number of items raised and perhaps I could touch briefly on those on behalf of my delegation.

In the first instance we should very much like to join in the congratulations and thanks to the Government of Italy for its very generous contributions to the Organization, in particular the one described, in this document with respect to the Technical Cooperation Programme. It is an excellent thought and an extremely generous one. We feel that it is a right trend and have suggested in the past that growth in the very useful Technical Cooperation Programme should attract voluntary contributions and that the Trust Fund aspect would be an element of that growth. I realise in this case it may be a contribution somewhat attuned to the financial crisis of the Organization, but we would encourage this development in normal circumstances. Our thanks go to the Government of Italy for this generous action.

Secondly, I was going to address myself to the Italian amendment, but I note that it has been withdrawn. My question was whether the solar year is exactly congruous to the calendar year and if the terminology might be instead of "the end of February" "by the summer solstice". But as we have withdrawn that amendment I will withhold that question. With respect to the Resolution itself, the problem with delayed payments, we very much support, and this is one that our delegation has addressed itself to over the years. We might indicate that we do have some difficulty with paragraph I Section (a) of the operative part of the paragraph insofar as it may adversely affect those many countries, particularly smaller countries, with currency problems who do pay in part, even in large part, during a financial period but for some reasons of exchange, sometimes between the time they make an exchange and the time payment is made they do fall short of their full contribution. It would be our view that (i) could possibly be deleted and leave the only operative part of that section to be (ii) of paragraph (a) which would have the similar effect of rewarding those who have paid in full or in large part with interest income. That being said, we realize that it is late in the day to be proposing two amendments but we signal our concern in that regard and if it did find favour with this Plenary perhaps consideration could be given to removing (1) without, we feel, affecting the intent of the entire Resolution.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Are there any other views before we go on to voting?

Thomas YANCA (Cameroun): Je voudrais exprimer ici le point de vue de mon gouvernement à savoir que le règlement des contributions de l'exercice budgétaire ne correspond pas toujours à l'année calendaire comme on le dit, et cette résolution nous poserait des problèmes: il nous serait difficile de régler nos contributions car il faut les prévoir dans le budget.

Pour en revenir à ce que vient de dire le représentant du Canada, nous avons un problème car nos monnaies ne sont pas des dollars et il faut convertir ce taux de contribution. A titre d'exemple, en ce qui concerne notre pays, les livres de la FAO font ressortir que nous avons, pour l'année 1986, une somme due de 49 dollars qui résulte tout simplement du problème du taux de change. S'il était possible de tenir compte de l'année budgétaire du pays en question et de la variation du taux de change dans le règlement, cela prendrait en compte nos préoccupations et nos problèmes qui sont réels.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am thinking of the vote. You can now immediately have a roll call on the Resolution with the amendment of the French or, if Canada insists on its amendment, which needs to be repeated and well understood, then you should vote first on the amendment to the Resolution as amended by Canada. But I was not listening very well. I do not know whether Cameroon was supporting the amendment of Canada or not. Then we will have two votes, first the vote with the amendment of Canada then with the French amendment and if they are rejected then you have another vote on the Resolution itself. So we are in the hands of the delegate from Canada as to whether he will insist on having his amendment or he will agree to — let the Organization, the Secretariat study the matter and report in the light of the experience to the Finance Committee. Maybe at that time he will perhaps consider again whether to put or not to put his amendment. So it has to be a short period in the light of experience. It is up to him.

CHAIRMAN: Cameroon, do you want to clarify your statement?

Thomas YANCA (Cameroun): Je voulais juste citer cet exemple qui concerne ce que vous venez de dire, car lorsque l'on dit au point i) "uniquement entre les Etats Membres qui ont réglé intégralement leurs contributions à la fin de l'exercice financier", je voudrais que soient pris en considération les cas où, à cause des taux de change, il y aurait peut-être un manque à gagner pour l'Organisation. Le mot "intégralement" nous gêne un peu parce que nos monnaies ne sont pas des dollars, et il se pourrait qu'au moment du règlement, à cause du taux de change, le montant intégral ne soit pas réglé. Comme je vous l'ai dit, nous avons, pour l'année 1986, 49 dollars qui ne sont pas payés à la FAO par suite de ce problème. Peut-on considérer le Cameroun comme ayant réglé intégralement ses contributions pour 1986, ou est-ce que l'on ne peut pas le faire?

CHAIRMAN: Director-General, please I do not want a dialogue between.....

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: It is not a dialogue, it is just that we are discussing how to vote. I think the delegate of Cameroon is not talking about the Resolution. The question is whether you vote the Resolution as it is with the French amendment or you start to vote on the Canadian amendment. The question is for Canada. The Representative will have to indicate.

Ms Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden): It is a bit difficult to be seen in this corner of the Hall, but I will make a brief comment. My delegation shares the concern earlier expressed by the Canadian delegation as to para, (a) (i). For our part we would prefer the model used by ICAO, The International Civil Aviation Organisation, So we could get along with the proposal by Canada to delete (a) but we are in the hands of this Conference.

A. SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Très rapidement, je voudrais quand même faire remarquer que le a) vise uniquement les intérêts afférents à l'excédent de trésorerie tandis que le b) vise les excédents de trésorerie sans les intérêts afférents à ces excédents. Le problème ne se pose pas dans l'immédiat.

de sorte que, si notre collègue canadien pouvait l'accepter, je demanderais que le problème soit examiné par le Comité financier et que nous puissions passer au vote immédiatement sur le texte que nous avons, ou tel qu'amendé par la France. Il ne serait pas raisonnable d'entrer dans une discussion technique alors que le Comité financier peut l'examiner. Ce problème pourrait être réglé ultérieurement, il ne se pose pas à court terme.

Je propose qu'on passe au vote sur la résolution telle qu'amendée par la délégation française.

Sra. Mónica DEREGLBUS (Argentina): Nosotros reconocemos que tenemos escaso tiempo y muchos temas para atender, pero creemos no obstante que la enmienda propuesta por la Delegación de Canadá tiene un sentido de justicia y equidad que no escapa a los miembros de esta Conferencia. Por consiguiente, creemos que se le debe dar la debida atención. La Delegación de Argentina apoya la enmienda de Canadá.

CHAIRMAN: May I suggest something: if the Conference agrees to delete (a) or (i) from (a), or (a) as a whole from the Resolution then it will be done and then the Resolution will be voted on as amended, with the French amendment. If I get your approval on that then we can finish the discussion on this and go into voting on the first Resolution, that is Measures to Deal With Problems of Delayed Payment of Assessed Contributions. So do I get your approval?

Ms Janet Lesley TOMI (Australia): With respect, Australia would have absolutely no difficulty supporting the original Resolution and although in the interests of consensus Australia would be prepared to go along with the deletion of (a) (i), although our strong preference would be to see it retained, it would appear to the Delegation of Australia that if you also intend to delete (a) (ii) then there is no sense left in this Resolution because the Resolution has been tabled in order to provide an incentive for prompt payment of contributions.

A. Daniel WEYGANDT (United States of America): Maybe I misunderstood you but I thought you were only talking about the sub-paragraph in question and that therefore I strongly support the motion and I think we should get on with the business in hand.

A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): : I would like to say the same.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Then let us see that you approve of deletion of (a) (i), the two lines, and there is no objection, so decided.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

Then now we go into voting on the Resolution as amended by the French Delegation:

Vote

Vote

Votación



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

ROLL CALL VOTING
APPEL NOMINAL
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on
Vote sur
.....Votación para RESOLUTION ON MEASURES TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS OF DELAYED
PAYMENT OF ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS.....

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	91
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	6
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	58

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	91
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	91
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ADOPTED
ADOPTÉE
ACEPTADA

Date 27.11.87 Elections Officer B. LINLEY
Fecha Fonctionnaire électoral.....
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) GRO

If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting to be held not less than one hour after the conclusion of the meeting at which the equally divided vote occurred. If the second vote is also equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

En cas de partage égal des voix lors d'un vote ne portant pas sur une élection, on procède à un deuxième vote au cours d'une séance ultérieure, qui ne peut avoir lieu moins d'une heure après la fin de celle à laquelle s'est produit le partage égal des voix. Si les voix restent également partagées lors de ce second vote, la proposition est considérée comme repoussée.

Si hubiera empate en un asunto que no sea una elección, se repetirá la votación en una sesión subsiguiente la cual no deberá celebrarse hasta que haya transcurrido una hora, por lo menos, desde la conclusión de aquella en que se produjo el empate. Si en la segunda votación hubiera también empate se considerará rechazada la propuesta.

Session of the Conference

Session de la Conférence

Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT

APPEL NOMINAL DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN

VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on

Vote sur

RESOLUTION ON MEASURES TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM OF DELAYED PAYMENT

..... Votación para ... OF ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS

COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR
Afghanistan			X		Cambodia	X				Pakistan				X
Albania			X		Germany (Fed. Rep. of)	X				Panama	X			
Algeria	X				Ghana			X		Papua New Guinea				X
Angola	X				Greece	X				Peru	X			
Antigua and Barbuda			X		Grenada			X		Philippines	X			
Argentina	X				Guatemala			X		Poland	X			
Australia	X				Guinea	X				Portugal	X			
Austria	X				Guinea-Bissau			X		Qatar				X
Bahamas			X		Guyana			X						
Bahrain			X		Haiti	X				Rwanda				X
Bangladesh	X				Honduras	X				St. Christopher & Nevis				X
Barbados	X				Hungary	X				Saint Lucia				X
Belgium	X				Iceland			X		St. Vincent & the Grenadines				X
Belize			X		India	X				Samoa				X
Benin			X		Indonesia	X				Sao Tome and Principe				X
Bhutan			X		Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	X				Saudi Arabia	X			
Bolivia	X				Iraq	X				Senegal	X			
Botswana			X		Ireland	X				Seychelles				X
Brazil			X		Israel	X				Sierra Leone				X
Bulgaria	X				Italy	X				Solomon Islands				X
Burkina Faso	X				Jamaica			X		Somalia	X			
Burma			X		Japan			X		Spain	X			
Burundi			X		Jordan	X				Sri Lanka				X
Cameroon	X				Kenya	X				Sudan	X			
Canada	X				Korea (Rep. of)	X				Suriname				X
Cape Verde	X				Kuwait	X				Swaziland				X
Central African Rep.			X		Laos			X		Sudan				X
Chad			X		Lebanon	X				Suomen	X			
Chile	X				Lesotho	X				Switzerland	X			
China	X				Liberia			X		Syria	X			
Colombia	X				Libya	X				Tanzania	X			
Comoros			X		Luxembourg			X		Thailand	X			
Congo	X				Madagascar	X				Togo				X
Cook Islands			X		Malawi			X		Tonga				X
Costa Rica	X				Malaysia	X				Trinidad and Tobago	X			
Côte d'Ivoire	X				Maldives			X		Tunisia	X			
Cuba	X				Malta	X				Turkey	X			
Cyprus	X				Mauritania			X		Uganda				X
Czechoslovakia	X				Mauritius			X		United Arab Emirates				X
					Mexico			X		United Kingdom	X			
D.P. Rep. of Korea	X				Mongolia			X		U.S.A.			X	
Denmark	X				Morocco	X				Uruguay			X	
Djibouti			X		Mozambique			X		Vanuatu				X
Dominica	X				Namibia			X		Venezuela	X			
Dominican Rep.			X		Nepal			X		Viet Nam	X			
Ecuador			X		Netherlands	X				Yemen Arab Republic	X			
Egypt	X				New Zealand	X				Yemen (P.D. Rep. of)	X			
El Salvador	X				Nicaragua	X				Yugoslavia	X			
Equatorial Guinea			X		Niger	X				Zaire	X			
Ethiopia	X				Nigeria	X				Zambia	X			
Fiji			X		Norway	X				Zimbabwe	X			
Finland	X				Oman	X								
France	X													
Gabon	X													
	32	0	2	19		32	0	2	19		27	0	2	20

CHAIRMAN: We can now start the vote on the Second Resolution, that is, Amendment of Procedures, for Application of Cash Surplus. We. will start with Venezuela.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): ¿Cuál es la resolución que vamos a votar?

CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, we are starting the vote on the Second Resolution, and we are starting with you.

Vote

Vote

Votación



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

ROLL CALL VOTING
APPEL NOMINAL
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on
Vote sur
.....Votación para ..AMENDMENTS OF PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION OF CASH SURPLUS
.....

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	74
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	10
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	14
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	57

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	84
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	56
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ADOPTED
ADOPTÉE
ACEPTADA

Date27.11.87..... Elections Officer C. Tedesco.....
Fecha Fonctionnaire électoral.....
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) GRO

If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting to be held not less than one hour after the conclusion of the meeting at which the equally divided vote occurred. If the second vote is also equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

En cas de partage égal des voix lors d'un vote ne portant pas sur une élection, on procède à un deuxième vote au cours d'une séance ultérieure, qui ne peut avoir lieu moins d'une heure après la fin de celle à laquelle s'est produit le partage égal des voix. Si les voix restent également partagées lors de ce second vote, la proposition est considérée comme repoussée.

Si hubiera empate en un asunto que no sea una elección, se repetirá la votación en una sesión subsiguiente la cual no deberá celebrarse hasta que haya transcurrido una hora, por lo menos, desde la conclusión de aquella en que se produjo el empate. Si en la segunda votación hubiera también empate se considerará rechazada la propuesta.

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Session of the Conference
Session de la Conférence
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT
APPEL NOMINAL DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN
VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on

Vote sur

Amendments of Procedure for Application of Cash Surplus

Votación para

COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR
Afghanistan			x		Gambia	x				Pakistan				x
Albania			x		Germany (Fed. Rep. of)		x			Panama	x			
Algeria			x		Ghana	x				Papua New Guinea				x
Angola	x				Greece	x				Peru	x			
Antigua and Barbuda			x		Grenada				x	Philippines	x			
Argentina			x		Guatemala				x	Poland	x			
Australia		x			Guinea	x				Portugal	x			
Austria	x				Guinea-Bissau				x	Qatar				x
Bahamas			x		Guyana				x	Rwanda				x
Bahrain			x		Haiti	x				St. Christopher & Nevis				x
Bangladesh	x				Honduras	x				Saint Lucia				x
Barbados	x				Hungary			x		St. Vincent & the Grenadines				x
Belgium		x			Iceland				x	Samoa				x
Belize			x		India	x				Sao Tome and Principe				x
Benin			x		Indonesia	x				Saudi Arabia	x			
Bhutan			x		Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	x				Senegal	x			
Bolivia	x				Iraq	x				Seychelles				x
Botswana			x		Ireland				x	Sierra Leone				x
Brazil	x				Israel				x	Solomon Islands				x
Bulgaria	x				Italy	x				Somalia	x			
Burkina Faso	x				Jamaica				x	Spain			x	
Burma			x		Japan		x			Sri Lanka				x
Burundi			x		Jordan	x				Sudan	x			
Cameroon	x				Kenya	x				Suriname				x
Canada		x			Korea (Rep. of)	x				Swaziland				x
Cape Verde	x				Kuwait	x				Sweden			x	
Central African Rep.			x		Laos				x	Switzerland			x	
Chad			x		Lebanon	x				Syria	x			
Chile	x				Lesotho	x				Tanzania	x			
China			x		Liberia				x	Thailand	x			
Colombia	x				Libya	x				Togo				x
Comoros			x		Luxembourg				x	Tonga				x
Congo	x				Madagascar	x				Trinidad and Tobago	x			
Cook Islands			x		Malawi				x	Tunisia	x			
Costa Rica	x				Malaysia	x				Turkey				x
Côte d'Ivoire	x				Maldives				x	Uganda				x
Cuba	x				Mali	x				United Arab Emirates				x
Cyprus	x				Malta				x	United Kingdom		x		
Czechoslovakia	x				Mauritania				x	U.S.A.		x		
					Mauritius				x	Uruguay	x			
D.P. Rep. of Korea	x				Mexico	x				Vanuatu				x
Denmark			x		Mongolia				x	Venezuela	x			
Djibouti			x		Morocco	x				Viet Nam	x			
Dominica	x				Mozambique				x	Yemen Arab Republic	x			
Dominican Rep.			x		Namibia				x	Yemen (P.D. Rep. of)	x			
Ecuador	x				Nepal				x	Yugoslavia	x			
Egypt	x				Netherlands		x			Zaire	x			
El Salvador	x				New Zealand		x			Zambia	x			
Equatorial Guinea			x		Nicaragua	x				Zimbabwe	x			
Ethiopia	x				Niger	x								
Fiji			x		Nigeria				x					
Finland			x		Norway				x					
France		x			Oman	x								
Gabon	x													
25 4 5 19					26 4 5 18					23 2 4 20				

CHAIRMAN: The resolution is adopted. Thank you very much.

Paragraphs 1 to 13, including Resolutions as amended, adopted

Les paragraphes 1 à 13, y compris les résolutions ainsi amendées, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 1 a 13, incluida las Resoluciones así enmendadas, son aprobados

DONG QING SONG (China): (original language Chinese): Just now China voted abstention in the Resolution we have just voted on. I would like to offer some explanations for our vote. First, we consider that this Resolution has very good content. Second, China has always paid its assessed contribution in time. Therefore we consider the withholding of the cash surplus is as good as imposing a penalty on those countries who have paid their contribution without fail. Third, China at the end of last year advised FAO that China would postpone its withdrawal at least for one year of the cash surplus for 1984 and 1985.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 8, plus supplement, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, huitième partie, avec supplément, ainsi amendé est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 8, con suplemento, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 11 (FROM COMMISSION II) (C 87/REP/11)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - ONZIEME PARTIE(emanant de la Commission II) (C 87/REP/11)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA, PARTE 11 (de la Comisión II) (C 87/REP/11)

CHAIRMAN: Before we start our discussion, the Secretary-General has an amendment. to make regarding a correction in the French version of the document.

PARAGRAPHS 1 and 2 INCLUDING 3 RESOLUTIONS

PARAGRAPHERS 1 et 2 Y COMPRIS 3 RESOLUTIONS

PARRAFOS 1 y 2 INCLUIDAS 3 RESOLUCIONES

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Dans le document C 87/REP/11, version française seulement, page 3, à la fin de la partie introductive du paragraphe 2, par erreur, les crochets entourant l'expression "telle qu'adoptée" n'ont pas été enlevés. On devrait lire: "conformément à la résolution 3/75 telle qu'adoptée, et notamment", sans crochets.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Je voudrais rassurer les délégations. Je n'ai pas l'intention de présenter un amendement à mon amendement. Simplement, je pense qu'il y aurait peut-être deux précisions à apporter dans le document que nous sommes en train d'examiner.

D'une part, pour mieux cerner le mandat que nous allons confier au mécanisme, je propose d'ajouter un très court paragraphe - un considérant - qui viendrait se placer à la fin du préambule que nous avons dans le document C 87/REP/11, c'est-à-dire à la page 2 de ce document. il se lirait comme suit:

"Considérant qu'il est souhaitable d'entreprendre un examen approfondi de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO".

Cela, bien entendu, nous amènerait à supprimer, dans le paragraphe 1 du dispositif de la résolution, les mots "au paragraphe 2 ci-dessous" puisque, en fait, cet examen étant mentionné dans le dernier alinéa du préambule, la première phrase du paragraphe 1 deviendrait celle-ci: "Aux fins de l'examen mentionné ci-dessus" "...", pour être logique dans la présentation du texte. C'est la première adjonction que je propose.

La seconde viserait à trouver une formule pour remplacer le vide qui existe actuellement dans le paragraphe 2 du projet de résolution qui se trouve en haut de la page 3. Il y a en effet des crochets qu'il s'agit de remplir. La délégation française suggère de retenir les termes suivants:

"Les experts, travaillant en liaison avec les Comités du Programme et des finances," - le reste sans changement.

Je répète: "Les experts, travaillant en liaison avec les Comités du Programme et des finances, examineront le rôle, les priorités", etc. Voilà la proposition que souhaite faire notre délégation. Bien entendu, la même formule s'appliquerait aussi au paragraphe 3 puisque, là également, il y a une paire de crochets avec un blanc.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: On a point of clarification, who is going to be responsible for the study? Will it be the Programme and Finance Committees, or the experts?

