

**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

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Rome, 11-29 November 1989

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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(C 89/REP/4)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - Quatrième partie (émanant de la Commission I) (C 89/REP/4)

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# conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

# conférence

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

# conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 89/PV/1

Twenty-fifth Session

Vingt-cinquième session

25º período de sesiones

PLENARY

PLÉNIÈRE

PLENARIA

## FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

11 November 1989

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours

John Charles Kerin, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15

Sous la présidence de John Charles Kerin, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la primera Sesión Plenaria a las 10.15 horas

ba jo la presidencia de John Charles Kerin, Presidente de la Conferencia

OPENING OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH CONFERENCE SESSION  
OUVERTURE DE LA VINGT-CINQUIÈME SESSION DE LA CONFERENCE  
INAUGURACION DEL 25º PERIODO DE SESIONES DE LA CONFERENCIA

Opening Statement by the Director-General  
Discours d'ouverture du Directeur général  
Discurso de apertura del Director General

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL** (langue originale Arabe): Excellence, Mesdames, Messieurs et Messieurs les honorables délégués et observateurs,

C'est pour moi un grand honneur, en ma qualité de Directeur général de cette Organisation, que d'avoir l'occasion de vous souhaiter la bienvenue en cette 25ème session de la Conférence générale de l'Organisation,

Etant donné le niveau de représentation des Etats Membres à cette Conférence, celle-ci se transforme en une réunion au sommet des responsables de l'agriculture dans le monde, et cette Conférence n'a d'égal que la gravité et le sérieux des problèmes qui nous réunissent ici pour essayer de trouver des solutions appropriées

Il suffit que je brosse un rapide panorama de la situation actuelle pour souligner le caractère extrêmement important qu'acquiert cette session de la Conférence. Je voudrais, à cette occasion, exprimer mes vœux les plus chaleureux à tous les participants à cette Conférence et en particulier à ceux qui assument des responsabilités aussi importantes pour la première fois.

Il est heureux que nous ayons l'occasion de vous souhaiter la bienvenue à Rome dans cette cité éternelle, si belle, et je tiens à vous souhaiter un séjour agréable vous mettant dans une ambiance propice qui vous donnera tout le courage nécessaire pour venir à bout d'un ordre du jour très chargé.

Je suis convaincu par ailleurs que vos délibérations au cours des prochaines semaines seront riches, fructueuses et donneront lieu à des résolutions qui seront prises pour le bien de l'Organisation mais surtout de l'humanité dans son ensemble.

Avant de passer à l'examen des grands problèmes qu'elle doit étudier, il convient de résoudre certains problèmes d'organisation et de procédure; l'examen de ces questions va, de fait, vous occuper toute la journée; mais je pense que cela ne sera pas du temps perdu car une bonne organisation du travail se répercutera dans une plus grande liberté d'expression, condition sine qua non pour que vous puissiez prêter toute l'attention voulue à l'étude de solutions constructives aux problèmes qui vous sont soumis.

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen (C 89/12; C 89/LIM/1; C 89/LIM/2)
1. Election du Président et des Vice Présidents (C 89/12; C 89/LIM/1; C 89/LIM/2)
1. Elección del Presidente y de los Vicepresidentes (C 89/12; C 89/LIM/1; C 89/LIM/2)

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** The first item on your agenda is the election of the Chairman.

In conformity with Article XXIV of the General Rules of the Organization, the Council has proposed the candidature of His Excellency John Charles Kerin, Minister of Primary Industries and Energy of Australia.

The report of the Council on this subject is submitted to the Conference in document C 89/LIM/1.

Will the Conference endorse this nomination?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

I declare His Excellency, John Charles Kerin, elected Chairman of the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference.

I wish to extend to him my sincere congratulations and am happy to greet him not only as a distinguished senior representative of that great agricultural country which is Australia, but also as the son of a nation which, through the work of Frank McDougall, played a decisive role in the birth of our Organization and whose interest in our activities has never waned.

With this association, added to the experience and other personal qualities of Mr Kerin, I expect that the work of this important session of the Conference will be carried out not only successfully but also in characteristic good humour and style.

May I also assure him that both my colleagues in the Secretariat and myself will be at his disposal to assist him in carrying out the tasks now entrusted to him.

I now invite His Excellency John Charles Kerin to take his place on the podium and to assume the Chairmanship of the Session.

Mr John Charles Kerin took the chair

M. John Charles Kerin assume la Présidence

Ocupa la presidencia el Sr John Charles Kerin

Address by the Chairman of the Conference

Discours du Président de la Conférence

Discurso del Presidente de la Conferencia

**CHAIRMAN:** Mr Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: I am very pleased to accept the great honour that the Conference has bestowed on me in electing me Chairman of this, its Twenty-fifth Session.

It is my intention, as Chairman, to aim primarily to facilitate the progress of the Conference, to ensure that all members have the opportunity to put their views and to see that a productive result comes out at the end.

FAO's basic objectives are clearly defined in the preamble to the Constitution. They are still pertinent today, relating as they do to raising levels of nutrition and standards of living, securing improvements in efficiency of production and distribution of food and agricultural products, bettering the condition of rural populations and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger.

I have been Minister for Primary Industries in Australia since 1983 and attended my first FAO Conference in that year, and have since participated in each conference.

Let me make some personal observations.

Ministers for Agriculture do not last that long. For some of us this will be our first FAO meeting, but others will have been before. The FAO bureaucracy and our own officials, of course, are the ongoing element in each of our country's efforts to support the increased production of food.

If the FAO did not exist, we would have to create it, so important is its work.

Thankfully, the FAO does exist and it is our task as Ministers and representatives of our governments to make sure that we go away from here having expressed ourselves in terms of what should be done.

The FAO should not be the plaything of various blocs, groupings, individuals or philosophies. It is here as the workhorse of the international drive to improve one of humanity's most basic activities - the production of food. With notable exceptions, we pay for and enjoy the benefits of the FAO, so it is up to us to identify what we see as the best processes and directions for FAO.

Whenever I come to conferences such as this, such as the World Food Council, or think about development and development assistance, I am struck by the differences in approach to the question of how best food, fibre and energy can be produced. Of course, different endowments of resources and differing stages of economic development drive our individual priorities. Agriculture is of such fundamental importance that the industrially rich nations use this to blind us to their subsidies for vociferous farm lobbies. Such practices continue even when this denies poorer nations opportunities and even when it acts to the detriment of their own economies. Poorer countries therefore have little choice but to tax their agricultural sector and this, too, distorts production.

Only in the most rapidly developing nations does agriculture play its proper role in providing essential food and fibre and serve, by generating a surplus of capital, for the transition to a mature economy.

In Australia, I know each farm has its own management problem and I believe each country has its own agricultural management problem. The FAO, UNDP, WFP and a host of other agencies exist to help each country with its own problem via the multilateral assistance process.

I always have doubts about the institutionalization of the international bureaucracy, the interminable production of reports, agendas, meetings and texts and the failure to properly co-ordinate development assistance and avoid duplication.

However, when there exist so many differences between us and so many players on the stage, there is no other way to go but to interact, educate each other and exchange views to make progress.

But please remember that with an extra 200 000 mouths a day to feed, we have very little time to do other than focus on those things that unite us and on which we can make progress rather than on those things which divide us.

While substantial progress in a number of important areas has been made over the past 40 years, circumstances have also changed, often in ways which have compromised our best efforts and our best intentions. The very resource base upon which agriculture relies is under increasing threat.

Let me highlight the magnitude of this threat. Each year at least 11 million hectares of tropical forest are lost. The problem of fuelwood is already acute and, by the year 2000, 2.4 billion rural people will face serious shortages. Loss of arable land through land degradation is most serious, with between 5 and 7 million hectares of land under cultivation being lost each year. Arid and semi-arid regions are vulnerable to encroaching desert. Fish resources are also under great pressure.

The backdrop against which these changes occur is an inexorable growth in the world's population. At present, there are around 5 billion people on this planet compared to about half this number when FAO was founded. By the year 2000 this will be between 6 and 7 billion, and most of the new mouths to feed will be in rural areas of less developed countries.

The fact that there exists, still, such problems is not a reflection on FAO; nor does it imply that we have been hopeless in the past, or that we will be helpless in the future.

To me a very important factor in assessing the future direction of the Organization is the Review of FAO's Goals and Operations, which has been carried out in the period since the 1987 Conference.

This will be a most significant item for decision later at this Conference.

As members assess this review, I would particularly like us to consider five statements which I believe to be important in mapping out the future operations of FAO. These are:

1. The need to foster ecologically- and economically-sound agricultural development,



2. The need to move towards an increased liberalization of trade in world agricultural commodities.
3. The importance of the right policy framework being established to allow development assistance and other initiatives to be fully effective.
4. The need to maximize improvements in resource productivity through better management, technology transfer and development of human resources.
5. The need to improve even further the collection and dissemination of vital global information on agriculture, forestry and fisheries and conjointly promote FAO's role as a source of technical expertise.

To be able to make progress on these objectives, FAO needs a system that is very flexible and responsible to both demands and developments.

The Organization must be outspoken when it sees developments in its areas of direct responsibility and expertise, especially in situations that clearly threaten the resource base. This has been occurring in relation to forestry and land degradation but may be also necessary in other areas.

For example, our fish resources are being depleted at a rate which signals only one thing: trouble. As delegates will be aware, this issue is both topical and important to the people of the Southwest Pacific.

By focusing its attention on these issues, we must however continue to give emphasis to activities which will confirm its specialist role among international organizations. By redoubling its efforts to work with those agencies in a complementary and catalytic fashion, the FAO will simultaneously enhance its own capacity and minimize unnecessary duplication.

In recent years, a major factor which now cannot be ignored is FAO's financial crisis. This must be addressed by this Conference.

This arises because, I will be crude, of the failure of a large number of members to pay their assessed contribution. There are, of course, a variety of reasons for this failure to pay but unless members pay they cannot expect FAO to carry out its full programme.

Basically, I can only add my voice to others and appeal to all members to pay and pay on time.

There is a permanence to the nature of FAO's objectives, to which I referred at the beginning. There is more than a symbolic significance to entering on the last decade of the century. And there are unmistakable new signs and symbols of long-term trends and of the opening of new opportunities which will strongly influence our Organization in the future.

As I left Australia, an important gathering of countries, large and small, north and south, had just embarked on an historic new course of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation.

Here in Europe the far-reaching processes of change now occurring on both eastern and western sides of the continent have probably not been so deep-rooted for half a century, and perhaps they have never been so promising.

Delegates, it is proper if I indicate to you the efforts and dedication of the Director-General and the Conference Secretariat. I would expect that there would be no disagreement with my belief that the professionalism displayed by the staff of the Secretariat contributes to the pre-eminence of FAO. And that hard work of the Director-General and the Secretariat will contribute to the effectiveness of this Conference.

Once again, I thank the Conference for the confidence it has shown in me. I can only repeat that I will do my best to help achieve a successful outcome that will set FAO on a productive and positive path into the next century.

I thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**CHAIRMAN:** We now move to the election of Vice-Chairmen of the Conference. Paragraph 1 of Rule VIII of the General Rules of the Organization provides that the Nominations Committee shall propose to the Conference candidates for the three posts of Vice-chairman of the Conference, the seven Member Nations of the General Committee of the Conference required under paragraph 1 of Rule X of the same General Rules, and the nine members of the Credentials Committee as laid down in paragraph 3 of Rule III of the General Rules.

The Nominations Committee which is to make these proposals was elected by the FAO Council at its 96th Session held from 6-10 November, 1989, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 (b) of Rule XXIV of the General Rules of the Organization. This Committee met on Friday, 10 November, 1989, and drew up its recommendation for the posts just mentioned. I shall now ask the Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Mr David Coutts of Australia, to place before the Conference the nominations agreed to by this Committee starting with the three Vice-Chairmen of the Conference. Will Mr Coutts please come to the podium?

**David COUTTS** (Chairman, Nominations Committee): In accordance with Rule VII-2 of GRO, the Committee submits the following nominations to the Conference: Abdel Magid Al Gaoud, Secretary of the People's General Committee for Agricultural Reclamation and Land Development (Libya); Charoen Kanthawongs, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives (Thailand); and Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to FAO (Colombia).

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

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:** Delegates, we proceed now to Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda; that is, the appointment of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee. I will ask the Chairman of the Nominations Committee to proceed with his report but let us first have the Committee's proposals for the membership of the General Committee,

In accordance with Rule X GRO, the Committee submits the following nominations to the Conference: China, Fiji, Finland, India, Lesotho, Panama, and the United States of America.

Delegates, you have just heard the nominations for the seven Member Nations to be elected to the General Committee. Are there any objections? There are none. I will consider these seven Member Nations to be duly elected to serve on the General Committee of the Conference.

I now call on the Chairman of the Nominations Committee for proposals concerning the Credentials Committee.

**David COUTTS:** (Chairman, Nominations Committee): In accordance with Rule III GRO, the Committee submits the following nominations to the Conference: Australia, Canada, Cyprus, El Salvador, Greece, Mauritania, Netherlands, Uganda, Yemen Arab Republic.

**CHAIRMAN:** Delegates, you have just heard the Nominations Committee's proposal as regards the nine Member Nations to compose the Credentials Committee. Are there any objections? There are none. I will consider these nine Member Nations duly appointed to constitute the Credentials Committee of the Conference. This completes the report of the Nominations Committee. I want to thank Mr Coutts and his Committee for having assisted the Conference.

The General Committee should meet as soon as possible to consider matters pertaining to arrangements for the Conference. In particular, we will have to make proposals to the Conference on the adoption of the Agenda, the allocation of Agenda items to the various commissions, and the admission of Observers. It should report to the Plenary at 15.00 hours this afternoon.

I propose, therefore, to adjourn the first Plenary Meeting of the Conference forthwith. The General Committee - that is your Chairman, the three Vice-Chairmen of the Conference, and the seven Member Nations just elected to it - will meet in the Mexico Room, D-211 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, B-227 on the second floor of Building B. This completes our agenda for this morning. The first Plenary Meeting of the Conference is closed. I thank you.

The meeting rose at 10.45 hours

La séance est levée à 10 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 10.45 horas

## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

**C 89/PV/2**

Twenty-fifth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-cinquième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

25° período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SEANCE PLENIERE SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA

11 November 1989

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours  
John Charles Kerin, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 15  
sous la présidence de John Charles Kerin, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la Segunda Sesión Plenaria a las 15.15 horas  
bajo la presidencia de John Charles Kerin, Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

3. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour
3. Aprobación del programa
4. Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items
4. Organisation de la session et répartition des questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour
4. Organización del periodo de sesiones y asignación de los temas del programa
5. Admission of Observers (C 89/13; C 89/13-Sup.I)
5. Admission d'observateurs (C 89/13; C 89/13-Sup.I)
5. Admisión de observadores (C 89/13; C 89/13-Sup.I)

**CHAIRMAN:** In accordance with the tentative timetable for the Conference as found in Appendix A to document C 89/12, the items before us this afternoon are numbers 3, 4 and 5, which are as follows: Adoption of Agenda, Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items, and Admission of Observers. As instructed by the Conference this morning, the General Committee has prepared its first report containing proposals on these items as well as on other necessary arrangements. I now propose that this first report of the General Committee be read out section by section for the Conference's consideration. The report will be available to all by Monday morning as document C 89/LIM/6.

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

First Report of the General Committee

Premier Rapport du Bureau

Primer Informe del Comité General

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** The first section of the report deals with the agenda for the Session.

"The General Committee examined the Provisional Conference Agenda set forth in Document C 89/1.

"The Committee was also informed of the proposal that a new sub-item 19.3 'Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency: Accession by FAO' be added to the Provisional Agenda.

"The Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the Provisional Agenda, with the addition of this new sub-item."

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** The second section is the establishment of the Commissions and tentative timetable of the Session.

"As its Ninety-fifth Session, the Council formulated proposals concerning the organization and timetable for the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference - proposals which were communicated to all Member Nations in document C 89/12. The Committee recommends that the Conference establish three Commissions to consider and report on Parts I, II and III of the Agenda."

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** "The attention of the Conference is called to the fact that, in order to accommodate requests for speaking time by Ministers who will be in Rome only during the first days of the Conference, it may be necessary to prolong the General Discussion during those days to 13.00 hours in the morning and 18.30 hours in the afternoon. However, the morning and the afternoon meetings must start on time to obtain any benefit from prolonging the meetings. It is hoped that in this way all the speakers wishing to speak on Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 November will be able to do so. Should this prove impossible, an additional meeting could be planned for one evening. The duration of each intervention should not exceed 15 minutes.

"The Committee recommends that the Conference approve the Tentative Timetable proposed by the Council with the following changes:

- (a) The B.R. Sen and A.H. Boerma Awards for 1988 and 1989 will take place on Saturday 11 November in the afternoon after the adoption of the General Committee Report.
- (b) Item 24 "Applications for Membership in the Organization" will not be taken on Saturday 11 November in the afternoon, as no applications have been received.
- (c) The morning meeting of Monday 13 November will begin at 10.00 hours and consist of the following:

- Adoption of Credentials Committee Report;
  - Sixteenth McDougall Memorial Lecture;
  - Director-General's Statement to the Conference;
  - Independent Chairman of Council's Statement to the Conference.
- (d) The afternoon meeting of Monday 13 November will begin at 15.00 hours with the Address by the Director-General of IAEA to be followed by the General Discussion
- (e) Commission I will examine Item 8 "Progress Report on the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations (Uruguay Round) and Implications for FAO" on Tuesday 14 November in the afternoon.
- (f) The new sub-item 19.3, indicated in para. 2 above, will be examined in Commission III immediately after sub- item 19.2.

"It is also understood that this Timetable may be subject to modifications in the light of progress made in the Plenary and in the Commissions."

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

Adopted  
Adopté  
Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** "The Committee also recommends that the informal meeting of observers of Non-Governmental Organizations be held on the morning and afternoon of Tuesday 14 November."

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section? If not, it is adopted,

Adopted  
Adopté  
Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** The next section deals with the appointment of the Chairmen of the three Commissions. "In accordance with Rules VII-1 and XXIV-5(b) of the General Rules of the Organization and as indicated in Document C 89/LIM/1, the Council at its Ninety-sixth Session proposed the following candidates for chairmanship of the Commissions: Commission I - J.A. de Medicis (Brazil); Commission II - J. Tchicaya (Congo); Commission III - R. de Pourtalès (Switzerland). The Committee proposes to make recommendations regarding the Vice-Chairmanship of the Commissions (Rule X-2(c) (GRO)) in a subsequent report."

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section? If not, it is adopted,

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** The next section is Resolutions Committee. "The Council at its Ninety-fifth Session recommended the establishment of a Resolutions Committee of the Conference consisting of seven members, one from each FAO region. Its terms of reference are described in Document C 89/12, Appendix D, as are the criteria which should govern the formulation of resolutions.

"The Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the Council's proposal, and that the following Member Nations, identified by the region to which they belong, sit on the Resolutions Committee:

- Africa	ALGERIA
- Asia	INDIA
- Europe	GERMANY FED. REP. OF
- Latin America and the Caribbean	NICARAGUA
- Near East	LEBANON
- North America	USA
-Southwest Pacific	AUSTRALIA

"Delegations of the Countries concerned are requested to communicate to the Chairman of the Conference, as early as possible, the name of their representative on the Resolutions Committee.

"The Committee also recommends that the Resolutions Committee be chaired by the Representative of the Asia Region, Mr. V.K. Sibal (India)."

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section? If not, it is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** The next section deals with the Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council.

"By the date determined by the Council, i.e. 1 September 1989, two nominations had been received for the office of Independent Chairman of the Council, those of Mr Antoine Saintraint (Belgium) and Mr Daniel Amstutz (United States of America). Nominations were notified to all Member Nations by circular letter G/CF-4/3 of 8 September 1989.

Under the terms of Rule XXIII-1(b) GRO, the General Committee determines and announces the date of the election. The Committee recommends that a secret ballot for this appointment take place on the morning of Tuesday 28 November 1989."



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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** Election of Members of the Council:

"Rule XXII-10(a) GRO provides that the Conference, on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall, not later than the end of the third day of the Conference Session, decide the date of election of members of the Council and the date by which nominations must be submitted.

The Committee accordingly recommends :

(a) that the election begins on the morning of Monday 27 November; and

(b) that nominations for the Council seats to be filled at the present session be communicated to the Secretary General of the Conference (B-202) by 12.00 hours on Monday 20 November at the latest, to permit the General Committee to communicate to the Conference the valid nominations received at least three working days before the date selected for the election in accordance with Rule XXII-10(d) GRO.

In this connection, the Conference will note in particular the following provisions of paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 7 of Rule XXII of the General Rules of the Organization:

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

(a) including in its membership a balanced geographical representation of nations interested in the production, distribution and consumption of food and agricultural products;

(b) ensuring the participation in the work of the Council of such Member Nations as contribute in a large measure toward the success of the Organization;

(c) giving to a greatest possible number of Member Nations an opportunity by rotation of membership, to serve on the Council.

4 Member Nations shall be eligible for re-election

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

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

All relevant information concerning the seats for which nominations must be submitted, and forms for submitting nominations, will be found in Document C 89/LIM/22."

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** Right to Vote:

"The General Committee proposes to discuss the question of voting rights at a subsequent meeting."

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section? We will adopt that course.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** Right of Reply:

"At its eleven previous sessions, the Conference had decided that, if a delegate wished to reply to criticisms of his Government's policy, he should preferably do so on the afternoon of the day on which such criticisms had been voiced after all those wishing to participate in the discussion had had an opportunity to speak.

The Committee recommends that these same arrangements be followed at the present session."

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section? If there are not, then it is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** Verbatim Records:

"Rule XVIII-1 GRO lays down that verbatim records shall be kept for all Conference plenary and commission meetings. The right of delegates to check the accuracy of the record of their interventions is expressly recognized in Rule XVII-2 GRO.

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

In 1961 a procedure was formally adopted by the Conference whereby speakers who so desire may have their statements inserted in the record without delivering them in Plenary. This procedure is still followed and is recommended in the interests of saving time.

While the Committee sees no objection in principle to the insertion of statements in the records when time does not permit them to be delivered, it recognizes the difficulties which might arise if no occasion is given to delegates to exercise the "right of reply" to any criticism of their Government's policy made in the inserted statement.

Second, "the text handed over to the Chairman for insertion is in English, French or Spanish, the languages used in the verbatim record."

Third, "the provisional verbatim record containing the additional statement is circulated at least three days before the close of the Session."

Fourth, "delegations attending the Session are able to avail themselves of the right of reply by having an opportunity to make, prior to the close of the Session, a statement relating to the additional statement."

The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Conference continue to permit the insertion of such statements on condition that: First, "The Plenary of the Commission concerned is informed by its Chairman that a statement not actually delivered, is being inserted in the record."

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

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** Next section, "Statements by Heads of Delegations (General Discussion). The Committee recommends that the list of speakers be published daily in the Journal of the Conference, in the order in which they will be called upon by the Chairman, and further recommends that statements be limited to a maximum of 15 minutes."

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section? As there are none, it is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** The next section is Admission of Observer from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

"The Director-General received from the Observer of the USSR to FAO a letter expressing the USSR Government's interest in attending the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference. An invitation to attend the Conference as an Observer was sent to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, pointing out, however, that it would have to be confirmed by the Conference in accordance with the Principles Relating to the Granting of Observer Status to Nations (Basic Texts, Section L, para B-1) which specifies that Non-Member States of FAO may on request be invited 'by the Conference... to be represented by an observer at a session of the Conference'. The Committee recommends that the Conference confirm the invitation."

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this Section?

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Los representantes de Colombia proponemos que, como ya lo hizo el Consejo en nuestro informe, la Conferencia exprese su satisfacción por la presencia, como observador, de la Unión de Repúblicas Socialistas Soviéticas. Proponemos, además, que la Conferencia reconozca que éste podría ser un nuevo paso en la buena dirección a fin de que la URSS haga uso de su condición de miembro original de la FAO, para convertirse en miembro efectivo, y que a tal respecto la Conferencia apoya los contactos adelantados por el Director General y le pide a éste que continúe e intensifique esas gestiones.

Los representantes de Colombia hacemos esta propuesta, que corresponde a la voluntad ya expresada por el Consejo, porque pensamos que será muy interesante y conveniente que un gran país, como la Unión de Repúblicas Socialistas Soviéticas, de tanta importancia en el campo de la agricultura, entre a formar parte de la FAO para contribuir a conformar el carácter de universalidad de esta Organización, con la esperanza de que ese día, que ojalá no esté muy lejano, muchas cosas podrán cambiar en la vida de esta Organización.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the delegate for his comments. Are there any other comments on this section? If not, it is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** "Admission of Observers from Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations. The list of Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations which have been invited by the Director-General to be represented in an observer capacity at this session of the Conference is given in document C 89/13 and C 89/13-Sup.1. The invitations sent to Intergovernmental Organizations with which FAO does not have a formal agreement and to International Non-Governmental Organizations which do not have consultative status with FAO are extended on a provisional basis and are subject to approval by the Conference. After having reviewed this list, the Committee recommends that the Conference confirm the said provisional invitations."

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section? As there are none, it is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** "Informal Meeting of Observers from Non-Governmental Organizations. The Council recommended that as at previous sessions of the Conference observers from Non-Governmental Organizations be invited to attend an informal meeting, so that their advice and suggestions on the Organization's activities and programmes may be communicated to the Conference. It is suggested that this meeting take place on the morning and afternoon of Tuesday 14 November. The Committee recommends that the Conference accept this proposal."

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section? As there are none, it is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** Next section, Attendance by Liberation Movements. In conformity with the suggestion made by the Council at its Ninety-fifth Session, Observers, from the Palestine Liberation Organization and the African liberation movements recognized by OAU, that is the African National Congress of South Africa, the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania, have been invited to attend the Conference. The Committee recommends that the Conference confirm these invitations.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section? As there are none, it is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** The final section: "The Committee recommends that the Conference confirm all the detailed arrangements for the Session and that, except for the period mentioned above in paragraphs 5 and 6, the normal working hours for the meetings of both Plenary and Commissions be from 09.30 to 12.30 hours, and from 14.30 to 17.30 hours. Night meetings may also be convened from 19.30 to 22.30 hours, if required. The Committee also invites all delegations to observe the working hours with the maximum punctuality."

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Mr Secretary. Are there any comments on the last section just read? As there are not, I will declare it adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applications for Membership in the Organization

Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation

Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización

**CHAIRMAN:** Delegates, this concludes the Adoption of the first report of the General Committee. As I have stated, the text will be distributed on Monday morning as document C 89/LIM/6. The original timetable had foreseen Item 24 Applications for Membership in the Organization, at this stage, but as you were informed when adopting the General Committee report, there are no applications for membership in FAO, so this item will not be taken up.

It is now time to present the B.R. Sen' awards for 1988 and 1989. This award was established by the Conference in honour of 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 roundtrip 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. Mr Director-General.

PRESENTATION OF B.R. SEN AWARDS FOR 1988 and 1989

PRIX B.R. SEN POUR 1988 ET 1989

ENTREGA DE LOS PREMIOS B.R. SEN PARA 1988 y 1989

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Thank you, Mr Chairman. As the Chairman has just said, these awards are presented in honour of Mr B.R. Sen, Director-General of FAO from 1956 to 1967. Each year the award is bestowed on the field officer who has made the most outstanding contribution to the sector of the long-term plan of the country of which he or she has been assigned. On this occasion we shall be presenting the awards for 1988 and 1989.

The recipient of the 1988 award is Mr Henry R. Stennett, a citizen of Jamaica, and is given in recognition of his assistance in the preparation of watershed development plans in Nepal at both the national and district levels.

The successful outcome of the three projects in watershed management and conservation education, and fuelwood plantation, is an achievement due in no small measure to his qualities of hard work and devotion to duty.

His Majesty's Government of Nepal, in endorsing the choice of Mr Stennett for a Sen Award, has also given recognition to his professional competence and dedication.

The award for 1989 is conferred on Mr Everest Santiago Funes, of Argentina, for his contribution to Mexico's Integrated Rural Development Programme for the Tropical Wetlands.

Responsible for an FAO project with financing from the World Bank, Mr Funes has provided technical assistance to that Programme through the inclusion of a rural communications system.

Applying a multi-media approach, he has produced hundreds of audio-visual programmes for training at the grass-roots level and for reporting and establishing links between rural communities and national institutions.

Rarely has communication been so well integrated into a development programme.

In endorsing the selection of Mr Funes for a Sen Award, the Government of Mexico has given recognition to FAO's successful contribution to a national programme which aims to improve agricultural production.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**CHAIRMAN:** I now invite Mr Stennett to take the floor.

**Henry R. STENNETT:** (FAO Staff) Mr Chairman, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, your Excellencies, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, my colleagues of the Organization; it is with profound emotion, deep humility and gratitude that I today receive the prestigious B.R. Sen Award for 1988 consisting of the scroll, the medal and the cheque.

I desire here to specifically express to Dr Edouard Saouma, our esteemed Director-General, my sincere gratitude and thanks for the confidence he has placed in me by approving my candidature for this most important award.

I deemed it a great honour and I will continue to endeavour to do everything to uphold the aims and objectives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the traditions and principles of my predecessors. I will at all times continue to strive for excellence.

I am particularly grateful also to my Division Director for submitting and supporting my candidature for this B.R. Sen Award, for the excellent operational and technical backstopping which he and his staff provided for me at all times, and last but by no means least for his unwavering confidence. I desire also to sincerely thank the two FAO Representatives in Nepal with whom I served for their individual help, wise counsel and encouragement.

Only a few weeks ago the member countries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations observed the 9th World Food Day

The theme for World Food Day 1989 was "Food Production and the Environment". It is particularly fitting and appropriate that the work which was envisaged in Nepal, namely integrated watershed management, as well as the present programme of activities in which I am now engaged in the Republic of Ghana, are both intimately bound with this theme and are designed to support the crucial role of producing food and other basic necessities of the rural population while protecting the environment at the same time.

It is indeed a touching moment for my wife and myself, as well as for our children - who are unable to be with us at this time. In graciously accepting this award, I do so firstly on behalf and in honour of my country, Jamaica, and secondly on behalf of all the many persons in Nepal, who assisted me in every possible way during the course of my assignment there; and even when things did not go as smoothly as planned; those who gave of their time, wise counsels, suggestions and encouragement.