Elio PASCARELLI (Italie): Je vais parler français puisque j'ai le texte français.

Il y a contradiction entre cette proposition et le paragraphe 1 parce que le sujet est aussi au paragraphe I amendé par la France: "Aux fins de l'examen mentionné ci-dessus, le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier ...". Voilà les acteurs; mais maintenant, ce sont les experts qui deviennent les acteurs. J'y suis tout à fait contraire. On pourrait dire: "Les Comités conjoints, assistés des experts..." mais pas les experts assistés des Comités. Cela n'a pas de sens.

Bernard LEDUN (France): Là, je ne suis pas tout à fait d'accord avec notre collègue italien. Dans le paragraphe 1, nous disons bien que les experts assistent le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier, c'est-à-dire qu'il font bénéficier le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier de leur concours, sous forme d'avis, sous forme d'opinions, sous forme d'études, sous forme d'examens réflexifs. Ils assistent, donc de leur concours le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier qui, pour autant, ne sont pas dessaisis de toute possibilité d'intervention, qui ne sont pas pour autant dessaisis de leurs prérogatives en ce qui concerne leur participation à cet examen. Il s'agit simplement d'essayer de trouver une formule suffisamment souple, suffisamment flexible, pour permettre aux uns et aux autres de travailler conjointement, chacun dans la sphère de sa spécificité, de former une synergie permettant d'apporter, les uns et les autres, leur propre contribution.

Srta. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Creo que anoche salimos de esta Sala encargando una tarea a la Secretaría en la cual nos comprometimos todos, después de un trabajo realizado en el seno del Comité de la Comisión II y del Grupo de Contacto. Llegamos a esta Sala con el espíritu de un compromiso, tal como lo habíamos manifestado en el día de ayer.

En ese espíritu, rogaríamos a la distinguida representación de Francia que intentáramos no reabrir el debate; porque en realidad, la fórmula gentilmente y muy acertadamente propuesta por ellos y aceptada por nosotros, fue una fórmula de compromiso en la cual estaban balanceadas las posiciones de los países en desarrollo, que en su inmensa mayoría, hemos considerado que nuestra Organización había evolucionado con el tiempo, había consolidado grandes logros expresados en su marco programático, y que si bien perfectibles, estábamos satisfechos con ella.

En el espíritu de gran comprensión, nos sentamos a discutir todo y ellos, la delegación francesa, nos propuso una solución de compromiso y la aceptamos. La aceptamos después de un proceso Largo y doloroso que vivimos ayer en la Sala Roja. Y tenemos un Proyecto de Resolución que, si bien no satisface a todos, lo hemos aceptado con un gran espíritu de compromiso.

Creo que hemos vivido una lección muy importante en todo este proceso que es la percepción que los diversos países, por nuestras diferentes culturas y nuestras necesidades, podemos tener de los aspectos. En el Grupo de Contacto oímos explicaciones que dábamos unos, cómo eran recibidas por unos, recibidas y absorbidas a medias por otros, y definitivamente por algunos de ellos prácticamente entendidas en sentido opuesto.

Sin embargo, después de todo este proceso que podría llevar años porque el diálogo de las diferentes culturas y de los países es difícil, y se tienen que entender con diálogo, ruego a todos que tratemos de buscar un concierto. El título del tema está diciendo lo que se quiere poner ahora en el Preámbulo. No es necesidad para mí cambiar nada, porque ni es el Preámbulo del LIM/29 que nosotros propusimos, que estaba del Grupo Nórdico, que ahora ya tiene un cuerpo amalgamado que es el texto del mandato y que tiene el mecanismo que fue una proposición francesa.

Yo creo que en el número 2, si nos limitamos a decir: "el órgano citado en el punto I", que es lo que expresa cuál es el mecanismo, puede ser el elemento que podría traer la concordancia a todos. No cambiemos nada.

Yo muy atentamente, Sr. Presidente, le pido que si puede pedir a la Sala que sin cambiar nada, y solamente diciendo que la entrada del párrafo sea: "el órgano citado en el párrafo I", y si esto fuera aceptado en este llamamiento de concordia. Porque creo que en el Grupo de Contacto estuvieron expresadas todas las diferentes tendencias, de las más duras a las que estábamos mayoritariamente expresadas, tanto en el Consejo de junio como en el inicio de las discusiones, que nos llevaron a formar el Grupo de Contacto, y que nos expresamos muy claramente.

Vamos a terminar bien esta Conferencia si, con este espíritu, todos aceptamos el texto propuesto por la Secretaría y esta resolución de esta mañana. Muy honestamente, el gran trabajo que hizo Francia para tratar de reunir las posiciones de ambos grupos está muy reconocido por todos nosotros. Le rogamos que no nos lleve a otro elemento; y, si esto fuera aceptable y fuera posible aprovechar todo este trabajo, yo le ruego, Sr. Presidente, que pregunte a la distinguida Delegación francesa si podría suspender su proposición y si toda la sala pudiéramos aceptar todo este tema. Muchas gracias.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I do not want to go into detailed discussion about the places we put things and about the parentheses that have to be filled. In all honesty, in the service of this Organization and to clarify how the task can be carried out, Mexico has suggested that we should refer to the body mentioned in the first paragraph and not to create any confusion by inserting words that might give a different meaning. We are agreed on the first paragraph that the two Committees working jointly shall be assisted by a small number of experts and let us say that the above body, or the joint Committee, assisted by the experts shall ... "I hope you agree to that. I will ask our colleague from France if he has any objection to that - and I do not see any objection. If you approve that we can fill the parentheses by saying either "the above body" or "the two Committees working jointly and assisted by the experts ...".

Bernard LEDUN (France): Je trouve le terme "d'organe" vraiment un concept bien vague et bien indéfini. Pour ma part, outre que je tiens tout de même à maintenir le considérant que j'ai proposé tout à l'heure et que je souhaite insérer dans le corps du préambule parce qu'il permet de préciser le rôle qui sera imparti au mécanisme. J'estime qu'en ce qui concerne le paragraphe 2. Si notre proposition suscite un certain nombre de réserves de la part des délégations qui nous ont soutenus, et je les en remercie d'ailleurs, dans la proposition que nous avons faite ici, cette proposition aujourd'hui suscite des réserves trop nombreuses, nous pouvions inverser la formulation d'abord initialement proposée et dire que "les Comités du Programme et des finances assistés des experts"... Nous pourrions à ce moment-là inverser la formulation - ce qui permettrait peut-être de lever certaines résistances telles qu'exprimées par notre distingué délégué collègue du Mexique.

CHAIRMAN: Is that agreed to? Netherlands? I am asking whether this is now a change in the phrasing of the French proposal. Will you comment on that please?

Leo HERTOOG (Netherlands): Yes of course. My observation refers to operative paragraph 2. As regards the original proposal of France putting the experts to work in conjunction with etc.... I would strongly support that proposal rather than the second one. In our opinion the centre of gravity should be the Group of Experts and not so much the Programme and Finance Committees. In conjunction with that I would propose an amendment to operative paragraph 1 to change the word "assisted".

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

J. Augusto DE MÉDICIS (Brazil): I propose that we vote on your proposal.

CHAIRMAN: I have a list of speakers in front of me. There is a motion to vote on the proposal that I have submitted: that is "the Joint Committee assisted by experts, shall....". This applies to both paragraphs 2 and 3. The parenthesis will be that "the two Committees working jointly and assisted by experts, shall....". Shall we vote on that?

Vote by show of hands

Vote à main levée

Votación a mano alzada

The French amendment was adopted by 77 votes to 7 with 8 abstentions

L'amendement de la France est adopté par 77 voix contre 7 et 8 abstentions

Por 77 votos contra 7 y 8 abstenciones queda aprobada la enmienda de Francia

Mrs Kate ABANKWA (Ghana): Mr Chairman, my delegation voted for the compromise French proposal as it satisfies the aspirations of a number of countries. The resolution before us also takes into consideration the need for experts to make appropriate studies and advise on the reforms needed in FAO. The involvement of the Programme and Finance Committee ensures that the experiences of these bodies together with those of the experts are fully utilized for a better appreciation of the problems of FAO. In this connection my delegation associated itself with the possible disadvantages of making use of experts alone, as pointed out by the delegate of India. My delegation hopes that this mechanism which like other mechanisms, may not be perfect, will be given the cooperation it must have for successful work. 1/

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I want to draw the attention of this Conference to the fact that this resolution has financial implications. The cost of the meetings of the Joint Programme and Finance Committee and the experts has been roughly estimated by the Secretariat at between US\$ 1 million and US\$ 1.5 million, depending on the intensity of meetings and also on the number of experts. No financial provisions were included in the budget to cover this unforeseen expenditure when the Programme of Work and Budget was prepared. We have US\$ 600 000 for contingencies which can be used, if we have some money in the Special Reserve Account, this, according to the financial rules, can be used for unbudgeted expenditure on condition that the Programme and Finance Committees agree. But we will certainly provide the necessary finance to let the work of the Committees and experts be carried out. We will report to the Finance and Programme Committees and also to the Council on how we have been able to meet these financial obligations.

CHAIRMAN: Now we will have the vote and decide on the Resolution as a whole.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I formally request a roll call vote.

CHAIRMAN: There is a motion for a roll call vote on the Resolution as it is and as amended by France and Mexico.

Vote

Vote

Votación

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): We want to be clear what we are voting for. We have the French explanation: "Whereas it was desirable to undertake a greater in-depth examination...", is that included in the voting? Secondly, "paragraph 2 below", does it remain unchanged or is it changed -in the first line of paragraph 1, "For the purpose of the review mentioned in paragraph 2 below...", has that been changed?

CHAIRMAN: I thought I said the Resolution as a whole as amended by France and Mexico. We continue the voting.

Vote (continued)

Vote (suite)

Votación (continuación)

HAN DEA SUNG (Korea, Democratic People's Republic of): The second roll call, we are being called. So our stand is yes.



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

ROLL CALL VOTING
APPEL NOMINAL
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on
1st Vote sur
Votación para REVIEW OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF FAO'S GOALS

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	80
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	5
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	14
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	56

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	85
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	43
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ADOPTED
ADOPTÉE
ACEPTADA

Date 27.11.87 Elections Officer B. Linley
Fecha Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) CRO

If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting to be held not less than one hour after the conclusion of the meeting at which the equally divided vote occurred. If the second vote is also equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

En cas de partage égal des voix lors d'un vote ne portant pas sur une élection, on procède à un deuxième vote au cours d'une séance ultérieure, qui ne peut avoir lieu moins d'une heure après la fin de celle à laquelle s'est produit le partage égal des voix. Si les voix restent également partagées lors de ce second vote, la proposition est considérée comme repoussée.

Si hubiera empate en un asunto que no sea una elección, se repetirá la votación en una sesión subsiguiente la cual no deberá celebrarse hasta que haya transcurrido una hora, por lo menos, desde la conclusión de aquella en que se produjo el empate. Si en la segunda votación hubiera también empate se considerará rechazada la propuesta.

CF 13 1185 654321 - W/22644/c

Session of the Conference ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT
 Session de la Conférence APPEL NOMINAL DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN
 Período de sesiones de la Conferencia VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on Review on Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals

SE Vote sur

Votación para

COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR
Afghanistan				X	Cambodia	X				Pakistan	X			
Albania				X	Germany (Fed. Rep. of)			X		Panama	X			
Algeria	X				Ghana	X				Papua New Guinea				X
Angola	X				Greece	X				Peru	X			
Antigua and Barbuda				X	Grenada			X		Philippines	X			
Argentina		X			Guatemala			X		Poland	X			
Australia		X			Guinea	X				Portugal	X			
Austria		X			Guinea-Bissau			X		Qatar				X
Bahamas				X	Guyana			X		Rwanda				X
Bahrain				X	Haiti	X				St. Christopher & Nevis				X
Bangladesh	X				Honduras	X				Saint Lucia				X
Barbados	X				Hungary	X				St. Vincent & the Grenadines				X
Belgium	X				Iceland			X		Samoa				X
Belize				X	India	X				Sao Tome and Principe				X
Benin				X	Indonesia	X				Saudi Arabia	X			
Bhutan				X	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	X				Senegal	X			
Bolivia	X				Iraq	X				Seychelles				X
Botswana				X	Ireland	X				Sierra Leone				X
Brazil	X				Israel			X		Solomon Islands				X
Bulgaria	X				Italy	X				Somalia	X			
Burkina Faso	X				Jamaica			X		Spain	X			
Burma				X	Japan		X			Sri Lanka				X
Burundi				X	Jordan	X				Sudan	X			
Cameroon			X		Kenya			X		Suriname				X
Canada		X			Korea (Rep. of)	X				Swaziland				X
Cape Verde	X				Kuwait	X				Sweden				X
Central African Rep.				X	Laos			X		Switzerland				X
Chad				X	Lebanon	X				Syria	X			
Chile	X				Lesotho	X				Tanzania	X			
China	X				Liberia			X		Thailand	X			
Colombia	X				Libya	X				Togo				X
Comoros				X	Luxembourg			X		Tonga				X
Congo	X				Madagascar	X				Trinidad and Tobago	X			
Cook Islands				X	Malawi			X		Tunisia	X			
Costa Rica	X				Malaysia	X				Turkey	X			
Côte d'Ivoire	X				Maldives			X		Uganda	X			
Cuba	X				Malta	X				United Arab Emirates				X
Cyprus	X				Mali			X		United Kingdom		X		
Czechoslovakia	X				Malta			X		U.S.A.		X		
					Mauritania			X		Uruguay	X			
D.P. Rep. of Korea	X				Mauritius			X		Vanuatu				X
Denmark			X		Mexico	X				Venezuela	X			
Djibouti				X	Mongolia			X		Viet Nam	X			
Dominica	X				Morocco	X				Yemen Arab Republic	X			
Dominican Rep.				X	Mozambique			X		Yemen (P.O. Rep. of)	X			
Ecuador	X				Namibia			X		Yugoslavia	X			
Egypt	X				Nepal			X		Zaire				X
El Salvador	X				Netherlands			X		Zambia	X			
Equatorial Guinea				X	New Zealand			X		Zimbabwe	X			
Ethiopia	X				Nicaragua	X								
Fiji				X	Niger	X								
Finland			X		Nigeria			X						
France	X				Norway			X						
Gabon	X				Oman	X								
	27	2	5	19		27	1	6	19		26	2	3	18

CHAIRMAN: The Resolution is adopted.

Igor MARINCRK (Suisse): J'aimerais également donner une explication de vote sur le vote de la résolution qui vient d'avoir lieu.

Premièrement, mon pays soutient les principes de la FAO et souhaite le renforcement de cette Organisation.

Deuxièmement, mon pays considère cependant que des réformes à la FAO sont nécessaires pour qu'elle puisse apporter une contribution plus efficace aux efforts des pays et des populations en vue d'éliminer la faim, la malnutrition et la pauvreté.

Troisièmement, mon pays a fermement soutenu la proposition des pays nordiques visant, à charger un groupe indépendant d'experts de haut niveau d'examiner le rôle, les priorités, les objectifs et les stratégies de la FAO en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture.

Quatrièmement, la résolution qui vient d'être votée et adoptée par la majorité des Etats Membres prévoit certes un examen mais le mécanisme adopté ne peut être qualifié comme indépendant par mon pays.

Cinquièmement, les Comités du programme et des finances réunis sont un mécanisme extrêmement lourd. Nous remarquons également que les membres de ces deux comités sont choisis pour des qualités différentes de celles exigées pour le genre d'examen que nous considérons nécessaire. Par ailleurs, ces deux comités n'ont que rarement pris des initiatives notables ces derniers temps. De par leur fonction, ces deux comités ne se distinguent pas par leur esprit innovateur.

Pour conclure, ma délégation pense que le mécanisme adopté préjuge des résultats de l'examen décidé; la valeur de l'examen est ainsi compromise. Ma délégation voit peu d'utilité dans cet exercice, c'est pourquoi elle s'est abstenue lors du vote. Nous regrettons qu'on ait manqué une chance pour redonner de l'élan au soutien de tous les pays membres à notre Organisation.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): Before I say anything, I am a little bit confused because we are waiting for the results of the latest vote. I will want to offer an explanation of our vote on the latest vote.

It is quite clear to those who were listening that the United States voted against adoption of the Resolution on Consideration of Review of Certain Aspects of FAO and so on and so forth in Item 12. The United States of America has been one of the countries advocating the need for a review of FAO's role, priorities, objectives and strategies in the fields of food and agriculture. Consequently, we strongly associated ourselves with the Nordic resolution proposal contained in C 87/LIM/27.

My delegation also participated with a very constructive spirit in the conversations conducted in the Contact Group. We reached consensus there on the need for a review and on the terms of the reference for such a review. Our position remains unchanged on those two matters.

We strongly disagreed with the French proposal for a mechanism now contained in the Resolution that this Conference has just approved. We firmly believe that notwithstanding our agreement, with the terms of reference, the review under such a mechanism does not ensure a fully independent and objective review of the Organization's goals, its strategies, internal structures and procedures.

We deeply regret and fail to understand the fears the majority in this Assembly seem to have felt regarding the conduct of an independent external review of the Organization.

Mr Chairman, and I say this with more sadness than bitterness, the United States is convinced that the next few years will bear witness to the need for such an independent review and to the implications in my view negative to the Programme that failure to conduct one will have.

G. MUSGROVE (Canada): We too should like to explain our vote, which was against this particular Resolution.

We were one of these countries who have spoken early and frequently on the need, in our view, for a review of the role and objectives of our Organization with a view to strengthening the Organization in the future, and we are pleased in this exercise, there seems to be a broad consensus, if not a general agreement of the membership with us in that particular view.

However, it was our view that there needed to be an independent external review by experts who had the required expertise, objectively and independence to open the window and allow a breath of fresh air of new ideas to sweep into our Organization. We do not feel that the mechanism that has been proposed for this review meets those requirements. Indeed, we feel the mechanism that has been proposed would to some extent be the antithesis of the basic aspiration of such a review.

We voted 'No' on this resolution because we feel that the expenditure that will be put to it will not be good value, although we would hesitate to pre-judge the results of the Group that has been set up. We also voted 'No' because we feel that the exercise may preclude the appropriate external look that will be required in the future. Having held such an exercise there will be resistance at any early date to have another that is properly focussed.

It was for these two reasons that we felt compelled to vote 'No' on the Resolution, although we do wish our colleagues the very best of luck in the conduct of the Resolution.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, the United Kingdom has voted against the Resolution just adopted precisely because as an original member of FAO, which continues to support the Organization and its developmental aims, we do have very much at heart both the interests of FAO and the interests of the hungry in the world whom it exists to help.

The United Kingdom set out its views in full in the Plenary and in Commission II and they are recorded in the verbatim records. The United Kingdom believes in particular that the time has come for a fresh and independent review of FAO and therefore gave its fullest support to the proposals of the Nordic countries. The Resolution now adopted to us is far removed from those proposals, especially in relation to the mechanism. We hope nevertheless that the process launched by the decision now taken might indeed result in a thorough and wide-ranging re-examination of FAO's role, priorities, strategies, structure and effectiveness which we have sought. We believe its outcome and the decisions then taken upon it will be absolutely vital to the future of this very important Organization.

Finally, my country exercises its right to have this statement entered as a footnote to the Resolution as adopted.

Jaafaru LADAN (Nigeria): My delegation would like to explain the way we voted on the Resolution just adopted.

We abstained in the voting because we believe the Programme and Finance Committees will have, as their usual mandate, a lot of work in the coming biennium and if they are to undertake other responsibilities these may impede upon their normal mandate. Moreover, it is not clear to my delegation who will own responsibility for the final report, the two Committees or the experts that will produce the final report.

We also believe that the number of people that will be involved in the duty will be very unwieldy and costly. A small number of experts would have been less costly, free and manageable.

Harald HØSTMARK (Norway): My delegation has just abstained on the Resolution before us. We did so because even the Resolution, which is built upon an initiative by the Nordic countries, contains many elements of value. Indeed, they stem from a meld of a Resolution submitted by the Nordic group and a Resolution submitted by a group of Latin American countries. They were agreed by consensus in the Contact Group that was established for that very purpose and in this Resolution now before us constitute the mandate, the terms of reference for a body that shall carry out the review which this Resolution has established. However, the Contact Group did not have the time available to finish its work. That is one thing that I particularly regret since my feeling was that it would have been possible to have had consensus on the whole Resolution if time had been available.