In particular, I would like to express my deep appreciation to His Majesty's Government of Nepal for unreservedly endorsing my nomination and to assure them that I also felt and still feel I was serving my own people back in Jamaica. It is largely due to the cooperation which I received at all levels that has made this award to me possible.

Finally, Excellencies, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen and colleagues, I would like to reassure you and to rededicate myself to maintain the implicit confidence which both the Director-General and the Organization have placed in me, to serve to the best of my ability, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward save the joy of knowing that my efforts in some way contribute to the improvement of the quality of life for mankind.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, Mr Stennett. I now call on Mr Everest Santiago Funes to come forward and take the floor.

**Everest Santiago FUNES** (del Personal de la FAO): Señor Presidente, señor Director General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, Excelentísimos señores, distinguidas señoras y señores, estimados colegas de la Organización:

Es un orgullo ser hoy aquí latinoamericano; serlo en esta Conferencia, y serlo en este desafiante mundo de nuestros días.

Con el Programa de Desarrollo Rural Integrado del Trópico Húmedo (PRODERITH), el Gobierno de México inició un esfuerzo sostenido de desarrollo social y productivo en las vastas planicies tropicales del país.

El Gobierno optó por una estrategia de participación amplia de los campesinos. Enfrentó el desafío de preparar a los técnicos de campo y otro personal estimulando su capacidad y decisión de servicio. Buscó y alcanzó la necesaria coordinación entre las instituciones especializadas. Aceptó que buena parte de los conocimientos necesarios para superar los frenos físicos, técnicos, sociales y económicos característicos del trópico residían en la experiencia y la tradición de los grupos campesinos. Puso el acento en un proceso de cambios al que esos campesinos podían incorporarse sin perder su identidad.

Alcanzado un éxito inicial, que probó la potencialidad de hombres y recursos naturales y el valor de la estrategia empleada, el Gobierno de México decidió ampliar el esfuerzo a un escenario actual de más de un millón de hectáreas, donde viven cien mil familias campesinas.

En las dos etapas de ese esfuerzo, el Gobierno de México solicitó la contribución de la FAO, con la cooperación financiera del Banco Mundial, para establecer un componente de comunicación para el desarrollo. Se entiende que lo hizo porque la FAO ha sido pionera y es líder en la materia. Esa contribución pudo ser eficaz porque encontró un ambiente de inteligente y perseverante capacidad nacional de realización.

La comunicación rural ha sido y es, en el caso de PRODERITH, un conjunto articulado de acciones mediante las cuales la política de desarrollo se crea y recrea en la práctica de los grupos campesinos. Incrementa el flujo y la disponibilidad de información. Favorece la multiplicación de ejercicios de análisis de situación entre los campesinos y sus familias en el ámbito de planes locales de desarrollo. Hace más amplia, eficiente y útil la interacción entre técnicos y campesinos para la transformación tecnológica, la valorización de las inversiones, la modificación adecuada del medio físico, el cuidado de la infraestructura disponible, la conservación de los recursos naturales y el mejoramiento de las condiciones de vida y de trabajo de las familias campesinas.

La FAO distingue hoy los resultados prácticos de esa acción de comunicación para el desarrollo. Esa distinción debe concebirse, como lo hacen los técnicos mexicanos de manera cotidiana, como una invitación a superar nuevas y más exigentes dificultades. En adelante, se trata de lograr la transferencia de los recursos y capacidad de gestión del componente de comunicación rural hacia las organizaciones superiores de los campesinos.

Quizá nunca como ahora, cuando expreso ante la Conferencia de la FAO mi aceptación personal al premio B.R. Sen, he tenido tan nítida la convicción de que el trabajo de comunicación para el desarrollo es un trabajo de muchos, tal vez de miles de personas, en torno a un proceso de desarrollo rural.

Evoco ahora los rostros, los nombres y las expresiones de seres humanos a quienes debo lo aprendido y sin los cuales nada de lo que hoy la FAO distingue hubiera sucedido. Y evoco también un concepto de comunicación para el desarrollo que al mismo tiempo permite y obliga a oír en la necesidad y demanda campesinas, la singular modernidad de una fuerza capaz de producir, una y otra vez, las condiciones de una existencia humana a la medida del hombre.

**Desmond LEAKEY (Jamaica):** Director-General, distinguished Delegates, FAO staff and colleagues.

I wish, on behalf of my country Jamaica and, indeed, of the entire CARICOM region, to express our gratitude for the great honour bestowed today on Henry Stennett. This award is a source of much satisfaction and pride for me and my fellow Jamaicans.

I have known Henry Stennett for over 20 years both in my capacity as Minister and as a farmer in my own right. Indeed, my own rural community has benefited greatly from his expertise and dedication. In Jamaica, he gave over twenty-five years of professional service and was regarded both as a pioneer and innovator in the field of soil conservation. So outstanding was his work, that he was persuaded by FAO to accept a most challenging assignment in Nepal in 1981. It therefore comes as no surprise to those of us who know him for his modesty and the excellence of his work, that the Government and people of Nepal as well as FAO were soon to recognize the outstanding contribution he made in the severely eroded Himalayan watersheds.

Having completed three consecutive projects in Nepal, he has now moved on to Ghana where we wish him every success in his continuing efforts to ensure sustainable practices which enhance productivity while protecting the environment. I am sure that - coming as he does from a small rural village in the foothills of Jamaica - the Ghanaian farmers, like those in Nepal and his own country, will be quick to see in him a true son of the soil.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Sra. Mónica DEREGBUS (Argentina):** Señor Presidente: mi país se siente muy honrado de contar hoy con un ciudadano argentino que ha sido merecedor del importante premio que se le ha otorgado en el día de hoy. También nos sentimos honrados de sentir que el trabajo del Sr. Funes es una demostración de la capacidad de la FAO para promover la cooperación entre los países en desarrollo. Y también nos sentimos honrados y especialmente orgullosos de saber que ello es, en este caso, en la tierra de un hermano país de Latinoamérica.

Quisiéramos solamente hacer presente a los asistentes, que la Argentina está dispuesta a continuar participando de la cooperación y de la armonía internacional para que, con la ayuda de todos, podamos lograr la eliminación del hambre y la malnutrición de la faz de la tierra.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Miguel Angel CACERES CALVILLO (México):** Mi delegación se quiere unir a las felicitaciones que se han dado al Sr. Santiago Funes. Entendemos esto como un reconocimiento a su dedicación y esfuerzos personales demostrado a lo largo de toda una carrera como funcionario internacional y, en particular, por los excelentes resultados que ha logrado en la instrumentación del proyecto de comunicación y capacitación del Programa de Desarrollo Rural Integrado del Trópico Húmedo (PRODERITH), proyecto que se ha calificado como de modelo para otros países en desarrollo. Queremos, repito, extender nuestra felicitación al señor Funes.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESENTATION OF A.H. BOERMA AWARD FOR 1988-1989

PRIX A.H. BOERMA POUR 1988-1989

ENTREGA DEL PREMIO A.H. BOERMA PARA 1988-1989

**CHAIRMAN:** We now move on to the A.H. Boerma Award. This is a biennial award given to a writer or journalist whose writing or production on radio or television is likely to have increased international awareness of the world food problem and of measures leading to its solution. It consists of a scroll and a cash prize of US\$ 10 000. I shall invite the Director-General to introduce the winner and present the A.H. Boerma Award.

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Voici maintenant quatorze ans que la Conférence, à sa dix-huitième session, institue le prix A.H. Boerma. Elle voulait par là, en exprimant sa reconnaissance au Dr. Addeke Boerma, perpétuer le souvenir des services qu'il avait rendus en tant que Directeur général de l'Organisation.

Ce prix est décerné tous les deux ans à un ou plusieurs journalistes de la presse écrite, radiophonique ou télévisée, dont les écrits ou les émissions ont contribué de manière exceptionnelle à sensibiliser l'opinion publique aux questions de développement - notamment au problème alimentaire mondial - et à mobiliser son soutien actif aux mesures visant à résoudre ce problème.

Pour cette sixième édition du prix Boerma, nous avons le plaisir de couronner un journaliste de notre pays hôte Monsieur Federico Fazzuoli, producteur du programme télévisé de la RAI, "Linea Verde". Il s'agit d'un programme aux sujets très variés liés à l'agriculture, à l'alimentation et à l'environnement, dans une optique tant nationale qu'internationale.

"Linea Verde" a puissamment contribué, non seulement à faire connaître ces problèmes au public dans toute leur gravité, mais encore à susciter un très fort courant d'opinion à l'appui des efforts entrepris en Italie et dans le monde pour les résoudre. De plus, "Linea Verde" couvre, depuis des années, des événements d'une importance particulière pour la FAO, notamment la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation.

C'est pourquoi, Monsieur le Président, je suis sûr que vous-même et tous les délégués ici présents tiendrez à vous joindre à moi pour exprimer notre gratitude et nos félicitations à Monsieur Fazzuoli, qui a mis son talent et son cœur au service de la lutte contre la faim, la malnutrition et la pauvreté.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**CHAIRMAN:** I will now ask Mr Fazzuoli to come forward please.

**Federico FAZZUOLI (langue originale Italien):** Monsieur le Directeur général, Monsieur le Président de la Conférence, Messieurs les délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Directeur Général lui-même et, par son entremise, tous les membres de la Conférence de la FAO d'avoir voulu m'honorer en me décernant ce prix extrêmement important.

Permettez-moi de vous dire qu'outre la satisfaction que j'éprouve de voir apprécier mon travail, celui de mes collaborateurs de la rédaction, les structures de la RAI et son Directeur Carlo Fuscagni ici présent je ressens également une grande préoccupation. Cette préoccupation trouve son origine dans notre sentiment d'être incapables de garantir - et en particulier nous, responsables des moyens de communication - une information sûre et scientifique relative aux thèmes de l'agriculture, de l'environnement et de l'alimentation à ceux qui suivent avec tant de confiance toutes nos émissions. Certes, la recherche et la science sont toujours en mutation et nous n'avons donc pas toujours des réponses toutes faites qui nous donnent des certitudes; mais dans ce secteur, l'incertitude de la science n'est pas seule, elle s'accompagne parfois de sa propre instrumentalisation.

Trop souvent, les données scientifiques sont liées à des exigences partisans et sont utilisées aux fins de profits économiques. Dans le domaine de l'agriculture et dans ses rapports avec l'environnement, dans le domaine du rapport entre l'alimentation et la santé, nous nous trouvons face à des affirmations faites par d'éminents hommes de science et contredites par d'autres éminents hommes de science; et derrière les uns et les autres, nous entrevoyons très souvent des intrigues d'intérêts nationaux ou de grandes structures économiques. De telles affirmations sont difficilement vérifiables pour ceux qui ne possèdent pas des structures techniques et scientifiques importantes et de toute première qualité. L'information devient alors confuse. En tant que journaliste ayant eu l'occasion, de par mon travail, de m'entretenir avec de nombreuses personnes dans différentes parties du monde, je ressens une préoccupation généralisée pour notre avenir. Cette préoccupation aiguë frise parfois la peur car ces problèmes sont ressentis dans un climat d'incertitude. Et nous, qui avons comme devoir de fournir l'information, à l'incertitude, nous devons ajouter le doute.

Permettez-moi donc, tout en vous remerciant de l'honneur que vous me faites, de vous lancer un appel. Je crois que, seules, des organisations internationales ou mondiales comme la FAO sont en mesure de fournir des indications et des informations scientifiquement fondées. Nous vous demandons de renforcer vos efforts et de fournir aux experts de l'information des éléments d'information scientifiques qui soient impartiaux. Nous en avons besoin aujourd'hui, nous en aurons encore plus besoin demain.

Je voudrais vous dire comment seront distribués les 10 000 dollars du prix. 5 000 dollars seront consacrés à la création d'une Banque de la mémoire historique pour les Indiens de l'Amazonie par l'entremise du Père Paolo Panza, qui y travaille depuis de nombreuses années.

Les 5 000 dollars restants seront consacrés à deux institutions italiennes? l'Accademia della Crusca, institution ancienne fondée en 1500, pour qu'elle ne doive pas fermer ses portes et qu'elle puisse conserver son patrimoine important de livres sur la langue italienne; et la fondation du journal

italien, nouvelle initiative surgie dans un petit village des Apennins toscans, Pieve Santo Stefano, pour qu'elle puisse continuer à recueillir les journaux des personnes communes et leurs souvenirs, afin qu'elle conserve ainsi la mémoire de l'homme. Car je suis convaincu que l'homme survit à lui-même grâce à la mémoire.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie):** A l'instar de mes collègues de la Jamaïque, du Mexique et de l'Argentine, je ne voulais manquer de prendre brièvement la parole à cette occasion.

Le Gouvernement italien est très honoré et très fier du choix qui a été fait par la FAO pour le sixième prix Boerma, pour les années 1988-89. Le journaliste Federico Fazzuoli et son programme télévisé, "Linea Verde", sont très connus en Italie et à l'étranger. J'ai personnellement eu le plaisir de voir travailler le lauréat de cet important prix pendant ces deux dernières années, et je pense que le choix fait aujourd'hui par la FAO est tout à fait louable et judicieux.

Avec Federico Fazzuoli, c'est aussi la télévision italienne qui reçoit un hommage indirect. Il faut dire qu'elle dédie plus de temps et d'efforts que d'autres télévisions nationales aux problèmes importants de l'agriculture et à leur divulgation dans le monde.

Je voudrais donc remercier encore une fois l'Organisation de la FAO et son Directeur général pour ce prix décerné à M. Federico Fazzuoli aujourd'hui.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**CHAIRMAN:** I, too, would like to thank Mr Fazzuoli for his words and for his generosity with the prize. I must tell you we forgot to tell him there is also a roundtrip to Rome involved in the prize.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, we have no other business this afternoon, but before adjourning the meeting I would like to remind delegates and observers of the arrangements we have just agreed upon for Monday, 13 November. The next meeting of the Plenary of the Conference will open at 10.00 hours on Monday morning in this room, so please make every effort to be in your seats by 10 o'clock so that we can get through the business and the Statements.

As we have already agreed, the first item on Monday will be the adoption of the First Report of the Credentials Committee. This will be followed by the Sixteenth McDougall Memorial Lecture to be delivered by Mr Ruffolo, the Italian Minister of the Environment. After that, the Director-General will deliver his opening statement to the Conference, and then the Independent Chairman of the Council will address the Conference.

Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes our work today. We will resume on Monday morning at 10 o'clock. The meeting now stands adjourned and I thank you.

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 89/PV/3**

Twenty-fifth Session

**PLENARY**

Vingt-cinquième session

**PLÉNIÈRE**

23<sup>a</sup> período de sesiones

**PLENARIA**

**THIRD PLENARY MEETING  
TROISIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE  
TERCERA SESION PLENARIA**

**13 November 1989**

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours  
John Charles Kerin, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15  
sous la présidence de John Charles Kerin, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la Tercera Sesión Plenaria a las 10.15 horas  
bajo la presidencia de John Charles Kerin, Presidente de la Conferencia



INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

Adoption of the First Report of the Credentials Committee

Adoption du premier rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

Aprobación del primer informe del Comité de Credenciales

**CHAIRMAN:** Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, good morning, I now declare the meeting open and call upon the Chairman of the Credentials Committee, Mr Poulides, to give the report of the Credentials Committee.

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Credentials Committee):** I have the honour to present the first report of the Credentials Committee.

The Credentials Committee held its first meeting on 11 November 1989 at 11.00 hours to examine the credentials of the delegations of Member Nations to the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference. The Committee elected the Ambassador Fotis G. Poulides of Cyprus as its Chairman.

In accordance with Rule III-2 of the General Rules of the Organization and criterion established by previous committees, the Credentials Committee examined the credentials of 132 delegations and found them to be valid. The Member Nations to which these delegations belong are shown on the attached list, on which I will give a report. To date, 22 Member Nations have not presented valid credentials. Four Member Nations have advised the Secretariat that they will not attend the Conference. They are Bahamas, Belize, Cook Islands and St. Christopher and Nevis.

Any other credentials which will be received, as well as the credentials of the specialized agencies of the United Nations and of the observers from the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, will be examined by the Committee at subsequent meetings.

This is the list of Member Nations whose delegations have presented credentials found to be in order:-

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, the Yemen Arab Republic, Peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**Mohamed Moussa CHEHEM (Djibouti):** Djibouti a présenté les pouvoirs, mais je n'ai pas entendu prononcer ce nom. Est-ce que c'est une omission ou est-ce que c'est moi qui n'ai pas bien entendu?

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Credentials Committee):** The list was complete as far as Saturday afternoon. All credentials received after Saturday will be examined during the Second Meeting on Wednesday morning.

**CHAIRMAN:** Is the representative of Djibouti satisfied with that? Thank you.

Are there any comments on the Report now that we have had all the country names read? As there are none, I declare the Report of the Credentials Committee adopted, and as I said before, it is my understanding that this document will be distributed this morning as C89/LIM/7.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

SIXTEENTH MCDUGALL MEMORIAL LECTURE  
SEIZIEME CONFERENCE MCDUGALL  
16º DISERTACION EN MEMORIA DE MCDUGALL

**CHAIRMAN:** Distinguished delegates, this is the sixteenth lecture which began with that delivered by Professor Arnold Toynbee at the 1959 Conference. These lectures commemorate the late Frank L. McDougall who played a leading role in the foundation of FAO and the initiation of its activities. I now ask the Director-General to introduce this year's McDougall Lecture.

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, le moment est venu d'écouter la seizième Conférence McDougall.

C'est en 1959 que cette tradition fut inaugurée, en vertu d'une décision de la 29ème session du Conseil de la FAO; d'une part, elle nous permet de perpétuer l'expression de notre reconnaissance envers le grand citoyen de l'Australie et du monde que fut Frank Lidgett McDougall, un de nos pères fondateurs dont le rôle décisif dans la création de notre Organisation demeure inoubliable; d'autre part, elle offre à la Conférence la possibilité d'entendre dès l'ouverture de ses travaux, afin de nourrir sa réflexion tout au long des débats, un exposé d'une personnalité éminente sur l'un des grands problèmes de notre temps.

L'environnement, les menaces que fait peser sur lui l'action de l'homme et la question de savoir s'il est possible de produire ce qu'il faut pour vivre sans porter au milieu naturel des atteintes irrémédiables: voilà le problème qui représente peut-être, à ce moment de notre histoire, l'enjeu le plus décisif pour l'avenir de l'humanité.

En le choisissant pour thème de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, nous entendons bien ne pas limiter notre effort de réflexion à cette seule manifestation.

Nous devons creuser ce problème et voir comment il s'articule, non seulement avec celui du développement durable, ce qui est assez évident, mais aussi avec toutes les grandes questions qui font notre angoisse et notre espérance: la croissance, la responsabilité collective, l'équité et la justice, la paix - c'est-à-dire, en fin de compte, le bien commun et le bonheur de l'homme.

C'est pourquoi je suis extrêmement heureux d'accueillir aujourd'hui Son Excellence M. Giorgio Ruffolo, Ministre de l'environnement de la République italienne, qui a bien voulu accepter de prononcer la Conférence McDougall.

M. Ruffolo n'est pas seulement un homme politique dont la carrière au service de son pays et de l'Europe l'a conduit à exercer de hautes charges parlementaires et gouvernementales; c'est aussi un théoricien et un praticien éminent de l'économie et de la sociologie, particulièrement expert en matière de finances, de programmation économique, d'analyse des politiques, de problèmes relatifs au chômage.

Mais surtout - et c'est la principale raison pour laquelle nous l'avons invité à nous adresser la parole aujourd'hui - M. Ruffolo est un humaniste animé par un sens exceptionnellement vif de la justice, de la solidarité entre les hommes, et pour qui la qualité de la vie compte beaucoup plus qu'une croissance purement quantitative.

Je trouve particulièrement significatif à cet égard le titre d'un de ses ouvrages les plus connus: "La qualité sociale", la qualité sociale.

Monsieur le Ministre, je suis persuadé que les paroles que vous allez nous adresser aideront la Conférence à mieux appréhender les problèmes qu'elle est appelée à traiter au cours de cette session.

**Giorgio RUFFOLO (langue originale Italien):** Monsieur le Directeur général, Messieurs les Ministres, Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs, je suis hautement honoré de l'invitation qui m'a été adressée pour prononcer la XVIe Conférence Mc Dougall à cette XXVe Conférence générale de la FAO, organisation qui a des responsabilités sur le plan mondial quant aux politiques et aux initiatives dans le domaine de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture, de la sylviculture, de la pêche ainsi que des intérêts fondamentaux pour les questions d'environnement.

Je remercie tout particulièrement le Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, pour les paroles extrêmement flatteuses avec lesquelles il m'a accueilli ainsi que pour l'invitation à m'entretenir devant vous sur la grande question de l'environnement, invitation dans laquelle il a bien voulu rappeler le rôle chaque fois plus important de l'Italie dans ce secteur de la coopération internationale. En abordant la question qui m'a été proposée, je voudrais partir non pas d'une réflexion vraiment critique, mais d'un sentiment spontané et diffus présent maintenant partout dans le monde, quel que soit le rôle de chacun dans la société. Il existe la sensation que tout ce que nous faisons, les problèmes qui nous assaillent, les intérêts qui nous font mouvoir, les choix que nous devons faire sont en quelque sorte mal placés, ils sont dépassés par des problèmes et des besoins auxquels nous ne sommes pas à même de donner des réponses adéquates, problèmes et besoins qui sont pour nous de graves difficultés parce qu'ils nous intéressent directement. Je pense à la faim dans les zones sous-développées et à l'émargination des faibles dans les zones riches ainsi qu'à la menace écologique dans le monde entier. Ou alors, il s'agit de menaces que nous sentons véritablement à nos portes et trop souvent notre réaction est de mettre des oeillères. C'est par exemple le cas des pays à hauts revenus où des couches sociales opulentes se protègent contre la violence en érigeant des "barrières" qui assurent leur sécurité.

Le fait est que dans la géographie politique, dans la géographie sociale également, les limitations de ces domaines font que l'on est amené à donner des réponses qui ne correspondent pas à la dimension des problèmes, problèmes qui très souvent d'ailleurs dépassent nos possibilités de réaction. Un monde divisé implique des "souverainetés" plus apparentes que réelles, car très souvent les possibilités d'intervention sont bien en dessous de l'importance des problèmes à résoudre. Alors ces barrières dont s'entourent les plus forts, qui peuvent vivre dans l'illusion qu'ils sont ainsi protégés dans un domaine privilégié et qu'ils résistent à la pression de ceux qui n'ont pas accès à leur bien-être, ces barrières ont au moins deux conséquences négatives.

Il y a d'abord un appauvrissement moral, c'est-à-dire que ce bien-être est simplement la jouissance de biens matériels. Il y a de plus une insécurité due à la menace que ressentent les nantis devant le désespoir des exclus.

Ce déphasage entre ce que l'on voudrait faire et ce que l'on peut faire, ce sens d'impuissance qui en découle, ont leur origine dans la conscience que le pouvoir politique n'a pas suivi dans sa croissance l'extraordinaire développement technologique des dernières décennies, qui a amené l'homme à constituer une menace pour la biosphère dans laquelle il vit.

A notre époque l'apparition de cette force, et en conséquence l'interdépendance qui existe sur toute la planète dans un vaste réseau d'interférences et d'interconnexions, postule de manière toujours plus précise et pressante cette "unité du monde" qui est contredite par le fait que les gouvernements n'ont pas eux-mêmes d'unité, ce "pouvoir à la hauteur" sans lequel cette puissance ne peut être gouvernée et contrôlée. Au moins trois grands motifs ont aujourd'hui une importance planétaire: la paix, l'environnement, le développement des pays du tiers monde. Ce ne sont pas des domaines séparés mais ce sont des problèmes et des exigences qui ont une interaction profonde. La paix est par définition le "problème du monde entier", puisque la guerre est devenue synonyme d'autodestruction totale; l'environnement, parce que tout ce qui rompt les équilibres globaux et régionaux risque d'étouffer les conditions mêmes qui permettent la vie; le développement des pays du tiers monde, parce que l'on ne peut pas compter sur une opposition entre une aire dans laquelle se concentre la richesse du monde (une économie dont la valeur est de 17 millions de milliards de lires) et une autre zone où la population a un taux de développement démographique qui représente 90 pour cent du taux démographique total, qui vit dans des conditions de sous-développement et dont une partie importante (500 millions d'individus) vit dans la faim.

Dans le Rapport Brundtland (Our Common Future), on fait remarquer que pour la première fois dans ce siècle nous avons pu voir véritablement ce qu'est la terre dans l'espace. C'est une petite boule fragile. Ce sujet avait d'ailleurs été traité par Arnold Toynbee dans son Histoire de l'Homme, quand il parle de la fragilité de l'écosphère: "cette petite pellicule d'air et de vapeur qui entoure le globe". Sur cette terre petite et fragile, une espèce, l'espèce humaine, est devenue si forte et si nombreuse et dans un temps si bref, à cause de l'accélération prodigieuse de ses moyens de production et de son rythme démographique, qu'elle constitue une menace pour la continuation même de la vie sur la terre. Et l'Institut World Watch nous met en garde tous les ans dans son State of the World contre les graves dangers qu'entraîne l'affaiblissement de ce qui fait la vie de la planète: les forêts sont de moins en moins importantes, la désertification augmente, ainsi que l'érosion du sol, la réduction de l'ozone et l'augmentation de la température.

Pour répondre de façon adéquate à ces défis mondiaux: l'environnement, le développement, il faut penser à des réponses qui vont au-delà des initiatives que peut réaliser à l'heure actuelle la collaboration internationale. Les accords bilatéraux et multilatéraux sont à même de donner sans aucun doute des résultats très positifs. Mais c'est une voie risquée qui est plutôt une somme des intérêts des politiques nationales, et non pas une synthèse nouvelle de collaboration efficace et confiante pour porter remède de façon générale aux "abus séparés".

Les organisations mondiales et les grandes initiatives au niveau planétaire ont souvent, et dans de nombreux domaines, fait un travail important et très utile. Il est presque superflu, dans cette enceinte, de souligner le rôle précieux de la FAO pour la façon passionnée dont elle a lancé et développé des initiatives de grand intérêt et de grande efficacité dans son domaine d'activité en faveur du développement. Je ne peux que m'associer à ce qu'a dit il y a quelques semaines, le Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, lors de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation et je le cite: "Oui, la FAO a fait et continue à faire du bon travail, mais le manque de moyens et les difficultés de trésorerie sont un obstacle à son action."

Quant aux grandes réalisations intellectuelles, je voudrais rappeler ici le travail de pionnier d'un grand italien aujourd'hui disparu, Aurelio Peccei, honoré également par la FAO qui a frappé une médaille à sa mémoire, et de son Club de Rome, si injustement contesté à l'époque; l'important travail réalisé également par Willy Brandt et sa Commission Nord-Sud; enfin, ce qui a été fait par la Commission mondiale pour l'environnement et le développement, présidée par Mme Brundtland, Commission absolument indépendante et financée sur la base du volontariat, qui de 1983 à 1987 a fait des recherches sur les problèmes d'environnement à l'échelle planétaire.

Grâce à un grand nombre d'entrevues de personnalités scientifiques, culturelles, politiques et du domaine technique accordées à des institutions et des associations publiques et privées, nationales et internationales, qui traitent de l'environnement, réparties dans 23 pays aux quatre coins du monde, la Commission a recueilli une mine d'informations, d'opinions et de données qui éclairent de façon très nette et parfois terrible la situation. Elle a présenté des propositions qui constituent un élément essentiel de la politique de l'environnement. Le rapport a été reconnu pour son importance par le PNUE, d'abord, puis par l'Assemblée générale de l'Organisation des Nations Unies qui a demandé à tous les intéressés de lui donner un "suivi" concret.

Et nous voici arrivés au point le plus difficile: le "suivi". Même dans le cas des organisations mondiales et au-delà de leur volonté et de leur engagement, il est évident, avec le pouvoir politique dont elles disposent, qu'il y a un grand écart entre la dimension et le caractère d'urgence des problèmes et la possibilité de les contrôler par le pouvoir politique. Cela est dû au fait qu'il n'existe pas une politique responsable qui soit à la hauteur du problème, à la hauteur de son interdépendance et de sa complexité, une politique à un niveau systémique supérieur à celui des Etats eux-mêmes. Un gouvernement mondial? Evidemment, cela serait la réponse systémique juste. Mais, aujourd'hui, cela ne peut être - et pour combien de temps encore? - qu'une utopie, encore qu'une utopie séduisante et stimulante. Entre le gouvernement mondial et les ententes fragiles de l'époque actuelle, il y a une voie possible et praticable: c'est la constitution de gouvernements partiels, ad hoc, pour résoudre des problèmes déterminés, peut-être en utilisant certaines des organisations existantes, mais au-delà de leurs mandats qui sont encore trop liés à l'idée de l'aide, qui projette sur les pays bénéficiaires des modèles de productivité et de technologie du monde industrialisé. Cette formule d'instances partielles pourrait être utilisée dans le domaine de l'environnement, pour administrer les grands intérêts communs: les fameux "Commons". Il s'agit d'intérêts qui, par leur nature même, échappent partiellement ou totalement au contrôle des Etats souverains. Le Rapport Brundtland les appelle des "écosystèmes partagés", ou "biens communs mondiaux".

A cette catégorie appartiennent, par exemple, les terres de l'Antarctique, les océans qui couvrent plus de deux tiers de la planète, et naturellement l'espace extra-atmosphérique qui, seulement dans les dernières décennies, est devenu le quatrième grand océan du monde. On a fait sans aucun doute, dans ce domaine, des progrès importants sinon vers une administration commune, tout au moins vers une gestion de ces biens communs sur la base d'un accord: avec la loi de la mer, avec le traité sur l'espace extra-atmosphérique, avec le traité sur l'Antarctique. Le Rapport Brundtland souligne la nécessité de développer ces modalités prometteuses encore qu'insuffisantes en vue d'arriver à une véritable gestion collective.

Si l'on passe du plan des politiques et des institutions à celui de la teneur des questions, et si nous tenons compte des rapports entre les problèmes de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation et ceux de l'environnement, nous constatons le paradoxe suivant: l'agriculture est à la fois la source la plus importante de richesses renouvelables et le secteur d'où proviennent les plus grandes pressions exercées sur l'environnement. C'est un système "construit" mais qui se greffe directement sur le cycle biologique de la nature. S'il n'est pas surchargé, il fonctionne d'une façon qui ressemble beaucoup à un système naturel; mais quand il est surchargé, il est comme une usine qui, évidemment, produit des choses utiles mais également des décharges polluantes et des déchets. Les quatre grands systèmes agricoles mondiaux - comme l'a relevé Jean Mayer à la Conférence McDougall, il y a deux ans - les cultures, les prairies, les forêts et la pêche, sont arrivés à la limite de ce qu'ils peuvent supporter. Et la "révolution verte" est et continuera sans doute pendant plusieurs années à être un processus requérant une quantité énorme de capitaux, d'énergie, de fertilisants et d'eau. Face à cette situation lourde de risques et de préoccupations, il y a celle d'un demi milliard de personnes qui souffrent de la faim, bien qu'il y ait des excédents alimentaires; mais nous savons qu'au niveau mondial, ces excédents sont insignifiants et dérisoires pour qui n'y a pas accès. Les experts nous disent que les nations qui produisent beaucoup d'aliments pourraient nourrir de façon satisfaisante le reste du monde. Mais même où ce mécanisme de répartition pourrait être appliqué, les conséquences sur l'économie agricole et la société des régions pauvres récipiendaires seraient dévastatrices. C'est là un tableau chargé de problèmes et de contradictions dont on ne peut pas sortir si l'on ne pense à une réorientation importante des politiques de développement. Le cas des forêts tropicales en est un exemple.

La sauvegarde des forêts tropicales est l'un des grands objectifs de l'environnement à l'échelle planétaire. C'est un domaine où la politique de l'environnement peut se mesurer aux problèmes de développement au niveau international.

Les forêts tropicales - vous le savez - diminuent de 11 millions d'hectares par an, c'est-à-dire une superficie égale à celle du Benelux, alors que les déserts progressent à la vitesse de 6 millions d'hectares par an et la perte en couches superficielles de terres cultivables s'élève à 26 millions de tonnes par an. Le déboisement menace d'étouffer l'écosphère. Les forêts tropicales constituent une sorte de grand poumon de la terre; elles absorbent le nitrate carbonique et produisent de l'oxygène. Leur destruction provoque une sorte d'emphysème écologique, l'atmosphère est empoisonnée, la température augmente - il s'agit du fameux "effet serre" - et en plus, il y a un bouleversement des bassins versants et la destruction d'un million d'espèces animales et végétales prévue pour la fin du siècle.

Pourquoi détruit-on les forêts? Pour deux raisons: d'abord la pression démographique et la commercialisation du bois. Les paysans pauvres du tiers monde qui vivent d'une agriculture extensive de subsistance, déboisent et cultivent des terres qui sont normalement couvertes de forêts, terres qu'ils épuisent rapidement, parce qu'elles ne contiennent pas beaucoup de substances nutritives et qui deviennent des savanes poussiéreuses. Avec le bois des forêts tropicales ainsi dévastées exporté dans les pays industrialisés, les pays du tiers monde obtiennent une partie des devises qui leur permettent de rembourser leur dette. C'est ainsi que l'on fait la plus mauvaise utilisation possible de ressources d'une importance colossale. Pour payer les intérêts de leur dette, les pays pauvres détruisent leur capital écologique, s'appauvrissant davantage et portant préjudice à l'équilibre écologique du monde entier. Il y a quelque temps, dans un article, l'Economist calculait que la possibilité d'évaluer les biotopes encore inconnus des forêts tropicales dans le domaine médical pourrait donner à elle seule des richesses supérieures à celles que l'on recueille actuellement de la vente du bois et des cultures des terres déboisées. Il faudrait évidemment pour cela un travail de recherche structuré et bien financé.

Que fait-on pour arrêter ce processus pervers? Et que peut-on faire de plus? On fait quelque chose mais ce que l'on fait est évidemment encore bien insuffisant quant au rythme et aux moyens. L'initiative la plus importante est le Plan d'action forestier tropical. Si cette opération à laquelle participent aussi la Banque Mondiale, le PNUE, le JURC représente -le Secrétaire à l'agriculture des Etats-unis, Clayton Yeutter, l'a rappelé dans l'intervention qu'il a faite aux Nations Unies à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, le 17 octobre dernier - un remarquable exemple d'action coordonnée en vue de promouvoir la conservation des forêts, la reforestation et le développement des activités agroforestières, nous le devons à l'initiative et au rôle de coordination de la FAO.

On a également créé une Organisation internationale des bois tropicaux, dont le siège est à Yokohama, au Japon, qui vise à rationaliser le commerce des bois. Mais il faut constater ici que, tout d'abord, très souvent les accords internationaux sont en contradiction flagrante avec les politiques nationales (politiques fiscales, financières et administratives, qui encouragent une utilisation rapide des ressources forestières et une agriculture de rapine); et deuxièmement, les accords internationaux ne sont pas pourvus d'une structure d'exécution dotée des ressources financières et des pouvoirs politiques appropriés pour attaquer directement la cause de ce problème.

Que peut-on faire de plus? En premier lieu, il faut essayer de trouver les moyens à la hauteur du problème. Il faut utiliser ces moyens d'une façon nouvelle en cherchant d'autres méthodes de développement qui aillent au-delà de cette vieille conception de "l'aide au développement", comme du reste le fait déjà la FAO. Et il faut ajouter à cela une formule qui permette d'éponger la dette extérieure, comme cela a été proposé.

La question des forêts tropicales, que j'ai voulu rappeler vu l'importance qu'elle revêt pour l'environnement, nous renvoie à un problème plus général: ce qui doit changer dans les rapports Nord-Sud, surtout dans le domaine de l'agriculture, dans une optique générale et intégrée du développement "soutenu" au niveau mondial.



Il faut partir de l'énorme importance des besoins alimentaires et d'une amélioration des conditions de vie dans les régions les moins développées où seront concentrés 90 à 95% de la population mondiale dans les prochaines décennies (environ trois milliards de personnes en plus, en 2025). Comment pourra-t-on satisfaire cette demande croissante et avec quelles conséquences pour l'environnement? Les points critiques sont représentés par le poids, qui est devenu absolument intolérable, de la dette extérieure qui étouffe actuellement les perspectives de développement des pays les plus faibles; le maintien de politiques protectionnistes qui font obstacle au commerce international des produits alimentaires dans les pays en développement; et le fait que l'on manque d'infrastructures, de moyens de transport et de technologies dans les pays les moins développés, ce qui entraîne un gaspillage des ressources même dans des conditions de pénurie, un manque d'efficacité et des effets destructeurs sur l'environnement.

Il existe déjà des indices positifs d'une meilleure façon de répondre aux besoins des pays les moins développés, en particulier pour ce qui est de la dette extérieure. Mais si l'on considère surtout les incidences sur l'environnement, il ne s'agit pas seulement de redonner vie aux mécanismes de développement, mais d'intervenir sur les modalités et la qualité du développement; et cela non seulement dans les régions les plus faibles mais aussi - et surtout, pour bien des raisons - dans les pays qui ont les revenus les plus élevés.

Et c'est ici que l'augmentation importante des biens et services et d'un bien-être matériel incomparable a eu pour conséquence un gaspillage de ressources, une pollution et une accumulation de déchets sans précédent découlant de l'utilisation incontrôlée de matières premières provenant du sol et du sous-sol ainsi que d'autres ressources de l'environnement. C'est là que l'accélération des cycles de production agricole produit des excédents et de la pollution.

Les technologies utilisées sont trop souvent des technologies lourdes, qui accentuent la productivité du travail en diminuant la productivité des ressources: matières premières, sources d'énergie non renouvelable, végétation et territoire. Si l'on veut arriver à concilier développement et environnement, il faut faire un grand effort de recherche de technologies nouvelles compatibles avec l'environnement. Dans le domaine de l'agriculture, on peut beaucoup attendre d'un bon développement des biotechnologies.

Le transfert des technologies est l'un des points clé de cet effort d'équilibre qui doit caractériser les nouveaux rapports Nord-Sud, mais sans oublier que les technologies adoptées dans un pays développé ne sont pas toujours valables pour un pays en voie de développement. Les technologies doivent être déterminées en fonction des besoins et du type d'organisation productive et sociale du pays où elles sont introduites.

L'Italie aujourd'hui s'est finalement mise à développer une politique d'environnement progressiste fondée non seulement sur une action de sauvegarde et de réparation de l'environnement, mais de prévention et d'orientation du développement et de l'environnement, action qui engage d'importantes dépenses publiques. On est passé de 0,6 à 0,7 pour cent du produit intérieur brut en 1987 et nous arrivons maintenant, en deux ans, à 1 pour cent. Cette action de sauvegarde et de réparation trouve sa place, dans notre plan triennal, par le biais d'un certain nombre de projets de

programme et d'action et de réparation ayant pour but l'assainissement du Pô, de la lagune de Vénétie, de l'Adriatique, des zones métropolitaines, de conservation des parcs et réserves et du développement du milieu' surtout dans le sud.

En dehors de cette action de sauvegarde nous voulons faire des prévisions à dix ans et créer une sorte de grille territoriale de référence, donnant une vision globale des conditions du territoire, permettant de voir quelles sont les conséquences sur l'environnement et le territoire, des activités de production, de l'habitat, de tout ce qui modifie l'environnement, ainsi que des méthodes de production et de consommation; nous voulons faire une sorte de comptabilité des secteurs où l'impact est le plus fort. Enfin, par la création d'une taxe sur l'environnement nous voudrions susciter l'initiative de la protection du milieu; cette taxe aurait 'pour base le fait que le marché par lui-même ne doit pas gaspiller les ressources naturelles; le marché ne répercute pas sur les prix la valeur de l'environnement qui est un bien libre.

Aujourd'hui, la méthode utilisée pour l'administration des ressources de l'environnement est basée sur une réglementation directe, sur des normes et des limites. Mais nous voulons faire mieux et aller dans le sens de l'encouragement et de la dissuasion fiscale. La méthode de la simulation des prix permettrait d'incorporer dans ces derniers les conséquences de la fabrication des produits sur le milieu, et la protection de l'environnement. Ainsi donc, dans la loi de finances, nous avons demandé au gouvernement d'introduire toute une série de mesures d'encouragement et de dissuasion dans le but du développement de la protection de l'environnement. C'est un véritable tournant dans la politique de l'environnement qui, je pense, trouvera son écho au niveau international.

Et c'est tout particulièrement au niveau international qu'il faut traiter de ce problème car c'est véritablement à partir de cela que l'on arrivera à un développement ordonné, mettant les divers pays dans les mêmes conditions concurrentielles.

C'est également la raison pour laquelle nous voulons présenter une proposition à la Communauté économique européenne, proposition qui serait la conséquence logique des mesures que nous introduisons en Italie; nous connaissons l'importance primordiale des grands problèmes qui existent à l'échelle internationale et mondiale sur cette question de la protection de l'environnement. Nous participons dans un esprit de solidarité à toutes les initiatives de protection de l'ozone, des forêts tropicales, plans de la Méditerranée et normes de la CEE, toujours dans le but d'une meilleure protection de l'environnement.

Je voudrais conclure, Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur Général, Mesdames, Messieurs, par quelques brèves réflexions sur les aspects qui nous donnent des espérances dans le domaine de l'environnement. En effet, dans un tel domaine, il n'y a pas seulement des menaces, des catastrophes et des rappels pour cette sauvegarde, il n'y a pas seulement à rappeler les freins et les interdictions, il y a également le refus d'une certaine croissance purement quantitative et qui détruit l'écologie, la biosphère, et les bases sociales de la solidarité.

Une politique de l'environnement doit nous permettre de répondre à un développement différent, en partant de technologies plus sobres et plus intelligentes par une plus grande solidarité sociale.

Bien évidemment il faut que les questions et les réponses se fassent de façon logique, qu'elles soient nettes et qu'on n'utilise pas l'environnement au nom de politiques de déstabilisation, en direction d'idéologies fondamentalistes, visant à une sorte de paradis mythique aboutissant à une nouvelle forme d'antihumanisme.

Nous ne comptons pas sur un développement niant les apports de la technique, de la technologie et de la recherche scientifique d'un bien-être matériel; nous ne nions en aucun cas les valeurs de l'Occident. En deux ans l'Occident a eu raison de fêter la démocratie, la révolution industrielle et la révolution technologique; tout cela a permis d'amener l'humanité à un bien-être qu'il n'avait jamais connu, mais il est également bien clair que l'on ne peut pas continuer un développement qui détruit les ressources écologiques de base.

La question de l'environnement ne se réduit pas au traitement des déchets, ni à des questions de technologie, de recyclage ou d'utilisation d'énergies renouvelables; il s'agit non seulement de la façon d'utiliser les ressources, mais plus encore de la façon dont on conçoit la vie sociale; personne ne peut nier l'apport qu'a eu une concurrence agressive sur l'incroyable développement de la civilisation occidentale; mais trop souvent il en a coûté à d'autres pays, à d'autres civilisations, et par rapport aux ressources de la biosphère ces aspects ont trop souvent été négligés.

Mais une chose est certaine, dans le monde actuel de l'interdépendance, des comportements purement agressifs et concurrentiels entre les hommes pour les ressources de la planète ne mèneraient qu'à la ruine.

La question de l'environnement soulève aussi une question déguisée de solidarité.

Toute nouvelle civilisation impliquera non seulement une augmentation des ressources matérielles dont disposera l'humanité, mais une distribution plus équitable et une utilisation plus intelligente de ses biens. Et, comme disait Stuart Mills, "le faire pour cultiver les grâces de la vie".

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, Mr Ruffolo, for your very thoughtful, challenging and informative lecture. I will call upon the representative of Australia, the home country of Mr McDougall, to respond to your words.

**Geoffrey Lee MILLER (Australia):** It is my very pleasant duty to respond to the extraordinarily profound address that we have just heard from the Italian Minister for Environment, His Excellency Giorgio Ruffolo. It is fitting that the address in honour of the late Frank McDougall should be given by a Minister of the host government of the FAO on a subject so

crucial to the future of food and agriculture and of the FAO, namely sustainable development. It is a great privilege for me as a professional bureaucrat to respond to that address in memory of a professional bureaucrat from Australia, namely Frank McDougall, with an Australian Minister in the chair of this Conference. But I do not wish to eulogize Frank McDougall. It is my view that the address in itself is an adequate testimony to his key role in articulating a vision for this Organization. A vision that has become a reality through the work of many others, and I might mention there, an American President and his First Lady, Eleanor and Franklin D. Roosevelt. But in recalling the work of our founding fathers and mothers, Mr Chairman, I do wish to comment on the circumstances surrounding the creation of this great institution, the FAO, and the circumstances it faces today. The FAO was conceived during the great depression. It gestated during World War II; it was born as hostilities ended in 1945. It was then nurtured as an infant through the balance of payments crises of the early post-war period and through the Cold War, yet it has recorded 44 years of outstanding achievement as an adult. As do many of us in our mid-40s, Mr Chairman, FAO has been facing some difficult mid-life problems, but the 1980s have been difficult times for all of us in the fields of agricultural policy and economic development. Many of the gains of the 1970s have been lost in the 1980s, whether we look at the balance of economic development in the world, or the numbers of starving and malnourished people, or the efficiency and coherence of world agricultural markets, or the ecological sustainability of our production systems, we have very great challenges ahead of us.

But let us reflect on the challenges facing the founders of this great Organization 44 years ago. They faced those difficulties with a clear choice. They could choose recrimination for past and continuing wrongs, and they would have had just cause, or they could subjugate their differences and emphasize the common good. These are the same choices we face here in this Conference over the next couple of weeks.

Your address, Mr Minister, has reminded us yet again of the common goals that we share and of the potential benefits of clearly focusing on the common good, especially in relation to the fragility of the ecosphere, and the work of Mrs Brundtland and her Commission, a Commission which has again shown that international cooperation can achieve substantial progress in providing world leadership. At the same time, emphasizing the complexity of the effective follow-up that we now face.

Mr Chairman, as we applaud Minister Ruffolo for his fine address, let us also applaud the vision of our founding fathers and mothers, including Frank McDougall, and let us resolve to keep our focus clearly on what we can achieve by pursuing our common interest together here in the FAO.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, would you now join with me in expressing our sincere appreciation to Minister Ruffolo.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much. Ministers, distinguished delegates, the Director-General will now deliver his statement to the Conference.

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

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs. Que s'est-il passé dans le monde depuis la dernière session de notre Conférence? Le tourbillon des grands événements politiques, des découvertes de la science, des faits de société, des catastrophes naturelles ne doit pas nous dissimuler un phénomène dont on pourrait difficilement s'exagérer les conséquences; en deux ans, du 1er novembre 1987 au 1er novembre 1989, la population du globe a augmenté de 178 millions d'unités.

Songez-y: 178 millions de bouches à nourrir en plus; et 90 pour cent de ces vies nouvelles, de ces destinées nouvelles, de ces besoins nouveaux sont apparus dans les pays en développement - c'est-à-dire les plus pauvres, les moins bien armés pour faire face à pareil afflux. De plus, quels que soient les efforts déployés pour y mettre un frein, cette croissance exponentielle n'est pas à la veille de s'arrêter; en l'an 2000, nous serons plus de 6 milliards.

Voilà qui ne peut manquer d'entraîner des répercussions d'une portée immense; en particulier, l'action, les orientations, la mission, la vie même de notre Organisation vont profondément s'en ressentir - en fait, s'en ressentent déjà. Avec cette augmentation impressionnante du nombre de ceux qui ont et auront besoin de ses services, la FAO voit grandir ses responsabilités: d'une part, l'agriculture va devoir couvrir les besoins alimentaires de ces masses humaines supplémentaires; d'autre part, en grande majorité, ceux qui viennent grossir l'effectif de la population appartiennent au monde rural.

Quels sont les autres éléments principaux de la situation au moment où s'ouvre la 25ème session de la Conférence? En premier lieu, une évolution rapide et très frappante des rapports entre l'Est et l'Ouest. Ce n'est pas seulement la détente et l'atténuation des conflits, c'est l'aube de la coopération, l'ouverture politique et économique "tous azimuts". Cette ouverture se manifeste notamment par un changement décisif dans l'attitude de l'URSS à l'égard des institutions du Système des Nations Unies: n'a-t-elle pas proclamé, du haut de la tribune de l'ONU, son intention d'adhérer à l'ensemble de ces institutions, et en particulier à la FAO? Nous nous réjouissons de cette perspective; en effet, l'immense Union soviétique, avec ses 280 millions d'habitants et son territoire de 22 millions de km<sup>2</sup>, joue un rôle de tout premier plan dans l'agriculture mondiale; de toute évidence, c'est seulement lorsque cette grande nation aura décidé d'exercer son droit à devenir membre de la FAO que notre Organisation pourra réaliser sa vocation à l'universalité.

D'autres signes attestent tout aussi vigoureusement l'intérêt que suscite notre Organisation et l'importance que l'on attache à son action: ainsi, la Communauté économique européenne a exprimé le désir de devenir membre de plein exercice; des discussions préparatoires se poursuivent sur cette question aussi délicate qu'importante.

A côté de ces éléments positifs, il faut bien reconnaître que d'autres aspects de la conjoncture donnent lieu à de graves inquiétudes. Comme chacun sait, la crise économique persiste; elle n'épargne pas nombre de pays développés, qui connaissent des problèmes d'inflation, de chômage, de déficits budgétaires. Les agriculteurs en pâtissent; mais, soit dit sans minimiser leurs difficultés, c'est leur niveau de bien-être et non pas leur survie qui se trouve menacé, contrairement à ce qui se passe dans les pays en développement. Les pays industrialisés ont pu prendre certaines mesures pour protéger leurs agriculteurs; nous le verrons, ces mesures sont en même temps lourdes de conséquences pour les économies agricoles des pays du tiers monde.

Pour les pays en développement, au contraire, il n'est pas question de subventionner leur agriculture, qui constitue pourtant la base de leur économie. Ils exportent surtout des matières premières et des produits tropicaux, qui représentent leur principale source de recettes en devises, et donc le principal moyen dont ils disposent pour financer leurs importations, notamment d'intrants agricoles. Or, les cours de ces denrées - en particulier ceux du café, du cacao, du sucre - sont tombés à des niveaux si bas que parfois le prix de vente ne couvre même plus les cours de production. Comment, dans ces conditions, les pays en cause pourraient-ils se libérer de l'endettement qui les étouffe? De plus, leur production vivrière est souvent insuffisante, et la facture de leurs importations céréalières ne cesse de s'alourdir. Dans la seule année 1987, les pays avancés ont dépensé pour la protection de leur agriculture la somme colossale de 290 milliards de dollars E.-U.! Cette politique gêne bien entendu les importations en provenance des pays pauvres. Dans le même temps, l'aide publique au développement diminue; en 1987, les pays de l'OCDE ne lui ont consacré que 42 milliards de dollars E.-U., soit 0,35 pour cent de leur PNB, c'est-à-dire la moitié à peine de l'objectif internationalement accepté. L'aide alimentaire régresse elle aussi: son volume est tombé à 7 millions de tonnes. Même si des pays créanciers ont effacé certaines dettes (notamment au bénéfice de pays africains), le problème de l'endettement demeure très grave, et la hausse des taux d'intérêt ne fait rien pour l'atténuer.

Le résultat, c'est que, depuis trois ans, les pays en développement connaissent un flux de capitaux négatif; autrement dit, ils envoient vers les pays développés plus d'argent qu'ils n'en reçoivent de ces derniers. En 1988, par exemple, la différence - c'est-à-dire le solde négatif des flux de capitaux - s'est élevé à 43 milliards de dollars E.-U.! Les pays pauvres sont en train de se vider de leur sang.

Trop souvent, les efforts entrepris pour remédier à la situation demeurent vains. Je pense en particulier au Fonds commun des Nations Unies pour les produits de base, dont la CNUCED avait lancé l'idée dès 1976 et qui n'a toujours pas commencé à fonctionner. Rappelons qu'il s'agissait de créer un fonds de 500 millions de dollars E.-U. qui consentirait des prêts à des organismes importateurs et exportateurs pour leur permettre de gérer des stocks régulateurs en vue de stabiliser les cours des matières premières.

Aujourd'hui, on peut espérer que des accords de produits finiront par se matérialiser, mais il faut bien se rendre compte que les sommes prévues à l'origine sont devenues dérisoires.

Autre problème de première grandeur et qui affecte aussi bien les pays industrialisés que les pays en développement: la dégradation de l'environnement. Chez les premiers, c'est la production intensive dans les domaines de l'énergie, des industries et de l'agriculture qui provoque une pollution catastrophique de l'atmosphère, des eaux et de la terre elle-même. A force de vouloir réaliser un maximum de profit immédiat et satisfaire tous les besoins d'une société de surconsommation, l'homme a déclenché contre la nature une véritable guerre chimique, voire nucléaire. Dans le tiers monde, la nécessité de nourrir des populations toujours plus nombreuses provoque une surexploitation des terres, un empiétement des cultures sur des sols de plus en plus marginaux, la destruction massive des forêts tropicales; à une cadence uniformément accélérée, de telles pratiques mènent à l'érosion, à la dégradation irréversible des terres, à la désertification. Les conférences internationales se succèdent, les déclarations se multiplient, mais en pratique le monde s'obstine dans son comportement suicidaire. Tout se passe comme si la richesse aussi bien que la pauvreté rendaient l'homme incapable de voir plus loin que l'immédiat, de gérer sagement les ressources de la planète en les ménageant pour les générations futures. On dirait que, dans notre rage de tirer tout le parti possible de l'espace, nous sommes en train de perdre le sens du temps.

Dès lors, il n'est pas étonnant que le nombre des mal nourris ne diminue pas, bien au contraire. Notre dernière Enquête mondiale sur l'alimentation estimait qu'ils étaient 500 millions; aujourd'hui, ce chiffre est sans doute au-dessous de la réalité. Or, au niveau global, il n'y a pas de pénurie d'aliments; si des centaines de millions d'êtres humains sont mal nourris ou sous-alimentés, c'est parce qu'ils sont pauvres. L'aide ne peut éliminer la pauvreté; seule une participation équitable à l'activité économique et aux échanges pourra la faire vraiment reculer. Le fait est que les pays en développement n'ont pas une part suffisante du commerce mondial. Il faut souhaiter ardemment que les négociations de l'Uruguay Round leur permettent de bénéficier d'une part accrue du commerce d'exportation.

Ayant ainsi esquissé à grands traits certains aspects de la conjoncture mondiale qui me paraissent primordiaux, je voudrais maintenant évoquer la situation de notre Organisation telle qu'elle se présente en cette fin de l'année 1989.

Le plus grave des problèmes auxquels la FAO ait à faire face provient d'une situation financière sans précédent. Les contributions impayées pour l'année 1989 se montent à 80 millions de dollars E.-U.; les arriérés des années précédentes s'élèvent à 94 793 000 dollars E.-U.; au total, ce sont donc près de 175 millions de dollars qui ne sont pas rentrés dans nos caisses. Ces arriérés constituent un dû que les Etats Membres intéressés n'ont pas le pouvoir d'effacer. Malheureusement, je n'ai jusqu'ici pu obtenir aucune indication quant à la date et aux modalités de leur paiement.

Dès 1976, j'avais entrepris d'éliminer les dépenses inutiles et les éléments à faible priorité; depuis, j'ai poursuivi sans relâche mes efforts dans ce sens. Dans ces conditions, une réduction de nos ressources aussi forte que celle dont je viens de parler affecte inévitablement la réalisation de notre programme. De fait, sur trois ans, il nous a fallu réduire de 68 millions de dollars E.-U. nos activités et les services que nous fournissons à nos Etats Membres. Alors que la diffusion de l'information est une des missions fondamentales de la FAO, notre programme de publications est réduit à sa plus simple expression, et nos revues ne paraissent plus: Cérès, Unasylva, la Revue mondiale de zootechnie et d'autres encore, qui servaient à répandre les connaissances et à former dans l'opinion l'image même de la FAO. Le

multilinguisme sans lequel il n'est pas d'organisation vraiment internationale se trouve menacé, notamment par la suppression de la formation linguistique du personnel. Nous avons dû supprimer un grand nombre de réunions, pourtant si nécessaires à la concertation entre Etats Membres qui est à la base même de notre Organisation; notre action touchant les transferts de technologie a elle-même subi de sérieuses réductions. On le voit, il ne s'agit pas; de bois mort que nous pourrions couper sans dommage; du bois mort, il n'y en a plus depuis longtemps; hélas, nous taillons dans le vif.

Ces conditions très pénibles ont précipité dans une phase critique une difficulté à laquelle nous nous heurtons depuis des années. Je veux parler de la pression constante d'un certain nombre de pays qui ne sont pas favorables à l'expansion des activités, non seulement à la FAO, mais dans tout le système des Nations Unies. Nous ne connaissons pratiquement aucune croissance depuis huit ou neuf ans alors que les besoins ne cessent d'augmenter. En raison de l'accroissement démographique et de divers autres facteurs que j'évoquais tout à l'heure, nos Etats Membres font de plus en plus appel à nous pour obtenir des services plus consistants et plus diversifiés. Un autre fait milite contre le déni de croissance qui nous est imposé: ni l'agriculture ni le développement rural ne sont des sciences exactes, et les données des problèmes à résoudre évoluent sans cesse. Jamais nous ne pouvons considérer un sujet comme épuisé, une question comme définitivement réglée. Qu'il s'agisse de problèmes techniques ou de problèmes humains et les deux sont étroitement imbriqués - nous n'en avons jamais fini; il nous faut constamment chercher des voies nouvelles, renouveler notre optique et nos efforts. C'est là une des raisons qui font que la FAO n'est pas une mécanique, mais un organisme vivant et donc soumis à une dynamique de croissance.

Quoi qu'il en soit, j'ai fait le maximum pour gérer la situation avec réalisme. Grâce à une gestion saine et prudente, notre navire a pu tant bien que mal tenir la mer et garder son cap, bien que ses superstructures aient subi de graves dégâts, qu'il ait fallu colmater des voies d'eau et que le combustible soit presque épuisé. J'ai même réussi jusqu'à présent à m'abstenir d'utiliser la faculté d'emprunter que la Conférence m'avait donnée.

Les considérations qui précèdent ne sauraient manquer de colorer la réflexion que la Conférence va consacrer à deux sujets de première importance: d'une part, le Programme de travail et budget 1990-1991, et d'autre part l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO. Plus qu'aucune autre, ces deux questions appellent des décisions à prendre par accord général, car l'avenir de l'Organisation va largement en dépendre. Vous le savez, je suis un partisan résolu du consensus, qui est pour moi un véritable credo; sauf dans les cas où un vote est obligatoire, je souhaiterais que toutes les décisions soient prises ainsi, dans un climat de concorde et d'harmonie. En particulier, ce souci m'a constamment inspiré dans l'élaboration de mes propositions budgétaires. Je ne saurais citer de meilleure preuve des efforts déployés dans ce sens que la démarche suivie cette année pour la préparation du Programme de travail et budget; nous avons en effet multiplié les possibilités offertes aux Etats Membres de s'exprimer et, au besoin, d'infléchir les orientations proposées.

Nous avons commencé par soumettre au Comité du programme et au Comité financier, dès le mois de janvier, un avant-projet, un bref schéma traçant les principales orientations envisagées et indiquant le niveau budgétaire que je comptais utiliser dans la préparation de mes propositions. Compte



tenu des observations des comités, nous avons ensuite établi le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, qui a été examiné au printemps par les Comités de l'agriculture et des pêches pour les parties relevant de leur compétence, puis par le Comité du programme et le Comité financier, et enfin par le Conseil à sa session de juin. Compte dûment tenu, là encore, des avis qu'ils avaient exprimés, nous avons rédigé la version complète et définitive du document, qui a été lui aussi scruté, examiné par les deux comités, et le Conseil, avant d'être soumis, dans quelques jours, à l'examen de la Commission II. A ma connaissance, aucune autre organisation du système des Nations Unies ne passe les propositions budgétaires à un crible aussi minutieux. Au terme d'un tel parcours, après de tels efforts pour que tous les points de vue soient pris en compte, ne serait-il pas simplement normal que le Programme de travail et budget soit adopté, je l'espère, par consensus?