However, concerning that body of which I spoke, the mechanism that is to carry out the mandate, the present Resolution is so removed from the principles upon which the original Nordic idea was based that it was necessary for the Nordic group to dissociate itself from what in practice had become a new Resolution negating a central element of its original proposal. I refer to the report given in C 87/REP/11 and the previous report from the Commission. For those reasons my delegation abstained in the present vote.

That ends my explanation of vote, but permit me to add a few words. To introduce new ideas is seldom an easy process. But we are delighted to see how far this process has reached. As the present vote has shown, the idea of a review has been widely accepted by an overwhelming membership.

Let me also express my happiness about the positive spirit in which the negotiations and the discussions, were undertaken by so many delegations with whom we worked during this process up to this moment, and for a willingness to reach a consensus, as was clearly demonstrated by so many and, I hope, indeed, by my own delegation. We appreciate that spirit. We hope the work will go on. We shall participate in it.

Masahiko YASUMURO (Japan): Japan has always been an ardent support of FAO since it joined the Organization in 1951, and highly appreciates the activities in the field of food and agriculture. FAO has certainly responded to the changing needs of the international community in carrying out the functions for the past 42 years as spelled out in Article I of its Constitution.

My Government considers that FAO should play an increasingly important role in combatting hunger and malnutrition and other problems in the field of food and agriculture.

Although my delegation, believing that the mechanics are not adequate for implementation of the review, voted against the Resolution, my delegation recognized that the review, voted against the Resolution, my delegation recognized that the review is necessary and supports the objectives of the review as described in paragraph 2 of the Resolution. My country stands ready closely to cooperate with FAO in the work of review.

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): As we did last night, we would like yet again to express our extreme disappointment in the outcome of the debate on this issue at this Conference. Originally we had thought that with some goodwill and a thorough understanding of the original Nordic proposal that that proposal would have attracted strong support from among the membership. After all, the study that was being proposed there, the external independent study, would in the end come back to this Organization to the Members, for their consideration and for their decision.

Secondly, we find it difficult to believe that many delegations here have expressed the view that the Organization is heading in the right direction at the moment. We find it difficult to understand that they can be so sure of that. It is a long time since a study of this Organization along the lines proposed in the original proposal has been undertaken. Circumstances have changed; the agricultural and economic environment has shifted over the years. We would have thought that undertaking a comprehensive external review would have gone a long way to achieving the aim of rebuilding or strengthening the Organization and strengthening confidence in its administration.

I suppose that there has been an achievement here over the last three weeks, and that is that we do have a consensus that reform is necessary and that a review of sorts will be carried out.

Australia will give serious consideration, naturally, to participating in this review. We voted against the proposal that just came before us because we believe that the mechanism proposed to carry through the review is neither adequate nor appropriate. Australia, while supporting the aims and ideals of FAO, as a founding member of the Organization, leaves this Conference with the intention of participating in yet another review and that is of the degree of our future participation in the Organization.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): On various occasions we have mentioned that we are absolutely not against evolution in this pioneering Organization. We have also mentioned before that discussions should take place through some main channels.

We, the developing countries, have felt during the deliberations and discussions on the various documents submitted to us that the changes that we are asked to make in this Organization represent an onerous task on it, especially under the present circumstances that are prevailing in this Organization and in the world. We have also expressed our belief that this Organization has numerous responsibilities to discharge viz-a-viz developing countries in order to increase the food production of these countries. Yet we do not believe and we have not said that this Organization alone will be responsible for the elimination of hunger in the world. This Organization is but one link in a chain, one organization among numerous others, be they international or regional, all those organizations that are trying to put an end to hunger and poverty.

From that standpoint we found that the Resolution - when I say we, I am talking on behalf of the Group of 77 - that has just been adopted by the Conference is a balanced one, including a spate of important elements that might be conducive to our achieving some excellent results thereby enabling this Organization to continue its activities towards the developing countries mainly.

The developing countries have not asked for any kind of review in this Organization because we believe firmly that FAO is carrying out its duties within its limited financial resources in the best possible manner. The Organization has been trying to help as far as possible and effectively as possible the beneficiary developing countries. And despite the fact that we have not asked for a review or for changes in this Organization, we, the developing countries, have shown a great measure of flexibility. We were understanding; we were even wise since the establishment of the Contact Group and until that Contact Group had ended its activities.

You must be aware of the amount of work we had to carry out, especially at the level of Commission II, Mr Chairman. The same applies to the fruitful results achieved by the Contact Group. The Contact Group under the sapient attitude of its Chairman managed to reach the good results that we have before us. I do not think we can judge here and now the results of the review, as this is shown in the Resolution we have just adopted. The Organization is rather a permanent feature. Changes and reviews are gradual. They should be carried out with ail patience.

Allow me here to express my thanks to the developed industrialized countries for their understanding of the stance of the developing countries. We would like to thank them for the good declarations we have heard on their part at this Conference.

Alfred AMISI (Kenya): My delegation would like to associate fully with the sentiments so ably expressed by the delegate of Nigeria. It was for the reasons stated by Nigeria that Kenya abstained from the vote. Those reasons do emanate from a principle we in Kenya hold very dear.

Miss Anna Liisa KORHONEN (Finland): For the sake of brevity, my delegation wished to put on record the following explanation for our abstaining in the vote on the draft resolution on the review of certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations.

The position of my country is well known because we were a party to the Nordic draft resolution; therefore, it is sufficient to say that Finland associates itself with the explanations given on the vote by the delegations of Norway and Switzerland.

Leo HERTOOG (Netherlands): My country abstained from voting on the resolution on the review, and I would like to give an explanation for that decision. Indeed, the contents of the resolution just adopted is far removed from that which we had in mind when, together with other countries, we tried to generate a review or reform which we thought necessary. In fact this idea for a reform or review of FAO was inspired by real concern about the future of FAO; for example - and this is only an example - in view of the changing international environment in which the Organization is operating, more explicitly I mean our concern about FAO's position in regard to other intergovernmental organizations as well as the position of FAO in the sphere of food and agriculture. One of our aims, indeed, was to strengthen the position of FAO in this respect.

I can now only express the hope that what has just been decided will lead to something concrete and positive. For this to be achieved an open mind will be necessary on the part of those who are going to work in the interests of our FAO, of the FAO of all of us.

Clifton E. MAYNARD (Barbados): My delegation voted in favour of the resolution which it consistently suggested in the debate on this item to be unnecessary, because we maintain that there is obviously no crisis in FAO that would merit this report of examination. There has been constant review by the Programme Committee; there is the work of the evaluation service; there have been external reviews and, indeed, until about two years ago FAO in its Conference was able to make most of its decisions on the basis of consensus.

The Director-General has just told us the cost of this review. We believe that this money could be better spent at a time when the Organization is in difficulties because of circumstances beyond its control, either because of the deliberate withholding of contributions or because of the economic problems facing some other Member States. I believe some of those economic problems obviously are not the responsibility of the majority of the countries in this Organization.

It has been said in the debate on this question that there was no need to respect the role of the intergovernmental organizations in this Organization. But there are those of us who felt it was an absolute necessity that one had to protect the Constitution and role of its Chief Executive and the sovereign quality of its members. Reference was made to something called the tyranny of the few but it seems to me that the dictatorship of the few has now forced us to inflict \$1.5 million probably on the Organization. No one can refuse or oppose regular review, for I believe change is a part of growing up, and it would be impossible to maintain efficiency if change does not arise. Again, until two years ago we heard in several other international organizations, as I have repeated on two occasions before, that FAO was being held up as a well-managed organization, as an organization which others should emulate. It was a well-managed organization in terms of its programmes because of the orientation and the emphasis on people in need, yet this is the Organization that is in need of urgent study, reform and review. But there has been a stubborn refusal to change in other organizations, like the possible removal of the power of veto in Security Council, or a recognition that the power structure was changing and other countries might well be in a better situation to have the power of veto in the Security Council.

Why cannot we have a change in the nationality of the head of the World Bank, or UNDP? If you will bear with me, Mr Chairman, I must recall the point my Minister made in his statement in Plenary. He was quoting from a statement made by the Prime Minister of Barbados in the present session of the General Assembly when explaining why in his view, large and powerful States can forego multilateral diplomacy. He went on to say that small States like mine must be active participants in the

international community, and to do so they must be vigorous exponents of multilateral diplomacy and firm supporters of international organizations. The Minister also said that our world will never prosper if the sense of moral unity inherent in the habit of cooperation developed since the founding of the UN system of organization and the Basic Texts of FAO, and the unity inherent in the Charter of the United Nations are strong enough to prevail against the forces of narrow selfishness.

He ended by saying - and so will I - I hope that I am right in predicting that the history of the past 40 years justifies the belief of this delegation that the present crisis in FAO will pass and it will emerge with greater moral strength.

L.Th.B.Hertog, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the Chair

L.Th.B.Hertog, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia L.Th.B.Hertog, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): I think my colleague from Barbados made an extremely balanced commentary on why a number of countries in the developing world went along with this proposal for review in the first instance. Frankly, many of us were not convinced one needed a wholesale review. We felt the review was being called for because of factors extraneous to the work and efficiency of FAO. It was a shortage of money for which FAO was not responsible, although it would be justified on other counts.

But in the interest of consensus and after discussion among many developing countries, we felt we should show our goodwill and went along with a consensus which, in many ways, does not satisfy many of us. Therefore, we make an appeal that this Conference as a whole which has adopted this consensus, should not prejudge what will come out of it. After all, no organization, even while changing, would like such change to be initiated, guaranteed or decided upon entirely by outsiders. Change is built into life, and if we accuse the Finance and Programme Committees of not being able to bring about the required changes, certainly it is partly because it was not their mandate to do so. Their mandate is defined by other factors and rules. Besides, the membership of the Finance and Programme Committees is not based on the type of expertise now being sought. The membership is independently selected, in a personal capacity and to my knowledge many of us who have been on those committees really keep our governments informed. We are not subject to directions from our governments even when we are government servants.

Coming to the consensus decision, let us also bear in mind that by having the Finance and Programme Committees as the core of whatever review is taking place, there is interaction between experts who are there. Therefore, it is easier for FAO and Conference the next time to take it as if there has been a balanced, in depth analysis of what is needed. Just as you cannot rule out that the Programme and Finance Committees may have experts among them, we should not presume that independent experts are always as expert or independent as one imagines. I will just touch on India's own experience without being an expert myself.

Certainly we would not like to believe that what we call the Green Revolution in India is the result of the decision of one agronomist or one wheat breeder. It is the vision of a man like Pandit Neru; it is the work of the administration and of the people of India in a certain international environment, so keeping each thing in perspective and not just saying that an independent expert will achieve this, because he may achieve it in one country and not in another. FAO is working within the international environment.

There is a new international economic order that we would like. We know what are the policies of a number of countries which have surpluses in food grains. They have achieved these by hard work and research, but the policy is built around that. We have not gone into this. Therefore let us not prejudge what this group does now. Let us not say that the report is good to the extent to which it criticizes FAO or supports FAO. Let us try to have a decision that we have taken on the basis of consensus. The very dignified manner in which the delegation of Norway accepted the position augers well.

I thank everybody for their sense of participation. Towards the end of the discussion on this most important matter which has a momentum of its own, a large number of delegations have had to leave. To that extent I feel it is a pity that such a momentous decision has not been fully participated in by altogether 30 or 40 countries who, because of their own problems, could not participate.

Sra. Mónica DEREGBUS (Argentina): La delegación argentina quisiera explicar su voto de abstención en la resolución que acabamos de adoptar. La delegación argentina está de acuerdo, en términos generales, con la resolución que acaba de ser adoptada. Lamento que la falta de tiempo disponible haya conspirado contra la posibilidad de alcanzar un acuerdo más amplio a este respecto.

Quisiera expresar brevemente que ha debido abstenerse en la votación por no haber podido, en el transcurso de las consultas y en el texto de resolución, aclarar el significado y comprender el alcance de cierta terminología utilizada en el párrafo 2 del texto de la resolución.

La reserva argentina se refiere al término "función", incluido al inicio del párrafo 2. Estimamos que la función de la FAO está legislada en el preámbulo y en el artículo 10 de su constitución, y que dicha normativa continua hoy teniendo vigencia.

También expresamos nuestra reserva, señor Presidente, con relación a la parte del inciso b) del párrafo 2 en el que se dice que "el grupo deberá examinar si es necesario introducir cambios en las estructuras internas y procedimientos de la FAO". No nos ha sido posible, señor Presidente, aclarar el alcance y el significado de estos términos, y es por ello que hemos debido abstenernos. No obstante, la delegación argentina expresa su deseo, su esperanza y su confianza en que el trabajo que hoy se inicia dé sus frutos para el bien de nuestra Organización.

Anwar Mohamed KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of) (original language Arabic): May I make a brief intervention. The delegation of my country, in previous interventions, has said that we agree to the idea of a review as set forth in the draft resolution submitted by the delegate of France and amended by the Nordic countries to defend the interests of this Organization. Allow me to express my full support for the declaration made by the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Mr Bukhari, and the Chairman of the Group of 77.

Allow me also to associate myself with the views expressed by the delegate of India as far as external experts are concerned. They are rather limited because their specialists are limited. We find it impossible for any expert to be able to understand all the various circumstances under which this Organization is working. Any such experts need to work for quite some time with this Organization before they can fully understand the picture.

Ms Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden): I will not prolong our deliberations very much, but at the outset I would like to associate my delegation with what was said earlier by the delegate of Norway, to whom I would like to address the sincere thanks of my delegation for having voted so nobly for the idea and visions put forward by the Nordic countries in the true spirit of multilateralism.

I was much taken by the words of the delegate of Mexico. Indeed, it takes time to reach out to one another, coming from the many and various backgrounds, countries and cultures as we do. It is still a dialogue and a sincere wish to understand one another and it is our only hope of changing the world and for changing swords into ploughshares. This was the vision of the founders of this Organization, and this vision we still want to see conveyed to the coming generations. It is in this spirit that my delegation has worked and will continue to do so.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Ainsi que l'a bien dit avant nous Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de l'Arabie Saoudite qui s'est exprimé au nom du Groupe des 77 dont il assure la Présidence, au nom des pays en développement qui viennent de s'exprimer, notre délégation pense elle aussi que la FAO

fonctionne bien. Bien sûr, rien n'est parfait et à plus forte raison quand il s'agit d'une Organisation aussi grande et aussi complexe que la FAO. C'est pour cela que nous sommes, par principe, toujours ouverts aux modifications susceptibles d'améliorer toutes les structures quel les quel les soient mais dans ce cas précis nous ne pensons pas qu'il soit indispensable de procéder à une étude de l'ampleur de celle pour laquelle nous venons d'adopter une Résolution. Parce qu'en réalité il n'y a pas crise, à proprement parler, de la FAO.

C'est sans être convaincus des fondements de l'étude d'une telle ampleur que nous avons voté favorablement cette Résolution pour donner preuve de notre bonne volonté et faire preuve de "fair-play" à l'égard des partisans de cette étude qui, semble-t-il, pourrait donner un "new look" à la FAO, pour utiliser un mot à la mode.

Nous voulons également dire quelques mots à propos des modalités de financement de cette étude. Nous n'avons jamais demandé des réformes et à plus forte raison des études d'une aussi grande ampleur et qui sûrement coûteront. Un chiffre vient de nous être avancé par le Secrétariat. Nous ne sommes pas demandeurs et par conséquent nous ne souhaitons pas que les quelques petites ressources ordinaires que nous nous efforcerons de constituer pour permettre au Secrétariat de s'acquitter de sa tâche soient utilisées pour financer cette étude. Que ceux qui ont réclamé cette étude l'assument. Nous estimons qu'on nous a forcés à accepter cette étude; le vin est tiré il faut le boire. Nous venons d'accepter la Résolution qui va permettre le déclenchement d'un certain processus à partir d'une étude. Nous pensons que ceux qui ont crié fort et à corps et à cris, exigeant cette étude, commencent déjà à constituer, par des contributions extrabudgétaires des ressources nécessaires. Le Secrétariat nous a fait savoir qu'il y a quelques ressources et ce sera insuffisant vu le chiffre. A ce premier stade qui a contribué à l'adoption d'une Résolution, il faudra penser à faire des contributions extrabudgétaires.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): Since it is now becoming very late, I should like to associate myself with a statement made by Norway in explaining my delegation's abstentions.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I think you have gone ahead of the clock. We have passed our original hour, which was set for 1 p.m. I have on my list seven speakers and I presume it might be possible to end by 1.30 p.m. At that moment we will take the decision as to whether to go on with the resolutions laid before us or whether to take them in the afternoon session.

Germán CARRASCO DOMINGUEZ (Chile): La delegación de Chile desea expresar que ha votado afirmativamente el proyecto de resolución contenido en el documento C 87/REP/11, sobre un posible examen de algunos aspectos de las metas y operaciones de la FAO, como un compromiso político, con el esfuerzo del Grupo de los 77, para buscar un consenso en esta materia.

Nunca hemos creído en la urgencia de alterar las estructuras de la FAO, hemos sostenido siempre que el problema que enfrenta la Organización es fundamentalmente financiero, con todo, Sr. Presidente, tenemos que recordar nuevamente, que la FAO es una agencia especializada del sistema de las Naciones Unidas de carácter intergubernamental y, en consecuencia, no parece apropiado que el mecanismo que hemos aprobado para evaluar algunos aspectos de la marcha de la Organización está insertado en la competencia de esas instancias constitucionales; por lo tanto confiamos que la Comunidad Internacional aquí representada, cualquiera que sea su capacidad económica y nivel de desarrollo, continúe con el espíritu de cooperación internacional indispensable para mantener vigente el sistema multilateral y principios y disposiciones de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Vamos a ser brevísimos puesto que ya se han expresado los criterios genera les.

Nosotros no sólo hoy hemos votado, creo que este es el resultado de dos años de votos iguales, este es un estudio que viene haciéndose hace dos años, años pretendiendo modificar y otros pretendiendo mantener.

Creo que la votación en las comisiones y en las plenarias son consecuencia de esta forma de actuar durante dos años. Hemos mantenido el criterio de que todo se puede analizar siempre, nunca se ha negado la necesidad de mantener en un órgano vivo como la FAO, como toda obra humana, la necesidad de revisión, analizar, fortalecer su eficacia; todo eso lo hemos mantenido durante dos años, lo que no aceptábamos es que se nos impusiera un cambio estructural, producto artificial de presiones financieras que eso es lo que se ha tratado y esto ha sido resultado de las votaciones. Creo que muchos han dicho que somos los gobiernos representados en este sistema de las Naciones Unidas los que internamente tenemos que analizar la situación. Se rechazaba la necesidad de la reforma, se acepta la necesidad de agilizar, fortalecer la FAO, buscar mayor eficiencia, esto no impone gastos. Se ha demostrado que la FAO no tiene crisis institucional, sino de liquidez impuesta.

No queremos utilizar más tiempo; hacemos nuestras, totalmente, las palabras de la distinguida representación de Barbados, en su totalidad, por constituir, a nuestro juicio, el reclamo genuino y unánime de los países en desarrollo.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): My delegation has already explained in detail in Commission II why we think the setting up of a group of experts would have been our preference. We will forego giving these reasons now. The mechanism now being suggested

is one to which unfortunately we could not give our approval. The constructive attitude of my country *vis-à-vis* FAO as a whole, including this particular item on the agenda, has already been set out by the Federal Minister Mr Kiechle on the 10 November in Plenary. My delegation hopes that the work of review as being envisaged now and to which we give much importance, will lead to positive results.

Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Chairman of the Conference, took the Chair
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Presidente de la Conferencia

Mounir KHORAYCH (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de faire référence à la prise de position de mon pays lors du débat général où nous avons exprimé notre soutien, notre satisfaction *vis-à-vis* des procédures qui auraient pour objectifs de renforcer les travaux de notre Organisation.

Nous avons voté pour la Résolution car mon pays, le Liban, estime que les modifications doivent se passer de façon graduelle, naturelle et équilibrée. Il faut donc qu'il y ait changement et innovation et que tout soit accompagné. C'est d'ailleurs la méthode qui a toujours été retenue par notre Organisation en la matière. Nous sommes d'avis que la Résolution qui vient d'être adoptée relève de la même pratique et nous espérons donc qu'elle débouchera sur des résultats pratiques qui seront satisfaisants pour toutes les délégations de tous les pays. Tout le monde a dit que l'objectif était en fait le renforcement de notre Organisation. A l'évidence, chacun d'entre nous peut avoir une conception différente, des opinions différentes par rapport aux autres quant aux méthodes et aux résultats. Mais c'est bien là la démocratie et c'est la démocratie qui anime notre Organisation.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): Considering that all countries have had an opportunity to express their views on the matter, under Article XII-24(d) of the standing Rules I formally request the closure of the debate on the subject.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I thank the delegate of Libya, I would simply like to point out that we have two speakers left on the list of speakers and then we will end the debate and we shall hear a statement from the Director-General.

Thank you for your proposal. The delegate of the United States requested the floor for a comment only and not to discuss the subject matter. I shall therefore now give him the floor.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): Simply to request that my statement be introduced as a footnote to the Resolution, that is all. Thank you very much.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving once again the privilege to the host country to be the last. I am sorry that the head of our delegation is absent and I do not want to keep the audience busy for more than a couple of minutes.

The host country abstained on this Resolution yesterday but voted in favour today after it was completed by the French and the Mexican suggestions. I do not want to explain the abstention. I am here just to say that since Italy does not limit its contribution to the Organization by merely hosting it, and you know how, I think that we have the right also to give our contribution of ideas, although no paperwork was presented, to the momentous decision of reviewing at a certain time in life - after forty, I said - the goals and operations of FAO. As the head of the delegation said here, we are for evolution not revolution; we are for review, not reform.

We heard the Director-General's cost estimate of the exercise. May I in relinquishing this hall announce that I shall once again propose to my Government a last lonely gesture, that we contribute to easing the burden of the Organization, which is not extremely rich now, to foot some part of the bill, and I hope this time not to be the only one to do so.

We express deep appreciation for all the contributions that have been given by the Nordic Group, by the United States, by Canada, by the United Kingdom, by Australia and by the Group of 77, by their papers. We know that there has been an objective and praised document of the Secretariat which we have thoroughly and accurately examined. We have read all those papers and we are expecting this report that the Director-General proposed yesterday, a short one, to reflect the views expressed here now, a couple of pages, and a longer one to come later.

Let me join the wise Indian Ambassador - and I know how wise they are, especially in this particular field, because I witnessed the miracles that they performed in their country - when we say that we should not prejudice the results of what we are going to do. We shall take good care of the opinions expressed so that the end result will be a collective effort to rejuvenate and bring up to the time, without violating the Basic Texts, this Organization that we love.

CHAIRMAN: Trinidad and Tobago have asked the Chair whether we will be having a meeting this afternoon. I hope not. I hope we finish in an hour or so with your collaboration. Trinidad and Tobago, do you want to speak, or is that sufficient? Trinidad and Tobago says it is all right. The Director-General has asked to speak at this moment.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Comme vous le savez tous ici, je souhaitais très vivement une décision par accord général sur ce point important de l'ordre du jour. Je l'ai dit dans mon discours le premier jour où nous nous sommes réunis. Il y a eu quand même consensus sur un aspect très important, le mandat du groupe, ainsi que sur le calendrier de travail.

On m'a dit: le temps nous a manqué, nous aurions peut-être pu avoir un consensus quant au mécanisme même. Dans mon désir d'atteindre ce consensus, j'ai émis l'idée de renvoyer la décision à une session extraordinaire du Conseil - qui sera d'ailleurs peut-être nécessaire.

Il y a désaccord sur l'organe chargé de l'étude. Je voudrais sur ce point apaiser ceux qui s'inquiètent du résultat d'une étude faite par les deux Comités assistés d'experts. Ce sont ceux qui ont des appréhensions qui vont décider, comme tout le monde, des résultats de l'étude. Ce sont eux qui vont accepter ou refuser les recommandations qui seront faites dans le rapport. Ce ne sont pas les membres des deux Comités qui décideront.

Préjuger des résultats c'est condamner d'avance l'intégrité, l'intelligence et la capacité d'innovation de 20 respectables membres élus au scrutin secret par vous-mêmes, membres du Conseil, et dont quelques-uns, et même plusieurs, seront choisis parmi les pays qui ont voté contre cette résolution.

Le groupe de travail ne part pas du néant. Il y a déjà un document, le C 87/30, qui retient les propositions faites par ceux-là mêmes qui ont voté contre cette résolution, et qui pendant un an se sont préparés à ce travail.

Un même objectif, un même idéal unit tous ceux qui veulent servir la FAO à travers leur appartenance au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier. Je suis sûr que tous ceux qui sont candidats à ces Comités veulent renforcer la FAO, la rendre plus efficace. Il faut avoir confiance dans leurs analyses que vous-mêmes examinerez.

Je voudrais remercier le Royaume-Uni, les pays nordiques, en particulier M. HØSTMARK, et tous les autres pays qui se sont déclarés prêts à participer à l'étude. A ce stade, comme l'a si bien dit le Représentant de l'Italie, il faut souhaiter plein succès; il serait dommage de dire que cette étude ne sert à rien, ou va nécessiter une autre étude. Ce serait malheureux. Il serait également dommage de dire qu'étant donné qu'il y a cette étude, tel pays va réexaminer sa participation à la FAO.

Ne soyez pas étonné si je tiens ces propos, Monsieur le Président. Ne soyez pas étonné si je dis que la FAO, comme toute organisation, a besoin de réformes. C'est une nécessité absolue. Mais il n'y a pas de crise. On l'a dit, il y a une crise de liquidités, mais le Secrétariat et nous-mêmes n'avons pas été condamnés pour viol des règlements. Les pays membres, dans leur grande majorité, sont très satisfaits des services rendus.

Je remercie encore une fois l'Ambassadeur Pascarelli pour l'offre supplémentaire que l'Italie vient de faire à la FAO pour aider à financer cette étude.

Je vous prie maintenant de bien vouloir m'excuser, car j'ai un engagement avec le Président de la République du Cap-Vert qui est en visite en Italie; Monsieur Walton sera avec vous. S'il devait y avoir une autre réunion - je ne vous le souhaite pas - je serai là. En tout cas je serai là pour le Conseil.

Je voudrais encore une fois remercier tous les délégués, et leur dire, comme je l'ai fait à plusieurs reprises, que je suis ouvert à tout dialogue, à toute proposition sur n'importe quel sujet, sur la réforme entre autres.

Nous sommes prêts à travailler pour vous, pour vous servir. Notre but commun est le vôtre. La FAO est toujours au service de tous les Etats Membres. Il faut qu'elle soit encore plus efficace et qu'elle soit toujours aussi fortement au service de la justice sociale dans tous les Etats Membres.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Now we move to the items in front of us. On pages 4 and 5 of document C 87/REP/11 we have a draft resolution, and on pages 6 and 7 we have another draft resolution on programme and budgetary matters. The first one is presented by the United States delegation. The second one is presented by the delegations of India and Costa Rica.

I now ask how delegates would like to handle these two resolutions.

Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Como copatrocinador del Proyecto de Resolución que se ha sometido, me permito agregar unas pocas palabras, si usted me lo permite. Nuestro documento es prácticamente una propuesta de compromiso respecto al Proyecto de Resolución presentado por los Estados Unidos. Se acepta la propuesta de una reunión anticipada de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en forma conjunta para recomendar el nivel del presupuesto.

Estimamos que estos organismos deberían hacer todo esfuerzo posible para llegar a una posición compartida por todos los miembros. Como de costumbre, y de acuerdo con los principios democráticos, en los casos en los que no se lograra un acuerdo, deberían ser claramente expresados los distintos puntos de vista y debería ser indicada cuál es la opinión de la mayoría.

La fórmula de exigir una unanimidad llevaría consigo el peligro de dejar en la incertidumbre al Director General y los Organos Rectores, parando así la actividad de la FAO cuya continuidad es fundamental para el proceso de desarrollo.

Yendo más allá de las fórmulas acordadas para la Organización Mundial de la Salud y para la Organización Internacional del Trabajo, proponemos que el nivel del presupuesto se logre, si fuera posible, por consenso. Sin las palabras "si fuera posible", se crearían problemas tal vez insuperables.

Esperamos que este esfuerzo sirva para evitar un largo debate entre concepciones diferentes y que el mismo sea apreciado por los que aquí desean lo mejor para la FAO y quieren que la Organización se consolide, se fortalezca y continúe su valiosa labor con la tranquilidad y continuidad requeridas.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): Mr Chairman, you put a question to the room on how to handle this issue.

Being the author of the first of these two resolutions reproduced in the document, and since the resolution presented by the United States was presented to the Resolutions Committee on the first day of the Conference, I would respectfully request that this assembly takes a decision on that resolution as soon as possible, so that we can go to lunch.

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand): I know that we are short of time, but I have no choice but to intervene as we have an amendment to add to one of the resolutions. I tried to bring it forward in Commission II, but I had no opportunity. If the Plenary wishes to continue to have a debate on this issue this morning, I will propose my amendment. If not, I will wait for the afternoon.

CHAIRMAN: I think we will go on and try to finish with this. We will not adjourn.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): In both resolutions an additional step is being requested in the programme/budget process. This is the outline that would be the basis of establishing, determining or recommending the level which would be required by January, and I should like to ask what are the implications of such an additional step in the programme/budget process.

Right now, we have a Summary Programme of Work and Budget being presented in June of the Conference year and a full budget a few months before the November Conference. I should like to ask what is the implication of this additional step now being proposed. I should appreciate it if the Secretariat could give us some information on this.

CHAIRMAN: Before asking the Secretariat to give you an answer to this, the United States has a point of order. Please state your point of order.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): My point of order refers to the question you put to the Assembly, Mr Chairman, to which I suggested an answer. I should like to know where we are, notwithstanding the validity of the question raised by the Philippines.

CHAIRMAN: I put a question, and I am receiving some statements. Potentially, maybe they do not want to answer right now, so let us wait.

May I ask the Secretariat please to give an answer to the Philippines.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme Budget and Evaluation): There are two elements which I should like to indicate in response to the question put by the delegate of the Philippines. First, the timing of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, and secondly the time necessary to prepare the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

Both matters were determined by the Council in November 1972 and endorsed by the Conference in 1973, at which time it also amended the Basic Texts to include the steps necessary for these provisions.

The timing of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget is deliberately placed by these bodies at the end of the first year of the biennium so that in preparing the Summary Programme of Work and Budget the Director-General may take into account all the recommendations received from the technical bodies meeting during the first year of the biennium, take into account also all the recommendations of the Regional Conferences, which normally meet between the months of March or April and up to October during the first year, and the recommendations of the Council itself which meets in November of the first year. The time necessary to prepare the Summary Programme of Work and Budget amounts to a period of about five months. It extends from October to the end of February. This period is a fairly intense period because although the document itself is shorter than the full Programme of Work and Budget - it is about one third of the length of the full Programme of Work and Budget - the process of analysis and preparation is, in fact, much more complicated than the length of the document would suggest. It includes receiving the proposals from every organizational unit, having them analysed, having them considered by the Director-General, following which he has meetings with the heads of every department and division, leading to his preliminary decisions to be reflected in the Summary.

This means in effect that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget is finalized at the end of February so that the relevant extracts can immediately be drawn to the attention of the Committee of Agriculture, which has usually met in March, and then submitted to the sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees at the beginning of May.

I hope I have answered adequately the question raised by the distinguished delegate of the Philippines.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Walton would like to add to what Mr Shah has said.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: As the Conference will have seen from Mr Shah's explanation, this is already quite a complex process, and the addition of a third stage would make it even more so.

The two resolutions, irrespective of which one is finally adopted, both call on the Director-General to establish a new schedule for the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget. Such a schedule would of course be discussed as soon as possible next year, before the work actually starts, with the Programme and Finance Committees to ensure that there was a full understanding as to how the exercise would be done.

I would like to reserve the Director-General's position at this stage on whether it would be advisable, necessary or even feasible, to prepare both a Summary Programme of Work and Budget and an outline Programme of Work and Budget. This would need to be worked out. My personal view, for what it is worth, is that the outline could probably best substitute the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, thus saving a lot of work for the staff and a lot of reading for delegations. But this is not a final view. I am merely suggesting that this is a matter that will need to be held over, worked out in detail and discussed with the Programme and Finance Committees, and ultimately the Council itself, before final conclusions are reached.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I think these are very concrete problems that we are facing here, and since apparently it will not be possible to prepare both the outline and the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, I would like to submit for the consideration of this meeting the following words

CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, please could you save it till later on. I would like to decide first on the question that I put to distinguished delegates. Would you save it, please, and I will give you the floor later on.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I would like to move that we consider first the India and Costa Rica proposal, for the simple reason that during the Contact Group the India delegation and the United States delegation had been in contact with each other and I understand the India proposal is a reaction to the United States proposal, which was the original one, and would reflect the sense of many if not the majority of the delegations regarding the United States proposals, regarding the aspects of consensus, and other aspects as well.

I was wondering if, when we take up the resolution, I could propose a few words of amendment related to the schedule or outline.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): In view of the back and forth on this issue, I would like to formally move that this Assembly vote on the United States resolution at this time.

CHAIRMAN: There are now, I think, two proposals - one from the United States and the other from Costa Rica and later the Philippines. I would like to move that we vote on which one we want to vote on to start with. If you agree, we will start voting ... I see a point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Teniendo en cuenta lo que ha planteado la delegación de los Estados Unidos, nosotros queremos advertir que si se saca primero Estados Unidos, quisiéramos que se nos diera la palabra para proponer una enmienda; cuando se vaya a sacar la de los Estados Unidos, si se saca primero.

Harald HØSTMARK (Norway): I have a point of procedure, not a point of order.

CHAIRMAN: If you do not have a point of order I shall give the floor to a delegate who has a point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): Pursuant to Article XII, paragraph 26, as I understand the text, the United States proposal is the original one, and the proposal submitted by India and Costa Rica is an amendment to the United States resolution. That is why I agree with the Philippines representative, that we should first vote on the United States proposal.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Reza ASKARIYEH (Iran, Islamic Republic of): We have heard what has been said by Mr Walton, and, considering the complexity of the matter, we would like to request that the matter be postponed pending study by the Programme and Finance Committees.

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps the Legal Counsel would like to tell us exactly the position on this resolution, in answer to the point of order raised by the distinguished delegate of Libya.

LEGAL COUNSEL: If I understood the point of order raised by Libya, he is saying that the second resolution - co-sponsored by India and Costa Rica - is an amendment to the original proposal made by the United States of America. It was pointed out earlier in our discussions that these two resolutions have a number of similarities and also certain dissimilarities. I would hesitate to say whether one resolution was an amendment of the other. If the house considers that they should be treated in that way then clearly the amendment should be voted on first. You have a motion by the United States to the effect that a vote be taken on the resolution that he proposed. If the Conference is in favour of voting first on the United States proposal, then that is quite a simple proposition. In the event that the Conference votes in favour of not voting on the United States resolution first, then the automatic result would be that you should vote on the other resolution.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): For the benefit of the Legal Counsel, I shall repeat the specific motion that I made because I think that he may have misunderstood me. I move the vote on the resolution presented by the United States, simply like that. I do not move to decide on one or the other - I move that this Assembly decides by vote on the resolution presented by the United States on the first day of the Conference, before the Resolutions Committee. I cannot consider a different text that went through the Resolutions Committee as an independent resolution to be an amendment to the first resolution. They are totally independent - they have each had a life of their own, but one was born much earlier, in fact on the first day of the Conference.

I reiterate my insistence that this Assembly should decide by vote on the United States resolution.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): You will recall that I had made an earlier motion, prior to the United States motion, that the Costa Rica/India resolution be considered first. I am wondering whether my motion had precedence.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Harald HØSTMARK (Norway): In paragraph 26 in the Basic Text of the Rules, it states "An amendment by way of substitute shall not be voted on until the vote has been taken on the original proposal and any amendments thereto." "An amendment by way of substitute" - that is clearly our understanding, and I would like, through you to have the Legal Counsel's opinion, if this, presented as it is, as its own original proposal, is not clearly a substitute for the other.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The distinguished delegate of Norway quoted quite correctly from the Basic Texts. It is therefore a question of opinion whether the resolution proposed by India and Costa Rica is a substitute for the other resolution. The final judgement on this is clearly in the hands of this Conference. My personal opinion is that it would be very difficult not to have one substitute for the other, and that in fact, although fairly similar, they are, shall we say, mutually incompatible. So in my opinion one substitutes for the other: but as I said before, any definitive view on this question is that which is held by the Conference itself. As has already been pointed out, the Legal Counsel merely gives an opinion: the Conference decides.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Jean-Luc GRAEVE (France): Je suggérerais de suivre la proposition de la Libye qui consisterait à retirer les deux propositions de Résolution, la raison en étant que nous n'avons pas pu procéder, notamment au sein du Groupe de contact, à une étude fouillée de ces questions et de leurs applications pratiques, entre autres de l'articulation avec les fonctions du Conseil. Ma délégation avait demandé au Groupe de contact que Monsieur Shah puisse venir nous expliquer les problèmes; cela n'a pas été possible pour des raisons de temps bien compréhensibles; il y avait aussi d'autres choses à faire mais nous pensons que les deux Résolutions posent des problèmes pratiques de mise en oeuvre.

Conformément à ce qu'a dit la Libye, nous souhaiterions que les deux Résolutions puissent être retirées et que leur substance puisse être examinée plus tard par le Comité financier et le Comité des Programmes.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, he debido recurrir a punto de Orden, al igual que otras muchísimas Delegaciones han aprovechado esa circunstancia para poder intervenir. Constató que hasta el final usted conserva el defecto inicial de mirar muy poco hacía su izquierda.

CHAIRMAN: I have you on my list. I have others on my list. I do look to the left and the right - and straight ahead. So please do not accuse me of not looking to my left. And you must remember that I have others beside me who are also looking at you.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Aunque hoy es el último día de la Conferencia, yo soy un hombre de mucha fe, de fe profunda, y conservo la esperanza de que algún día usted logre incluir a Colombia en la lista de Estados del privilegio a su gusto.

CHAIRMAN: Please - I do not accept this. I have all respect for you personally, and for the country to which you belong, so do please have respect in your turn for the Chair and to the country to which I belong. I have respect for all the representatives. Please refrain from using this kind of language to the Chair.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): No estoy usando ninguna palabra desobligante, sino constatando hechos, Sr. Presidente. Respaldo (sic) la propuesta de Libia y Francia; amb.os proyectos de resolución son inconvenientes (sic), crean dificultades a la Secretaría y a los Gobiernos. Propongo que, alternativamente, en el informe de la Conferencia se incluyan las ideas principales de estos proyectos de resolución y que se pida a los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas que las estudien.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any further points of order?

Adel Helmy EL-SARKI (Egypt): The Egyptian delegation supports the proposal put forward by France...

CHAIRMAN: Do you have a point of order?

Adel Helmy EL-SARKI (Egypt): I asked to speak but not as a point of order.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): I have no point of order, but since all the speakers - with your permission, because you are very liberal - have been taking the floor under the protection of a point of order, may I say that we look very favourably on the resolution, but we have not the time to study it.

CHAIRMAN: I am with you - but there are points of order being raised, so I must receive them.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Reza ASKARIYEH (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I would like to correct the delegate of France, and claim that it was my delegation which introduced that point of order and requested the postponement of both resolutions.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Siendo uno de los proponentes, no, es técnicamente una moción de orden, sino una declaración. Yo declaro que, en lo que se refiere a mi Delegación, estoy dispuesto a retirar la propuesta, únicamente si está de acuerdo a retirar la suya Estados Unidos. En el caso de que se retirara, contemporáneamente mi Delegación estaría de acuerdo. Gracias, Sr. Presidente.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand): I have finally got the floor. I raised my hand ten minutes ago. I have a point of order. I believe that this is not finalized yet, because we have not discussed it in Commission II. That is why I am prepared to amend some of the resolution. I consider that the best way is to listen to the amendment first, and then make a decision; otherwise it is impossible to make a decision.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Raúl LOPEZ LIRA (Mexico): Sr. Presidente, yo pediría a usted que la proposición de que se retiren las dos resoluciones sea puesta a votación en este momento. (Pausa.) Repito: Yo solicito a la Presidencia que se someta a votación la resolución propuesta, tengo entendido que por Irán, para llegar a una solución.