Les priorités que nous avons choisies ont reçu l'aval des organes délibérants; nous sommes donc assurés qu'elles reflètent les préoccupations majeures des Etats Membres. Nous avons estimé les augmentations de coûts avec la plus grande circonspection, et nous nous sommes efforcés d'en absorber un maximum. Ainsi, je n'ai pas inclus dans mes prévisions les 3 millions de dollars E.-U. que représente l'accroissement des coûts pour consultants, voyages officiels et reclassements de postes. Si donc, en apparence, mes propositions comportent une très modeste augmentation de programme de 5,5 millions de dollars E.-U., soit un pour cent, l'augmentation nette se trouve ramenée, par l'absorption de ces 3 millions, à 2,5 millions, c'est-à-dire 0,45 pour cent. De plus, je suis à peu près sûr que ces 2,5 millions seront complètement érodés, mangés par la progression des coûts durant les deux années à venir.

Mon plus grand regret, c'est de ne pouvoir répondre aux aspirations des pays qui auraient légitimement souhaité une augmentation beaucoup plus forte, ne serait-ce que pour rattraper le retard pris ces dernières années. Je connais leurs besoins et je déplore de ne pouvoir leur donner satisfaction, mais j'espère qu'ils conviendront avec moi que nous devons tout faire pour assurer une adoption consensuelle, unanime de notre Programme de travail et budget.

L' "Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO", pour reprendre les termes de la résolution 6/87 de la Conférence, a constitué l'un des principaux exercices qui ont mobilisé nos énergies pendant le biennium 1988-1989. Il s'agissait, je le rappelle, de rechercher les moyens de renforcer la FAO afin qu'elle puisse continuer de jouer son rôle de chef de file dans l'agriculture, les pêches et les forêts à l'échelle mondiale, et de relever les défis des années 1990 et au-delà avec plus de force et d'efficacité. La Conférence avait confié le soin de mener cette étude au Comité du programme et au Comité financier, assistés si nécessaire par des experts. Parallèlement, à mon initiative, une étude de gestion a été réalisée par des consultants extérieurs. Les résultats de cette vaste entreprise, qui nous a coûté quelque 2 millions de dollars, sont consignés dans les documents dont la Conférence est saisie et sur lesquels elle est appelée à se prononcer en dernier ressort.

Deux millions de dollars, c'est une somme considérable, surtout dans les circonstances difficiles que nous traversons. Les consultants, les experts, les comités - et aussi, permettez-moi de le dire, le Secrétariat - ont fait un travail extrêmement sérieux. Au terme de ce cheminement, l'accord s'est fait sur pratiquement toutes les recommandations; il est éminemment souhaitable que la Conférence parvienne elle aussi à un accord unanime, et c'est afin de favoriser ce consensus que j'ai souscrit aux conclusions et recommandations des comités.

Un obstacle majeur subsiste: les experts avaient souligné qu'une majoration des ressources de la FAO serait extrêmement souhaitable, et les comités ont reconnu que la mise en oeuvre des recommandations entraînerait des coûts supplémentaires; cependant, ils n'ont pas indiqué comment le financement devrait être assuré. Avant d'aborder cette question, je voudrais évoquer certaines activités nouvelles qui me paraissent revêtir une importance particulière.

Il me faut tout d'abord m'arrêter un instant sur les opérations de terrain, que j'avais moi-même proposé d'inclure dans l'Examen. Non seulement les comités ont approuvé cet élargissement, mais leurs conclusions sur les recommandations des experts ouvrent des perspectives nouvelles. Je pense en particulier à la recommandation de créer un service d'identification/ formulation des projets, qui donnerait à notre travail de terrain plus de souplesse et de pertinence. Je pense à la recommandation de nommer immédiatement des chargés de projets supplémentaires et du personnel de soutien technique pour aider nos fonctionnaires surchargés à faire face aux besoins. Je pense à l'idée de renforcer l'inspection des opérations de terrain, et aussi à la proposition d'étoffer et équiper nos représentations dans les pays, qui rejoint tout à fait mes propres préoccupations. J'y ajoute une question mentionnée par les experts mais non traitée par les comités, à savoir l'opportunité d'offrir à notre personnel technique des possibilités de se recycler. J'en suis persuadé, la mise en oeuvre de telles recommandations ne pourrait que contribuer à l'indispensable renforcement de notre capacité de répondre aux immenses besoins de nos Etats Membres.

Les comités ont estimé, comme les experts, qu'il y avait lieu de développer la coopération de la FAO avec la Banque mondiale, notamment par des consultations périodiques entre hauts fonctionnaires des deux organisations. Je suis heureux de vous annoncer qu'en vue de mieux informer la Banque sur nos activités et d'intensifier notre coopération, j'ai d'ores et déjà engagé un dialogue permanent avec elle sous forme de réunions périodiques.

Dans le même ordre d'idées, j'ai pu le mois dernier jeter avec M. Camdessus, Directeur général du Fonds monétaire international, les bases d'une coopération élargie entre nos deux organisations touchant les programmes d'ajustement structurel. Le FMI souhaite que la FAO puisse, dans l'élaboration de ces programmes, faire bénéficier les pays intéressés et le FMI lui-même de son expertise et de son expérience en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture, notamment pour les questions relatives à la sécurité alimentaire, à la nutrition, à l'élimination de la pauvreté rurale, à la commercialisation et au crédit. Comme dans le cas des relations avec la Banque mondiale, nous avons désigné des fonctionnaires qui serviront de points focaux et se réuniront une fois par an pour échanger des informations sur les questions d'intérêt commun.

Au total, nous avons estimé à 26 750 000 dollars le montant des dépenses supplémentaires qu'entraînerait la mise en oeuvre de toutes les recommandations entérinées par les comités si elles étaient entérinées par la Conférence. Que représente cette somme par comparaison avec les pertes que nous avons subies ces dernières années? De plus - et surtout - n'est-elle pas incroyablement modeste si l'on songe à l'ampleur des besoins résultant de l'accroissement démographique, des autres problèmes que j'évoquais tout à l'heure, et des ouvertures nouvelles dont certaines sont prodigieuses, par exemple dans le domaine des biotechnologies? Soyons réalistes: cette somme représente simplement une base pour l'expansion qui sera indispensable afin de nous préparer à faire face efficacement aux défis de l'an 2000. J'ai prévu trois catégories de dépenses, par ordre de priorité et selon qu'elles pourraient être financées par le Budget ordinaire ou par des fonds extrabudgétaires. En tout état de cause - et je veux être parfaitement clair sur ce point - je ne saurais en aucun cas préconiser le financement de ces dépenses par des ajustements de programme qui auraient inévitablement pour effet de mutiler des activités dont nos Etats Membres ont si grand besoin et qui font l'objet de demandes pressantes de leur part.

La Conférence peut, je crois, s'estimer satisfaite de la façon dont sa résolution 6/87 a été mise en oeuvre. Elle est maintenant saisie de documents substantiels et qui font le tour de la question. Je suis persuadé que, dans sa sagesse, elle saura en tirer pleinement parti pour mener un débat clair, loyal et bien circonscrit, et aboutir ainsi, dans la sérénité et sans digressions inutiles, à des décisions fécondes pour l'avenir de l'Organisation.

Permettez-moi d'évoquer encore, très brièvement, trois points qui figurent à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence et qui méritent de retenir tout particulièrement l'attention.

D'une part, je voudrais rappeler l'importance fondamentale que revêt le Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural, qui fait l'objet du point 11. Je suis heureux de signaler que nous avons fait ce que la Conférence attendait de nous et que, pour l'exercice 1990-1991, nous avons majoré les ressources affectées au sous-programme pertinent; le Comité du Programme nous en a du reste exprimé sa satisfaction.

D'autre part, nous poursuivons avec toute la vigueur possible les travaux en vue de l'introduction du principe de l'information et du consentement préalables dans le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides (point 10 de l'ordre du jour); nous voyons dans une telle clause un instrument de première importance pour la protection sanitaire et écologique des pays en développement.

Votre ordre du jour fait aussi mention d'une Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. La mission fondamentale de la FAO est de libérer l'humanité de la faim. Or, dans un contexte d'abondance mondiale, comme je le disais en commençant, des centaines de millions de nos semblables souffrent encore de sous-alimentation et de sous-nutrition. En termes de vies humaines, de souffrance, d'infirmités, d'arriération mentale, le prix est effrayant. Quand on évoque ce problème, on pense d'abord au tiers monde; mais la faim et la malnutrition sévissent aussi dans les pays développés, en particulier à la périphérie et dans certains quartiers des grandes villes. Inversement, les nantis sont menacés par la suralimentation et les régimes déséquilibrés.

Contrairement à d'autres grandes questions économiques et sociales, ce problème à la fois brûlant et universel n'a encore jamais fait l'objet d'une véritable Conférence internationale. C'est ce qui a conduit le Sous-Comité du CAC sur la nutrition au niveau politique - qui comprend les représentants de plusieurs agences et organisations des Nations Unies - à proposer la convocation d'une telle Conférence. Notre Conseil a souscrit à cette idée, sur laquelle vous êtes maintenant appelés à vous prononcer d'une façon définitive.

La Conférence envisagée aurait pour buts d'identifier les problèmes, d'y sensibiliser l'opinion, d'élaborer une stratégie, de mobiliser les ressources nécessaires, et de mettre en place un système mondial d'information sur ces problèmes. Organisée conjointement par la FAO et l'OMS en coopération avec d'autres institutions internationales intéressées, elle se tiendrait pendant l'exercice 1992-1993, vraisemblablement à Rome. Je ne doute pas que la Conférence étudiera cette proposition avec tout l'intérêt qu'elle mérite.

Je voudrais dire également quelques mots de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, que nous avons célébrée pour la neuvième fois le mois dernier. Une fois de plus, nous avons pu constater que, par la décision qu'elle avait prise en 1979 d'instituer cette journée, la Conférence a donné naissance à un événement mondial de grande portée. En effet, c'est sur toute l'étendue de la planète que se déroulent des manifestations qui commémorent la fondation de la FAO et célèbrent la fête mondiale du paysannat. Cette année, nous avons choisi comme thème de la Journée une question d'un intérêt brûlant pour les pays industrialisés comme pour les pays en développement, à savoir: "Alimentation et environnement "... Au cours de la cérémonie organisée ici même le 16 octobre, nous avons pu entendre plusieurs interventions remarquables, et en particulier un exposé extrêmement stimulant de M. Lubbers, Premier Ministre du Royaume des Pays-Bas. Le lendemain, lors d'une cérémonie tenue au Siège des Nations Unies à New York, M. Yeutter, Secrétaire à l'agriculture des Etats-Unis, prononçait un discours d'une lucidité et d'une hauteur de vues exceptionnelles. Je n'en citerai qu'une phrase, qui situe admirablement le vrai problème: "Le pire ennemi, et de l'homme, et de l'environnement mondial, c'est la pauvreté".

La Journée mondiale de l'alimentation célèbre l'anniversaire de la FAO; je voudrais maintenant vous inviter à fêter un autre anniversaire: voici en effet 25 ans qu'a été créée la Division mixte FAO/AIEA des techniques nucléaires dans l'alimentation et l'agriculture. C'est en 1964 que les directeurs généraux des deux organisations décidèrent de fusionner deux services, l'un de la FAO et l'autre de l'AIEA, pour mettre à la disposition de leurs Etats Membres les technologies les plus récentes en matière d'isotopes et de rayonnements en vue de leur application à des programmes de recherche et développement intéressant l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Formée à l'origine d'une petite équipe, la Division mixte constitue aujourd'hui à la fois un centre de recherche, de développement et de formation qui jouit d'une réputation internationale, un lieu de dialogue pour l'échange d'informations et de connaissances, et un instrument pour le transfert des technologies nucléaires aux pays qui en ont le plus besoin. Installée à Vienne, elle s'appuie fortement sur le laboratoire agricole de Seibersdorf, qui est le seul laboratoire agricole géré par des institutions des Nations Unies.

Mais je ne veux pas m'appesantir sur les activités de la Division mixte, car vous pourrez entendre cet après-midi une déclaration sur ce sujet de mon collègue et ami M. Hans Blix, Directeur général de l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique, que j'ai la grande joie de saluer et d'accueillir parmi nous. Je me contenterai de dire bien haut combien nous sommes heureux de célébrer le premier quart de siècle d'une coopération exemplaire, harmonieuse et féconde entre nos deux institutions soeurs.

Cette harmonie, ce sentiment très fort d'appartenir à une même famille, je souhaite ardemment qu'ils se retrouvent dans les débats et les travaux de la présente session. Dans l'histoire de notre Organisation, il est arrivé un moment où la diversité des sensibilités et des conceptions a engendré une certaine tension. Pour surmonter cette phase, la Conférence a choisi avec une grande sagesse la voie de la réflexion, d'un examen approfondi des buts et opérations de la FAO. Comités, experts, Secrétariat, nous avons mené à bien cet examen, nous y avons consacré beaucoup de temps et d'efforts, nous y avons investi le meilleur de notre expérience, de notre compétence et de notre énergie. Maintenant que la Conférence est saisie des résultats de cet énorme travail, le temps de la sérénité, de l'accord et de l'action est venu.

Nos Etats Membres, et surtout les plus pauvres, ont trop besoin de nos services pour que nous puissions continuer de nous consacrer davantage à l'introspection qu'au travail concret. Je crois en toute sincérité que la Conférence dispose maintenant de propositions qui, une fois adoptées par accord général et assorties des moyens indispensables à leur mise en oeuvre, nous permettront d'apporter à nos Etats Membres une aide efficace et bien ciblée pour qu'ils puissent enfin émerger du marasme. Il ne faudrait pas que le nécessaire examen de conscience auquel nous avons procédé tourne à l'auto-contemplation permanente. La Conférence dispose maintenant de tous les éléments nécessaires pour trancher et décider dans quelle direction nous devons avancer. Elle va le faire, j'en suis sûr, en toute sagesse et sérénité, nous donnant ainsi la possibilité d'affronter tous ensemble les immenses défis que lance à notre humanité l'approche de l'an 2000.

Je vous remercie.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**CHAIRMAN:** Ministers, distinguished delegates, I am sure that I join all of you in thanking the Director-General for a very comprehensive statement which not only sets the tone for the Conference but has put before us an excellent summary of the problems and the prospects for FAO. It was a very comprehensive statement, and we are very grateful.

I now wish to call upon the Independent Chairman of the Council, Mr Lassaad Ben Osman, to make his statement to the Conference.

INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL'S STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE  
DECLARATION DU PRESIDENT INDEPENDANT DU CONSEIL A LA CONFERENCE  
DECLARACION DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO A LA CONFERENCIA

**Lassaad BEN OSMAN (Président Indépendant du Conseil):** Monsieur le Président, distingués Délégués et Observateurs, je voudrais en tout premier lieu féliciter le Président de son élection à la présidence de la Conférence.

Je suis certain, Monsieur le Président, que grâce à votre compétence et votre doigté, vous saurez diriger nos travaux et les mener à bon port.

Comme le veut la tradition de l'Organisation, j'ai l'honneur, en tant que Président Indépendant du Conseil pour la période 1988-89, de présenter les résultats de l'examen des activités du Conseil au cours de ces deux dernières années. Je ne vous apprendrai rien en disant que l'Organisation traverse une phase difficile au cours de laquelle de grands efforts ont été faits pour mettre en pratique la Résolution 6/87 de la vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence générale portant sur l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO, y compris la possibilité d'apporter des réformes aux procédures utilisées pour la préparation du programme et la présentation du budget; tout cela pour que notre Organisation puisse offrir ses services de façon adéquate aux pays membres et aider à supprimer la faim, la malnutrition et la pauvreté dans le monde.

La tâche que la Conférence a confiée au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier en leur adjoignant un groupe d'experts a permis un examen complet des buts, des opérations et des stratégies de l'Organisation. Cela a également été l'occasion d'analyser les programmes de terrain et d'examiner le fonctionnement de l'administration de la FAO et de sa gestion financière. Ce dernier élément a été ajouté postérieurement au mandat original, à l'initiative du Directeur général.

Le fruit de ces travaux a été la présentation de deux rapports au Conseil, aux quatre-vingt quatorzième et quatre-vingt quinzième sessions, quant aux méthodes de travail à appliquer et a conduit à une analyse approfondie de l'examen lors d'une réunion du Conseil qui a eu lieu au mois de novembre, session qui a dû être prolongée à cette fin.

Que l'on me permette d'observer à ce sujet que les deux comités, le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier, ont inclus dans leurs rapports au Conseil et à la Conférence une évaluation faite par les experts selon laquelle la FAO a donné la preuve de sa capacité de rénover ses activités et a su s'adapter à l'évolution de la situation mondiale, en tenant compte des besoins nouveaux sur le plan mondial et régional, et il existe une possibilité bien nette de renforcer certaines activités de l'Organisation.

Les Comités ont conclu qu'il s'agissait d'une organisation solide et vigoureuse qui mérite la confiance de tous ses membres. Après avoir examiné ce document, le Conseil a convenu que les recommandations finales et leur mise en oeuvre devraient être décidées par consensus. Cela permettra de prendre les décisions qui s'imposent de la part de la Conférence. Nous avons l'espoir que tous ces documents et avis, particulièrement importants, pourront être analysés puis adoptés par la Conférence, de telle sorte qu'il en résultera des décisions permettant de renforcer l'Organisation, d'augmenter son efficacité afin qu'elle atteigne les nombreux buts qu'elle poursuit.

Par ailleurs, les Comités de Programme et de Finances ont présenté au Conseil une proposition tendant à modifier les dispositions pour la préparation du Programme de Travail et Budget et ce, suite à l'examen des procédures adoptées en ce sens par les Nations Unies et d'autres Organisations du système. Cette modification telle qu'adoptée par le Conseil pourrait être mise en pratique à titre expérimental pour le biennium 1990-91.

Le but de cette modification est que les Comités de Programme et Financier présentent au Directeur général des recommandations quant au niveau de budget et aux grandes priorités de l'Organisation pour le biennium suivant, et ce avant la préparation du sommaire du Programme de travail et budget par le Directeur général. Ces recommandations sont ensuite présentées au Conseil et à la Conférence. Remarquons que les deux Comités du Programme et Financier ont jugé cette procédure utile pour 1990-91 et ont recommandé qu'on la mette en application pour au moins un biennium de plus afin de procéder à son évaluation pendant un délai suffisant. Les deux Comités ont exprimé l'espoir qu'une telle procédure permettrait une amélioration de la situation financière de l'Organisation.

Je voudrais ajouter que l'Organisation traverse une situation financière difficile; c'est le second problème fondamental dans cette étape. En réalité, il s'agit d'une crise d'encaisse de liquidités beaucoup plus que d'une crise financière; en effet, un grand nombre de pays membres, et parmi eux les plus grands contribuables, n'ont pas payé leurs contributions à temps, ni selon les modalités prévues; cela a eu des conséquences quant aux activités de l'Organisation et il a fallu adopter des solutions très fermes pour faire face à une telle situation. Il a fallu faire une coupe dans le budget, de 25 millions de \$ en 1987, de 20 millions de \$ en 1988 et à nouveau 23 millions de \$ en 1989 avec pour résultat la réduction de certaines activités portant en particulier sur les publications et les réunions.

Le Conseil s'est déclaré préoccupé de cette réduction du volume du programme et a fait observer que les coupures effectuées par le Directeur-Général qui a géré avec sagesse la question ont permis de réduire au minimum les effets négatifs sur les activités de l'Organisation; cependant, le Conseil a pris note avec satisfaction de ce que le Directeur général n'a pas eu à recourir à des prêts, quoique la Conférence l'y ait autorisé. Il a néanmoins souligné qu'il a été informé que cette possibilité risquait d'être retenue si la situation financière de l'Organisation arrivait à des limites que nous n'avons jamais connues.. à moins que la situation ne se renverse. Il est difficile pour l'Organisation de mener à leur terme des actions mondiales si sa situation financière n'est pas sûre; il est impératif que les cadres de l'Organisation et les experts puissent travailler sans souffrir des répercussions négatives d'une telle situation financière.

Je saisis donc cette occasion, au nom du Conseil, pour inviter tous les pays membres à effectuer à temps le paiement de leurs contributions et à payer le plus vite possible leurs arriérés; en effet, si de tels paiements qui sont inscrits dans les engagements internationaux n'avaient pas lieu, il est à craindre que l'Organisation ne puisse exécuter ses programmes, notamment, les programmes à moyen terme, touchant des domaines aussi importants que le Programme pour le développement durable et l'intégration de la femme dans le développement agricole, ainsi que le Plan pour le développement tropical et les plans d'action que vous connaissez.

Le Conseil a entendu avec satisfaction que l'on a affirmé le caractère d'universalité de la FAO; c'est en ce sens que les pays non membres ont été invités comme observateurs à notre Conférence et je pense tout particulièrement à l'Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques comme observateur; ce sera certainement un premier pas pour qu'elle reprenne son rôle comme membre de plein droit.

Le Conseil a examiné les points importants adoptés par la 24ème Conférence générales : je pense au développement durable et à l'intégration de la femme dans les activités de développement,

La Conférence, dans sa résolution 9/87, a insisté sur l'importance de la conservation et de la protection du milieu; c'est fondamental à une époque où il faut augmenter les productions agricoles, et il y a eu unanimité quant à la nécessité d'assurer le renouvellement des ressources naturelles en vue de l'application du concept du développement soutenu et de la sécurité alimentaire.

A sa quatre-vingt-quatorzième session, le Conseil a examiné les politiques, les programmes et le budget de l'Organisation, tout ce qui permet d'assurer un développement durable; il a insisté sur le fait que tout cela devait être réalisé sous forme de programme pratique; il a invité la FAO à renforcer les mécanismes de coordination dans les domaines de l'environnement et du développement durable.

Le développement équilibré est un autre point qui mérite toute l'attention de la Conférence, surtout si l'on songe que notre Organisation est parfaitement capable et armée pour ce faire.

S'agissant du Plan d'intégration de la femme dans le développement proposé par le Directeur général, le Conseil a recommandé sa mise en oeuvre progressive. Ce plan reflète une double cohérence, d'une part quant aux programmes destinés à la femme, et d'autre part quant à la prise en compte des besoins de la femme dans tous les programmes et tous les projets.

Le plan présenté à la Conférence pour examen contient des politiques et des programmes qui dépassent le budget actuel de l'Organisation.

Le Conseil demande instamment aux gouvernements membres d'intégrer de façon totale la femme dans leurs programmes de développement et, dans ce contexte, a approuvé une liste préparée conformément à la résolution 9/87 de la Conférence générale.

Pour ce qui est de la résolution 9/87, lors de la dernière Conférence il avait été ratifié l'insertion du principe d'information et de l'acceptation préalable, dans le contexte international, pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides. Le Conseil a adopté les amendements proposés par le COAG lors de sa dernière session en avril et a proposé à la Conférence ratification de ces amendements au codex et insertion des instructions dans le système mentionné.

S'agissant des ressources phytogénétiques le Conseil, à sa 95ème session, après consultation de l'engagement international, a approuvé un projet de résolution portant sur les droits des agriculteurs, projet qu'il présentera à la Conférence pour ratification.



Pour ce que est du Programme de travail et budget et du projet de Programme de travail et budget 1990-91, ce projet a bénéficié de l'appui de la majorité des membres des deux Comités, Comité du programme et Comité financier qui ont tenu une session conjointe en septembre dernier. Les deux Comités ont manifesté leur satisfaction quant à l'amélioration de la teneur de ce projet fondé sur les priorités choisies par les organes directeurs.

Le Conseil espère que la Conférence ratifiera le projet à l'unanimité, ce qui serait une preuve d'esprit de solidarité et d'interdépendance de tous les Etats Membres, et irait dans le sens d'une amélioration des activités de l'Organisation.

Par ailleurs, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que le Conseil a décidé d'accorder un rôle plus grand et plus large à notre Organisation dans les enceintes internationales s'occupant du développement, je veux parler du GATT, du PNUD et d'autres instances; le Conseil souhaite également que notre Organisation joue un rôle quant aux politiques agricoles et agraires des pays membres, notamment en ce que concerne la conception du Programme d'ajustement structurel mené à bien par un certain nombre de pays membres. Cette orientation renforcera incontestablement les liens de coopération entre l'Organisation et les autres organismes ou organisations internationales ou gouvernementales actives dans ce domaine.

Pour ce qui est des éléments nouveaux dans le système des Nations Unies, nous espérons qu'il sera possible de renforcer encore la collaboration entre les Organisations internationales sur un plan interrégional.

Pour ce qui est maintenant des points habituellement inscrits à l'ordre du jour du Conseil, comme par exemple la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, le Conseil s'est montré très préoccupé de la détérioration de la situation depuis la 13ème réunion du Comité sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale; face à la diminution des stocks de céréales qui atteignent des niveaux inférieurs au minimum nécessaire pour assurer une sécurité alimentaire, le Conseil a demandé à tous les pays donateurs de conserver au moins le niveau de leurs approvisionnements en produits alimentaires; à cet égard le Conseil a proposé la liste de 95 produits portant sur les approvisionnements volontaires pour le programme 1991-92; il a proposé un projet de résolution à soumettre à la Conférence dont l'objectif est de 1 500 millions de dollars E.-U.

D'autre part, le Conseil n'a pas dissimulé sa préoccupation à l'égard de la stagnation et de la diminution depuis 15 ans de la consommation de produits alimentaires par habitant dans de nombreux pays à faible revenu et déficit alimentaire.

Ceci démontre que le problème de la malnutrition et de la faim va encore s'aggravant; il est par conséquent nécessaire de donner une priorité absolue au développement de la production agricole et alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire.

Le Conseil estime que le développement de la production alimentaire et de la sécurité alimentaire est lié aujourd'hui plus que jamais aux efforts de ces pays pour développer des politiques agraires pertinentes; d'autre part ce développement est lié à une situation économique mondiale juste; tout ceci exige une solidarité internationale constante et efficace.

Je voudrais maintenant faire état de nos espoirs. Nous espérons de tout coeur que l'Uruguay Round, en dépit des échecs enregistrés aujourd'hui, adoptera, avant la fin de ses travaux, une décision entraînant une véritable solidarité internationale que nous souhaitons tous efficace et fructueuse.

Le Conseil a adopté une proposition du Directeur général selon laquelle les pays membres qui le souhaitent peuvent confirmer la participation de la FAO dans la préparation de nouvelles orientations dans le secteur de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, et ce dans le cadre des programmes d'ajustement structurel des économies de ces pays. Il est effectivement constaté que la participation de l'Organisation dans les enceintes internationales traitant du développement lié aux activités agricoles, améliore les perspectives et se révèle nécessaire. De ce fait, il semble nécessaire que l'Organisation soit présente dans toutes les enceintes internationales afin de faire connaître ses opinions. On a pu également vérifier l'efficacité des activités de l'Organisation dans de nombreux domaines tels que le système d'alerte rapide, l'identification des besoins en ce qui concerne l'assistance alimentaire et la réserve mondiale alimentaire pour des aides d'urgence. La FAO a collaboré également de façon remarquable au sein des Nations Unies pour la relance économique sur le continent africain.

Dans tous ces domaines, l'Organisation doit poursuivre ses activités fondées sur des plans, des programmes et des engagements moraux; elle est garante de toutes ces activités.

Les pays en développement attendent beaucoup de l'Organisation; nous devons lui permettre de s'acquitter de son rôle et de répondre aux aspirations de ces pays pour un monde meilleur pour tous les êtres humains. Tous nos efforts seront nécessaires pour renforcer l'efficacité, l'importance et l'éclat de la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, distingués délégués et observateurs, Mesdames, Messieurs, après avoir eu l'honneur pendant 4 années de participer aux travaux du Conseil de l'Organisation, il est de mon devoir de remercier d'abord mon pays, la Tunisie, qui m'a demandé de le représenter à cette haute charge, et ensuite tous les Etats Membres qui m'ont fait confiance pour assumer une charge si noble. J'ai essayé de faire de mon mieux pour être à la hauteur de mes responsabilités et conserver un climat de relations constructif entre les représentants du Conseil et le Secrétariat. Je tiens d'autre part à féliciter et à remercier tous les membres du Conseil pour leurs sentiments de responsabilité profonde quant à l'importance de leur rôle dans cette étape délicate de l'Organisation. La participation des membres du Conseil aux débats a été concrète et enrichissante. L'intérêt qu'ils ont porté à toutes les questions présentées a été soutenu et intense; je n'en veux pour preuve que le très grand nombre d'interventions sur chacun des points examinés.

Enfin, permettez-moi de remercier le Directeur général pour l'esprit de coopération dont il a fait preuve pendant toute la durée de mon mandat à la présidence du Conseil de cette Organisation.

Je remercie également le Secrétariat pour tous ses efforts visant à faciliter la tâche du Conseil. Ceci est pour nous une preuve, s'il en est besoin, de la volonté de tous de renforcer l'Organisation en augmentant son éclat et son efficacité dans cette lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde.

Que la paix soit avec vous !

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**CHAIRMAN:** Ministers and delegates, I am sure you join with me in thanking Mr Ben Osman for a very informative and workmanlike statement and also for the four years work he has done on our behalf. The meeting stands adjourned, I thank you.

The meeting rose at 12.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.15 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 89/PV/4

Twenty-fifth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt cinquième-session  
PLÉNIÈRE

25<sup>a</sup> periodo de sesiones  
PLENARIA

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING  
QUATRIÈME SEANCE PLÉNIÈRE  
CUARTA SESIOPLENARIA

13 November 1989

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours  
John Charles Kerin, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 heures  
sous la présidence de John Charles Kerin, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la Cuarta Sesión Plenaria a las 15.00 horas  
bajo la presidencia de John Charles Kerin, Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

ADDRESS BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF IAEA

DISCOURS DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL DE L'IAEA

DISCURSO DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL DEL OIEA

**CHAIRMAN:** Ministers, distinguished delegates, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization/International Atomic Energy Agency Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. To mark the occasion, the Director-General of the IAEA has been invited to address the Conference. However, before he does so, I shall invite the Director-General to take the floor.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** It is my great pleasure to welcome to the Conference my colleague, Dr Hans Blix, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, who will be addressing this assembly in a few minutes.

I have had the honour of addressing the General Conference of the IAEA and I am happy that that honour is now being reciprocated.