CHAIRMAN: I am afraid that only the sponsors can take this decision, to withdraw or not to withdraw. I cannot decide on a proposal that the two proposals be withdrawn, unless it is decided by the two sponsors.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous ne pouvons pas forcer les auteurs à retirer leurs Résolutions, mais nous disons malgré tout que nous voulons procéder au vote pour ces deux Résolutions. En collaboration avec le Comité financier et le Comité du Programme, nous exigeons qu'il y ait vote ; nous devons nous prononcer pour le report de l'examen de ces deux Résolutions que le temps ne nous permet pas d'examiner dans le détail. On nous a dit que certaines difficultés n'étaient pas aplanies; nous ne pouvons pas fermer les yeux et procéder à l'adoption de l'une ou de l'autre.

Nous exigeons qu'on transmette les deux Résolutions au niveau des deux Comités, sous la responsabilité du Conseil.

CHAIRMAN: We can go on like this, raising points of order, until the end of the day. I can certainly give every one of you who has a point of order an opportunity to raise it, but from the points of order which have already been raised, it seems to me we shall be in difficulty even discussing these two proposals. May I suggest that we go on taking them one at a time, and vote on them. If you do not approve them, you will vote against them and, therefore, the two resolutions will not be approved by you.

I understand you do not approve of this.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Reza ASKARIYEH (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I made a motion which was seconded and supported by many countries. I should like to ask you, Mr Chairman, to close the debate so that we may vote immediately on the motion.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

A. SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Je crois que les motions d'ordre sont en train de devenir des motions de désordre. Je voudrais faire appel à la raison. Nous avons devant nous deux textes qui diffèrent très peu. Mais j'ai eu l'occasion, hier soir, après notre longue réunion, d'étudier attentivement les règles qui nous régissent et je dois dire que ces deux résolutions méritent une étude approfondie et, circonstanciée, premièrement, en ce qui concerne les points de droit de la réglementation qui nous régit et, deuxièmement, en ce qui concerne la praticabilité des mesures proposées.

Il est clair qu'au niveau de tous les pays il est impensable de recommander des procédures de ce type, à savoir fixer un budget et discuter d'une hauteur du budget sans connaître les besoins des différents départements, des différentes sections. Pas un seul pays au monde ne pourrait réaliser ce qu'on est en train de demander, pour le moment, aux services administratifs de la FAO.

Je crois que, sur le plan du droit et sur le plan de l'application pratique, il serait de loin préférable que l'on étudie à tête reposée les implications juridiques et les conséquences pratiques des mesures proposées. Je crois que le Conseil et le Comité financier sont parfaitement habilités à ce faire dans le calme, dans la sérénité, sans poursuivre une discussion qui ne débouchera sur rien.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): My Point of Order is the following: could I ask Legal Counsel through you, Mr Chairman, if it is possible that the motion is voted on the question whether a resolution which has passed through the Resolutions Committee and which is proposed for the decision by this Conference, whether by motion this resolution can be forced out.

LEGAL COUNSEL: There are two resolutions. There is also a current of opinion which favours not discussing either. The motions are there before you. You cannot just make them disappear. If you do not like the resolutions, you vote against them. There should be a vote on one or both of the draft resolutions. If the prevailing opinion is that it is premature to adopt them and that neither should be discussed, then neither resolution will get a majority. It would then be quite clear that what the Conference wants to do is to refer the matter for further study by the competent bodies during the forthcoming biennium.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): Could I ask Legal Counsel, through you, Mr Chairman, to give a precise answer to my question?

CHAIRMAN: Mr Roche, please be as precise as possible in your answer.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The precise answer to the question asked by the delegate of Switzerland is, no, you cannot make the resolutions disappear.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am not attempting to resolve the procedural difficulties at this stage, which seem to be rather considerable, but I would like to say that it is surely quite paradoxical that we have here two resolutions essentially aiming at the same end. While one originated from the United States, the other one is aimed deliberately also at meeting requirements which were set out by the United States and are embodied in its resolution. In turn, both are linked to the process of budgetary reform which was started in the United Nations.

If we get into a competition of virtue, it will be regrettable, to say the least, if it appears that we had winners and losers. I feel it would be desirable to try to reach some sort of an agreement.

At the risk of creating still further confusion, I just wonder if it would be possible for consultations to take place over a period of five or ten minutes with a view to amalgamating or achieving joint sponsorship of these resolutions, so that an agreed draft could be put forward.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Reza ASKARIYEH (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I would like to ask the Legal Advisor, supposing one of the resolutions were passed? My understanding is that it should come under the Rule and the Rule should be amended. Therefore, there is a need for a total majority of the votes. Am I correct or not?

LEGAL COUNSEL: If I understand the delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran correctly, he is stating that if one of these resolutions is approved, there are some amendments which must be made to the General Rules of the Organization, or maybe the Financial Regulations. When these resolutions

were tabled needless to say, we did examine them from the strictly legal point of view. As you are aware, the General Rules - and also, to a lesser extent, the Financial Regulations - refer on a number of occasions to "summary" budget or "draft" budget. In fact, they describe the current schedule which is followed for the preparation of the budget which, in the end, is approved by the Conference. It has also been stated - and I think quite correctly - that both resolutions introduced, shall we say, a third step at the beginning of the schedule. The question then arises whether it is indispensable to amend the General Rules and the Financial Regulations to reflect this additional step.

If my understanding is correct, the additional step leaves the other two current steps unaffected. It is just adding a new point of departure and the concept of an "outline" budget.

Clearly, from the point of view of good and clear administration, it would be desirable for the General Rules and the Financial Regulations to reflect exactly what the budget preparation schedule actually is. I do not believe that any of the proposals now made are actually in conflict with the existing Rules. Rather, they add to them. There are perhaps certain nuances in certain Rules, particularly Rule XXXVII.2(g)(i), and Rule XXXIV.2(a) which reflect the role of the Director-General and of the Council; and also of the joint meetings of the Programme and Finance Committee in Rule XXVIII.

At least the way I see it, the first step is added before those steps which are reflected in the various rules. It could therefore be maintained that the addition of the new step need not yet be reflected, and could be adopted. Then, in the course of the biennium, the appropriate adjustments to reflect the new step could be made by the CCLM and the Council and be submitted for adoption by the next Session of the Conference.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Roche. Are you satisfied? Very good.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Marc-André FREDETTE (Canada): It appears clear that the only thing that the Assembly can agree on at this moment is to disagree. In the light of two formal motions for votes which were submitted over an hour ago, and in view of the total confidence that this delegation, for one, has in your Chairmanship of this Conference, I formally request you at this moment to call a vote on one of the two resolutions. I am absolutely indifferent as to which one, but I request that we proceed to a vote. The result of the vote itself could determine the issue which is before us, and the participation of the Secretariat in the debate has further clarified the fact that indeed if we all disagree with that procedure we can all decide collectively to vote against and resubmit, amend or do what we will with these resolutions. At the moment the only way to resolve it is to call successive votes on the two resolutions submitted. The only exception to that would be if Costa Rica or the United States withdrew their resolutions.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, distinguished representative of Canada. I will come to your suggestion.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Thomas YANCA (Cameroun): Cette motion rejoignait un peu celle du Canada et je voulais préciser que tous les pays qui parrainent ces projets sont membres du groupe de contact et ont été en contact pendant plusieurs jours, de longues heures, et n'ont pas pu trouver une solution de compromis. Je crois qu'étant entendu que les deux résolutions ne peuvent être, retirées, il n'y a qu'une seule façon de se prononcer, c'est par le vote. Nous voulions dire que nous voulons soit la renvoyer, soit l'accepter.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): No he querido utilizar esa epidemia, que no creo que le haga bien a la discusión de las mociones de orden, sino que he pedido la palabra porque creo que podemos hablar sin estar tratando de poner un orden que ya desordenamos con las mociones de orden.

Sr. Presidente: Yo quería aclararles o recordarles solamente que yo había planteado que si se saca a votación la Resolución propuesta por Estados Unidos, tengo una enmienda que hacer, que es que se me tenga en cuenta, porque esta discusión, un poco confusa, termine. Si usted decide ya sacar a votación esa Resolución, tengo una enmienda que plantear.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, distinguished representative of Cuba. If we start bringing in amendments, we shall again not finish. I would rather see if we can exhaust the Points of Order and then see how we can tackle this problem.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): La Guinée souhaite intervenir sur ce point pour deux raisons. D'abord, nous militons fermement pour le rejet des deux résolutions. Pourquoi, à la suite des interventions édifiantes de M. Shah donnant des éclaircissements pour l'applicabilité de ces résolutions, il s'avère que ces résolutions ne sont pas applicables? D'autre part, ces résolutions contiennent des modifications qui sont du mandat du Comité conjoint assisté des experts. A partir de ce moment-là, il est clair qu'il faut mettre de côté ces deux résolutions.

Basii ir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabie): The delegation of Costa Rica said that it stood ready to- withdraw the resolution if the United States of America would do so. Let us now put the question to the United States. In order to clarify the picture, are they ready at this stage to withdraw their resolution or not?

CHAIRMAN: Are you ready to withdraw your proposal?

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): I am not ready.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Ismael DIAZ YUBERO (España): Sí, quiero presentar una auténtica moción de orden. Retire usted la palabra a quien hable sin presentar moción de orden, por los siguientes motivos: primero, porque es una falta de respeto a usted. Le están engañando; segundo, porque es una falta de respeto a los que han pedido la palabra y quieren hablar en el orden que corresponde; tercero, porque es una falta de respeto a la Asamblea y, en definitiva la Organización

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Mohsin Ali KHAN (Bangladesh): I should like to recall the proposal made by Thailand, and I should like to support the proposal stated by the Deputy Director-General that we might go into recess for 15 minutes for consultations since there are two resolutions and a lot of similarities between them.

That is my proposal.

CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I see that, as one delegate said, we are agreed not to agree. I shall have to put the two proposals to the vote. I think that is what we shall do. The order of voting will be that we shall vote first on the proposal of the United States and then on the proposal of Costa Rica/India.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Ahora sí la moción de orden. Le recordé que si va a sacar la Resolución de Estados Unidos, me debe permitir que yo proponga una enmienda, que realmente debe analizarse, debe votarse primero que la resolución. Si usted quiere, hago la proposición en estos momentos. Es posible que la delegación de los Estados Unidos acepte esta enmienda, y si la acepta, no tenemos por qué votarla, porque creo que ella no ha oído todavía mi enmienda.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): In view of the importance of these particular resolutions, if, as seems likely, they go to the vote, we would formally call for roll call votes.

CHAIRMAN: We should do that. The distinguished representative of Cuba has asked to be allowed to bring in an amendment to the United States proposal. I hope there will be no more amendments than the one that our distinguished colleague is going to present to us, otherwise we shall again be opening the door.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Harald HØSTMARK (Norway): May I respectfully remind you that I requested the floor an hour ago to speak, and I had a signal from the Secretariat that they had received my request. The reason I asked to speak was precisely to introduce an amendment to the US resolution. In view of the time I have waited for that, I think I should have precedence on it.

CHAIRMAN: It was not neglect on the part of the Chair, it was just that the Points of Order that have been made take precedence over statements to be made. We now have two requests to make, amendments. The Philippines has previously stated that he wished to put forward an amendment, so there are three requests.

Jean-Luc GRAEVE (France): Si on devait voter pour le projet de résolution du Costa Rica et de l'Inde, je voudrais présenter un projet d'amendement au paragraphe 6. On dit qu'en l'absence de consensus le rapport indiquerait...

CHAIRMAN: We are not asking for the amendment to be introduced now, but, if you have an amendment to introduce, on which resolution it is.

Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Bien, no deseo presentar una enmienda a la Resolución americana.

CHAIRMAN: May I ask the distinguished representatives of Cuba, Norway, Philippines, Thailand, and Costa Rica to table their amendments. These are amendments to the American proposal. We will start with Cuba.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): La enmienda que proponemos al proyecto de Resolución presentado por la delegación de Estados Unidos es la siguiente. Son pequeñas correcciones, a nuestro juicio aceptables. Es eliminar del primer párrafo, donde pide al Director General que establezca un nuevo calendario de examen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, la palabra "determinar" por "considerar". Primera cuestión de mi propuesta de enmienda.

Segundo, pasemos al párrafo 4. El párrafo 4 dice: "Conviene en que la reunión conjunta de enero del Comité del Programa y de Finanzas determine por consenso". Estas dos frases para nosotros son inadmisibles, porque esto determina un veto que va contra los principios de la Organización. Aquí nosotros lo que mas pudiéramos aceptar es que se pusiera "Considerará el nivel de presupuesto que la Secretaría podría utilizar", y seguir el párrafo hasta la línea número 6, en que también las

segundas palabras, después de recomendación, eliminar la palabra "decisiones"; o sea, repito, en el primer párrafo de las decisiones, eliminar "considerarán", eliminar "determinar" por "considerar"; en el párrafo 4, eliminar "determinar por consenso" por "considerarán el nivel", y en la línea 6 eliminar "y decisiones".

Esta es la enmienda que propongo a la delegación de los Estados Unidos sobre su Resolución. Como es de rigor, Presidente, creo que se debe tratar primero de la Resolución.

CHAIRMAN: Would the United States delegate agree to that?

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): Small though they seem to be, these are not small, they are fundamental and they would constitute a total gutting of the Resolution we have presented. Therefore I cannot accept them.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Jean-Luc GRAEVE (France): Je suis trouble. J'ai cru comprendre que l'on avait demandé un vote sur un projet de résolution et qu'une délégation, je crois celle du Royaume-Uni, avait demandé un vote par appel nominal. Je crois que l'on est obligé d'examiner cet amendement. Par ailleurs, lorsque j'avais voulu présenter un amendement, on m'avait fait remarquer, que ce n'était pas l'heure des amendements. Et maintenant, on examine les amendements d'autres délégations.

CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, delegate of France, I said that we would be dealing with the resolution presented by the United States and then I said that OK, we want to vote on that. But the representative of Cuba had asked before going to the vote on the motion, to introduce amendments to the US Resolution. Then others have requested the same, while you have requested to be allowed to introduce amendments to the other proposal, so I said, "Wait until we come to that resolution, when we will discuss it." OK, I hope this is clear.

Norway has some amendments to introduce.

Harald HØSTMARK (Norway): The present draft of the US resolution contains many interesting elements. However, the Nordic countries believe in managing by objectives, while at the same time keeping to realistic budget levels. This differs from the concept of zero budgeting. In order for the present draft resolution to express our concerns about the prominence of the programming side, it is accordingly necessary to have some amendments to the text. Taken each by itself, my amendments may seem small and, I hope, acceptable. But in sum they will give an emphasis to programming which will make it possible for us to accept the draft.

My amendments are as follows: In the operative paragraph I, which begins with the word "Asks" insert after the word "early", before "determination" in the second line, "participation by all members", then move the words "ranking of priorities and the" from the third line up to the second line before the words "budget level" and insert the word "programme". The paragraph then reads, "Asks the Director-General to establish a new Programme of Work and Budget schedule that will permit early participation by all members in the determination of the ranking of priorities and the programme budget level for the next biennium and, in this context," and so on.

Now as to paragraph 4, in the second line of this paragraph delete the first word "determine" and substitute the word "recommend". Then in the same line add the word "Programme" before the word "Budget".

In paragraph 5 which begins "Recommendation" in the first line delete "should again meet jointly, to review the SPWB and the PWB in order to assess" and substitute for that, "in their May meeting expand the length of the joint meeting in order to review". So it reads, "Recommends that the Programme and Finance Committees would in their May meeting expand the length of the joint meeting in order to review not also their priorities and attendant financial implications;".

Paragraph 6 begins "Agrees". That paragraph should be moved up to before the present paragraph 5 and then the word "aspects" in that paragraph should be deleted and the word "implications" should be substituted. That is the sum of my amendments. Mr Chairman, I have these amendments here in writing and if it is acceptable to the US delegation I can hand them to the Secretariat to save time.

CHAIRMAN: Please do so.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): Our amendment would be operative paragraph 2. After the words "that the Director-General prepare" I would put the following words "in lieu of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget". Then in paragraph 4, the last line there is "the SPWB", we should omit the "S". In the fifth operative paragraph, second line, omit "the SPWB and".

The reason for these amendments is that according to the Secretariat it would not be possible to have the outline and the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. It would be either/or, so it would be the outline instead of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. This is a practical amendment and I hope those proposed amendments have been understood.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): I appreciate Mr Carandang's spirit of cooperation, but as the Legal Counsel said, one of the virtues of this proposal is that it does not change the existing system nor affect the Basic Texts. It only adds a slight change in the procedure at the beginning. If we were to say "in lieu of the SPWB", we would be proposing something that requires much more complicated legal processing, if you wish.

The second thing I wanted to say in regard to the intervention by the Philippines is that I really did not hear - and I stand to be corrected if I am wrong - that the Secretariat had submitted that it was impossible to prepare a budget outline defined loosely as a three to four-page short document in January. In my view, what they explained was the workload involved in the present system. Of course, the additional budget line will increase that workload, but the early participation by all members and the earlier signals back to the Secretariat will in the end reduce the workload because we shall not have as much discussion perhaps in the June Council.

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand): We understood that this resolution had one main objective. That was to increase the participation of Member Nations in the budget process. But when we studied the operative paragraph, we thought there was nothing much the matter with this objective because there does not exist any chance for Member Nations to participate more in that process. So I would like to suggest that we should add the following in the second operative paragraph at the end, after "budget level", "for submission to the Council for this approval during the non-Conference year."

I think only the FAO Council is the right body to determine first the budget level and then to ask the Finance and Programme Committees to consider the details.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): I shall defer to the Legal Counsel on this one, but my understanding of the text is that the review process must take place during the Conference year. So I think that to bring it back to the November Council in the non-Conference year would be a bit too much for the Secretariat who will have their hands full preparing for the Council coming out of the regional conferences. This is why I placed the time in January; I did not even say "early", it can be late January, first to be within the Conference year and secondly not to overload the system.

CHAIRMAN: Does the delegate of the United States still want Legal Counsel to give a reaction on that? Do you still seek Legal Counsel's reaction to what has been proposed, or is what you have said sufficient?

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): Only if he thinks I am wrong, Mr. Chairman.

LEGAL COUNSEL: This is more a question for Mr Shah to answer because he is the one who has the practical difficulties. But I think you are probably right, subject to what Mr Shah might say.

I feel perhaps I should make one additional clarification on the legal aspects. You will recall that we discussed at some length the question of the budget schedule. Perhaps because at that time I was thinking of how the schedule was affected by the two resolutions, I omitted to make a point which I distinctly remember making when I was invited to the Contact Group. That was on a point which I think has also been indirectly referred to by the delegate of Cuba in this amendments. That is, one of the features of the amendment of the United States resolution which refers to "consensus". There, you will recall, I made a very clear distinction between "consensus" as an objective which everybody seeks, quite obviously, and "consensus" as a rule.

In this particular context, I regret having omitted to say earlier that I feel that if the intent - and certainly from the context it appears to be the intent of the United States resolution - in operative paragraph 4 that the reference to "consensus" means that it is a voting rule, as I pointed out in the Contact Group, this creates a serious legal problem. If the wording can be attenuated in any way to make the context clearer that it is not a rule, then that particular obstacle would be removed.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): Indeed, the Legal Counsel raised that point at the Contact Group and I explained to him that we were not trying to change a rule in a legal way. We were trying to move the Programme and Finance Committees to reach consensus. So the way in which we had worded it was essentially in our view not a rule.

However, I have the distinct feeling that the Norwegian suggestion which I have accepted and which says "recommends by consensus" may have attenuated the word "consensus" sufficiently to satisfy the Legal Counsel's concerns.

Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA(Costa Rica): Antes de presentar mi enmienda, necesito saber cuál es la nueva propuesta de los Estados Unidos y cómo atenúa la palabra, ya que no ha quedado, claro qué propone.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I must say that from a strictly legal point of view I do not find the suggestion made by Norway, although very helpful, actually changes the situation, because if there is "Recommend by consensus" and no recommendation can be made you are back to the starting point. It says "recommend by consensus", followed by its being the budget level that would be used in preparing the PWB. So

we would be back to the same position. But, "if possible", as suggested by the delegate of India, would, I believe, solve that particular problem quite clearly. That is reflected to a certain extent in the joint resolution submitted by Costa Rica and India which adopts a slightly more flexible approach, providing for a procedure that would apply in the event that consensus could not be reached.

CHAIRMAN: I think the United States have acknowledged that Legal Counsel had maybe referred to this word in earlier discussions. Then he said that maybe the Norwegian proposal for amendment of this word, by deleting the word "determine" and substituting it with the word "recommend", might be the weight of the consensus mentioned. This is my understanding. Is that correct United States?

Sorry, there is a point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): We would like Legal Counsel to let us know whether the word "recommends" falls within the mischief of the same interpretation of the original formulation by the United States, because much of the problem we had was to introduce that element "if possible", so that it would fall within the rules and within the realms of possibility.

Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Sí, Señor Presidente, quisiera antes de todo referirme al párrafo que comienza con la palabra "Reconociendo". Proponemos que se elimine todo lo que queda después de la palabra "presupuesto". O sea, sería: Reconociendo la necesidad de alcanzar con suficiente antelación un acuerdo sobre un nivel de presupuesto. Después nada más.

La otra propuesta es la de sumarme a la propuesta de Cuba en el sentido de que en el párrafo 4 en vez de las palabras: "determine por consenso", se diga: "considerarán". Yo creo que se tiene que dejar claro que estos Comités tienen que estudiar el nivel del presupuesto, pero no tienen derecho de veto. Las palabras "por consenso" sin ser condicionadas por adverbios que las precedan es un derecho de veto, y esto acaba de declararlo el Asesor Jurídico. Yo propongo que se ponga la palabra: "Considerarán".

CHAIRMAN: I thought the United States had not accepted what the distinguished delegate of Cuba proposed as an amendment regarding this change of words.

El Salvador, you have asked for the floor. May I ask you if you have an amendment to the United States proposal? El Salvador, please state your point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Creo que la Conferencia debe ser realista; no hay un consenso ni sobre una resolución ni sobre la otra. Señor Presidente, creo que deberíamos, a través de una votación, eliminar estas dos propuestas, que el contenido de las mismas se refleje en nuestro informe y que se mande a estudio a los comités correspondientes. Esta propuesta ya la hizo el delegado de Francia.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Temel ISKIT (Turkey): Mr Chairman, it is a point of order. It is clear under Rule XI of the General Rules that amendments to proposals, as a general rule, should be submitted to the Secretariat in writing twenty-four hours before the discussion of the proposal. Of course that is a general rule, and paragraph 3 also states that you, Mr Chairman, may permit votings on amendments even though they have not been circulated or have been circulated in less than twenty-four hours. But may I appeal to you, Mr Chairman, not to put these amendments to the vote in view of the fact that we are within the last hours of this Conference, and having heard the negative reactions of the United States to most of the amendments I have the feeling that we will not have a consensus on the amendments themselves. So may I appeal to you that we proceed directly to the vote on the United States proposal as it stands, and now.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to thank the distinguished delegate of Turkey for his very constructive proposal. If the Conference agrees to that, this goes along with my first proposal. I made a suggestion to you that we vote without the introduction of any amendment. If you approve that we can go ahead with voting on the United States proposal without amendments. Do you approve?

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Previo a ello, mi delegación agradecería una clarificación adicional de parte de la Oficina Legal. ¿Puedo formular la pregunta?

Mi delegación desearía saber si las facultades que tienen constitucionalmente los comités del Programa y de Finanzas son para recomendar, aconsejar o asistir al Consejo, o si tienen facultades constitucionales para decidir o determinar el nivel del presupuesto.

En segundo lugar, quisiera saber si el párrafo 4 del proyecto de resolución de Estados Unidos, con o sin la enmienda de Noruega, entraría en contradicción con alguna disposición legal o con el reglamento de alguno de estos comités.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The functions of the Programme and Finance Committees are set out in Rules XXVI and XXVII. They do take some decisions, and I think this has been pointed out on a previous occasions, for instance on transfers between the chapters of the budget as far as the Finance Committee is concerned and so on. They do not take a decision on the level of the budget. That is quite clear. That is only taken by the Conference. They, in fact, are part of a continuing process working up towards the final decision taken by the Conference.

On the second question, regarding operative paragraph 4 of the United States proposal, with or without the amendment proposed by Norway, I think that the observation I made when I had the floor a little earlier is fairly clear on that it was to the effect that if "consensus" is left in, in the way it is phrased at present, it implies the need for all to agree.

I would also make a little parenthesis here. The question of consensus is often referred to in terms of veto, but the veto is the extreme situation where only one member of a body disagrees. Very often there are several members, or at least a minority. Any number of members of a particular body can obstruct or prevent a consensus being reached.

That parenthesis being closed, I merely want to confirm what I said to the delegate of the United States earlier - and now I am saying it to the delegate of Argentina - that the requirement of determination or even recommendations being reached by consensus would be a new form of voting procedure. It is certainly contrary to the rules of procedure of the Finance Committee as they are at present, and certainly would introduce an entirely new concept in FAO's voting procedures which does not exist anywhere in the Basic Texts.

CHAIRMAN: Again, having listened to the legal adviser, would distinguished delegates go to the vote on the United States proposal as it is without any amendments? If I see no objection we can proceed with the voting on the basis of the rollcall. I see no objection, so it is decided. Thank you very much.

Vote

Vote

Votación



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

ROLL CALL VOTING
APPEL NOMINAL
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on
1 st Vote sur
.....Votación para
.....

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	14
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	60
Abstentions Abstencions Abstenciones	14
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	67

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	74
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	38
--	----

REJECTED
REPOUSSEE
RECHAZADA

Date 27.11.87 Elections Officer B. LINLEY
Fecha Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) GRO

If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting to be held not less than one hour after the conclusion of the meeting at which the equally divided vote occurred. If the second vote is also equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

En cas de partage égal des voix lors d'un vote ne portant pas sur une élection, on procède à un deuxième vote au cours d'une séance ultérieure, qui ne peut avoir lieu moins d'une heure après la fin de celle à laquelle s'est produit le partage égal des voix. Si les voix restent également partagées lors de ce second vote, la proposition est considérée comme repoussée.

Si hubiera empate en un asunto que no sea una elección, se repetirá la votación en una sesión subsiguiente la cual no deberá celebrarse hasta que haya transcurrido una hora, por lo menos, desde la conclusión de aquella en que se produjo el empate. Si en la segunda votación hubiera también empate se considerará rechazada la propuesta.

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Session of the Conference

Session de la Conférence

Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT

APPEL NOMINAL DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN

VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on

1 st Vote sur USA RESOLUTION

..... Votación para

COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR
Afghanistan				X	Gambia			X		Pakistan		X		
Albania				X	Germany (Fed. Rep. of)	X				Panama		X		
Algeria		X			Ghana		X			Papua New Guinea				X
Angola		X			Greece		X			Peru		X		
Antigua and Barbuda				X	Grenada				X	Philippines		X		
Argentina		X			Guatemala				X	Poland		X		
Australia	X				Guinea		X			Portugal			X	
Austria			X		Guinea-Bissau				X	Qatar				X
Bahamas				X	Guyana				X	Rwanda				X
Bahrain				X	Haïti		X			St. Christopher & Nevis				X
Bangladesh		X			Honduras		X			Saint Lucia				X
Barbados		X			Hungary			X		St. Vincent & the Grenadines				X
Belgium			X		Iceland				X	Samoa				X
Belize				X	India		X			Sao Tome and Principe				X
Benin				X	Indonesia		X			Saudi Arabia		X		
Bhutan				X	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)		X			Senegal		X		
Bolivia				X	Iraq		X			Seychelles				X
Botswana				X	Ireland		X			Sierra Leone				X
Brazil		X			Israel		X			Solomon Islands				X
Bulgaria		X			Italy			X		Somalia		X		
Burkina Faso		X			Jamaica				X	Spain			X	
Burma				X	Japan		X			Sri Lanka				X
Burundi				X	Jordan				X	Sudan		X		
Cameroon		X			Kenya			X		Suriname				X
Canada	X				Korea (Rep. of)		X			Swaziland				X
Cape Verde		X			Kuwait			X		Sweden				X
Central African Rep.				X	Laos				X	Switzerland	X			
Chad				X	Lebanon		X			Syria				X
Chile		X			Lesotho		X			Tanzania			X	
China		X			Liberia				X	Thailand		X		
Colombia		X			Libya		X			Togo				X
Comoros				X	Luxembourg				X	Tonga				X
Congo		X			Madagascar		X			Trinidad and Tobago		X		
Cook Islands				X	Malawi				X	Tunisia		X		
Costa Rica		X			Malaysia				X	Turkey				X
Côte d'Ivoire		X			Maldives				X	Uganda				X
Cuba		X			Mali				X	United Arab Emirates				X
Cyprus		X			Malta				X	United Kingdom	X			
Czechoslovakia		X			Mauritania				X	U.S.A.	X			
D.P. Rep. of Korea				X	Mauritius				X	Uruguay		X		
Denmark	X				Mexico		X			Vanuatu				X
Djibouti				X	Mongolia				X	Venezuela		X		
Dominica		X			Morocco				X	Viet Nam				X
Dominican Rep.				X	Mozambique				X	Yemen Arab Republic		X		
Ecuador		X			Namibia				X	Yemen (P.D. Rep. of)		X		
Egypt		X			Nepal				X	Yugoslavia		X		
El Salvador		X			Netherlands		X			Zaire	X			
Equatorial Guinea				X	New Zealand		X			Zambia		X		
Ethiopia			X		Nicaragua			X		Zimbabwe				X
Fiji				X	Niger				X					
Finland			X		Nigeria				X					
France		X			Norway		X							
Gabon		X			Oman				X					
	3	25	4	21		7	17	4	26		4	18	6	21

The draft resolution was rejected

Le projet de résolution n'est pas adopté

El proyecto de resolución no queda aprobado

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): I would like to say that my delegation voted in favour of the present draft resolution on the understanding that the principle of consensus mentioned in the operative part in paragraph 4 is in line with the recognized principles of the right to vote in the United Nations and in all specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to the next speaker, in the interests of saving time may I ask the distinguished delegates, if they wish to give an explanation of their vote, to write it and cable it, and it will be placed in the verbatim, so that we can now go ahead and complete our business.

Harald HØSTMARK (Norway): Unfortunately, I did not have time to clarify the basis on which we voted before the vote was taken. I therefore had to act on what I believe, and what I believe is still the case, concerning what I actually voted upon.

When I introduced my amendments, they were asking you a question clearly and officially accepted by the United States and therefore, under the normal practice of parliamentary procedure, they become what is called in that parlance "friendly" amendments and form part of the original resolution. In that belief I voted yes to the proposal.

Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Para ahorrar tiempo quisiera decir que la delegación de Costa Rica retira su copatrocinio al Proyecto de Resolución que ha presentado.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Zbigniew KARNICKI (Poland): My point of order was to proceed directly to vote on the second resolution, as we decided; but, as it has now been withdrawn, my point of order is no longer valid.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

V.K. SIBAL (India): The resolution which we had partly sponsored, which was co-sponsored by Costa Rica, was offered as a measure of consensus in an attempt to reach agreement on an issue which has been very extensively debated. In view of the circumstances now prevailing, and bearing in mind the last intervention, we should also like to withdraw from this resolution.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: On your behalf gentlemen I would like to thank the two distinguished delegates, representative of Costa Rica and India for their very constructive attitude.

A. SAINTRAINT (Belgique): En trente secondes, pour ne pas retarder, je voudrais quand même signaler qu'il me paraissait léger de voter sur un texte qui va à l'encontre des règles qui nous régissent actuellement et qui proposent dans la pratique une procédure difficilement ou pratiquement impraticable sur le plan opérationnel administratif. Telles sont les raisons pour lesquelles mon pays a estimé devoir s'abstenir.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): Now that both the resolutions are withdrawn - the first one is eliminated and the other one withdrawn - I am wondering what will be the procedure we will take regarding the Programme of Work and Budget. Will the matter be examined by the Programme and Finance Committee, as suggested by some delegations?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I can only make one or two general remarks at this stage. I do feel that in the course of the last two or three weeks we came extremely close to a consensus on this particular issue. I believe that with perhaps a little more time, with perhaps a little more movement, a consensus could have been found which would have met the concerns expressed by all parties. I do not think that in any way this vote will be interpreted by the membership, or by the Secretariat, as a refusal to consider the types of measures which have been introduced in the United Nations, in ILO and WHO. I believe rather that in the period ahead it should be possible to go back to the matter, that the review of the budget programme process has been initiated. It has not yet been concluded; an agreement among the membership remains to be worked out, but this is only the starting point, and the additional steps that can be taken with the agreement of all concerned will have to be worked out in the course of 1988.

I would suggest simply that in a very brief textual report on this matter the Conference might wish to record the very careful attention that was given to this matter over an extended period, the failure to reach an agreement, but in which the Conference would note that attempts to develop satisfactory formulae for all concerned would be pursued in the immediate future.

CHAIRMAN: I would ask whether the delegate of the Philippines is satisfied that an answer has been given to him or not.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I do not know how this is going to be recorded in the Report, but I understand that it is going to be done and that the silence, the lack of opposition of the Plenary, is understood to form part of the Report of the Conference.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): I very much regret not only the decision to reject the US proposal, but also - and perhaps even more so - the withdrawal of the second proposal by its ex-sponsors. In my view, they decided not to place their resolution to the test of this Assembly and the potential amendments. There was a lot of work in the proposal of India and Costa Rica which was very much in line with the Norwegian amendment to the US proposal. It seems to me that the Conference is not willing seriously to consider and to debate alternative ideas, the India/Costa Rica resolution being one of them, then we are really not fulfilling our responsibility to the Organization and to ourselves. What we have done is simply to look at the proposal which was indeed controversial, which was discussed extensively by most of the members present here, because we had a Contact Group and there were regional groups working on what was going on directly in, and at the margins of, the Contact Group. So this did not arrive in Plenary unannounced; it was discussed extensively. There

was a lot of cooperation. There were many contributions. There was indeed a lot of goodwill in the process. Yet I think it would be far-fetched in a report of the proceedings to say that this Assembly moved in the direction of changing the budget review process, since in fact the first Roche's proposal to do so with a slight change - and I keep recalling Mr Roche's word at the Contact Group - was rejected by a significant majority, 60 to 14. We have to have the courage to accept what we ourselves have done in a democratic forum. The report must record that indeed there were a lot of negotiations, there was a lot of constructive spirit, there were a lot of people willing to move towards an agreement on a resolution on this matter, but that in the end the Conference decided by 60 to 14 to reject the proposal for slight changes in the budget review procedure.

Second - and I do not know whether this is within the Rules or tradition - the Report should also record that an alternative proposal was not subject to discussion by Plenary because it was withdrawn before there was any discussion on its content. I cannot convey to you how much I regret that all us who have been talking about democracy, exchange of views and the right of members to discuss things, find ourselves impeded from discussing a proposal that was legitimately put on the floor. This is not to say that the sponsors did not have the right to withdraw it. Of course they had the right to withdraw it. I am just giving you my reaction, regret and disappointment, that the test of the Assembly was not accepted.

Temel ISKIT (Turkey): This is half an explanation of our vote and half a reply to the United States. Turkey abstained on the United States proposals. It would have abstained on the Costa Rica/India proposals for a very simple reason. My delegation is aware of all the efforts and intellect put into the elaboration and discussion of both these proposals. However, we deemed that for lack of time and lack of occasion to involve all the members of Conference, this in-depth discussion, which could have lead to a consensus, was not possible, but I want to underline that Turkey desired this compromise and this consensus. The sole reason for our abstention was - and I repeat it again - this impossibility, but I must underline again that Turkey is in agreement with the substance of both proposals, in that our Organization needs to review its budget and programme procedures in line with other international organizations which have already done so.

On that point, I must thank Mr Walton for his statement and his assurances that this review will not only be done, but has in fact already been initiated.

I have a reply to the United States, if they will accept it. We want to believe that something should be done about this programme and review process. I think this is a very positive step. We hope that the United States and other delegations will convey this positive feeling to their Governments. I do not doubt that it will be done, but I repeat that apposite step has been taken. It was unfortunate that this positive step could not take the form of a resolution but the spirit is there and we must hail this spirit and we must understand its spirit.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nosotros no podemos aceptar que en el informe aparezca ninguna referencia al hecho de que esta Conferencia no ha cumplido con su deber.

Habíamos dicho antes en apoyo de Irán y de Francia que convendría registrar en el informe el espíritu, las partes esenciales del contenido, como lo ha dicho Turquía, de la propuesta, porque la misma se dará traslado al grupo ampliado ahora del Comité del Programa y de Finanzas más los expertos para que lo incluyan en el mandato de ese grupo. Esto es lo máximo que podemos aceptar. En Colombia y en Cuba hay un proverbio que dice "quien corre detrás de dos conejos suele no alcanzar ninguno de los dos".

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I understand that the India/Costa Rica proposal has been withdrawn, not because of a substantial defect in the resolution itself, but due to some minor legal problems and difficulties with some members of some regional groups. It now appears that the idea in substance contained in this resolution is acceptable to many delegations. I would therefore make a motion that the resolution tabled by Costa Rica be one of the subject matters to be considered by the Programme

and Finance Committees, assisted by the Group of Experts, in their review and that that should be the beginning of a process of considering how the Programme and Budget process would be adapted to the changes that are now being instituted in other parts of the UN and in other UN organizations. I hope that I have made it clear that I have made a motion to this effect.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to the motion made by the distinguished delegate of the Philippines?

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Je dois dire que nous trouvons assez difficile cette proposition qui vient de nous être présentée. Un enfant qui n'est pas né ne peut pas avoir un nom. Les auteurs de la résolution présentée par l'Inde et le Costa Rica ont soumis d'abord un projet de résolution puis ils l'ont retiré, ce qui veut dire que la Conférence en est dessaisie; je ne vois pas comment elle pourrait l'envoyer soit au Conseil, soit aux autres comités. Pour ma part, je pense que cela n'est pas possible.

Le projet de résolution a été retiré, nous ne disposons plus de rien, nous n'avons plus rien à transmettre à qui que ce soit; c'est au niveau du Conseil ou au niveau de ces différents comités qu'une tentative peut être faite. Pour notre part, nous n'avons plus rien dans les mains.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Walton wishes to speak at this juncture.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Once the review process gets under way, it is to take into account the papers submitted by Member Nations and also the opinions expressed during the discussion of the item in this Conference. All this discussion has been on the same item, item 12, and therefore I believe that all this discussion which has taken place today, including that on these two resolutions, is automatically, in terms of the earlier legislation, within the purview of the groups that will be looking into the reform process. I believe that, even without a formal decision by the Conference to that end, this will automatically take place, and could, indeed, be one of the ways forward for further consideration of the review of programme budgeting in FAO.

L.Th.B.Hertog, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair

L.Th.B.Hertog, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia L. Th.B. Hertog, Vicepresidente de la Plenaria

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): To supplement what has been said by the distinguished Deputy Director-General, the resolution which we adopted earlier on the form of mechanism says in the third paragraph: "The Group shall, subject to the terms of reference, take into account the views contained in document C 87/30, the views expressed during the Conference, and any further views submitted in writing, before 1 February 1988, by Member Nations who did not submit views before the Conference." I would suggest that in those circumstances the position is that the delegates of Costa Rica and India can, if they wish, submit those sorts of views in writing to the Group, views in line with their previously stated positions in the draft resolution. Presumably the Group will take account of the views that have been expressed within the Conference and also the voting pattern.

Ilan HARTUV (Israel): I wish very much to support the opinion of the distinguished delegate of the Philippines, whether it is considered a motion or part of the proceedings.