The occasion for Dr Blix's visit is the celebration of 25 years of close cooperation between our two organizations which began on 1 October 1964 with the establishment of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division.

This Division, headed by an FAO director, is located at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna - we have the Director, they have the headquarters, which is a very fair arrangement - and is staffed by some 21 professionals working in collaboration with their 64 counterparts and technical staff in the Seibersdorf Agricultural Laboratory.

This joint activity is a prime example of what can be achieved through close, harmonious and effective cooperation between the two United Nations agencies, and our experience over the past 25 years could well serve as a model for similar activities between FAO and other agencies, within and outside the UN system, whose mandates touch on common ground.

I wish to pay tribute to Dr Blix for the way he has personally maintained and extended the efforts of his predecessors in providing an excellent and effective base for our joint endeavours.

The aim of the Division is to make available to developing and developed Member States of both FAO and IAEA the powerful research and development tools - isotopes and radiation - for enhancing food and agricultural production and protecting crops, livestock and food from pests and spoilage.

The Division concentrates its activities in the field of research where the associated laboratory plays a key role.

Increasingly, it has become a centre for training of young agricultural scientists, having accepted some 2 000 in the past five years through fellowships and training courses, 500 of whom are at the FAO/IAEA laboratory at Seibersdorf.

The Division is supporting and coordinating research in some 400 agricultural research institutes and carried out the major part of the IAEA technical assistance programme, reflecting the significant practical advances already made by this form of technology in food and agricultural production.

It is now making use of nuclear techniques in biotechnology applications for improving crop performance and animal health, with emphasis on environmental protection, of course, and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices.

An exhibition of the activities of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division has just been opened jointly by Dr Blix and myself on the ground floor of this building. We were very much honoured by the presence of the Chairman of the Conference. I invite you to visit this exhibition. It will not take too much time but is really worthy of being seen. It will be open throughout the Conference and I would encourage delegates to take this opportunity to view its activities, being, as it is, the only Division in the Agriculture Department located away from Headquarters.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Mr Director-General.

It now gives me very great pleasure to call upon Dr Blix to address the Conference.

**Hans BLIX (Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency):** Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and a honour for me to address the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization. I should like to thank Director-General Saouma for his kind words of welcome to me. I recall five years ago when the Director-General of FAO, Dr Saouma, addressed the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in Vienna.

On that occasion, we commemorated 20 years of close cooperation between our Organizations. Now I would like to reflect on a quarter century of close and successful cooperation between FAO and IAEA for making useful nuclear tools available to Member States to accelerate food and agricultural development.

Even at the dawn of the atomic age it was known that an enormous source of energy and power was not the only thing that was becoming available to mankind. It was realized that the radio-isotopes and radiation which subsequently became readily available could make significant contributions in a variety of fields, including medicine, industry and food and agriculture, both in research and development and later in industrial-scale processing.

The so-called Atoms for Peace Programme launched in the mid 1950s led to the founding of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna in 1957.

A programme on agricultural applications of isotopes and radiation was one of the initial activities of the new Agency; at the same time, FAO, recognizing the potential of this new technology, started its own Atomic Energy Branch. For a few years, these two United Nations Agencies thus operated parallel and overlapping programmes in applying nuclear techniques in food and agriculture.

Unfortunately there are still instances of parallel activities and unnecessary overlapping within the UN system although not between the FAO and the IAEA,

In this case, however, the then Director-General of the two Organizations, Dr Binay Rajan Sen of FAO, and my predecessor, Dr Sigvard Eklund of IAEA, decided to solve the problem by combining the two programmes.

Not only was their decision to prove to be eminently sound in serving the common goals of the two Agencies, but the joint programme also came to be an exemplary model of cooperation and coordination within the UN system.

The arrangements drawn up in 1964 called for the Joint FAO/IAEA Division to be located at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna, with its Director appointed by FAO, the Deputy Director by IAEA, and the other staff consisting of both FAO and IAEA employees. The financial resources of FAO and IAEA are pooled for the operation of the joint programme, and all the activities involving nuclear techniques in food and agriculture are carried out and given recognition in the name of both Agencies.

The reasons for locating the Division at IAEA were primarily the existence of the IAEA Laboratory at Seibersdorf, near Vienna, and the IAEA's unique system of coordinated research, which today remains one of the pillars of the joint programme. The Agricultural Laboratory remains the only one of its kind in the UN system and has greatly contributed to the scientific success of the joint FAO/IAEA programme. It has also been a major centre for the training of agricultural scientists in the use of nuclear techniques.

As we look back over the 25 years of the Joint Division, we can rightly ask the question: was this merely a successful exercise in inter-agency cooperation, or did the Joint Division's programme make a real contribution towards improving the well-being of peoples in the Member States of the two Organizations?

The answer is that a large number of representatives of the recipient countries in our Governing Bodies have consistently expressed their satisfaction with the practical results of the nuclear applications and the impact of these techniques on the advancement of agricultural science and the resulting economic benefits to their countries. At our General Conference in September this year, for example, the representative from Pakistan said that a single variety of cotton developed in cooperation with FAO and IAEA, through the use of radiation-induced mutations, had revolutionized the cotton industry in his country and was adding some US\$300 million annually to the income of cotton farmers in Pakistan,

The work of the Joint Division has led to the development of more effective methods of mutation breeding, with the result that there are now over 1 300 registered mutant crop varieties grown, by farmers worldwide, representing a significant part of world crop production.

The use of radiation for the sterilization of the Mediterranean Fruit fly fostered by the Joint Division and the IAEA Laboratory led to the eradication of this pest from Mexico and is being contemplated for the eradication of the Medfly in North Africa and elsewhere. Extensive pilot field programmes to control tsetse flies have led to their total eradication in the test areas chosen. In all these activities, there is close cooperation with the corresponding Divisions of FAO where the use of the sterile insect technique forms a part of integrated pest management programmes.

In animal science, the work of the Joint Division focuses on the use of immuno-assay techniques for disease diagnosis and the study of reproductive performance. The provision of diagnostic kits forms an important and integral part of FAO's Africa-wide Rinderpest campaign and is assisting the fight against a number of other serious livestock diseases.

The underlying principle in the use of isotope techniques is the ability to detect individual atoms by the radiation they emit or other physical characteristics which are different from the substances occurring in nature. This makes it possible, for instance, to follow the pathway of minute amounts of isotope-labelled fertilizer from the soil into the root system of crops, and finally to identify the fertilizer nutrient as it enters the leaves and grain or fruits. This is a unique method. In a number of world-wide research programmes sponsored by the Joint Division it has led to improved fertilizer practices, resulting in more economic use of fertilizers as well as a significantly reduced environmental impact.

Indeed, environmental protection and diminished reliance on chemicals is a prime objective of the joint programme.

Thus, isotopic tracer techniques are also used to monitor and study the fate and significance of pesticides and residues in the environment and help develop safer and better ways of using pesticides.

The use of irradiation to preserve food can in many cases be a substitute for the use of chemicals such as fumigants, some of which have been forbidden or restricted because of their harmful effects on health.

In contrast, decades of studies on the wholesomeness of irradiated foods have not revealed any toxicological, microbiological or pathological implications for human health when using the radiation doses recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Irradiation can also be used to kill pathogenic organisms like Salmonella in foods like chicken and seafoods.

As food-borne pathogens are, according to the World Health Organization, a major cause of child illness and death in the developing world, it has strongly recommended wider use of food irradiation to make food supplies safer.

It is therefore surprising and regrettable that this technique is still encountering opposition from some consumer groups and even from a few governments.



In summary, we can safely conclude that the peaceful uses of atomic energy in food and agriculture and the results of 25 years of the joint FAO/IAEA programme have lived up to the original promise and potential. Nuclear techniques are being used in agricultural laboratories throughout the world as complementary and often indispensable tools alongside other traditional and advanced research and development methods. They have an economic impact that is far beyond the combined investment made in this technology over the years.

What about the future? Are the techniques already introduced sufficient, or have other advancing technologies like biotechnology superseded nuclear techniques?

The answer is that radioisotope technology continues to play a key role in all advanced research and particularly in the new biotechnologies. Molecular biotechnology in fact would not exist without the use of radioisotope techniques as it is based on labelling DNA strands with radioisotopes for identification.

There appears to be enormous potential in molecular biology for scientific breakthroughs in a variety of disciplines, including medicine and industry. But perhaps the greatest potential lies in agricultural applications of molecular biology. These techniques promise to lead to improved plant and animal types, quicker and more reliable disease diagnosis and control, more effective vaccines, pesticides genetically built into crop plants and a ready availability of a number of useful chemical compounds, hormones, vitamins, industrial chemicals, etc.

In a high-level expert review of our joint programme which I requested last year, the strongest recommendation for future emphasis was indeed for agricultural applications of isotope-aided molecular biology. As a consequence, we will pay increasing attention to this aspect in the coming biennium and in the future.

We are also cooperating very closely with FAO and WHO on methods of monitoring radionuclide fallout from serious accidents - such as the one which occurred at Chernobyl - and on reducing their impact on agriculture. Through this cooperation, we have finally succeeded this year in establishing international norms for acceptable levels of radioactivity in foodstuffs moving in international trade.

On the occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division, an exhibit has been set up on the ground floor of this building - Mr Saouma mentioned it a moment ago - and I hope you will inspect to see some of the results I have referred to.

I would like to thank Dr Saouma for inviting me to address the FAO Conference and express the hope that we can jointly continue to make nuclear technology available to help accelerate progress in food and agricultural science in the developing countries and thus to improve the lives of their rural populations and the well-being of all nations. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much Dr Blix. I, too, would join with the Director-General and urge all delegates to inspect the exhibition of the FAO/IAEA on the first floor.

I will now call on the Secretary-General briefly to make one or two points and then we will move into the general discussion proper.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** Thank you Mr Chairman. I would like first of all to recall to the Conference the announcement that was made this morning. The Chairman of the Standing Committee of Ministers of Agriculture of CARICOM will convene a meeting of the CARICOM delegations at 17.00 hours in the German Room, Building B, No. 269. German Room, B-269 at 5 o'clock this afternoon.

Secondly, I would like to call to the attention of delegations that the list of speakers in Spanish and their Journal has erroneously been given an alphabetical order, and the order of speakers will be as given in the English Journal.

Thirdly, I would like to call to the attention of all delegations and the speakers, as it appears in the Journal of today, that in order to alert speakers of the elapsed time and to enable them to keep within the agreed fifteen minutes, a white light will glow on the lectern after twelve minutes, and a red light after fifteen minutes. I thank you.

#### GENERAL DISCUSSION

##### DEBAT GENERAL

##### DEBATE GENERAL

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

Italy, Brazil, Nicaragua, Congo, Bangladesh, Cyprus, Ireland, Pakistan, Turkey, United Nations, Chad, Djibouti

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much Mr Alessi. We now move to the general discussion proper and I will give the floor to the heads of delegations who requested speaking time in advance. If time permits this afternoon, I will also give the floor to Representatives from Samoa, Chad, and Djibouti, but

it simply depends on how much time is taken up by the other speakers. As Mr Alessi has already said, please try to limit your statements to fifteen minutes. We have many requests for speaking time and this is the only way for us to proceed.

Without any further ado, I shall now call upon the first speaker, the Head of the Delegation of Italy, His Excellency Mr Calogero Mannino, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry.

**Calogero MANNINO (Italie) (langue originale Italien):** Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Messieurs les délégués, c'est pour moi un honneur et un motif personnel de satisfaction que de participer aux travaux de cette Conférence en ma qualité de Représentant du Gouvernement du pays hôte de la FAO.

Je souhaite avant tout exprimer mes très vives félicitations à Monsieur John Charles Kerin, qui a été élu président de cette vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence de la FAO. Je voudrais aussi féliciter les membres du Bureau.

Je tiens également à féliciter le Directeur général de cette organisation, Monsieur Edouard Saouma qui, avec la passion et l'engagement qui lui sont habituels, remplit la tâche prestigieuse et délicate qui consiste à coordonner les travaux de la Conférence.

Enfin, je voudrais souhaiter une chaleureuse bienvenue à tous les délégués et, en particulier, à mes collègues, les Ministres de l'agriculture des pays ici présents.

Je voudrais consacrer ma brève intervention à trois problèmes particuliers. Le premier est celui de la solidarité internationale et du rôle que celle-ci joue et doit jouer pour aider à renforcer la coopération mondiale. Des problèmes nouveaux et difficiles se sont fait jour cette année dans différentes parties du monde. Ils ont tous été affrontés dans un esprit raisonnable de respect réciproque et, bien souvent, dans l'attente de nouvelles formes concrètes et importantes de coopération économique et commerciale.

Les problèmes qu'affronte et que s'efforce de résoudre la FAO font partie de cette tendance mondiale à une compréhension réciproque accrue. C'est pour cette raison et pas seulement en tant que pays hôte que l'Italie tient à souligner tout particulièrement le rôle que joue la FAO et à dire combien elle est orgueilleuse d'avoir le privilège temporaire d'être le pays qui soutient le plus cette Organisation du fait des contributions qu'elle a volontairement ajoutées à sa contribution obligatoire. De ce point de vue particulier, qu'il me soit permis de souligner que, dans le cadre de la coopération entre l'Italie et la FAO, les projets et les programmes approuvés à partir de 1981 jusqu'à aujourd'hui ont dépassé le niveau des 30 millions de dollars par an. En outre, en ce qui concerne l'exercice biennal qui s'achève maintenant, mon Gouvernement a mis à la disposition de la FAO une contribution spéciale volontaire d'un montant supplémentaire de 30 millions de dollars afin de permettre à l'Organisation de faire face aux problèmes de trésorerie que pose le Programme de Coopération Technique.

Le deuxième problème que je voudrais aborder concerne le rôle de l'agriculture dans le domaine de la coopération pour le développement. Les efforts qui ont été faits au cours des dernières décennies en faveur du développement agricole sont nombreux et considérables. Malgré cela, un grand nombre de pays ont encore un long chemin à parcourir pour arriver à un rapport correct entre l'offre de denrées alimentaires et la consommation et pour mettre sur pied des systèmes agricoles suffisamment rationnels et avancés qui permettent de garantir une rémunération équitable pour les ressources investies et, avant tout, pour les travailleurs de la terre. Les dernières décennies ont fait apparaître un monde agricole du commerce subventionné, d'une part, et, d'autre part, celui du marché aléatoire.

Les aspects dramatiques aussi bien politiques que sociaux que posent les problèmes graves que connaissent de nombreux pays en développement, du fait des problèmes de leur balance des paiements et de la dette extérieure, devraient nous faire réfléchir sur le fait que la séparation nette qui existe entre ceux qui ont tous les droits et ceux qui ont tous les devoirs représente un attentat permanent à la coexistence pacifique mondiale.

L'Italie considère que l'on pourrait faire beaucoup en associant de façon continue et croissante l'aide alimentaire apportée aux pays qui ont des problèmes alimentaires majeurs à la fourniture de moyens de production, d'aide technique, de développement des technologies les plus adaptées aux conditions économiques, culturelles et agronomiques de ces pays. C'est là l'orientation que l'Italie a l'intention de suivre, de la manière la plus consistante pour l'aide qu'elle a l'intention de fournir tant sur le plan multilatéral que bilatéral.

Toutefois, il faut être conscient du fait que quelque chose de plus est nécessaire. En particulier, on ne peut stimuler la coopération technologique et ignorer ensuite le fait que la plupart des biens produits devront être vendus. Le moment est venu, pensons-nous, de faire quelque chose de plus significatif aussi sur le plan d'une plus grande libéralisation du commerce au bénéfice des pays en développement.

Le troisième sujet que je veux aborder concerne l'un des problèmes fondamentaux de la Conférence: celui des forêts et le lien qui existe entre les ressources forestières, l'agriculture et l'environnement. La Journée mondiale de l'alimentation qui, à l'occasion de l'anniversaire de la création de la FAO, a été célébrée dans le monde entier, il y a quelques semaines à peine, a été consacrée au thème suivant: "Alimentation et environnement.

A cette occasion - et je suis heureux de le répéter ici - le Directeur général, Monsieur Saouma, a affirmé ce qui suit: "La distribution des ressources naturelles est un problème mondial qui menace gravement la santé et le bien-être des générations présentes et futures. Le défi est évident: il nous faut trouver le moyen de produire plus de denrées alimentaires sans appauvrir le sol, d'élever plus de bétail sans transformer les pâturages en terres stériles, d'augmenter la pêche sans appauvrir les mers d'un patrimoine vital."

Je suis fermement convaincu, du point de vue moral et politique, que le temps est désormais passé où l'on pouvait se limiter à constater les catastrophes écologiques qui se produisent année après année et qui s'ajoutent les unes aux autres sur le plan mondial.

Je ne crois pas non plus qu'il soit possible de penser que le développement technologique, son contrôle et sa rénovation puissent servir à eux seuls à éliminer les menaces qui pèsent sur nos têtes et surtout sur celles de nos enfants et des générations futures, à savoir la menace d'une crise écologique qui pourrait frapper à mort notre planète et la biosphère.

Par conséquent, il faut travailler désormais à l'édification d'une conscience écologique mondiale, conscience dont l'acquisition exige que l'on arrive à percevoir comme une réalité et non pas une simple spéculation philosophique le fait que notre planète est un vaisseau spatial dont l'équilibre est délicat et qui dispose de ressources renouvelables limitées qu'il faut gérer avec prudence et sagesse. Je considère que ce passage exige un changement de culture énorme.

Néanmoins, je suis convaincu qu'il sera possible d'atteindre cet objectif si nous sommes capables, beaucoup plus que nous ne l'avons été jusqu'à présent, d'être solidaires sur le plan international afin de substituer à la culture de la concurrence et de l'agression celle de la conscience de faire partie d'un monde qui appartient à tous et où tous ont des droits égaux.

Pour toutes ces raisons, je considère qu'il vaut la peine de prêter attention au fait que le programme de travail de la FAO prévoit des activités directement conçues pour affronter le problème de la faim et de la malnutrition au moyen d'une exploitation plus judicieuse des ressources naturelles et humaines et grâce à une série d'activités liées à la protection et à la conservation de l'environnement parmi lesquelles il convient de citer le Plan d'action forestier tropical.

A plus forte raison par conséquent, il me semble nécessaire d'exprimer mon accord avec la position prise par la FAO sur l'ensemble du dossier sur la question, dans lequel il est dit que dans ses assises mondiales et compte tenu des grands dangers que présentent les nouveaux changements et qui mènent à de nouveaux équilibres démographiques, il serait trop simpliste de ne parler que du problème des forêts.

Celui qui aujourd'hui est appelé à donner sa propre contribution au choix de gestion, de la programmation, à l'élaboration d'une politique économique et énergétique ou à des plans de développement d'orientation, doit se placer devant ces grands binômes forêt/environnement et forêt/énergie et ne doit pas oublier un autre binôme aussi important: forêt/alimentation.

Le plan de l'environnement, par son importance même, ne peut devenir un élément de domination et de consolidation des inégalités existant dans les conditions de vie et de bien-être telles qu'on les voit encore sur notre planète.

Enfin, je ferai une déclaration finale. Etant donné le vif intérêt que porte l'Italie aux objectifs poursuivis dans les domaines agricole et alimentaire par la FAO de même que par d'autres institutions de la famille des Nations Unies qui ont leur siège à Rome, mon pays a décidé de présenter à nouveau sa candidature, au cours de cette Conférence, au Conseil et au Comité financier de la FAO.

J'ai pleinement confiance que les délégations des Etats Membres apprécieront le rôle que l'Italie pourra y jouer et accepteront notre candidature à ces deux organismes de la FAO.

Enfin, tout en respectant la position des pays qui voudront maintenir le budget de la FAO dans son statu quo, c'est-à-dire à la croissance zéro, l'Italie votera en faveur du budget présenté par le Directeur général, M. Saouma, car le gouvernement italien considère que le faible accroissement qu'il représente est justifié par le programme de travail intense qui est le corollaire du budget en question.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Mrs Iris REZENDE MACHADO (Brazil) (original language Portuguese):** Mr Chairman, I congratulate your Excellency on the occasion of your election to the presidency of this Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference, which we interpret as a just tribute to Australia, a country that has been playing an important role in support of the liberalization of world trade in agricultural products, through the Cairns Group with which Brazil is associated, in the present Uruguay/GATT round of multilateral trade negotiations.

I am certain that, with your experience, your Excellency will know how to conduct the work of the Conference in a secure and constructive manner. I extend my congratulations to your distinguished predecessor.

I also wish to pay my respects to the Director-General who, now in the midst of his third term, has been completely justifying the hopes that we have repeatedly placed in him for a fruitful and competent administration as the head of our organization.

Mr President, in 1987, when I had the occasion to address this Conference for the first time, I emphasized the difficulties that are placed in the way of the legitimate desire for social and economic progress among the developing countries, especially among the still expressive sectors of our population that have in the fields, rivers and forests the principal reason for their existence and the only source of their sustenance.

Today, I have no other choice but to continue on this same course, and I shall do so briefly, bringing to mind some figures that express in a devastating fashion the state of general deterioration at which the economies of a large portion of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have arrived.

The estimate for the 1988 gross domestic product (GDP) is the same as that achieved a decade ago. In 1989 the growth rate will be nil, reducing per capita income by about 2 percent to which must be added a cut of 7 percent since 1980.

In Latin America and the Caribbean we still find ourselves a long way from seeing conditions materialize that will enable us to turn such an unfavorable situation around.

The massive transfer of funds abroad, that the burdensome servicing of the foreign debt requires of us, continues to impede us in recuperating satisfactory growth rates, a sustained balance of payments and a reasonable price stability.

Before the recession of 1980-82, our region which had received net funds in the amount of 2.6 percent of the gross domestic product, began to annually transfer abroad an amount corresponding to 3.9 percent of the GDP, which reached US\$ 29 billion in 1988, a very high sum from any standpoint.

May your Excellency allow me to detail the case of Brazil, which transferred funds abroad amounting to US\$ 56 billion over the last five years.

Mr President, will Latin America and the Caribbean, together with the majority of other developing countries, be faced with a Marshall Plan in reverse that will have a negative effect on their march toward the more promising future that we have always desired?

Unfortunately, we still do not have a conclusive answer to that question.

All that we know, and we regret it very much, is that it has been impossible to move ahead with the concerned international community regarding a satisfactory negotiation of the problem of the foreign debt, one in which it is recognized at the policy level that there is a need for social and economic growth in the developing countries and for the principle of co-responsibility between the creditor and debtor nations.

It is evident that, in the absence of such a decisive step in dealing with the foreign debt of the developing countries, it will be difficult for us to establish a successful and long-lasting readjustment of our economies and, consequently, meet the demand in an adequate manner for credit, financing and investment, the essential elements for reactivating production and employment structures at a significant level in a sector as vital as agriculture.

I do not believe that there is a need for me to dwell at length in order to emphasize the importance of what I have just expressed. In the developing world, excluding China, there are still 740 million individuals among the poorest and undernourished populations on our planet, 30 million of whom are found in my own country alone.

Other tendencies observed in the economies of the industrialized countries serve to exacerbate the harmful effects of foreign indebtedness on the performance of agriculture in the developing countries.

For example, on the structural level, I may point out that the demand for agricultural products coming from developing countries is growing very slowly, even in its best phases, among the more advanced economies, due to the low population growth, to the high per capita consumer level, to trade protectionism and to the policies of subsidizing domestic production.

At the conjunctural level, we all have to worry about a cooling off of the economies in the industrialized countries following the unprecedented long period of economic expansion during the 1980s, which will surely lead to the adoption of policies restricting imports, in order to reduce the trade deficit.

Mr President, it has never been so necessary to transform the concept of solidarity into concrete initiatives for cooperation.

It has never been so urgent to see the principle of interdependence in effective operation among nations, in order to overcome the problems of underdevelopment that we are experiencing day after day with suffering imposed by misery and hunger.

Even while faced with the limitations of resources of every kind, we are implementing various initiatives in the agricultural sector, of significant impact on the integration, development and well-being of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Thus, at the subregional level, the process of expanding trade exchange is moving ahead through specific negotiations in the Association for Latin American Integration (ALADI). Argentina and Brazil are implementing an ambitious programme for economic integration and have been joined by Uruguay with the establishment of the Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the Plata Basin. Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay are implementing a series of coordinated and effective measures to rid themselves permanently of this disease that affects our herds, with the Accord on Plant Health in the Southern Cone (Cosave). Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay are pooling their efforts to combat the pests which could harm crops and damage our forest patrimony.

Two other steps that are very important for the entire region were taken during the last two years, after the XXIV session of the Conference aiming at concentrated action in the farming sector.

Firstly, in 1988, in the city of Recife in my country, we had the privilege of hosting the XX FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, the organization and success of which we are indebted to the work of Doctor Edouard Saouma, at the head of a competent working team.

On that occasion, while launching the "Plan of Action for Farming and Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean" that synthesized an analytical basis so that the countries could elaborate their own development programmes, the Ministers of Agriculture, in the "Recife Declaration", reiterated the request for the support of the international community, in particular of the developed countries, emphasizing among other things, the need for the "elimination of protectionism, subsidies and other excluding and restrictive practices affecting a free and just international trade for the developing countries" and "relief from the burden of the foreign debt and its respective high servicing cost, as well as the re-establishment of the positive flow of foreign financial resources".

More recently, last October, in Sao Jose da Costa Rica, at the close of the V Ordinary Meeting of the Inter-American Group for Agriculture, within the ambit of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), the Ministers of Agriculture of the American Continent approved and adopted the "Plan of Joint Action for the Reactivation of Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean " (PLANALO that, built up around specific projects for the four subregions of Central America, the Caribbean, Andine and the Plata Basin, basically strives to maximize national rural and farming development efforts by means of coordinated action.



The initiatives of FAO and IICA complement one another, and coordinated work between the two organs on the execution and monitoring of the aforesaid plans, which we exhort here, will only multiply the benefits for the developing countries on the American continent.

Regarding the world scene, I wish only to point out that within the Cairns Group, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Uruguay continue in their efforts so that the present Uruguay round of multilateral trade negotiations, in the GATT forum, conclude their work with the adoption of accords in favour of the liberalization of world trade in farm products.

In this regard, I also wish to emphasize that to date, with three quarters of the period formally planned for completing this important round (1987-1990), the negotiations in Geneva continue to be basically limited to the examination of suggestions on methodology, statistics and incomplete proposals.

In this context, we have observed with satisfaction the recent proposal presented by the United States of America and based on the concept of tariffs, and which we have examined with great interest. We hope that the European Economic Community will present before the end of the year, as expected, its proposal for negotiation, followed by other countries or groups of countries wishing to take an identical initiative.

Above all, we hope from the industrialized countries, in addition to a true disposition to negotiate, that their proposal be operationally possible and that they incorporate the principle of differentiated and more favourable treatment for the developing countries, along the lines of the Punta del Este declaration of 1986.

Mr President, with the inclusion, among others, of themes regarding the study of world food and agriculture, the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, the international commitment on genetic plant resources, the international code of conduct for distribution and use of pesticides, and the plan of action for integrating women into farm and rural development, the agenda of this Twenty-sixth session of the Conference that we are now beginning will surely occasion a profound examination and substantial contributions on the part of the participating delegations.

To this set of themes we should add a joint reflection on the question of the environment, an inseparable dimension of the concept of solidarity among peoples and interdependence among nations.

In its broadest aspects - changes in the climate, destruction of the ozone layer - this issue cannot and must not be reduced to the limited dimension of a North-South problem, in which there is a tendency to consider the developing countries as acting in a manner incompatible with the world's ecological balance.

We cannot accept that the concept of ecologically sustainable development assign the task of ensuring ecological balance of the planet solely to us, the developing countries.

In reality, it is the industrialized countries that have the past and present responsibility for the damage caused to the global environment. It is upon them, therefore, that the greater responsibility falls for a satisfactory approach to the question.

It is unjust that we be blamed for the damage to the ecosystem caused by standards of living and consumption that have never been within the reach of our societies.

The policy of my government regarding environmental protection is a firm one.

With the launching of the "our nature programme" establishing the basis for an environmental policy specifically aimed at the Amazon region, the burnings have been reduced by 40 percent, exportation of timber has been prohibited and predatory projects can no longer rely on incentives from the government.

Today, approximately eight million hectares are under a system of permanent preservation, and approximately 10 percent of the national territory is destined for a population of an estimated 200 000 Indians.

Based on the concepts and translated into the initiatives which I have just referred to, Brazilian environmental policy does not exclude dialogue or understanding within the context of cooperation in development.

We have reiterated this in the "Amazon Declaration" issued in Manaus on last May 8, by the presidents of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, the member countries of the Amazon cooperation treaty. We have demonstrated this by offering that Brazil host the United Nations Conference on the environment and development in 1992.

Even though it has not completed the task of readjusting the economy, due above all to outside restrictions which have already been pointed out, my government has made notable progress in the modernization of the farming sector since 1986, with the launching of the "Plan of goals for agriculture".

By favouring the market forces instead of the prodigal assistance provided by state paternalism, but always seeking equity and social justice, the new farm policy in my country soon resulted in a super-harvest of grains, at the level of 72 million tons in 1988/89, an increase of 40 per cent in just three years over a volume that had remained stagnant for a decade.

There were many instruments that we established or updated in order to produce such a performance, without precedent in Brazilian agriculture.

Among these were the establishment of a pluriannual farm policy, with compensatory minimum prices, the rural development fund and the rural savings fund, in order to gather funds for production and modernization of the infrastructure for storage, transport, and the rational use of microbasins with the growing participation of the private sector, accelerated expansion of irrigation projects that today cover an area of 3 million hectares.

There has been notable expansion in agricultural research, with new technologies, supported by an efficient system for technical assistance and rural extension, resulting in impressive gains in wheat, rice, soybean and corn productivity. The exporting and importing of these latter three products, along with cotton, were liberated by the government in May, 1988.

The small farmers have merited due assistance from the government, through stimulation to the reinforcement and expansion of cooperatives, an effective instrument for access to credit, to other input and to more favourable margins for commercialization.

With the launching of a broad "National Agrarian Reform Plan" in 1985, despite the lack of funds stemming from the readjustment of the economy, the government succeeded in establishing 452 projects in just four years, benefitting 81 989 families in an area of 4 234 018 hectares.