V.K. SIBAL (India): We had stated earlier that the resolution which we had submitted for consideration before the Conference was a search for a consensus. There was a time, indeed, when we felt that consensus was very near and there was even a possibility of a single resolution coming before the Conference. However, that could not be, but we were still optimistic and, pursuing this purpose, we thought that this alternative should also remain before the Conference until the very end. In the course of the debate some operational and legal difficulties were mentioned, and the time came when we found that certain delegations had revised their views about this. As we were not seeking divisiveness, we thought that the right thing would be to withdraw the resolution and, in a spirit of calmness and coolness, consider the situation in order to find a solution which might be more acceptable in time. We are very grateful to the distinguished delegate of the Philippines for his suggestion. Although we have withdrawn the resolution for a matter of decision at the Conference at this time, as an idea it remains. If for all sections of the house there are features in this resolution which are attractive, we would feel ourselves amply rewarded if they were followed up and considered and studied further with a view to reaching an agreement which could be found acceptable eventually in the Conference itself. We also agree with what the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom says. Within the terms of reference which we have determined in the resolution for setting up the mechanism for the study of FAO, there is provision for putting forward more ideas on this subject to the group which will be looking at it. In that context, the suggestion made by the Philippines is very pertinent and relevant.

Srta. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Se ha hablado aquí de la búsqueda del consenso y de la apertura al dialogo. Creo que hemos estado con este espíritu desde que se inicio la Conferencia, y que los que formamos parte del Grupo de Contacto, pueden dar constancia también a sus diversas regiones que en el proceso de análisis de esta Resolución - que no ha logrado el consenso gastamos gran parte de las horas de trabajo.

Faltaron, como dije esta mañana, muchas explicaciones; cada quien veía las cosas que se explicaban de diferente manera, de diferente óptica, y para nosotros había elementos que eran ciertamente no aceptables.

En esos momentos y en ese contexto, nosotros propusimos que el objeto, el espíritu de esta Resolución pudiera quedar como parte de una sola Resolución, y hasta formulamos una propuesta para que quedara como parte de un párrafo que se dedicaba a la revisión de este proceso dentro de la Resolución que íbamos a traer a esta Asamblea.

Sin embargo, esto no pareció satisfactorio y se insistió en una Resolución aparte que sabíamos que tenía las dificultades que, una vez explicada aquí en la Plenaria, harían objeto de los resultados que hubo.

Con ese espíritu, se dijo allí en ese grupo que se había formado un subgrupo tratando de buscar un consenso. Se negoció en ese subgrupo hasta tardías horas y se produjo un texto que era el texto alternativo y que después no había encontrado realmente ese consenso.

Creemos, por lo tanto, que sería injusto que quedara plasmada que la Plenaria no tomó responsablemente el análisis y la búsqueda del consenso. El consenso se trató de buscar desde el inicio; hubo una gran flexibilidad, una gran apertura; estuvimos ahí representados todos los grupos y sabemos que sí, que intentamos, que lo buscamos, que se formularon alternativas y exploradas todas éstas y porque se restringieron las vías, nos encontramos aquí. Pero como se ha dicho ya antes, seguimos en ese espíritu y lo que se refleja en esta Plenaria está tomándose en consideración, y por lo tanto, ese proceso de revisión que ya iniciamos desde que se inició esta Conferencia, contempla perfectamente que se analice ese aspecto y que se den los pasos suficientes.

CHAIRMAN: The United States has a Point of Order.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): Would the Legal Counsel clarify the interpretation by the United States of America that under the Rules of this Organization a proposal which has been withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member?

LEGAL COUNSEL: The reply is very easy. The delegate, of the United States has referred to paragraph 4 of Rule XI, which says that a proposal may be withdrawn at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that the proposal has not been amended. A proposal which has thus been withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member. That is what paragraph 4 of Rule XI says. I think it needs no clarification.

CHAIRMAN: Is that satisfactory to you?

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): The United States understands the Rules. For a point of clarification, to rephrase that, I think it means that the United States of America could today reintroduce the Indian/Costa Rican Resolution and call for a vote on it, does it not?

LEGAL COUNSEL: Yes, it does.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): For the sake of those who are worrying about that, we shall not do so, however tempting it might be.

CHAIRMAN: As we all know, the United States is a country of unlimited possibility.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

A. SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Je suis d'accord avec mon excellent collègue américain. Je voudrais faire remarquer que, si l'on avait prolongé la Conférence d'au moins 24 heures, il aurait fallu dans ce cas distribuer le texte et nous réunir. Je ne pense pas que cela aurait été possible durant le week-end à moins que nous ne passions le dimanche ensemble.

CHAIRMAN: The United States has a point of clarification.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): Is not the Belgian colleague incorrect when he states that you would need to print the text? Is that not the text? The question on the Point of Order was, would it not be perfectly in order to introduce the text?

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Ismael DIAZ YUBERO (España): Hace un rato hice una reclamación de la apreciación que se estaba haciendo de los Puntos de Orden. Evidentemente considero que no es el sistema oportuno el de hacer Puntos de Orden constantemente. Pero también considero que hacer un Punto de Orden cuando está un país en uso de la palabra para plantear algo que luego no es Punto de Orden, volver a dar la palabra a otro país que no plantea Punto de Orden o por lo menos no formal, y seguir dando la palabra a otro país que sigue haciendo informaciones, habiéndoseme quitado a mí la palabra, me parece incorrecto.

Lo que quiero decir es lo siguiente; hemos votado, hemos votado todos; todos somos conscientes, no tenemos malas conciencias, y aceptamos nuestras responsabilidades. Creo que no merece la pena seguir hablando más después de la conclusión a la que hemos llegado.

Por otra parte, creo que los dos Proyectos de Resolución, tanto el de Estados Unidos como el de India y Costa Rica, son documentos que el Comité del Programa y el de Finanzas y el Grupo de Expertos pueden tener en sus manos y lógicamente tendrán y considerarán; pero de eso a hacerles que estos Comités tengan que emplearlos necesaria y obligatoriamente, creo que hay un auténtico abismo. Pienso que los Miembros de estos Comités, sean los que sean, serán suficientemente responsables y no será necesario indicáles nada.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to respond to what the delegate of Spain said. I gave him the floor, there was a point of order raised by the United States, I followed the rules and gave the United States the floor, to have the opportunity of raising the point of order. There was another point of order, and in between there was the explanation by the Legal Counsel. So everything went the way it should go. I was about to give the delegate of Spain the floor, he took it, starting with the point of order, and then he made his statement. I think he has made his statement, now I can give the floor to the next speaker.

Atif Y. BUKHART (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): We should like wholeheartedly to support the words of our colleague, the representative of the Philippines. We believe that a reexamination of this issue, a very objective approach and scrutiny is in the interests of all of us, of all member countries. Indeed, it is in the interests of the Organization as a whole. We voted against the American draft resolution for the reasons that we handed in to the Secretariat so that they could be included in the record. These only refer to paragraph 4, as regards the reference to "consensus".

Our views then were handed in to the Secretariat, they only refer to paragraph 4 and therefore we would like to reiterate our wholehearted support for what the delegate of the Philippines said.

CHAIRMAN: I have finished my list of speakers. Before going on is there anybody who would like to intervene? Any delegation wishing to insert a written statement may do so by handing the text to the Secretary. Those written statements will subsequently be visited in the verbatim records.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): Very briefly, I want to state that goodwill has not been lacking, all parties concerned were ready for dialogue, if we were not able to reach agreement it was because we lacked the time to do so. Time ran out on us, but I think we still have time before us and that dialogue and examination will continue.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): The objection of the delegation of the Kingdom to the USA Resolution on changes in FAO Budget/Programme Procedures, is basically focused on the Fourth operative paragraph of this resolution, which "Agrees that the January joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees would determine, by consensus,..." We consider that this implies "Veto Right" for any member of the two committees to impede the budget approval and withhold approval thereto. Such a right is not in the interest of FAO nor the developing countries, as well as it is not in use in many UN organizations. 1/

Mrs Kate ABANKWA (Ghana): Mr Chairman, my delegation voted against the resolution on particular operative paragraph 4 in view of the explanation given by the Legal Counsel that the expressions "determine by consensus" would mean a veto. In fact this was the fear of many members, including the developing countries, as it will not facilitate the adoption of a budget level agreed on by the majority.

My delegation voted for the compromised French proposal as it satisfies the aspirations of a number of countries. The resolution before us also takes into consideration the need for experts to make appropriate studies and advise on the reforms needed in the FAO. The involvement of the Programme and Finance Committees ensures that the experience of these bodies, together with those of the experts, are fully utilized for a better appreciation of the problems of FAO. In this connection, my delegation associates itself with the possible disadvantages of making use of experts alone, as pointed out by the delegate of India. My delegation hopes that the mechanisms, which, like other mechanisms, may not be perfect, will be given the cooperation they must have for successful work. 1/

Mohamed ABDELHADI (Tunisie): Ma délégation pense que le projet de résolution des Etats-Unis, telle qu'elle nous est présentée comporte quelques points faibles, points faibles qui risquent d'avoir des conséquences fâcheuses notamment sur le déroulement de la procédure de préparation, d'approbation du budget et du Programme de travail de la FAO.

En effet, l'Article 4 de la Résolution stipule que le Comité financier et le Comité du programme détermineront dès janvier par consensus le niveau du budget que le Secrétariat utiliserait pour établir le Programme de travail et budget.

On pourrait se poser la question de savoir quelle serait la situation si le consensus n'est pas obtenu.

Le projet de résolution est silencieux sur ces aspects de la question. C'est pourquoi, ma délégation, par souci d'éviter tout blocage au processus d'élaboration et d'approbation du budget et Programme de travail tel que défini dans les textes constitutifs et le Règlement financier de l'Organisation, ne pourrait pas adhérer à la résolution des Etats-Unis d'Amérique. 2/

Humberto CARRION MCDONOUGH (Nicaragua): Mi declaración será breve. Las delegaciones que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra en este tema 12 han sido exhaustivas.

Se han presentado dos posiciones principales en este debate. La de pocos países que desean reformar sustancialmente la Organización, y la de la gran mayoría que desea conservar las estructuras básicas de la FAO, sus estrategias, objetivos, prioridades y métodos de trabajo.

Nicaragua está claramente al lado de la gran mayoría de las naciones miembros de esta Organización que han expresado su oposición al establecimiento de un grupo de expertos que examine las propuestas de reformas contenidas en el documento C 87/30. La posición de Nicaragua al respecto está resumida en el párrafo 27 del documento en mención, párrafo que suscribimos plenamente.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

2/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal..

Cualquier propuesta de examen de las estrategias, objetivos y operaciones de nuestra organización se debe canalizar a través de Los órganos constituidos de la FAO. Creemos que sólo de esta manera estaremos, todos, reafirmando el carácter multilateral y democrático de esta institución, que ha sido y continúa siendo válida, eficiente y eficaz en la lucha contra el hambre, la pobreza y la desnutrición en el mundo. Sólo de esta manera podremos analizar con serenidad y ánimo constructivo, lo que de positivo para la FAO podría haber en las propuestas de ajustes y reformas contenidas en el documento C 87/30.

La FAO no está en crisis y en este sentido rechazamos las presiones financieras unilaterales hechas por el mayor país contribuyente. Reiteramos que estamos abiertos al diálogo franco y constructivo, dentro de los mecanismos ya existentes en la Organización. Y apoyamos plenamente la declaración que en su oportunidad hizo el Presidente del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, Embajador Carlos Di Mottola, de Costa Rica.

En aras de la colaboración y la comprensión entre todos los países miembros de esta institución, apoyamos específicamente propuesta de que se realice un solo proyecto de resolución a ser adoptado en esta Comisión.

Para concluir, Señor Presidente, deseo citar algunos párrafos pertinentes de la Declaración del Comandante de la Revolución Jaime Wheelock Román, Ministro de Desarrollo Agropecuario y Reforma Agraria de Nicaragua, en las sesiones plenarias:

"En los últimos años la FAO ha ganado prestigio, eficiencia y fuerza en su lucha contra el hambre y la desnutrición en el mundo.

Consideramos que su estrategia, sus objetivos y estructuras continúan vigentes. La FAO es un instrumento multilateral de cooperación al desarrollo y de asistencia emergente por desastres en los países de mayor vulnerabilidad.

Nicaragua está convencida de que los problemas globales del hambre, de la pobreza y del subdesarrollo sólo pueden ser resueltos con el establecimiento de un verdadero orden económico internacional más justo y más equitativo que modifique, en favor de los países en vías de desarrollo, el desequilibrio en el intercambio comercial, causa de la deuda externa; que modifique el proteccionismo y la política de subsidios; y que nos permita recibir un flujo adecuado y sostenido de recursos financieros y técnicos.

Señor Presidente. Cualquier propuesta de cambios en la FAO debe coincidir con el establecimiento e implementación de este nuevo orden.

Estamos de acuerdo con que siempre debemos estar abiertos a los cambios. Sin embargo, creemos que mientras no se modifique sustancialmente el orden injusto internacional que nos golpea hoy, y se continúen utilizando los alimentos como arma de presión política, tal como ha ocurrido en Nicaragua, y ahora recientemente contra Panamá, tenemos que conservar, consolidar y fortalecer la FAO, que hoy contribuye, en medio de las grandes desigualdades del mundo, en asistir en forma multilateral a las naciones pobres de la tierra." ^{1/}

Paragraphs 1 and 2, including Resolutions as amended, adopted

Les paragraphes 1 et 2, y compris les résolutions ainsi amendées, sont adoptés

Los párrafos 1 y 2, incluidas las resoluciones así enmendadas, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 11, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, onzième partie, ainsi amendée, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 11, así enmendado, es aprobado

^{1/} Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 12 (from Commission II)
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE 12 (de la Commission II)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 12 (de la Comisión II)

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 10 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION
PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 10 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION
PARRAFOS 1 A 10 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

CHAIRMAN: We now come to the next point, the Draft Report of Plenary C 87/REP/12 which has come from Commission II. I would request the Deputy Director-General to introduce this to you.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Late yesterday evening the Secretariat was asked to prepare a very, very brief, objective, factual account of what happened under item 12 at this Conference, as a kind of "chapeau" to the resolution on the Review to be included in the Report of the Conference.

I think there was general agreement that it would be extremely difficult and not very useful for the Plenary to attempt to act as a drafting committee. There was no drafting committee available to which the Secretariat could submit a proposed text. We have therefore done our best in C 87/REP/12.

Paragraphs 1 through 8 deal with the question of the Review. Paragraphs 9 and 10 deal with the issue of the Programme and Budget process. Paragraphs 9 and particularly 10 are now superseded by events and we would have slightly to rewrite this section of the document. The text is necessarily extremely superficial, I cannot pretend that it gives the flavour of a debate which at times induced at least in me a fear that the automatic sprinkler mechanism was about to be activated! But I hope that it will be found generally acceptable as a rough and more or less procedural summary of what happened.

If that is so, it would be our hope that the Conference could agree that this text should simply be added to the Report as the introductory section before the Resolution.

Fred J. ECKERT (United States of America): On the comments by the Deputy Director-General, the United States of America certainly agrees that while superficial, the statement is certainly not objectionable. I was not in the chamber at the time when we got into the discussion last night, but the United States feels no difficulty whatever with this.

We discussed with the Deputy Director-General and others earlier the difficulty of arriving at a comprehensive draft report, given the late hour and the work to be done. We have no objection to the language of that report.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the United States. Would the proposal just made by the Deputy Director-General be acceptable by a consensus or with acclamation? So this part of the report will be accepted.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 12, as amended, was adopted
Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie 12, ainsi amendé, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte 12 así enmendado, es aprobado

Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Chairman of the Conference, took the chair
Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khlaed, President de la Conférence, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Faisal Abdul-Razzak Al-Khaled, Presidente de la Plenaria

CHAIRMAN: I understand that this concludes our business. I would like at the end to thank you all for putting your trust in me as your Chairman for this very important and difficult Conference which you have gone through. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for the efforts which you have made and for the spirit you have shown, as well as the interest which you have indicated in your sincere positions and deliberations in the best interests of the institution to which we all belong.

I wish you a very fruitful two years to come in carrying out our and FAO's business according to the resolutions which you have agreed upon and the conclusions which you have reached. No doubt there were difficult times and difficult moments for you all, but it was in a good spirit, in the best interests of this institution. I hope that we shall depart from here agreeing and in a consensus that whatever we have concluded will be in the best interests of this institution. Thank you all very much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: At this moment I should not miss the chance to thank the Secretariat for their hard work and for the late hours during which they have stayed in preparation for the Conference. I shall not forget those who are behind the scenes, the interpreters who have done a wonderful job for us, who have facilitated our work. On your behalf I shall thank them all for their work.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

A. SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Monsieur le Président, au nom d'un bon nombre de pays de la Communauté économique européenne et de beaucoup d'amis, nous voudrions du fond du coeur vous remercier pour la façon objective et élégante avec laquelle vous avez présidé nos différentes réunions. J'ai eu personnellement l'occasion d'apprécier votre attitude et votre comportement lors de réunions difficiles, notamment au niveau du Bureau. Vous avez fait preuve à la fois d'une présence et d'une objectivité auxquelles je tiens à rendre hommage. Je n'ai pas l'intention de prononcer un discours. Nous avons apprécié vos hautes qualités. Nous avons été particulièrement heureux que cette Conférence difficile ait été présidée par un homme de votre qualité, et je voudrais, au nom de tous ces pays, vous dire un très cordial merci.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Group of 77, your excellency, Minister on behalf of the Group of 77, we would like to thank you most sincerely for the most praiseworthy and indeed ceaseless efforts you have engaged in to bring the work of our Conference to a happy conclusion. You have done this in a most masterly manner. Quite honestly, you have been an excellent pilot and helmsman. These were very difficult circumstances which we have witnessed. We had of course already heard about you, although we had not made your acquaintance, but we realized that you were well known for high merits and distinction and you have shown that you are particularly -deserving of your reputation.

You have proved extremely skilful and able and indeed, extremely patient. This calls for our respect and it is with great sincerity that we should like to assure you, Sir, that all developing countries are particularly proud - proud I say - of having had you as our Chairman. I can assure you that the Government of the sister country, Kuwait, will be particularly proud of what you have achieved here, Sir.

I am unable to find the right words to express my personal appreciation of everything that you have contributed to this Conference. Indeed, this Conference has had its ups and downs, and some very difficult moments, but we were sure that you would lead us out of our difficulties. When we elected you we were sure that you would bring us safely into port following the many storms we have had to go through.

Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): El grupo Latinoamericano que tengo el honor de presidir en este momento y que es parte del Grupo de los 77 quisiera apoyar y reiterar lo que ha manifestado el Embajador Bukhari, agradeciéndole muy calurosamente toda la labor que usted ha llevado a cabo en este período. Usted ha llevado a cabo una presidencia muy brillante, muy equilibrada. Hubo momentos y situaciones extremadamente difíciles, que han sido resueltas de una manera que yo quiero decir que fue absolutamente ejemplar; de una manera que nos ha satisfecho a todos y que ha logrado resultados que no estamos en este momento al tanto de apreciar, porque son resultados de compromisos importantísimos.

La diplomacia está hecha para lograr resultados y entendimientos, y éstos los hemos logrado. Esto va ser probado durante los dos próximos años. Además de mi agradecimiento a usted, quiero agregar un agradecimiento especial a la Secretaría, que hizo todo lo posible para hacer más fácil la difícil labor de esta Conferencia.

Gracias, Sr. Presidente, y los mejores-augurios del Grupo latinoamericano.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Unas breves palabras para decirle hasta luego al amigo Presidente Faisal Ai-Khaled. Habíamos trabajados juntos en el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola, como delegados de la segunda categoría que allí somos, y desde entonces conocíamos su gran capacidad de trabajo, su condición de dirigente. Por eso, cuando su jefatura fue propuesta aquí para esta Conferencia, nosotros gustosamente dimos nuestro apoyo, porque estábamos seguros de su capacidad, estábamos seguros de su tino y de sus condiciones de líder para llevarnos a buen puerto, como lo ha decho felizmente hasta hoy, esta mañana.

Otras responsabilidades le llaman a su país para seguir allá su tarea. Nosotros le deseamos buena suerte y esperamos que podamos volver a verle por aquí, en Roma, en no lejana fecha. Buena suerte, buen viaje, Presidente Faisal. Hasta luego.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I hope to see you in Kuwait.

Lajos ZELKÓ (Hungary): Mr Chairman, in the name of the Group of Socialist Countries I would like to join those who congratulated you on your way of conducting our meetings and who eloquently spoke about your qualities and skills. We thank you again for your very efficient work.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): Salamu Aleygum Sayiidi Rayes.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Chairman, it is well known that outside of this room your country and mine sail together. In my view, and in all seriousness, this has been a very safe and enjoyable trip. I want to express my appreciation and that of my country for your fairness, your firmness and your conduct, and reiterate our warm-felt. desi res for a good future.

Retirement of Mr Decian Walton

Départ de M. Declan Walton

Jubilación del Sr. Declan Walton

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Le plus grand ennemi do cotto Conférence a été le temps. Je pense que si nous avions ou le temps, il aurait été possible d'arriver au consensus sur les deux points importants de l'ordre du jour.

Le biennium qui s'annonce est très difficile, avec devant nous une crise do liquidités sans précédent. Il faut que nous prenions, avec l'accord de notre Conseil, des décisions très importantes pour éventuellement ajuster le Programme de travail et budget. Nous commençons avec un fonds do roulement où il n'y a pas un seul dollar, et avec un compte de réserve spécial à zéro. Nous allons aussi être très occupés par la préparation des travaux des deux Comités assistés d'experts pour examiner les activités do l'Organisation. Nous avons donc besoin de la confiance do vous tous, et de votre coopération.

Malheureusement, au cours do cette année, je vais perdre mon plus fidèle collaborateur, Monsieur Walton. Il doit nous quitter après avoir servi pendant tant d'années cotte Organisation, après avoir donné le meilleur de lui-même à vous, à la Conférence et au Conseil.

Je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour, en présence de tous les Etats Membres, lui rendre hommage pour sa compétence, pour son dévouement-, pour sa contribution aux travaux de l'Organisation, aux travaux de la Conférence, et lui dire un grand merci au nom de tous parce qu'il n'a que des amis, à la FAO et dans toutes les Organisations du système des Nations Unies ou il est très connu et apprécié depuis dos années.

Moi-même, je lui dois énormément. J'ai beaucoup profité de son expérience, de sa sagesse, de ses conseils, de ses lumières. Très souvent, il a été pour moi un guide, et je voudrais encore une fois le remercier et lui souhaiter le meilleur succès, à lui et à sa charmante épouse. J'espère aussi que nous aurons l'occasion do bénéficier parfois encore de ses lumières de l'expérience unique qu'il a accumulée durant ses années de travail non seulement à la FAO, mais aussi aux Nations Unies, au Haut-Commissariat pour les réfugiés, au Programme alimentaire mondial. Vraiment, son départ est une très grande perte qui sera durement ressentie. Je tenais à vous le dire.

Applause

Applaudissements

Apiausos

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I would now like to speak in my mother tongue. I have a few words which I would like to say in Arabic.

There is very little that I have to add because the Director-General has preceded me in some of my remarks, especially in thanking Mr Walton, who is we'll known to us all. He has been a very valuable helper for me, too, at this Conference. He has helped mo and he has given us the benefit of his guidance at difficult moments in the course of the Conference, as the Director-General said, in the light of his experience, capabilities, insight and wisdom. When he goes we shall really notice his absence. It will be a serious loss for the Organization, this Organization that is so tirar Lo us all.

I now turn to Mr Walton on behalf of you all and offer him our very heartfelt thanks. I wish him a very long and happy life wherever he may go. We shall always have very happy memories of him. Every time that we have a question that calls for a decision we will remember him, and we hope that we will be able to turn to him still in order to draw on his experience which is so wide and so rich. So on behalf of you all I would like to say thank you to Mr Walton.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Lassaad BEN OSMAN (Président indépendant du Conseil de la FAO): Je voudrais apporter un témoignage pour ce qui concerne M. Walton.

En tant que Président indépendant du Conseil, j'ai eu à présider trois Conseils importants, dans des conditions difficiles et j'ai pu mesurer l'ampleur de l'intelligence du Docteur Walton, sa faculté exceptionnelle de trouver des compromis honorables et acceptables pour tous, son esprit constructif pour permettre au Conseil d'aboutir à des résultats concrets.

Je voulais donc présenter ce témoignage sincère et j'ai eu l'occasion de dire à M. Walton combien j'étais impressionné par son intelligence sa vivacité, son amour du travail bien fait.

J'ajoute donc mon témoignage à celui du Directeur général, et au vôtre, Monsieur le Président.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Akbar Mirza KHIALEELI (India): We have just heard from the Director-General about the impending departure from FAO of Mr Walton, which is a very surprising and painful development for us.

Mr Walton, I do not think the love and respect with which you are held by many of us, perhaps without your knowledge, can be measured by the hand claps which lasted just thirty or forty seconds. You have given a lifetime not only to international organizations but to suffering people. You have gone into international organizations which have served people very directly. Therefore, except for the fact that the resolution has only recently been taken, I would propose you as the first member of this committee which should go into the review of the working of FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Beyond that, it would be unfair to say anything, because that in itself speaks of the great respect in which I personally hold you.

I would like to support the Chairman in his kind consideration, respect and tributes to those behind the scenes, the Interpreters whose lovely voices have kept us company through days and nights and who have been exhausted by our efforts; and also all the seen and unseen members of the Secretariat. Some of us have also worked fairly hard - I think that we deserve congratulation ourselves...

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

... including those who have contributed a great deal without talking as much as some of us have!

Finally, I have been given the honour by Mr Carandang to speak on behalf of Asia to thank you personally Mr Chairman. We are very close to each other, nationally and geographically. You are from Asia, you have presided over what is really a historic FAO Conference. I do not know what is the precedence for second and third terms and so forth, but - Ahlam Wa Sahlam.

At this very important Conference you have conducted the proceedings with great elegance and humour and where necessary with firmness, and you have enabled us to finish on Friday rather than on Saturday.

I would also wish the Director-General all the best for his new term with the FAO, since he has been elected by all of us.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Estamos de acuerdo con todo lo que han dicho los oradores anteriores. Sólo queremos proponer que en el informe de la Conferencia se incluya un párrafo en el cual se reconozcan y agradezcan los valiosos servicios del Sr. Walton a nuestra Organización.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Patrick Oliver RYAN (Ireland): With all these tributes to the departing Deputy Director-General this is beginning to sound like a wake! - but of course, wakes are not always sorrowful occasions. I would point out too that the corpse is still alive and well and has many years of productive life ahead of him! Whatever you wish to do in the future, Decian, we wisfi you well - and on behalf *of* all our fellow countrymen, whenever you decide to return you are more than welcome.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): I really did not want to take the floor after so many long days and nights spent speaking here. However, I have decided to do so because I wish to add the gratitude of the Near East Group to all those others who have appreciated you, Sir. We are very proud of the fact you belong to our region, because you have been very successful indeed in guiding the work of the Conference. So we too would like to add our congratulations to those already given you.

On behalf of our regional group I would also like to express our gratitude Mr Walton, Deputy Director-General. He is a friend; he is a brother, in certain difficult conditions; and he will be a serious loss because he is leaving us at a rather difficult time in the life of the Organization. Nevertheless, we thank him for all the work he has done in the past and for all that he has given us. We would beg him to stay with us so that we can benefit from his insight.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): On behalf of the OECD member countries, I too would like to express our very sincere thanks for the excellent work that Mr Walton has done in FAO for so many years. This has obviously not been an easy time for him at all, but he has certainly made it easier for all of us through the work he has done. As previous speakers have pointed out, he has achieved a great deal - and I have nothing more to add to that. I turn to you, Mr Chairman, and would like to thank you very sincerely, for the way in which you have chaired the Conference. I am sure that it was no easy task for you; we have done our best to assist you, and I do not feel I need add anything on this subject either: I need only endorse what has been said by other speakers.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Haraid HOSTHARK (Norway): I ask for a point of order through you, Mr Chairman, to clarify whether it would be in order to use a point of order to thank you Mr Chairman, for the way in which you have conducted our debate here.

Applause and laughter
Applaudissements et rires
Aplausos y risas

I would like also to clarify this in order to thank the members of the Secretariat who have worked very hard during very difficult times: from the messengers to the interpreters, and those who have worked on the documents behind the scenes.

Is it also in order to thank Mr Walton and wish him "God speed and siáinte"?

This is a point of order on behalf of the Nordic Group!

Applause and laughter
Applaudissements et rires
Aplausos y risas

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): Just a few comments from the Southwest Pacific. First, we would like to thank the Chairman who has done a good job and who has brought this Conference to a conclusion. We thank him very much for the work he has done.

Secondly, we would like to thank Declan Walton. We in the Southwest Pacific are well aware of the contribution he has made to this Organization, and we wish him all the best in the future. Good luck, Declan - and thanks very much.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Atif. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): If the Group of 77 allows me and if the Finance Committee allows me - because at this moment I am still Chairman of the Finance Committee - I would like to say very honestly and sincerely that we are now facing a very unpleasant loss. We are losing a very illustrious helper, an outstanding friend - a man who was everybody's friend. Nevertheless, we must accept his loss and we wish him and his family a long and happy life.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Lajos ZELKÓ (Hungary): Although I am speaking in the name of the Group of Socialist Countries, I would like to make a few personal comments, because I am sure that my friends within the Group agree with me. I have had the very welcome opportunity of having a few conversations with Mr Walton, and from these I have gained the impression that he is not only a very skilled Deputy Director-General, as we all know, but he is a fine human being with a good sense of humour. We are deeply sorry that he is leaving us but we all wish him the very best for the years to come.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Dedan Robinson KAMAU (Kenya): On behalf of the member countries of the Eastern African Region, I wish to express our appreciation for the manner in which you, Sir, have been conducting the proceedings of this Conference. Although our contact with you has not been an extended one, you have a quality which gives honour, not only to you, but to your country of Kuwait. We look forward to interaction with you in commerce, in tourism, and in other areas, when you return to Kuwait.

While I am on this subject, the Eastern African Region, as is universally known, has been a great beneficiary of FAO, and we are certain that Mr Walton has contributed greatly to some of the humanitarian activities which we know to have saved thousands of lives in that particular region. We are very sorry to know that Mr Walton is not going to continue assisting us in the way he has done in the past - but we know that a time does come when he may wish to do something else in his lifetime. We extend our very best wishes to Mr Walton and his family and we look forward to hearing of his success in whatever endeavours he embarks on in the future.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Monsieur le Président, au nom de ma délégation, je tiens à vous féliciter pour la manière fort brillante avec laquelle vous avez conduit nos travaux. Ces félicitations sont d'autant plus sincères que vous avez présidé une conférence extrêmement difficile et importante. Mais, vous ayant connu en d'autres occasions, nous n'avons aucun doute lorsque vous avez été élu à ces importantes fonctions.

Nous aussi, nous avons été surpris par la nouvelle du départ de M. Walton. M. Walton a été, je pense, un ami de nous tous, ici, et nous avons su l'apprécier. Tous les regrets sont donc pour nous et nous ne pouvons, à présent, que lui souhaiter le bonheur dans toutes les entreprises qu'il aura dans l'avenir. Pour notre part, nous ressentons ce départ comme une grande perte pour notre Organisation et nous espérons de tout coeur que le Directeur général trouvera un remplaçant digne de M. Walton.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Namukolo MUKUTO (Zambia): May I thank you for affording the Zambian delegation an opportunity to contribute to the conclusion of this 24th FAO Conference. I am taking the floor as the representative of the Chairman of OAU. May I preface my remarks by paying tribute to you, Mr Chairman, for the diligent and excellent manner in which you have steered this Conference to success. During this Conference there were very many tense moments when you could have lost your cool and your composure. This has been an unusual Conference, combining the re-election of the Director-General, and the reform measures compounded by the reality of a reduced budget. Tempers rose, and sometimes debates were abrasive, but you handled it all very skillfully.

Much of the success of the Conference is also due to the skillful work of the Commission Chairmen. Each Commission had its share of the character of this Conference, a character which was basically that of the polarization of the developing countries versus the north. However, in the end the discussions were all good and ended in success.

The main feature of this year's Conference was quite different from the previous ones; it was the emphasis on the environment. In the African region, pressure on the land is immense and the Brundtland Commission has been one of the main highlights of this particular Conference. Never before has a Conference on agriculture stressed so much the issues of the environment. Therefore, we take great pleasure in accepting the Report of the Brundtland Commission. We wish however to add that there should be no conflict between the FAO work programme and the work of UNEP - that is the United Nations Environmental Programme. The two Organizations should complement each other and not duplicate their work.

My delegation feels that this particular Conference has been a great success, and this is due entirely to you, Mr Chairman, and your Vice-Chairmen.

We take this opportunity of thanking all the interpreters, the secretaries and the messengers who have been working behind the scenes. Without their work the Conference would not have succeeded. Finally, we also wish to thank those serving us in the kitchen where we used to go to refuel. One wonders what would have been achieved by the Conference if there had been nothing to eat. I think this is a good point at which to end because if you are dealing with agriculture, you must always bear in mind the idea of food. Nobody can play a proper role if they are hungry, poor, ignorant or diseased.

My delegation wishes to thank Mr Walton for the excellent work he has done for FAO in the past. We also wish him and his wife a successful new life. We also wish the Director-General, Dr Saouma, a successful new term of office.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mrs Kate ABANKWA (Ghana): My delegation joins other delegations in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, for steering the work of the Conference to a successful conclusion. My gratitude goes to the Director-General and his staff for their assistance.

During the Conference divergent views and aspirations of various groups have been expressed. My delegation hopes that these views will be taken in good faith and not made to affect cooperation between member countries and this Organization. In this way we shall make FAO strong and find solutions to problems related to food production, nutrition, etc.

Finally, my delegation heard with regret of the departure of Mr Walton, the Deputy Director-General. We wish him every success wherever he will be.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Our last speaker is the representative of our host country, Ambassador Pascarelli.

Elio PASCARELLI (Italy): Sayidi Rayes. Mr Chairman, I thank you for giving me the floor. I had come here for another purpose, I want to collect the postage stamp for this wonderful letter you are addressing to the Primé Minister. Then I suddenly discovered that you had miraculously closed the Conference. I want to tell you that I am going to use my own car without asking for any fees because Ambassadors have to do that after all.

This was an exceptional Conference. I do not think I will sit in any of the seats in this Assembly again in my lifetime, but I will be staying in Rome. You have done a tremendous job in conducting our work. I want to present to you the congratulations and thanks of my Government. I am sorry that Minister Pandolfi is still engaged in a fight elsewhere. I will also tell you that we shall not forget you, you are always welcome when you pass over. You have been to Rome before, and you know how welcome you are here. I give you our wholehearted thanks and congratulations.

The news of the sudden disappearance of the host Government representative was no news to me, but I did not expect the departure of Mr Walton from this building to happen so soon. However, I have immediately to add that I remain the representative of the host country for him. He is not going back to Ireland, we will deny him the exit visa and he will be staying with us.

I would need half an hour to tell you how much we are indebted to Declan and Jeannette Walton, as officials and as family. We love both of them; but there is one thing I have to mention to all delegates: if the skies over the relations between FAO and Italy are so serene it is very much due to the fact that the Director-General designated Declan Walton as plenipotentiary in the negotiations with me. So I was luckier than most of my fellow delegates because I had to handle both immunities and privileges with him. I never thought it would be so smooth. I do not envy the Director-General in the task he has to replace Mr Walton. I wish him Godspeed. It will be a decisive element in the life of this Organization in the future, because it is very rare to find so many virtues combined. Unfortunately, my English is not so refined as Ambassador Khaleeli's English. If I could ask him to help me, I would find a poem for Declan Walton tonight. If I am wrong I would like the Secretary-General to tell me, but I think it is a tradition of this Organization to decide on a resolution of thanks to the departing Deputy Director-General. I would join my distinguished friend, and enemy sometimes, Bula Hoyos, in proposing that we go further than he proposed and, I do not doubt with the unanimous consent of this Conference, we would vote for a Resolution to thank Declan Walton for his invaluable service to this Organization. Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank very much Ambassador Pascarelli. When you were making that suggestion I saw heads nodding. This means there is approval and agreement for what you have proposed, together with what our colleague from Colombia has already proposed. I think this receives the approval of the Conference. There will be something in the Report.

Secondly, rest assured that you will be missed by all the members and your colleagues who have served with you as representatives of their countries in Rome when you depart and leave your chair for another. Thank you very much.

Having exhausted the statements, I should like to give the platform to Mr Walton.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, for the right of reply.

Laughter

Rires

Risas

It has been said by somebody that there are two kinds of obituary, the horizontal and the vertical. I am very pleased that this is a vertical obituary.

The Director-General pointed out that the big enemy of the Conference was time. I think it has been my enemy too. This time has passed all too quickly. I have worked with almost all of you present here in the Conference, Council and various subsidiary bodies. Two of my principal objectives have been to keep my interventions brief and my sense of humour under control and I have failed miserably on both counts.

I would like to thank all of you who have said quite exaggeratedly kind words. I would like to say a particular word of gratitude to Ambassador Pascarelli. I am quite sure that he and I will find lots of things to negotiate, even in the after-life.

Laughter

Rires

Risas

I would like in the first place to give my very best wishes to the Director-General for his new term of office; next, to all of you when you leave the Conference and go back to your normal duties; to my many colleagues; but above all to FAO itself. In the last few years I have worked for many different Organizations. In the course of my international service I have been either employed by, or tempted to join, many other organizations. I must say it has remained my conviction that FAO is perhaps the most important, but certainly the most interesting, organization in the United Nations system. I would like to wish FAO strength, success and, I hope, prosperity in the years ahead. Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: The Director-General has announcements to make.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: My announcement is about the Council session. It is suggested that the Council should meet in one hour's time if it is so wished.

J'ai aussi l'immense regret de vous informer que mon collaborateur, qui est à ma gauche, M. Savary, qui a servi loyalement cette Organisation pendant plus de trente ans, le Secrétaire général de la Conférence, va aussi nous quitter. Je pensais qu'il fallait vous en informer parce qu'il est également en étroit contact avec vous. J'aurais voulu que tous les deux restent. Je regrette de les voir tous les deux partir.

On a demandé s'il était dans la tradition que la Conférence vote une résolution pour remercier. Cela a été le cas pour M. Eduard West et pour tous les Directeurs adjoints quand la Conférence l'a demandé. Si vous êtes d'accord, nous pouvons ajouter à vos paroles une résolution à cet effet comme cela a été suggéré.

Nous avons été contents, Monsieur le Président, et je voudrais vous remercier de la patience que vous avez témoignée à cette occasion. Je voudrais également vous féliciter encore, vous souhaiter un bon retour dans vos foyers et vous dire combien nous avons apprécié la façon dont vous avez dirigé ce débat.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Mr Savary, Secretary-General, would like to make an announcement.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: J'ai cru comprendre que la proposition du Directeur général de tenir la réunion du Conseil aujourd'hui même recueillait votre assentiment. Dans ce cas, la séance du Conseil pourrait commencer à 17 h 30 dans la Salle Rouge et se poursuivre jusqu'à assez tard dans la soirée de façon que le Conseil puisse achever ses travaux dès aujourd'hui, évitant ainsi de tenir une séance demain matin.

Retirement of Mr Paul Savary

Départ en retraite de Monsieur Paul Savary

Jubilación del Sr. Paul Savary

Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India): As a delegate to FAO, as an Oriental, I should like to take the opportunity of conveying our great appreciation to Mr Savary, who is also leaving us. I do not think we are here to have a competition in paying compliments to anyone who is with us or who is departing. I do not want to speak on behalf of anyone, but I do not want another round, which will delay the Council, so I will have the presumption to say that I speak on behalf of the house when I say that we deeply appreciate all you have done, your firmness, the calmness with which you conduct yourself in the interests of FAO. We shall certainly miss you a great deal. We look forward to your conduct at the Council Meeting.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ambassador Khaleeli. Once again I wish all of you who are departing this beautiful country, this beautiful Rome, a pleasant and safe trip back to your home and families. Once again, thank you all very much. With this, we conclude our Conference.

The meeting rose at 16.45 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.45 horas