With the intention of making its contribution, my delegation will participate in this Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference, knowing the challenges which today confront the more significant advances to be made in the agricultural sector of developing countries.

Challenges which are not routine ones.

Challenges which more than ever call for determined efforts to deepen international cooperation, most especially through an organ such as FAO, which we desire to see strengthened as an institution and enabled, by means of sufficient resources to expand its programmes for technical cooperation.

All are called to take part in this great and glorious task.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Jaime WHEELLOCK ROMAN (Nicaragua):** Señor Presidente, Señor Director General, señores Ministros, señores Jefes de Delegación, señores Observadores, señoras y señores.

En primer lugar, Señor Presidente permítame felicitarlo por su acertada elección para presidir las labores de nuestra 25<sup>o</sup> Conferencia, lo cual interpretamos como un homenaje a su digno país.

Estamos seguros que su conducción contribuirá a que alcancemos importantes logros. Puede usted contar con el apoyo de nuestra Delegación.

Señor Presidente, estamos celebrando esta Conferencia de FAO en el contexto de una situación alarmante. Por segundo año consecutivo la población mundial ha consumido más alimentos básicos de los que ha producido. Hasta ahora los inventarios de reserva han podido suplir el déficit. Sin embargo hemos entrado a un nuevo ciclo en el que la situación en vez de mejorar se ha deteriorado. Si la situación alimentaria mundial es grave, lo es aún más para algunas regiones en particular del Tercer Mundo.

Desde años atrás hemos venido insistiendo desde diversos foros sobre las causas reales que nos han empujado a esta situación. Hasta hoy es en realidad muy poco lo que se ha hecho para variarla.

Lo dramático de la situación de empobrecimiento creciente y hambre que aflige a millones de seres humanos es que está en nuestras manos resolverlas y revertirlas, pero sigue ocurriendo lo contrario.

Primero, los países desarrollados han continuado sosteniendo todo un marco de políticas generadoras de graves desequilibrios. Sus déficits internos, altas tasas de interés, subsidios agrícolas, barreras proteccionistas, precios de dumping, etc.

Segundo, el deterioro de los términos de intercambio que caracterizó los años ochenta sigue presente al entrar a la década de los noventa.

Tercero, la deuda externa sigue creciendo mientras al mismo tiempo, no hay flujos adicionales de recursos frescos.

Estas tendencias están de hecho propagando hacia nuestros países violentas ondas de expansión, de recesión y de crisis.

Con especial preocupación, hemos subrayado en los diferentes foros de la cooperación agrícola y el desarrollo, los efectos que están teniendo sobre la actividad agropecuaria las políticas de ajustes macroeconómicos internos. Frecuentemente impuestas desde fuera, estas políticas programan la contracción del financiamiento agrícola de los salarios y de la demanda de alimentos, reducen la producción de bienes básicos y deterioran más gravemente la situación de inseguridad alimentaria que padecemos.

En un estudio reciente, los cereales importados al área centroamericana pasaron de un volumen de 112 000 toneladas en el año 1980 a más de 900 000 toneladas para 1988.

Señor Presidente, los países pobres en general dependen de exportaciones de productos primarios, y los agrícolas basan su dinamismo y esfuerzos de modernización en las agroexportaciones. Recientemente, hemos sufrido la ruptura del convenio comercial sobre el café entre los países de la OIC. Los precios y los ingresos de los países cafetaleros se han desplomado a la mitad. Este hecho tiene consecuencias que van más allá de lo meramente económico. Los países productores de café, casi todos del mundo en desarrollo, ya están sufriendo de por sí una crisis económica muy fuerte. La ruptura de este convenio viene a agravar la crisis con efectos políticos de incalculable magnitud. De otra parte, los países exportadores de América Latina de productos frescos, como banano y hortalizas, ven con muchísima preocupación las próximas medidas arancelarias que el Mercado Común Europeo implantará a partir de 1992, y que impedirán las exportaciones actuales de estos rubros que han venido creciendo en los últimos años considerablemente. Los cierres y quiebras en la industria azucarera, seguido por los del café se propagarán rápidamente en la presente década hacia otros rubros en los que se han refugiado los agricultores.

Las señales que vemos ahora son en realidad desconsoladoras. En la mayoría de los países latinoamericanos la tasa de crecimiento es negativa; ha crecido el desempleo y la pobreza rural; déficit comerciales y desfinanciamiento continúan ocasionando índices de inflación desbordados. Las políticas de ajuste no han sido efectivas y más bien ocasionan recesión y mayor pobreza a la clase trabajadora del campo y la ciudad. En los países de América Latina la inseguridad alimentaria es mayor ahora que hace diez años.

Señor Presidente, más grave es aún la situación de los países sometidos a políticas de intervención y agresión, contra los cuales se emplean medidas destructivas de su economía, como el embargo comercial y el bloqueo financiero, el minado de los puertos, el financiamiento de bandas armadas que atacan y matan a los agricultores y sus familias. Nicaragua es víctima de esta política agresiva. Hasta 1988, 11 260 campesinos cabezas de familia habían sido asesinados, sin contar con heridos y secuestrados.

En Centroamérica hemos vivido en los años ochenta el período más crítico de nuestro desarrollo. Las crisis externas, las políticas de ajuste y la agresión e intervención extranjeras han ocasionado distorsiones profundas en toda la región.

Desde 1980, la tasa de crecimiento del PIB ha sido negativa. El PIB regional de 1988 corresponde al registrado en 1972, según cifras de CEPAL.

Hay alrededor de 4 millones de personas que han salido hacia el norte por falta de empleo. Cada año emigran de la región cerca de 70 000 trabajadores. Sólo en Nicaragua, 350 000 personas, el 10 por ciento de la población, están refugiados y desplazados por la guerra.

En Centroamérica, una de las regiones en conflicto más explosivas, la paz es indispensable para establecer un clima adecuado para el desarrollo. Para ello, los Presidentes Centroamericanos desde Esquipulas y últimamente en las reuniones de Costa del Sol y Tela, han venido trabajando para sentar las bases para la solución política del conflicto. Se han logrado acuerdos muy importantes en materia de seguridad, democracia, cooperación económica e integración. Con la paz será posible iniciar, en un ambiente de reconciliación y concertación, una rehabilitación de lo destruido y una recuperación económica. La reactivación del sector agropecuario es un eje fundamental en esta nueva etapa de solución y distensión.

Sin embargo, Señor Presidente, tenemos obstáculos. Primero, continúa la ayuda oficial y abierta a las bandas que siguen asesinando y no aceptan la desmovilización acordada por los cinco presidentes. Segundo, la cooperación económica es muy pobre. Las bases del conflicto son la pobreza y el atraso. La región está hoy deprimida y requiere de un vasto plan de estabilización, rehabilitación y desarrollo. Nicaragua adicionalmente ha sufrido ocho años de desgaste económico y destrucción como consecuencia de la agresión externa.

A lo largo de este año de crisis y dificultades, y de búsquedas, tenemos que reconocer el papel de apoyo sobresaliente desempeñado por FAO. En octubre de 1988, los Ministros de Agricultura de la región aprobamos la XX Conferencia de FAO en Recife, el Plan de Acción para la Reactivación de la Agricultura. Este esfuerzo para enfrentar conjuntamente la crisis económica es un ejemplo de cómo los organismos multilaterales especializados pueden asistirnos en la búsqueda de opciones a problemas capitales. Como paso siguiente estamos trabajando con FAO en un plan de acción país por país.

Nuestras necesidades son múltiples. Vivimos en un entorno económico mundial y frecuentemente en climas tan cambiantes que la acción flexible, oportuna y directa es indispensable. Queremos reconocer como país el mérito que la acción rápida de los TCP han tenido en ocasiones de sequía o inundaciones, huracanes o bien en las circunstancias que debemos enfrentar con asistencia técnica muy calificada. Los problemas que se nos presentan en la agricultura, tanto en los ajustes macroeconómicos, como con la planificación así como los grandes avances tecnológicos.

En un mundo en el que todavía dominan, por desgracia, los conflictos por razones ideológicas, religiosas, raciales, etc., y que afectan las relaciones de cooperación entre los países, las organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas deben más bien fortalecerse. Nosotros venimos aquí y nos sentimos con confianza. Nicaragua apoya decididamente el fortalecimiento de la FAO para que pueda continuar desempeñando su asistencia vigorosa en la reactivación de los sectores agropecuarios, forestal y pesquero para los años noventa. Este organismo debemos perfeccionarlo, y para esto estamos aquí. Sus problemas no son tan grandes como los que nos plantea el tremendo desequilibrio mundial creado por el actual orden económico internacional injusto, o la deuda externa. En cualquier caso, debemos reforzar la acción de la FAO.

También tenemos que valorar la contribución del PMA. Durante estos diez años, como muchos otros países, Nicaragua ha sido socorrida oportunamente. Tanto en las situaciones de emergencia recurrentes en países tropicales de clima inestable, como en los programas que se dirigen a luchar contra el hambre y la malnutrición, importantes recursos del PMA se han canalizado para financiar adicionalmente proyectos de desarrollo.

Por las mismas razones que anotamos antes, y en las circunstancias en que estamos trabajando por la paz y la rehabilitación, es indispensable que el apoyo del PMA a los países centroamericanos no disminuya: especialmente el relativo a los refugiados y desplazados. Nos preocupa que los recursos asignados al PMA para 1990 sean insuficientes. Hay que decirlo claramente: menos recursos para el PMA, menos recursos para el desarrollo y la lucha contra el hambre.

Señor Presidente: Nicaragua respalda la declaración del Director General de que el problema actual de FAO excede sus limitaciones presupuestarias. También que es preciso recoger las recomendaciones suficientes de los expertos de ampliar las operaciones de campo de la FAO. Debemos implementar estas recomendaciones. Sin más. Pongamos fin a este ejercicio de examen, y concentremos nuestros esfuerzos en fortalecer verdaderamente a la Organización proporcionándole los recursos necesarios, sin condicionamientos, para que pueda hacer frente a las cada vez más crecientes necesidades del mundo en desarrollo. Esto en definitiva redundará en beneficio de toda la humanidad.

A pesar de las dificultades que hoy vivimos, debemos tener confianza en el futuro, confianza en que predominará la sensatez y cordura entre los hombres y que el próximo decenio tendrá características totalmente opuestas, en que habrá paz y desarrollo. Nicaragua trabajará incansablemente para lograrlo.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Gabriel OBA-APOUNOU (Congo):** Excellence Monsieur le Président, Excellence Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, Mesdames, Messieurs.

Les Nations Unies ont permis de mettre à la disposition de nos Etats Membres des structures de concertation, d'interrelations, au sein desquelles des réponses positives ont été données aux nombreux problèmes qui se posent à nos peuples, au-delà des différences de structures, de niveau de développement, d'options politiques et économiques.

Dans ce cadre, la FAO, institution devenue en quelques décennies une organisation incontournable au service de la paix et du développement, symbolise la réalité du multilatéralisme, précieux instrument de solidarité agissante entre les peuples, et de compréhension mutuelle.

C'est pourquoi, à l'occasion de la tenue de la 25ème session de nos assises, la circonstance nous paraît-elle toute indiquée pour rendre du haut de cette tribune, au nom de la délégation de la République populaire du Congo que nous avons l'honneur de conduire et en notre nom personnel, un hommage particulier à notre Organisation, dont l'oeuvre au service de l'humanité, et particulièrement de l'Afrique, traduit dans les domaines essentiels de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation l'espoir que nous avons placé en elle.

C'est également pourquoi nous ne pouvons nous empêcher de constater avec bonheur que les différents pays de notre planète sont fort bien représentés à notre rencontre: avec confiance, nous mêlerons notre voix à celles des autres dans la recherche des réponses aux questions qui seront abordées durant notre session.

Monsieur le Président, nous voudrions aussi et surtout très sincèrement rendre un vibrant hommage à votre auguste personne pour votre désignation à la tête du présidium des présentes assises.

Nous sommes tout particulièrement heureux de saluer Son Excellence Monsieur Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de la FAO, et son équipe, pour le travail accompli depuis la dernière session et pour les résultats obtenus dans l'exécution des tâches, en dépit d'un environnement global marqué du sceau de la crise.

Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, aujourd'hui, dans le monde, la faim est devenue une réalité cruelle, un fléau dévastateur qui requiert l'attention particulière de notre Organisation.

Nous n'apprenons rien à personne en soulignant avec force qu'en Amérique, en Afrique et en Asie, il ne se passe pas de jours sans que l'on ait à déplorer des cas de maladies graves ou de décès causés par la faim.

Chacun de nous frémit sans doute en affrontant directement, ou par le biais du petit écran, les images dramatiques de cette réalité.

La pénurie alimentaire et nutritionnelle ainsi constatée est singulièrement exacerbée par la hausse des cours internationaux des céréales.

A ceci, il faut ajouter que la diminution du volume de l'aide alimentaire, à laquelle nous assistons depuis peu, ne fait qu'accroître les difficultés des pays à déficit vivrier et importateurs de céréales.

Et, comme si tout cela ne suffisait pas, ces mêmes pays, victimes de la famine, ne cessent de connaître parallèlement des guerres fratricides, une dégradation constante des termes de l'échange, une chute des recettes d'exportation, une baisse continue du pouvoir d'achat.

Dès lors, il importe à présent que nous ne perdions plus un seul instant de vue cette dimension préoccupante de l'équilibre alimentaire mondiale.

Nos partenaires du Nord, dorénavant un peu moins préoccupés par la course aux armements grâce au climat de détente qui s'est instauré dans le monde voici un peu plus de trois ans, devraient faire un effort sur eux-mêmes afin que cet équilibre alimentaire, fondement même de l'humanisme, devienne la priorité de nos temps.

Mesdames, Messieurs, nous sommes intimement convaincus que, malgré les échecs et les erreurs dans les actions de promotion de l'agriculture, l'amélioration de la production agricole demeure l'objectif majeur à atteindre pour un développement socio-économique harmonieux dans les pays en voie de développement.

S'agissant précisément de mon pays, le Congo, l'agriculture y a été clairement reconnue priorité des priorités.

Notre Président de la République, Son Excellence le Général Denis Sassou-Nguesso, justifiait ce choix en disant:

"L'agriculture constitue le passage obligé pour le redressement de l'économie car nous ne pouvons relancer notre économie qu'à partir des ressources maîtrisables, donc précisément celles que nous avons à tirer de notre sol, de nos forêts, de nos cours d'eau et de notre façade maritime..

Qu'il nous soit permis de préciser ici que ce choix relève sans conteste d'une volonté politique forte.

Nous n'en voudrions pour preuve que l'application effective, dans notre pays, des mesures telles que l'exonération des droits et taxes de douane à l'importation des produits, matériels et équipements agricoles.

Le rapide aperçu que nous venons de donner confirme, s'il en était besoin, l'importance de cette 25ème session de la Conférence de notre Organisation. Mieux, les principaux points retenus dans le calendrier de travail dénotent le caractère impérieux de la présente session.

De ce point de vue, en nous fondant sur les situations que nous avons décrites au départ, nous sommes naturellement enclins à penser que la FAO doit plus que jamais poursuivre, en l'amplifiant, son soutien au traitement des problèmes liés à l'agriculture, à l'alimentation et à la nutrition. Elle devrait aider aux transferts de ressources et de technologies du Nord vers le Sud, de sorte à promouvoir une agriculture performante, usant à bon escient de tous les progrès de la science et de la technologie moderne.

- l'encouragement des agents de la Fonction publique à entreprendre des activités productives dans le secteur agricole longtemps déserté par les bras valides;



- et enfin, la création d'un Ministère de la jeunesse et du développement rural. Ce ministère, dont nous avons la charge, a principalement pour mission de promouvoir l'agriculture, de rationaliser sa pratique, et d'organiser le retour à la terre des jeunes désœuvrés et de ceux en quête du premier emploi dans les centres urbains et périurbains.

La tâche est certes difficile, mais nous comptons sur la bonne volonté, le dynamisme de notre jeunesse et l'appui personnel de notre Président de la République, le Camarade Denis Sassou-Nguesso, pour mener à bien cette mission.

Dans le même temps, nous osons espérer que la FAO et les autres institutions internationales compétentes conjugueront leurs efforts avec ceux résultant de la coopération bilatérale, afin que ce double pari sur le développement rural et sur l'intégration socio-économique de notre jeunesse soit tenu.

De même, notre Organisation devrait intensifier à tous les niveaux la formation des hommes afin que la maîtrise des technologies transférées soit aisée. Plus particulièrement, la FAO devrait renforcer son assistance à l'Afrique, dont les besoins en technologies de production, de conservation et de transformation des ressources agricoles demeurent si importants.

En définitive, toutes ces missions commandent que notre Organisation dispose de moyens financiers importants. Avant de donner notre point de vue sur ceux proposés pour l'exercice 1990-91, nous tenons à déplorer le fait que certains pays refusent délibérément de s'acquitter de leurs cotisations.

Quant au budget qui nous est présenté, tout en étant en deçà des exigences des pays en développement, il constitue, à notre avis, un compromis acceptable. Bien sûr, les tenants de la croissance zéro, apparemment peu préoccupés par la situation réelle du monde en développement, le trouveront peu raisonnable.

Ceux qui pensent que les efforts de la FAO doivent être plus substantiels le jugeront moins engageant. Mais il n'en demeure pas moins vrai que l'augmentation, même symbolique, du niveau de ce budget constitue un signe réel de progrès devant permettre la mise en oeuvre d'un programme répondant à nos préoccupations.

Nous souhaitons nous exprimer du haut de cette tribune sur "l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO". La Délégation congolaise exprime par ma voix, sa satisfaction quant aux conclusions arrêtées. A ce propos, nous félicitons les deux Comités qui contribueront à l'aboutissement des débats.

Nous sommes également reconnaissants au Directeur général pour ses observations éclairées.

En tout état de cause, le Congo, qui abordera les discussions sur tous les points à notre ordre du jour dans un esprit d'ouverture, espère sincèrement que nous parviendrons à un consensus.

C'est en renouvelant notre confiance au Président de la Conférence et à ceux qui ont été désignés pour diriger les travaux des Commissions que je souhaite plein succès à nos travaux, tout en formant le vœu de voir nos délibérations redonner espoir aux millions d'enfants, de femmes et d'hommes, qui souffrent de la faim et de malnutrition à travers le monde.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**CHAIRMAN:** I will make two points before I call the next speaker. First, it might save time if speakers did not say what a good Chairman I am; there is no need. The second point is that the Minister of the Philippines has asked for a postponement.

**M.A. MUNIM (Bangladesh):** Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great pleasure for me to take part in this 25th Session of the FAO Conference. Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Bangladesh delegation and on my own behalf I offer you our warmest congratulations on your election as Chairman of the 25th FAO Conference. Your election to this high office is indeed a tribute to your personal qualities and vast experience and also to your great country, Australia. I assure you, Mr Chairman, of our fullest cooperation in ensuring the success of the Conference. I would also like to thank the other members of the Bureau whose collective experience will, I am sure, assist you in carrying out your onerous responsibilities. In your opening address, Mr Chairman, you have given important guidelines which will immensely benefit the Conference in reaching the desired objectives.

I would like to convey our heartiest felicitations to the Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, for his illuminating statement which, in fact, has set the tone for guiding our deliberations in the Conference. I would also like to put on record our appreciation for Dr Saouma for his total dedication in upholding the Charter of the FAO and his efforts in strengthening the FAO as an instrument for providing succour and relief to the needy people of the world. The Food and Agriculture Organization has indeed justified its motto, "Let there be bread". Bangladesh is particularly thankful to FAO and its distinguished Director-General for the sustained assistance she has been receiving from this organization.

I would like to begin my statement with some comments on ecology and environment. On ecological and environmental issues in general, we in Bangladesh have good reasons to be alert. Our country is very densely populated. We value our limited land and water resources.

Despite its high man-land ratio, Bangladesh has some areas of undeveloped and protected forests. We recognize the Sundarbans mangrove forest as a world heritage. As is the case with other undeveloped enclaves in the world, the Sundarbans contain plant genetic resources which may be of use to subsequent generations in medicine, in agriculture, or in some other applications. Bangladesh is the steward of this territory with its unique ecology. Our Government is taking steps to protect the Sundarbans and to preserve its mangrove forests and other plants and animals.

Any change in the sea level will affect not only the Sundarbans but also much of the populated and cultivated areas of my country. We in Bangladesh are acutely concerned about the "greenhouse effect". A sea level rise of even a metre, would inundate vast areas of the country. We encourage research to estimate more exactly the magnitude of the greenhouse effect. All such information will be of immense value in planning land development policies in Bangladesh. As one of the lowest consumers of energy per capita in the world, Bangladesh contributes very little to the greenhouse effect, but we may be in the forefront of the countries which will be most adversely affected.

In recent years, as development has brought wider use of agro-chemicals as well as embankments for flood protection, we have become more aware of the need to protect the environment for fish. As we pursue projects to increase the productivity of our open water, freshwater fisheries, we remain concerned about trade-offs between crop agriculture and flood protection on the one hand and fisheries on the other.

In this connection, I would like to recognize and to endorse progress on one important issue before this Conference. I am gratified to note continued discussions on procedures to implement the clause concerning "Prior Informed Consent" in the "Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides." Guidelines as presented for approval at this Conference would give support to Bangladesh and to other developing countries in their efforts to identify the most dangerous pesticides.

Mr. Chairman, now I would like to discuss the impact of national agricultural policies on agricultural growth.

As we can see, every year in different member countries, agriculture is never a simple business. Despite our best efforts and sound policies, weather, pests, and other factors which are difficult to control may bring disappointment. I extend the concern and sympathy of the people of Bangladesh to the peoples of countries with floods, droughts, desert locusts and other difficulties affecting agriculture this year.

Just over a year ago, Bangladesh suffered one of the worst floods in its history. Roughly 20 per cent of the major monsoon rice crop was destroyed. The response of the international community as well as the multilateral agencies supported efforts of the Government to prevent famine and to help those whose farm and cattle were damaged or destroyed by the flood to reestablish their means of livelihood. Though farmers in particular suffered tremendous losses, prompt and persistent efforts by the Government with support from donors prevented famine.

In this respect, please note the need for a correction in paragraph 52 of the report "The State of Food and Agriculture". This is an otherwise excellent publication which has been prepared by FAO staff for this Conference. Contrary to what is stated in the report in paragraph 52, Bangladesh did not suffer famine last year after the floods.

From the experience of Bangladesh in this last year through the floods, we have thanks to give to the peoples of many other countries who have provided food aid and other flood relief assistance which has been very much appreciated.

Mr Chairman, in our appreciation of the International Community for their assistance and support to Bangladesh we must express our gratitude to UN/FAO/WFP for its continued support. In fact WFP is at present the largest single donor to the Government for coordinating food aid from multilateral and bilateral sources. The targeted food assisted programmes of World Food Programme not only bridge the food deficit of the country but also contribute to the rural works and maintenance programmes and generate rural employment. In the year 1988-89 the volume of food aid, monitored and coordinated by WFP for development projects stands at about 500,000 metric tons of wheat, worth about US\$93.7 million. The Food for Work Programme generates about 40 million days of employment per year in the dry season. On

the other hand the Vulnerable Groups Development Programme provides food aid to about 455,000 destitute women and the Rural Maintenance Programme benefits about 61,500 poor rural women, employed through monetized food aid per year.

From the experience of Bangladesh, since the floods of just over a year ago, we offer not only thanks, but also offer hope. Today, not yet one and a half years after experiencing the devastation of unprecedented floods, farmers in Bangladesh are beginning to taste the fruits of high rates of agricultural growth.

Within the past year, our Government has made major changes in policies towards agriculture. These new policies have for the most part, liberalized private import trade and also domestic trade in agriculture inputs. The most important input affected by policy changes has been small diesel engines, which farmers use to lift ground and surface water for irrigation. The Government has also taken steps to give the private sector a larger role in fertilizer trade. With these new policies, 1989 saw a record expansion of irrigated areas, and indications are that expansion of irrigated areas in 1990 may be equally impressive. We anticipate substantially larger foodgrain production in 1989-90.

Recent agricultural growth in Bangladesh has come with big increases in South-South trade. Among major trade partners supplying agricultural inputs, China, Republic of Korea, Italy, India, supply diesel engines; China supplies power tillers, and Thailand and India supply seeds. As suppliers of agricultural inputs, these countries have made major contributions to agricultural growth in Bangladesh. We appreciate their interest and initiatives to sell agricultural inputs to farmers in Bangladesh. At the same time, we follow an open trade policy, and we invite other countries to compete in our market.

The experience of Bangladesh over the past year and a half can be taken as an example of what is possible with new policies in agriculture. Bangladesh removed duties and restrictions on private imports of key agricultural inputs and also removed regulations protecting public monopolies limiting trade in key agricultural inputs. These were not easy changes. To some extent, the disaster of the 1988 flood helped to generate support for new policies to break out of stagnation. Changes in policies brought immediate and large increases in imports of diesel engines for irrigation and power tillers for land preparation. Private fertilizer sales have grown beyond expectations.

For governments facing hard choices to break public monopolies, to reduce restrictions on private trade, or to introduce market oriented import policies, I invite you to take a closer look at the experiences in our country, to see some of the benefits that come with such changes in policies.

This brings me to the third topic, Mr Chairman. New policies favouring private trade in agricultural inputs do work. They work so well that the Government of Bangladesh is now in a position to ask donors to redesign their policies in turn. We have four suggestions and requests concerning policies in the area of international agriculture trade and development aid.

First, we endorse a trend towards more programme aid. One of the papers which has been distributed for this Conference (International Agricultural Adjustment: Progress Report on Guidelines 7, 8 and 12, para 50 on page 17) notes an ongoing trend for official commitments for agriculture to shift from project aid to programme aid. This trend suits current developments in Bangladesh. As Bangladesh businessmen import more agricultural inputs, the Government of Bangladesh will need more programme aid to ensure that it has enough foreign currency to sell to private businessmen bringing in agricultural inputs.

Second, we ask donors to look carefully at their policies for food aid to Bangladesh, and in particular to explore options to increase non-food aid as food aid falls. Bangladesh expects to achieve foodgrain self-sufficiency within a very few years. This current year we may be able to reduce our dependence on imported foodgrains by more than 1.5 million tons compared to last year.

Shipments of food aid to Bangladesh have generated counterpart funds which have supported Government Taka expenditures for development projects. As agricultural growth continues, we will be looking for increased commodity aid, programme loans, or other equivalent aid to generate counterpart funds lost as food aid falls. Bangladesh asks donors to recognize the impact of reduction in food aid on the Government budget and to redesign their programmes to support efforts by the Government of Bangladesh to generate sufficient Taka funds for rapid development.

Third, we ask that donors and other agencies involved with food aid targeted at the poor in Bangladesh redesign their activities to procure foods for such very important programmes from domestic markets. Although Bangladesh as a whole is rapidly approaching foodgrain self-sufficiency, many of the poor in Bangladesh will continue to need individual and family food aid. World Food Programme, the United States, CARE, Canada, Australia, EEC and other donors have supported large, effective, and very much appreciated programmes such as Food for Work and Vulnerable Group Development, and these need to be continued.

Donors are currently supplying, through imports, most of the foodgrains which are distributed through such programmes. As Bangladesh nears foodgrain self-sufficiency, continued high levels of imports could drive prices in Bangladesh far below world market rates.

Procurement from within the country will ensure the necessary price support incentive essential for continued increase in foodgrain production. Government appreciates continuation of food aid programmes targeted at the poor. As Bangladesh nears foodgrain self-sufficiency, continuation of such programmes will be in jeopardy as imports fall. We ask donors to develop procedures to buy food grains from the local market. We invite donors to coordinate their activities with the Government's local procurement programmes.

Bangladesh does not want to hold foodgrain prices above world market rates; we are merely asking for cooperation to keep prices from falling far below world market rates. Low foodgrain prices would be very unfortunate in that they would weaken incentives that have been encouraged by recent policy changes.

Fourth, Bangladesh supports initiatives to reduce barriers to trade in agricultural commodities. In this respect, it is heartening to see strong efforts to promote international trade in agricultural commodities on commercial terms, as described in current Progress Reports on International Agricultural Adjustment and on GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations. With international negotiations and agreements on agricultural trade, we are optimistic that trade among all FAO member countries will expand on commercial terms. With current rapid growth in agriculture in Bangladesh, we look forward as well to taking a larger part in such trade.

The Technical Cooperation Programme of FAO has been found to be quite effective for a developing country like Bangladesh where needs are enormous and of an immediate nature. Right at this moment our Fertilizer Demonstrations and Distribution Project is being implemented under TCP assistance. There are other projects also, which are in the pipeline and awaiting TCP funding. Mr Chairman, I would like to emphasize that there is a need to strengthen the Technical Cooperation Programme of FAO for providing funds for small and relatively short-term projects of immediate impact. I am sure, many of the distinguished delegates from the member countries will share with me my views.

Before closing, I would like to say a few words about CIRDAP, the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific. FAO played a key role in establishing this organization during the 1970s.

Bangladesh is the host country, and its head office is located in Dhaka. This past July, CIRDAP completed its first decade of operation with an expanding programme of project activities in 11 member countries in the region.

And finally Mr Chairman, I would like to conclude with my thanks to the many FAO staff and functionaries in Dhaka, Rome and other places who have individually and collectively made a significant contribution to the agricultural development in Bangladesh. Amongst us today we have many friends who have visited my country and shared in our development process. I would like to take this opportunity to invite them to come to Bangladesh again and witness the progress that has been achieved.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Andreas GAVRIELIDES (Cyprus):** I am very pleased and honoured that I have the opportunity to address this significant Session, the 25th Session of the FAO Conference.

On behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Cyprus, I would like to congratulate you for your election to chair this present Session of the Conference. I would also like to extend my congratulations to the elected Vice-Chairmen. You have, no doubt, a difficult task before you but I am certain that with your wisdom and patience you will guide the Conference to a fruitful final outcome.

This year's Conference is, indeed, a significant one as it comes at an optimal time as the world food and agriculture situation is not at the desired levels but regrettably has tended to deteriorate from year to year in the last decade. In many instances we have confirmed that concerted action is required by all of us, developed and developing countries. We need to ameliorate this situation to the benefit of the hundreds of millions of our fellow human beings that have not yet tasted the fruits of development.

The world population will reach 6 billion by the end of this century, most of them in the developing nations. At the same time, the world production of basic foodstuffs has fallen below aggregate consumption levels, for the second consecutive year. Poverty, hunger, persistent malnutrition and famine, especially in developing countries, are still on the rise.

The situation of food and agriculture and the associated problems in several parts of the world are issues of important studies by the FAO. The member countries of FAO should fully assist these efforts, in parallel with the efforts to support and maintain its leading role in the provision of specific and relevant assistance and advice to the countries that need such help.

With regard to the work of other agencies I should like to refer particularly to the World Food Council which has unanimously adopted during its last two Ministerial meetings the "Cyprus Initiative Against Hunger in the World" and the "Cairo Plan of Action". These are also two important steps towards alleviating hunger and malnutrition provided all countries follow their recommendations. In this respect, a very positive step has been the adoption of the "Cyprus Initiative" by the Ministerial Conference of Non-Aligned Countries late last year.

The problems associated with these conditions are deeply rooted and very complex, and I believe that two major underlying causes are the present economic situation and the world trade environment.

In considering the international economic situation it can be concluded that economic recovery in many developed countries during the last few years had little impact on developing nations. Many of the latter are still facing critical economic difficulties. The staggering debt burden, in particular has exceeded \$1 000 billion, steadily draining huge resources from them.

Foreign exchange shortages also negatively affect development efforts. Therefore, measures should be taken to secure sufficient capital for developing countries to mitigate the difficulties they are now facing.

We have noted, and welcome, initiatives to alleviate the debt problem and to encourage the flow of financial resources. International, regional and bilateral efforts should, however, be intensified for results to be achieved. In this respect, I believe that there is an urgent need to proceed a step further and take concrete action to implement the many recommendations that have accumulated. The final outcome will depend on the degree and timing of our unilateral and collective actions, and the choices we shall make. Signs of hope are the easing of tensions, the spirit of detente, the cosmogonic changes that are currently taking place, and the progress in the disarmament negotiations. As a result, human and financial resources will be redirected away from military build-up, towards improving the quality of life on this planet.

Cyprus has always advocated the peaceful solution of regional problems and has always supported cooperation among nations. Only in such a spirit could it be possible to maintain sustainable development which will lead to prosperity and wellbeing.

With regard to the world trade situation, conditions are far from satisfactory. High levels of protectionism in agricultural commodity markets still persist. They are mostly due to macroeconomic imbalances, impunities in by-passing GATT rules, shifts in the balance of economic power, trends for regionalism and bilateralism. As a result they negatively affect food availability and security, induce rising costs, distort and destabilize world prices and trade, and lead to misallocation of resources, causing great discontent.

Subsidized products from industrialized countries continue to create enormous problems to developing countries, whilst depressed agricultural prices also result in reduced foreign exchange earnings for most of them.

In this context, trade negotiations need to be shaped to enhance the developing nations' export prospects. Food exporters must be enabled to compete in international markets and importers be assured of a regular flow of supplies. Liberalization of world agricultural trade stimulates world trade and benefits developing countries. It needs, however, to be pursued with structural changes in national economies in order to be sustainable and have lower short-term costs.

In the same sense, greater efforts and assistance are required to improve the living and working conditions of the small farmers who constitute the backbone of the agricultural economies of developing countries.

Another crucial issue which calls for our attention is the protection of the environment. In this respect, I would like to congratulate the FAO Director-General for selecting "Food and the Environment", as the theme of this year's World Food Day.

The international community has steadily come to realize that the world is characterized by the ever-increasing economic, political and environmental interdependence. Economic growth can turn out to be ephemeral, particularly when the ecosystems that sustain such a growth are over exploited.

We should therefore concentrate our efforts on environmentally sound agricultural practices. They are dictated by common sense and cannot be sustainable if they lead to the deterioration of the environment. Global environmental problems affect, after all, food production, and usually the people who suffer are the poor and underprivileged.

More international efforts and collaboration are therefore required in the area of environmental protection. It is now time, I believe, to implement what has already been agreed and needs to be done.

Turning to the agenda of this Conference I would like to refer briefly to some issues which are of particular importance to my delegation.

First, the item on the introduction of the "Prior Informed Consent" (PIC) clause in the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides is of major importance. It is our belief that the inclusion of the PIC clause will make this code of conduct more comprehensive for the mutual benefit of all the parties concerned, and we give our full support.



Second, the consideration for the return of the FAO Regional Office for the Near East back to the Region meets with our approval. The third comment is on the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations. My delegation has always seen the review process as an effort to ensure that all possible means are found to enable FAO to face the challenges of the future. We are pleased that the review has been completed on time and that sufficient consultations have taken place between all interested parties. We support the conclusion of the report and I would like to appeal to all Member Nations to approve it by consensus.

Concerning the major item in the Conference agenda, the proposed Programme of Work and Budget is in line with the fundamental goals of FAO to promote food production, increase food security and assist farmers to share in the progress of the past decades. My delegation is in agreement with the priorities set out, and welcomes the untiring efforts of the Director-General for directing additional resources to the technical and economic programmes.

With regard to the proposed Budget for 1990-91, my delegation believes that it needs to be seen in the light of the heavy cuts effected in the 1987-88 biennium. We therefore consider the proposed net programme increase to be the absolute minimum required. FAO needs resources to tackle its mission to assist nations to respond to the legitimate aspirations of their people.

The increased allocations to TCP are welcomed, as this programme enabled the Organization to respond quickly to urgent needs. It also proved catalytic in generating larger and longer term assistance for the development of agriculture. I note with concern, however, that its share in the overall Regular Programme budget is declining - a trend that needs to be reversed in future TCP appropriations.

I would also like to emphasize two very significant prerequisites if our efforts are to be successful.

The first, is the urgent need for a strong political will and commitment to increase cooperation between developed and developing countries.

The second, is the urgent requirement to take practical steps towards a more pragmatic interaction and co-ordination between the various executive United Nations and other international agencies.

Such an integration of policies, objectives, and programmes can only be secured if they really become mutually consistent and supportive. The preparations for the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade offer a unique opportunity for such an interaction. It should be guided by the pursuit by all concerned of sustainable development, encompassing the integration of economic development, alleviation of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and protection of the environment.

The shrinking financial resources available to our Organization is an area of major concern. I believe that all countries should make every effort immediately to fulfil their responsibilities to the Organization so as to enable FAO to implement its work programme and to continue its highly significant mission for the betterment of mankind.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Michael O'KENNEDY (Ireland):** First of all, I should like to congratulate John Kerin, Minister for Agriculture of Australia, on his election as Conference Chairman. I should also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen and the Chairmen and members of various committees. I wish them well in their work in the days ahead. The Director-General is also to be complimented on the content, format and presentation of the major Conference documents. I have no doubt that these will play an important role in the quality of debate at this Conference.

Ireland has participated in the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations almost from its inception. From the beginning we fully supported the Organization's aims of raising nutritional levels, of improving the production and distribution of food and agricultural products and the living conditions of rural people. The priorities and direction of FAO's efforts today to eliminate hunger and poverty are the product of more than forty years' experience in dealing with these problems. However, Ireland remains today fully committed to the Organization's work.

In document C 89/12 setting out the arrangements for the Twenty-Fifth Session of this Conference it is suggested that country statements concentrate on a few selected issues. I propose to do this in outlining some recent developments in Irish agriculture and in dealing with agenda items of the Conference.

Irish policy in relation to agriculture and rural development has been aimed up to now primarily at modernization of farms and increasing production and particularly since our accession to the European Community, considerable progress has been achieved in this area. Major expansion has taken place, especially in the area of livestock products.

For the future our objectives, as set out in our National Development Plan are to increase efficiency, reduce costs, improve quality and stimulate diversification of production, while protecting, and enhancing the environment and natural resources - the last objective being the subject of a major public investment programme at this point. It is also intended to encourage the introduction and maintenance of environmentally friendly farming practices in order to protect the ecology of sensitive areas and to maintain the landscape.

In order to ensure that rural communities remain vibrant economically and socially, we are in the process of developing a broadly based rural development programme involving agriculture and other complementary economic activities. Already in 1988 we introduced a pilot integrated rural development programme with the objective of developing vigorous self-sustaining rural communities by stimulating and encouraging new initiatives and indigenous enterprise and by promoting a sense of community spirit through improvements in economic and social conditions. The strategy of the programme is based on a greater involvement by the local community in determining the priorities for its own development, and in accepting responsibility for bringing its aspirations to reality. While final results from the pilot project are still some way off, I am very confident that it will be the basis of further successful rural development initiatives.

In order to facilitate the new agricultural orientation and the greater emphasis on rural development, we decided to establish in 1988 a single body to be responsible for providing advisory, training, research and development services for the Irish agriculture and food industries. This was to emphasise the need for a co-ordinated approach to agricultural development and to give greater prominence to research and development in food processing. We believe that we have in place now the institutional structure to see Irish agriculture successfully through the next decade and into the next century.

Following the brief description of the current orientation of the Irish agriculture and food sector, I would like to turn now to one of the items on the agenda of this Conference - the world food and agriculture situation.

The FAO has pointed out that, despite significant increases in world food production over the past ten or twenty years, malnutrition and hunger continue to grow, especially in low income countries. Furthermore projections for the next fifteen years indicate that the situation will remain a cause of great concern. Structural adjustment programmes, essential though they often are to create conditions for future growth, have involved reductions in health and social programmes which, in turn, affect most severely the most vulnerable sections of the populations. We share the FAO view that special efforts are needed by the countries concerned and the entire international community to address these problems. These efforts must include, but should not stop at, food aid. Furthermore, in a context in which food aid will continue to be necessary for the foreseeable future, an important part of our efforts to ensure an adequate level of nutrition for all will be to ensure that the flow of information about the needs of the poorest, the most remote, the most vulnerable, is accelerated and deepened.

Every delegate at this Conference will agree that the continued existence of hunger in the world into the twenty first century is unacceptable. It is unacceptable in terms of human suffering and also because, by virtue of its associated - and often appalling - health problems it hinders development. To this extent, it is self-perpetuating. We must for that reason, as a community of nations, redouble our efforts to strike at the roots of hunger. The initiative of this organization in convening an international Conference on nutrition in 1992-93 is timely and, with the assistance and expertise of other UN agencies, I have no doubt it will make a worthwhile contribution to our common objective.

This goal of eliminating hunger and malnutrition will play an important role for many years to come. The achievement of this aim requires progress towards other related goals, and depends on developments outside the agricultural sector, including, of course, improvements in the international economic situation. Among those other goals I would like to refer to two in particular - the conservation of natural resources and environmental protection and improvement of the international trading system for agricultural commodities.

Ireland does not have a particularly intensive agriculture. Compared to the standards common in many developed countries we have a very favourable relationship between total animal units and land area. Furthermore we do not have heavy industry which can be environmentally hazardous. Food production in our country does not risk the environmental hazards which are more prevalent elsewhere. It is, in fact, my Government's policy through strict controls to maintain this position. As a small country we are, however, concerned that factors not of our making, and outside of our control, such

as global warming, acid rain and radioactive particles, can have a detrimental effect on our environment. Environmental protection has now become a truly international issue. Such problems can best be dealt with at an international level. I fully support FAO for that reason, an organization which has the expertise and the global influence, in giving high priority to this issue.

In most low income countries, agricultural exports are vital for foreign exchange earnings, incomes and employment, and to pay for imports of food and agricultural raw materials and other goods that cannot be produced domestically. Agricultural policies in developed countries must find the right balance between policies to maintain farm incomes and preserve rural communities and those to prevent the re-emergence of structural surpluses of several major agricultural products which could damage, in particular, the agricultural economies of some low income countries. They must also seek to control budget expenditures and achieve more efficient overall use of resources. The GATT Uruguay Round provides the opportunity for these objectives to be vigorously pursued.

Ireland has a small open economy, highly dependent on international trade and, in particular, on agricultural trade which accounts for over 40 percent of our net export earnings. The current GATT Round is clearly a very important issue for us, particularly as, for the first time, agricultural trade is being addressed in a very fundamental way.

Through our membership of the European Community we are participating constructively in the GATT discussions. The Community wants a successful outcome to the round and is flexible and open in its negotiating stance. We have already tabled a significant short-term offer in compliance with the timetable set by the Trade Negotiating Committee last April, and position papers have also been submitted by the Community on the aggregate measurement of support and on GATT rules and disciplines. We are now working on preparation of a comprehensive global document on the agriculture negotiations as a whole. We envisaged and expect a result which will ensure more balanced and more market-oriented development of agricultural trade and greater discipline and transparency on the way in which necessary subsidies are applied. At the same time, I have to make it very clear that we are not prepared to abandon the basic principles of the Common Agricultural Policy and the Community's capacity to maintain a viable rural society.

The GATT negotiations are entering a critical time as Ireland resumes the Presidency of the Community on 1 January next. We are fully committed to progressing the negotiations and will be working at Community level to ensure that the end-1990 deadline for conclusion of the agricultural aspects of the Uruguay Round is facilitated.

A fundamental condition for a successful conclusion is that the needs of developing countries are adequately and indeed fully met. The Community's attachment to this ideal has been clearly set out in a number of its submissions to the negotiating process. We in Ireland particularly, for historical reasons, have very good reason, not only to appreciate, but to be deeply committed to, those ideals. We are clearly committed to affording developing countries special and differentiated treatment according to their needs.

As one would expect, the FAO is playing an important part in the Uruguay Round. Help has come from the FAO through the provision of statistics, analytical documents and other supports to the GATT Secretariat. Technical assistance to interested countries, including developing countries, has also been provided in computing the Producer Subsidy Equivalent. The FAO's main involvement in the GATT negotiations will be in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary regulations where a specific role has been suggested for international organizations. A successful outcome to the current GATT Round will, therefore, require not only the full commitment of the Contracting Parties to the GATT, but also the help of various international bodies such as the FAO.

Another major problem affecting the developing countries continues to be the international debt problem. In 1987 resource transfers from the developing to the developed countries greatly exceeded transfers in the opposite direction. This led to an increased awareness of the plight of the least well-off countries. In particular, there was a growing agreement that economic growth, particularly in some countries, had proved insufficient in itself to resolve the debt problem. Greater understanding emerged as to the social and political constraints facing countries carrying out economic reform programmes. Multilateral development agencies channelled an increasing proportion of their resources to the worst-affected countries and also a number of industrialized countries took measures to ease the debt burden. I hope that these developments taken together foreshadow more comprehensive moves in the future, designed to resolve the debt crisis.

Finally, the challenge still remains as to how to solve the problem of both hunger and poverty within the context of sustainable development. Natural resources must be preserved while, at the same time, producing adequate food for both the present and the future. Land resources are in constant decline due to erosion, desertification, greenhouse effects and urbanization. While technological progress can increase output, quality and wholesomeness must be maintained. Much has been achieved by the FAO and others. But much -very, very much - remains to be done. All of us must rededicate ourselves to the task of securing adequate and sustained development throughout the entire world.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Mian Ata Mohammed MANEKA (Pakistan):** Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is for me a great pleasure and a privilege to address this distinguished audience. First and foremost, on my behalf and on behalf of my delegation, I would like to congratulate you Mr Chairman and your three Vice Chairmen on your election. We are confident that you and your Bureau, with your experience and skills, would see us through to meaningful and fruitful conclusions.

The FAO Conference not only provides opportunity for discussion of major issues and policies in the field of Food and Agriculture but also enables delegates from different countries to exchange and learn from each others' experiences. My delegation looks forward to a constructive participation in these exchanges and deliberations.

Pakistan, as you know, is a predominantly agricultural country, with 70 percent of its population residing in rural areas and dependent directly or indirectly on agriculture. The agriculture sector consequently holds great significance in our development, planning and policy interventions. The Democratic Government of Prime Minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto is determined to modernize this sector, to move out of its subsistence pattern into a more productive and income generating system, attuned to the benefit of our poor rural masses. It has placed before itself as its goal the vision of our great leader, 'Shaheed Zulfigar Ali Bhutto', the former Prime Minister of Pakistan.

His dream of a prosperous Pakistan is best portrayed in his own words and I quote:

"I have a vision that, one day, fields in our country will blossom with abundance, the rolling fields and orchards and village squares will ring with the songs of happy children... children with the colour of blood in their cheeks and with books held proudly under their arms".

To translate this vision into reality, the Government has formulated a comprehensive frame work of objectives and strategies for attaining self-sufficiency and boosting agricultural production.

We expect positive results from these policy objectives. In fact, the progress so far achieved is encouraging. In 1988-89, the agriculture sector registered a growth rate of 6.1 percent which was much above the population growth rate of 3.1 percent. The package incentives consisting of appropriate combination of farm inputs and support prices culminated in the high yields of our major crops: wheat, cotton and rice.

Mr Chairman, turning to the Agenda, we note several important items. However, keeping the constraints of time in view I would confine my reflections to a few.

The biennial Programme of Work and Budget, in our view, is extremely important, as what we approve during the Conference gives direction to FAO in the performance of its mandated tasks of increasing agricultural incomes and alleviating hunger, poverty and malnutrition in the world. We are pleased to note that a well-balanced Programme of Work and Budget prepared in line with the advice of the regional conferences, the technical committees and the intergovernmental bodies of the organization has been placed before us. Given the fast growing world population and the numerous needs of poor countries, we would have liked to see a Programme increase of more than 1 percent. We would have also liked to see a larger allocation for the Technical Co-operation Programme than the proposed level of 11.8 percent. In our own experience the TCP has always responded most usefully to our emergent and other requirements. We do realize the constraints behind the present Programme size and hope that future programmes of work and budget would be much larger, envisaging a natural growth both in terms of activities and resources. We also hope that during the 1990-91 biennium, the Programme of Work and Budget would be augmented through extra budgetary and supplementary funds, particularly on TCP.

The review process set up in the 24th Conference has now reached its conclusion. The report allays the apprehensions of some Member Nations held at that time, regarding the solidity and dynamism of the Organization, and we must now bring this programme to an end through meaningful implementation of the recommendations contained in the report. It is important that the implementation remains within the confines of Resolution 6/87.

These conclusions would be the focus of our attention during the Conference session. I would, however, reiterate that the importance of the technical assistance role needs to be maintained in complementarity with the policy advice and the information dissemination role. TCP is a highly valuable activity which responds appropriately to the needs of developing countries and must be further strengthened. The recommendations do entail costs, which certainly would be difficult to obtain within the already constrained resources of the Programme of Work and Budget and have to be met through extra budgetary resources.

The effectiveness and efficiency of an Organization no doubt depends on an adequate availability of resources. We the members, have to see FAO out of its present financial crisis, by ensuring early payment of assessed contributions and arrears.

Pakistan is a Muslim country. Our religion, Islam, places women in a position of high esteem with enunciated and guaranteed rights in all spheres of life. We are governed by these enunciations through our Constitution, and our policies and actions accordingly manifest themselves. We are happy to note that FAO has evolved a comprehensive Plan of Action for the integration of women in development and on our own part we assure you that we will appropriately incorporate its recommendations in our development and other strategies. We have always been supporting the principles and programmes of the World Conference on Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development. We strongly believe and are doing our utmost to ensure that women have equal access to national resources.

The world economic situation portends serious implications for food deficit developing countries. The prevalent scenario for the developing countries is characterized by uncertainty as to the inflationary pressures, international price fluctuations, volatile exchange rates, and heavy external debts and consequent high debt service ratio. The major agricultural export items of developing countries have registered a decline in prices. On the other hand, the rise in cereal prices on the international market in 1988-89 proved detrimental to most of the developing countries that normally import cereals causing severe financial strains on their exchequer.

Disconcertingly, the World Food Security situation continues to hang in a precarious balance. Despite reported recovery in world cereal production in 1989 primarily due to better harvests in most of the developed countries, stocks at the end of 1989-90 are expected to remain at around 17 percent of the trend consumption, the minimum threshold considered necessary by FAO for world food security. Reduced availability for export, higher international prices, and possible reduction of food aid supplies could create serious difficulties for low income, food deficit countries, many of whose import needs are on the constant hike.

We must now prevent further aggravation of the situation by preparing a concerted plan of action based on solid measures. We feel that FAO has a leading role to play here in view of its rich experience. The developed countries on their part need to contribute significantly in this regard by stepping up pace of their economic growth, providing debt reliefs, making their markets accessible and according preferential trade treatment to the developing countries. Our hopes are pinned on the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations, and we look forward to their early conclusion.

Many developing countries are now undertaking economic stabilization and structural adjustment programmes. While the need for these programmes cannot be denied, they often entail great social costs. FAO, as the lead Agricultural Agency, needs to be associated with such programmes right from the time of their initiation.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished delegates, availing this opportunity I would like to briefly refer to one of the largest and most protracted refugee situations in the World. Pakistan, as you know, has been hosting over 3.5 million Afghan refugees for a decade now. The UNHCR, WFP and a large number of other multilateral, bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations have been assisting us generously in this humane effort. These refugees, contrary to international expectations, continue to stay on in Pakistan. It is difficult for Pakistan to maintain such a large refugee population alone from its own meagre resources. We hope this humanitarian cause would continue to receive generous donor support based on the actual requirements till the honourable return of the refugees to their homeland.

In conclusion Mr Chairman, I would like to remind us of the noble ideals and aspirations with which the founding fathers had set up this Organization in those dark post-war days. The admirable manner in which the Organization has conducted itself to realization of these ideals and aspirations is well recognized. The current management headed by Dr. Edouard Saouma has no mean share in these efforts and deserves our commendation. However, the organization alone and without our support cannot perform miracles. Today we are standing at the crossroads with possibilities of a greater international peace and nightmares of widening international economic disparities.

Let us reflect together during this session and contemplate how best we can support FAO in its noble cause and how best we can orientate our national policies and actions to the furtherance of the entrustment bestowed on us by the founding fathers.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Hüsnü POYRAZ (Turkey) (original language Turkish):** Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like first to convey to you, Mr Chairman, our most sincere congratulations for your election and our best wishes for success in the tasks that you have just assumed. I also extend our good wishes to the other members of the Bureau. My delegation is convinced that under your able guidance this session of the Conference will take the proper action on the main issues of the day, however complex and difficult they may be. There is no doubt that FAO which has registered a great number of successful achievements for more than forty years, will



today again be in a position to find substantive solutions to the many difficult problems that cloud the international scene on food and agriculture. It would thus pave the way for increasingly fruitful results in the future.

The sessions of the Conference are always events of singular importance, but, on this occasion, there are a constellation of factors which make it likely that this session will be an event not just of importance, but of particular significance, because of the fact that its agenda contains this time, along with the traditional items that the conference examines usually, the item concerning the Conclusions of the review of certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations.

I will come again to the Review of FAO later. Now let me touch upon the world economic environment which directly affects the world food and agriculture situation. Indeed, a few years ago it was widely assumed that an improved international economic environment would play a basic role to solving existing global problems, to facilitate the resumption of growth all over the developing world and to increase considerably the international cooperation in the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty. However this assumption is far from being confirmed by the recent developments of the world economy. It is a fact that today the world output and trade are apparently in good health. The industrialized countries seem to have entered a new phase of sustaining growth. They are now in their seventh year of continuous growth, associated with the expansion of employment and the acceleration of both export and import volumes. The economic environment has also improved considerably in some of the developing countries as a result of policy reforms, world trade expansion and overall improvement of commodity prices. However, a number of important problems still exist on both sides. On the one hand, the industrialized world faces increasing inflationary pressures, difficulties of adjustment to the large international payment imbalances, risks of further volatility in exchange and interest rates, as well as persisting trade interventionism and protectionism. On the other hand, many developing countries continue to be in the grip of depression and macro-economic disorder. Indeed, they have not shared in the revived economic growth. The slow growth has often been associated with high inflation rates, heavy debt burdens, structural adjustment challenges and population pressures. Furthermore, in some regions hunger and malnutrition are still growing in absolute terms.

The co-existence of a favourable world economic growth and the increasing number of unresolved problems has therefore become an important feature of the world economy and has added another element of uncertainty to the international economic environment.

All these problems, risks and uncertainties, reinforced by poor weather conditions as well as the low level of agricultural investment in the major producers, have considerably affected the agricultural sector. Indeed, while global agricultural production has stagnated, cereal production has declined and not responded to the current consumption trends for the last consecutive three years. As a result, carryover world stocks have significantly fallen to the levels under that of the world food security requirements. Is it not embarrassing to deal today with the replenishment of depleted food stocks and the reestablishment of minimum levels of global security, while only two years ago we were discussing how to balance abundant surpluses and serious shortages. Furthermore, reduced availability for export in major producers, higher international prices and reduction of

food aid supplies have created additional difficulties for most of the developing countries where domestic production shortfalls increased food import needs and where the necessary foreign exchange to respond to these needs has often been lacking.

These issues call for improved international cooperation in an increasingly interdependent world. Such cooperation should aim at maintaining and strengthening a global system within which all countries can achieve their agricultural development objectives. In this respect, developing countries should first assume their own responsibilities in reactivating their agricultural development. However, regardless of how determined they are, recent developments have proved once again that these countries cannot achieve their fundamental objectives without the appropriate and timely support of the industrialized world. A more favourable external environment for developing countries means solutions corresponding to their needs for higher levels of exports, improved terms of trade, more access to external capital sources, lower net resources outflows and increased food aid and external assistance to agriculture.

In this context, the recent efforts towards debt restructuring and relief, as well as changes in some agricultural policies directed to reducing barriers to trade and diminishing subsidies on production, are of particular importance. We believe that today there are good opportunities to give a new impetus to these efforts. For instance, hunger and poverty elimination should be one of the major themes of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Economic Co-operation and of UN International Development Strategy for the 1990s. Moreover, the Uruguay Round of multilateral trends negotiations is especially important because it involves the need for reform of agricultural policies, as well as the possibility of improvements in the conditions of international agricultural trade. Since the support provided for agriculture has remained extremely high, and mainly in the form of measures related to distortions of trade in most of the countries, we fully back the effective follow-up of the decisions reached in GATT at the Trade Negotiations Committee held in April 1989. There is no doubt that success depends primarily on the political will of the main interested parties to enhance international responsibilities and to strengthen the multilateral economic system.

Despite the existing economic environment, where improved international co-operation seems to be the only way to deal with different problems, risks and uncertainties, FAO continues to make an important contribution to Member States' efforts to address the challenges confronting the world food and agricultural development. This contribution proves to be notably significant when we take into account the difficulties of the Organization in implementing complex and wide-ranging activities with a very fragile financial situation. In this frame work we believe that the restoration of the financial health of the Organization is of primary importance.

Turning to the coming biennium, Turkey approves the strategies, priorities and programmes proposed by the Director-General in his Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91. We think that the establishment of a fruitful dialogue between Member States on the one hand and member countries and the Secretariat on the other hand seems to be the main precondition for ensuring consensus on the Programme of Work and Budget. For this reason, as also recognized by the Programme and Finance Committees, we appreciate the approach adopted by the Director-General during the preparation of the budget aimed at, from the start, helping Member Nations to unite in a

consensus for approval. We consider that, given the present budgetary and financial constraints the proposals before us are realistic and balanced enough to deserve a consensus, including the budget level, which foresees a modest increase.

As far as the Review of certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations is concerned my delegation is pleased with the work which has been done by the Programme and Finance Committees, together with the experts who were called upon to assist them. It has been very encouraging to observe the fact that the Committees have adopted a common line in almost all matters under consideration. This demonstrates the positive and constructive attitude which has prevailed in accomplishing the substantive tasks which were assigned to them.

There is no doubt that the main functions of FAO, such as the collection, analysis and dissemination of information related to agriculture, the promotion of national and international action on agricultural policy issues and technical assistance preserve their importance. The evolution and trends in the world food and agricultural situation call upon us to devote an increased and balanced emphasis to all of them.

We believe that the recommendations put forward by the Programme and Finance Committees deserve our particular attention and may contribute to the better functioning of our Organization. Now we should examine them in depth and see in which way we can assure their implementation for the strengthening of the organizations. We are ready to participate in a constructive manner in this debate, which, we hope, will be concluded by consensus and will yield satisfactory results for all the Member States.

Coming to the relations of my country with FAO, let me underline Turkey's full commitment to FAO's objectives and activities. Turkey, which has had excellent relations with FAO for almost forty years, attaches a great deal of importance to all the activities of the Organization and contributes actively to them. She mainly offers her experience in the field of agriculture to the benefit of other developing countries in order to help them build up their competence and confidence. Indeed, Turkey's TCDC activities have been expanded gradually to cover a wide ranging spectrum of developing countries. Turkey, with its large agricultural potential, its rich experience and highly improved technical level, is at a position to enlarge the scope of such activities in the future, and she is looking forward to doing so.

For the information of the distinguished delegates, I would like to indicate that Turkey has experienced this year the worst drought conditions of the last 52 years and we have handled this situation without any difficulty. For the first time of our history, Turkey was able to distribute to needy farmers a quarter of a million tons of seeds in wheat and barley. This was due mainly to its high productivity level and modern facilities available in the country.

I believe it important in my concluding remarks to underline the fact that there will be no easy solution to the problems facing food and agricultural policies. We cannot be so optimistic as to expect that there will be a spontaneous upturn in this regard. The problems that have been brought to the forefront are proving to be of more deep seated character and call, in turn, for increased cooperation. We believe that the work of FAO in the period ahead will become more crucial to the needs of world food and agricultural development. The global appreciation of this role for FAO will

help ensure that it will be successful in discharging the mandates and responsibilities entrusted to it. That is why, this session of the Conference requires our utmost attention, and on that score I would like to wish it every success.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**CHAIRMAN:** The Executive Director of the World Food Council is now going to deliver a message from the Secretary General of the United Nations.

**Gerald Ion TRANT (Executive Director, World Food Council):** I take pleasure in sending greetings to the FAO Conference on the occasion of its Twenty fifth session.

You are meeting at a time when dramatic and fundamental changes are taking place. The prospects for peace in many parts of the world offer us all a challenge and an opportunity to take effective action to turn back the growing scourge of poverty and hunger which afflicts so many of the world's people. We must ensure that lasting peace is sustained through the creation of better living conditions for the hungry and the deprived.

As we prepare to embark upon a new decade leading to a new millenium, let us take the opportunity to reflect on the record of our efforts to create a better world. It is clearly an unfinished agenda. While many of the problems, such as poverty and hunger, have been with us for a long time, these problems have become more complex and the international environment within which solutions must be found has also profoundly changed. It is imperative that we adopt new and more effective approaches for their solution. I should like to pay special tribute to FAO and its distinguished Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, for their contribution in promoting international cooperation in food and agriculture as well as in our common endeavour to combat hunger and malnutrition. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and respect for the contributions of IFAD and its President, Mr Jazairy, and of WFP and its Executive Director, Mr Ingram.

The General Assembly will convene a special session in April 1990 devoted to seeking such new approaches and to adopting a new framework for international economic cooperation, particularly for the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries. At the same time, efforts are under way for the preparation of a new international development strategy for the 1990s. It is gratifying to note that food and agriculture, as well as the eradication of poverty and hunger, have been identified as priority areas for the elaboration of the new strategy. In both of these areas, FAO, together with the other food organizations, has an important contribution to make. As pointed out in the FAO Secretariat report on a long-term strategy for the food and agriculture sector, it will be necessary to develop effective policies for food and agriculture and the rural sector, in order to break the vicious circle of economic stagnation and poverty.

The world is now feeding more people than ever before. Despite this, hunger and malnutrition are growing, and will continue to do so unless nations take more effective action in favour of the hungry poor. It is this concern that prompted the World Food Council to adopt a Programme of Co operative Action in its Cairo Declaration last May. The Programme supports many of the activities promoted by the United Nations as a whole and, in particular, by FAO, the World Food Programme and IFAD, and contains many recommendations that are relevant to your deliberations. National food strategies targetted to the hungry should include measures to emphasize domestic research and extension, provide inputs at prices farmers can afford and offer appropriate producer incentives. In addition, food strategies should seek to strengthen rural infrastructure and institutions, more equitably distribute productive assets and introduce and expand effective food, nutrition and health programmes targetted to vulnerable groups. At the same time, the potential for the active involvement of the hungry small farmers, the landless and the urban poor - through employment and income generation, is a critical element for the success of such strategies. Women must be enabled to play a central role in the development process.

To assist the developing countries in this process, it is necessary to increase resource flows and to achieve a speedy resolution of their debt problems.

Equally important is the need for improvement in agricultural trade. In this regard, while progress achieved so far in the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations is to be welcomed, greater efforts should be made to take into account the concerns of developing countries.

For many developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, the trend has been towards marginalization and non-participation in the growth process. If the 1980s have been a lost decade of development for most if not all the least-developed countries, we must make sure that particular attention will be paid to addressing their problems in the 1990s. Given the often overwhelming weight of agriculture and the rural sector in the economies of least-developed countries, an effective agricultural and rural development-based strategy is vital. The United Nations will convene a conference on the least-developed countries in Paris in September 1990 and we look forward to the active participation and support of FAO.

Another issue of increasing urgency and importance is environment. Most of the environmental problems that face us today have an important bearing on food and agriculture. Deforestation, desertification, ocean and fresh water pollution, global warming and ozone depletion are all threats to our eco-systems and our food and agricultural production. We must focus more of our attention on the relations between environmental protection, natural resources management and agriculture, and promote more effective ecologically-sustainable agricultural practices. The proposed United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and its preparation will provide an opportunity for all of us to address these problems. FAO's mandate and technical competence put it in a unique position to contribute to our common endeavour and I look forward to its active participation.

In the past few years, the organizations of the United Nations system have been undergoing adjustment and adaptation to new challenges. Your Conference will consider at this current session the future role of FAO and its relations with other organizations of the system. FAO has been and

will continue to be a very important member of the United Nations family. The United Nations attaches great importance to maintaining good relations with its sister organizations to promote our common objectives. The suggestion of the Director-General of FAO for the creation of an inter-secretariat mechanism among the Rome food organizations to share information and to co-ordinate initiatives is very constructive. It deserves the serious consideration of all concerned for its early and effective implementation. In this area and others, I am confident that your discussions at the Conference will result in further strengthening FAO and its relations with other organizations.

There are many challenges facing us in the next decade and the next century. You, the members of the FAO Conference, have a heavy agenda before you and vital opportunities to seize. I wish you much success in your deliberations.

**Gouara LASSOU (Tchad):** Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Honorables délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs. La délégation tchadienne se fait un agréable plaisir de féliciter tout d'abord l'élection de M. John Charles Kerin à la Présidence de la 25ème session de la Conférence de notre Organisation. Elle est convaincue que Monsieur John Charles Kerin, dont les talents et capacités sont reconnus de tous, mènera avec objectivité et sérénité nos travaux à leur fin.

Notre Organisation, depuis sa fondation, s'est attelée avec acharnement et efficacité aux nobles idéaux humanitaires qu'il me serait superflu d'énumérer ici. L'accomplissement de ces idéaux n'est certes pas aisé du fait de la mutation rapide de notre monde et des problèmes nouveaux qui en résultent. En dépit de ce constat, le Tchad appuie et soutient résolument tous les efforts déployés par la FAO dans la recherche de leur solution durable.

Au moment où se tient cette 25ème session de la Conférence, mon pays, après l'Unité nationale retrouvée, et dans sa recherche permanente de la paix et de coexistence pacifique avec ses voisins dans le respect de ses droits fondamentaux, a signé le 31 août 1989 à Alger l'accord cadre Tchad-Libye.

Cette voie pour la paix définitive sera maintenue afin de permettre au Tchad de s'atteler à son développement en général et au développement rural qui occupe 85 pour cent de la population active en particulier.

L'autosuffisance et la sécurité alimentaire sont parmi les priorités du gouvernement; mon pays s'est résolument engagé dans un vaste programme de réajustement structurel.

Pour le court, moyen et long terme les orientations majeures que le Tchad entend imprimer à son économie en matière de développement rural peuvent s'énoncer comme suit:

Garantir et sécuriser à l'échelle du pays et des régions ou zones naturelles l'autosuffisance alimentaire du pays et réduire sa vulnérabilité sur ce plan.

Améliorer et diversifier les capacités de production existantes de façon à dégager des excédents de production affectables à l'exportation et au développement des capacités agro-industrielles.

Améliorer le potentiel productif par une meilleure gestion et exploitation des ressources naturelles et de l'espace rural, de façon à combattre les tendances d'appauvrissement et de dégradation du milieu naturel en luttant contre les phénomènes de désertification.

Créer les conditions de croissance et d'évolution satisfaisantes des revenus du secteur rural, à même de générer une croissance des échanges, des investissements et de l'épargne de ce secteur.

Appuyer les initiatives des productions du secteur rural, susciter et encourager les dynamiques d'organisation des producteurs en vue de la prise en charge progressive des fonctions nécessaires au développement de leur secteur.

Je voudrais ici exprimer au nom de mon gouvernement mes sincères remerciements à la Communauté internationale et en particulier à la FAO qui est constamment à nos côtés dans cette lutte contre la famine et la misère.

Pour ne citer que la politique de sécurité alimentaire dont entend se doter mon pays, grâce au concours de la FAO, la première phase de l'étude portant sur le diagnostic et l'évaluation de la situation actuelle vient d'être achevée.

Mon pays est d'ores et déjà reconnaissant aux institutions et bailleurs de fonds qui vont contribuer à l'exécution effective et dans les meilleurs délais de ce programme.

De même, mon pays attend de ces mêmes institutions et bailleurs de fonds leurs contributions pour le complément nécessaire en céréales locales et leurs apports en fonds indispensables à la gestion du stock de sécurité alimentaire dont la constitution a déjà commencé.

En parlant d'autosuffisance et de sécurité alimentaire, il ne me paraît pas superflu de rendre un hommage mérité au Programme alimentaire mondial dont le rôle et les activités en Afrique ont connu depuis 1963 à nos jours une évolution significative, notamment dans:

La coordination des aides alimentaires dans les opérations d'urgence.

La coordination et l'appui technique de l'information logistique dans le cadre des opérations d'urgence et des projets de développement.

Le soutien aux projets de sécurité alimentaire à travers la monétisation et le système Food For Work (Vivres-contre-travail).

La promotion de la production, commercialisation et consommation des céréales locales en effectuant des achats locaux et les opérations triangulaires pour ravitailler les projets soutenus par le PAM.

Il convient également de rappeler que cette évolution du PAM a été aussi possible grâce au dynamisme de Monsieur James Ingram à la tête de l'institution depuis 1981.

En ce qui concerne le Tchad, le Programme alimentaire mondial a dépensé de 1968 à nos jours 52 milliards de francs CFA. Les activités sont variées et s'inscrivent dans les domaines prioritaires arrêtés par le gouvernement, à savoir:

- . le développement rural,
- . le développement des ressources humaines,
- ..la sécurité alimentaire par la constitution de stocks de réserve céréalières,

la santé par une assistance continue aux groupes vulnérables,  
la lutte contre la désertification.

Au regard de ce qui précède, mon gouvernement lance un appel renouvelé aux donateurs pour augmenter leurs contributions en nature et en espèces au programme pour permettre au PAM de maintenir et d'augmenter le niveau de l'impact et de l'efficacité de son assistance dans les pays bénéficiaires. Mon gouvernement souhaite par ailleurs que les structures administratives et financières du PAM soient adaptées à la dimension du volume et de la complexité de ses activités pour lui permettre d'être encore plus efficace.

Qu'il me soit permis de faire brièvement le point sur la situation de la campagne agricole 1989/90 dans mon pays.

Malgré les efforts inlassables que déploie mon Gouvernement pour maintenir la production agricole à un niveau satisfaisant, le Tchad, pays sahélien et de surcroît enclavé, est soumis constamment aux aléas climatiques et au fléau acridien.

La pluviométrie enregistrée au cours de cette campagne a été peu abondante et mal répartie. Les pluies ont été quelque peu régulières dans le sud du pays mais moins importantes par rapport à celles de l'année dernière.

D'une manière générale, il a été enregistré sur l'ensemble du pays un déficit pluviométrique par rapport à l'année 1988. La situation phytosanitaire a été également préoccupante, particulièrement les attaques des sauteriaux et des oiseaux granivores. Dans certaines localités, les dégâts causés par les sauteriaux sont estimés entre 70 et 80 %, certains champs ont été abandonnés. La production des céréales pour cette campagne est estimée à 674 000 tonnes contre 825 000 tonnes en 1988.

Monsieur le Président, la précarité de notre sort nous oblige une fois de plus à faire appel à la solidarité internationale pour nous permettre de maîtriser notre production agricole.

Je ne saurais clore mon intervention sans rendre ici un hommage mérité à M. Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de la FAO, et à ses collaborateurs pour leur dévouement et leur disponibilité dans l'accomplissement de la lourde et complexe mission qui est la leur.

Ayant foi en notre organisation, mon pays ne cessera de lui apporter son appui et son soutien total.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos



**Mohamed Moussa CHEHEM (Djibouti):** C'est un plaisir et un privilège pour moi de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée où se trouve réunis tous les principaux responsables de l'agriculture mondiale.

Qu'il me soit permis tout d'abord d'exprimer mon immense plaisir de vous voir, Monsieur le Président, occuper ce fauteuil pendant cette importante session et je vous félicite pour votre élection. Nous savons tous que vous-mêmes et votre grand pays êtes convaincus de l'efficacité de l'effort collectif pour la réalisation de la croissance et du développement équilibrés que nous visons.

Si nous sommes venus de toutes les régions du monde pour nous réunir aujourd'hui et nous concerter, c'est à cause de notre commune préoccupation de la menace que la pauvreté, la malnutrition et la faim font encore malheureusement peser sur une grande partie de l'humanité, notamment dans l'hémisphère sud.

D'éminents orateurs m'ont précédé et ont souligné, de façon éloquente, les aspects inquiétants de la situation alimentaire actuelle et les perspectives qui ne s'annoncent guère meilleures, alors que les manifestations organisées de par le monde à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation ont montré avec quelle ardeur l'humanité aspire à un meilleur état des conditions de vie.

La solidarité internationale ne devra-t-elle pas commencer par l'alimentation et l'agriculture, comme à l'aube de l'histoire quand l'apparition d'une agriculture sédentaire et productive a déterminé l'essor de la civilisation.

De même, à l'aube du vingt et unième siècle, il ne saurait être question de bâtir une société planétaire si nous ne commençons pas par résoudre le problème millénaire de la faim et de la malnutrition et participer ainsi, et de façon efficace, à sauvegarder la paix dans le monde.

Il peut paraître paradoxal de voir encore, et surtout en Afrique, que la faim est le lot quotidien de millions d'âmes, alors que les progrès technologiques enregistrés au cours des deux dernières décennies sont considérables.

Mais en fait il n'y a rien d'étonnant à cela quand on sait que le progrès technique reste très inégalement réparti et de vastes régions du monde en développement en demeurent à l'écart.

Monsieur le Président, en évoquant ce contraste qui existe entre la tendance positive des progrès technologiques réalisés dans l'agriculture et l'absence relative de résultats significatifs dans la lutte contre les facteurs contraignants tels que la sécheresse prolongée, la désertification, la dégradation des terres ou les parasites, je pense à mon pays, la République de Djibouti, où les conditions naturelles sont extrêmement rudes et qui espère, malgré tout, tirer profit de ces progrès techniques afin d'améliorer la production agricole et le niveau de vie des couches pauvres de la population.

Mon gouvernement a inscrit parmi les principaux objectifs de sa loi d'orientation économique et sociale, la lutte contre la pauvreté et la réduction du taux de dépendance alimentaire.

Beaucoup d'efforts ont été déployés au cours de la dernière décennie et des résultats encourageants ont été enregistrés puisque la production agricole et halieutique ont fait l'objet d'un accroissement substantiel, mais nous sommes conscients aussi que le chemin restant à parcourir demeure long et les objectifs lointains.

En effet, pour mon pays les facteurs contraignants sont nombreux et de taille, qu'il s'agisse de l'eau, facteur clé du développement agricole, et qui est très rare, ou des pâturages déjà fragilisés par les problèmes de la nature et souffrant d'une pression constante et permanente du cheptel, ou des terres agricoles déjà rares et de nature salée et qui sont soumises aux effets connus de l'irrigation mal conduite que sont la salinisation et l'alcalinisation conduisant à la stérilité.

C'est dans ce contexte, Monsieur le Président, que la jeune République de Djibouti où les traditions agricoles sont relativement récentes, oeuvre pour améliorer la gestion de ses ressources naturelles, hélas fort limitées.

Nous avons mis au point plusieurs programmes et projets visant entre autres à rationaliser l'utilisation des ressources en eau, à préserver l'environnement, à expérimenter et développer des espèces résistant à la salinité et à la chaleur et à vulgariser des nouvelles techniques simples de cuisson utilisant l'énergie solaire.

Nous avons également initié des programmes pour le développement du secteur de la pêche qui offre des possibilités relativement importantes et qui peut contribuer de façon significative à la réduction de notre déficit alimentaire.

Le secteur de l'élevage, activité traditionnelle dans mon pays, a trouvé une place de choix dans nos programmes aussi bien en ce qui concerne la santé animale que pour la valorisation des produits et sous-produits animaux.

Pendant la dernière décennie, nous avons à Djibouti, pu voir avec admiration comment la FAO a réussi à rester à la hauteur de son mandat en inscrivant à son actif des résultats remarquables et a fait preuve d'une coopération exemplaire, ce qui a eu un impact largement positif sur nos efforts aux profits des agriculteurs, éleveurs et pêcheurs.

Comme je disais au début, malgré les efforts louables entrepris, il nous faut bien malheureusement admettre que nous devons encore faire de gros efforts dans notre lutte contre la pauvreté et la faim et c'est pour cela que nous devons mettre en commun toutes nos forces, toute notre sagesse, et par-dessus tout notre détermination de remédier à cette situation et de donner à tous, les moyens de vivre dans des conditions raisonnablement acceptables.

Notre Organisation a beaucoup de défis à relever et son avenir, que nous sommes en train de modeler, dépendra des ressources dont elle disposera pour faire face à des besoins toujours croissants.

Notre sagesse et notre détermination dont je parlais il y a un instant, Monsieur le Président, doivent se traduire par le soutien effectif et constant que nous devons apporter à notre Organisation pour lui permettre d'intensifier ses efforts pour faire face aux dangers qui menacent l'avenir de l'humanité.

En effet, chaque année des millions d'hectares de terres arables deviennent déserts, plus de dix millions d'hectares de forêts sont détruits dont une bonne partie devient de mauvaises terres qui ne permettent même pas à ceux qui s'y installent de vivre, les précipitations de pluies acides tuent forêts et lacs et ont sans doute acidifié d'énormes étendues de terre au-delà de toute récupération.

La combustion de combustibles fossiles dégage du gaz carbonique qui réchauffe petit à petit la terre, ce qui pourrait provoquer un relèvement des températures moyennes tel qu'il modifierait les grandes régions de production agricole. D'autres gaz d'origine industrielle menacent d'appauvrir la couche d'ozone qui protège la planète, à tel point qu'ils pourraient multiplier le nombre de cancer chez les hommes et les bêtes et perturber la chaîne alimentaire des océans. L'industrie et l'agriculture déversent des substances toxiques dans la chaîne alimentaire de l'homme et dans les nappes phréatiques, au-delà de tout espoir de récupération.

L'appauvrissement des ressources à l'échelle locale peut se répercuter sur des régions plus vastes: la dégradation des terres arides crée des sinistrés par millions qui se réfugient dans les pays voisins, la déforestation provoque des inondations de plus en plus dévastatrices dans les pays aval, les précipitations acides ou les retombées nucléaires ne respectent nullement les frontières.

L'environnement planétaire est un tout indissociable, dont les éléments s'imbriquent et se complètent, et sa sauvegarde, condition sine qua non pour le développement économique, exige de nous tous une concertation plus accrue et une solidarité plus active pour parer à ces menaces planétaires.

Dans cette perspective, nous lançons et souscrivons à l'idée de créer un mécanisme de concertation et de coordination interagences notamment entre la FAO, le PNUD, le FIDA et le PAM, pour assurer une meilleure efficacité et complémentarité des actions tendant à augmenter les productions vivrières tout en préservant l'équilibre écologique.

Ce type d'action concerté notamment à l'occasion de la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation permettrait de mieux sensibiliser l'opinion internationale aux problèmes de la faim et de l'environnement tant dans les pays du Nord que du Sud.

Malheureusement et en dépit des bonnes dispositions affichées, l'écart entre le Nord et le Sud ne cesse de s'agrandir. Pour la majorité d'entre eux, les pays en développement ont actuellement un revenu par habitant inférieur à celui enregistré au début des années 80 et l'explosion démographique a accentué la pression sur des ressources déjà soumises à un épuisement perpétuel.

Dans beaucoup de pays, les dépenses militaires absorbent un tel pourcentage du revenu national qui pourrait être utilisé pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire. La course aux armements ne fait qu'exacerber les rivalités et entraîne les conflits inter-Etats jetant dans la misère des millions de réfugiés affamés et sans emploi, et qui constitue un véritable facteur de déstabilisation de la sécurité des Etats, notamment ceux démunis de ressources.

Nul pays dans le monde n'est à l'abri du danger militaire, mais nul pays non plus n'est à l'abri des dangers liés à l'insécurité alimentaire.

Rien n'en appelle aujourd'hui à la conscience des hommes et au sens de la responsabilité collective, dont nous avons la charge, que l'image de ces millions d'âmes soumises aux affres de la faim et tant qu'elle existe nous ne pouvons aspirer à la paix et la sécurité dont nous avons tant besoin.

Je voudrais, Monsieur le Président, exprimer, du haut de cette tribune, mes vifs et sincères remerciements à tous les pays frères et amis et aux organisations internationales et régionales qui ont apporté, de près ou de loin, un soutien technique ou financier aux Programmes de développement de mon pays et souhaite aux travaux de notre Conférence plein succès sous votre conduite.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much. I do not want to say too much; I will quickly summarize the statements so far. It is quite obvious that the themes are coming out very clearly. Against the background of ever-present tragedy, poverty, hunger and disease, speakers this afternoon have stressed, first of all, general environmental concerns such as desertification and the concept of sustainable development, international debt, trade deterioration, agricultural subsidies and armed conflict, and what these are doing to diminish food production. Two delegates mentioned that if the arms race is diminishing, this does provide opportunities for funds to be diverted to food production.

Another theme has been the need to liberalize world agricultural trade and the importance of the Uruguay Round of GATT. There have been various proposals on delivery of, and best forms of, development assistance and aid. Some speakers have raised the question of technical cooperation and the role of in-country training.

Lastly, many speakers have expressed concern about FAO's financial situation and zero real budget growth for FAO, given the burgeoning demands being put on it. It would appear that most speakers think that the Programme of Work and Budget for the two years ahead has been commented on favourably.

Ministers, distinguished Delegates, this meeting stands adjourned until 9.30 tomorrow morning.

The meeting rose at 18.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.15 horas.

# conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

# conférence

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

# conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 89/PV/5

Twenty-fourth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-cinquième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

25º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

## FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE QUINTA SESION PLENARIA

14 November 1989

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.30 hours  
John Charles Kerin, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 30  
sous la présidence de John Charles Kerin, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la Quinta Sesión Plenaria a las 09.30 horas  
bajo la presidencia de John Charles Kerin, Presidente de la Conferencia

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)

**Jean-Claude PIOT (Suisse):** Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est avec plaisir que je m'adresse, sous votre distinguée présidence, aux honorables délégués de plus de 150 pays composant notre Organisation, la FAO, afin de nous mettre d'accord sur les sujets importants pour l'avenir de notre Organisation et de donner les directives en conséquence au Directeur général.

La réalisation des objectifs qui figurent dans l'Acte constitutif de notre Organisation, et plus précisément dans son préambule, à savoir l'élimination de la faim, de la malnutrition et de la pauvreté dans le monde, reste aujourd'hui, malheureusement, tout aussi éloignée pour bon nombre de pays membres et pour une part importante de leurs populations qu'il y a 45 ans, lors de la formulation de ces objectifs par les fondateurs de la FAO.

Derrière la lenteur des progrès en la matière, on peut cependant distinguer des développements différents. Certains pays ont sensiblement progressé par rapport à ces objectifs, les raisons de leur réussite nous intéressent tous. D'autres ont mené des politiques se soldant par de graves échecs. Il s'agit là aussi d'en tirer les leçons. Quelle a été la contribution de la FAO au succès des uns et quels ont été ses efforts pour prévenir les échecs des autres? Ce sont les questions que nous devons nous poser.

Vu les objectifs que nous nous sommes donnés dans l'Acte constitutif de notre Organisation, il est non seulement légitime, mais absolument nécessaire de nous poser des questions critiques à ce sujet. Il s'agit de s'assurer que la FAO puisse contribuer de la façon la plus efficace possible aux efforts de tous les pays pour éliminer la faim, la malnutrition et la pauvreté. C'est pour aborder cette question de manière constructive avec tous les pays membres que mon pays s'est prononcé, il y a deux ans, en faveur d'un examen en profondeur de l'activité de notre Organisation. Je tiens à répéter ce que j'ai souligné alors: mon pays ne cherche pas à avoir une FAO qui coûte moins cher, mais une FAO qui donne de meilleurs résultats pour les populations nécessiteuses du monde. C'est pour lui donner un nouvel élan dans cette direction que nous devons nous mettre d'accord, au cours de cette Conférence, sur les réformes à y apporter.

Monsieur le Président, l'examen de la FAO est sans doute le plus important point de l'ordre du jour de notre Conférence. Les réformes s'inscrivent dans une évolution encourageante que nous pouvons observer un peu partout dans le monde, en particulier dans les pays de l'Est de l'Europe, mais aussi dans de nombreux pays en développement, et que j'aimerais qualifier d'époque d'un "réalisme nouveau".

Nous remercions les Comités du programme et des finances, ainsi que les experts et les consultants, de leur précieuse collaboration dans l'examen de la FAO. Nous aimerions toutefois que la Conférence, dans les décisions qu'elle doit prendre, aille au-delà des recommandations proposées, qui nous paraissent un peu trop timides.

Monsieur le Président, dans ce monde en changement, la FAO doit mieux définir les activités qu'elle peut offrir et les insérer dans des stratégies claires, afin qu'elle puisse proposer des solutions aux problèmes de sa sphère de compétence. N'oublions pas que, dans cette action, la FAO n'est pas seule et qu'elle ne saurait faire tout elle-même; son rôle doit être avant tout celui d'un catalyseur. Nous ne la renforcerons pas si nous lui donnons de nouvelles tâches sans en éliminer simultanément ou conjointement d'autres.

Nous pensons qu'aujourd'hui les champs d'activités de la FAO sont trop vastes et que son programme de travail est trop diversifié. Le résultat est que, dans de nombreuses activités, on n'atteint pas la "masse critique". Elaguons donc avec courage certaines activités parce que notre Organisation, dans ses tentatives de vouloir tout faire à la fois, ne peut pas mener à chef ce qu'elle devrait faire en priorité.

Si nous analysons les causes des succès et des échecs en matière d'agriculture et d'alimentation, il apparaît bientôt que les politiques agricoles, économiques, sociales et les politiques démographiques y jouent un rôle plus important que les facteurs techniques. C'est la raison qui nous pousse à plaider en faveur d'un renforcement massif des activités de la FAO dans le domaine de l'analyse et des conseils en matière de politique agricole, car nous sommes d'avis que beaucoup d'activités techniques peuvent être confiées à d'autres institutions qui ont déjà des liens, qui collaborent avec la FAO. Si les paysans n'arrivent pas à produire suffisamment, c'est le plus souvent moins à cause de leur ignorance des techniques agricoles que par la présence d'un cadre économique et politique peu favorable. Beaucoup de pays ne connaissent pas suffisamment la notion des rapports coûts/bénéfices de leurs politiques. C'est le rôle de la FAO de les aider à faire ces calculs, dans le cadre d'une approche globale des problèmes.

Par de telles études dans son domaine de compétences, la FAO doit apporter une contribution très précieuse aux décideurs politiques. Du reste, l'Acte constitutif engage précisément notre Organisation à jouer un rôle actif dans ce domaine, rôle que nous voulons jouer en recherchant une étroite coopération avec le PNUD et la Banque mondiale.

Les réformes doivent également porter sur les activités de terrain. Il s'agit d'abord de soumettre ces activités à une orientation plus marquée de la part des pays membres. Il s'agit également de les rationaliser en les concentrant sur des programmes sous-sectoriels, par pays, planifiés sur 5 à 10 ans selon le modèle du Plan d'action forestier tropical qui est un excellent exemple. Cette solution serait préférable à l'émiettement actuel des activités de terrain en 2 500 projets (j'ai bien dit 2 500 projets) de faible dimension pour la plupart. De plus, le Programme de terrain de notre Organisation devrait être guidé par les mêmes priorités que son Programme ordinaire.

Par ailleurs, il y aura lieu d'établir des liens plus directs entre la FAO et le monde agricole et ses organisations. Les propositions que la Suisse a faites à cet égard à plusieurs reprises devraient être examinées dans le cadre de l'évaluation projetée des résultats de la stratégie de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural.

Dans ce contexte, nous sommes très préoccupés par les délibérations qui ont lieu dans le cadre de l'Uruguay Round au GATT. Selon la formule qui sera finalement retenue, la tâche de la FAO en sera soit facilitée, soit compliquée.

Vous savez que la Suisse, avec de nombreux autres pays membres, ne pense pas que le libre-échange pur et dur pour les produits de l'agriculture apporte la bonne solution aux problèmes posés. Par contre, mon pays est ouvert aux besoins d'exportations agricoles des pays en développement. Nous défendons le principe que tous les pays ont droit à une agriculture, ne serait-ce que pour leur permettre d'atteindre les objectifs non commerciaux de leur politique agricole nationale, qui sont parfaitement dans la ligne tracée par la FAO: sécurité alimentaire, protection de l'environnement et des sites cultivés, maintien d'un habitat décentralisé pour assurer la viabilité des zones rurales.

Une telle agriculture se rencontre dans une grande majorité des pays du monde, et a besoin de protection. Je précise que cette protection sous-entend efforts d'adaptation, dynamisme, initiative et sens des responsabilités de la part des bénéficiaires.

Au sujet du Programme de travail et budget proposé pour les deux années à venir, un premier constat s'impose: la structuration et la présentation du Programme de travail et budget ne laissent pas ressortir clairement les priorités du programme car le nombre d'activités proposées sous forme d'éléments de programme, au nombre de 310 dans le seul chapitre 2, ne cesse d'augmenter. Cet éparpillement des ressources n'est-il pas le témoignage d'un certain désarroi face à l'immensité et à la complexité du problème? Je pose la question.

Mon pays demande une concentration des activités et ressources sur des programmes établis selon une stratégie précise et transparente. Nous proposons que notre Conférence décide de réduire le nombre des activités dans l'élaboration du Programme de travail 1992-1993 déjà, et de concentrer les activités retenues dans un nombre limité de programmes d'action spéciaux prioritaires sur la base de propositions à faire par le Comité du programme.

Le budget proposé pour le prochain biennium nous paraît trop élevé, et les demandes d'augmentation des coûts ne sont pas suffisamment justifiées. Le budget nous paraît trop élevé pour deux raisons. D'abord, il ne tient pas compte du fait qu'un plafond est atteint pour beaucoup de pays quant à leurs contributions obligatoires au système multilatéral. De nombreux pays n'ont pas encore payé leurs cotisations. D'autre part, il propose de réorienter l'Organisation en additionnant de nouvelles activités, au lieu de restreindre les programmes non prioritaires hérités du passé et que d'autres institutions peuvent mieux assumer que la nôtre.

Quant à la situation financière difficile de notre Organisation, notre position reste inchangée: les pays membres, quels qu'ils soient, se doivent de régler leurs contributions dans les délais normaux.

Monsieur le Président, je n'aimerais pas conclure mon intervention en vous laissant l'impression que je viens de présenter un réquisitoire au sujet de l'activité de notre Organisation. Je répète que nous ne voulons pas aider moins, mais aider mieux. J'ai désiré apporter dans le débat une critique constructive et je vous prie de bien vouloir la considérer comme telle.



Je m'en voudrais - je le dois à l'équité - de ne pas relever aussi les succès à mettre au crédit de notre Organisation, car il y en a. Ils sont dus à l'engagement, au dévouement, au travail de toute l'équipe de la FAO, à Rome et ailleurs dans le monde.

Un soir de la semaine dernière, en regardant à la télévision les images poignantes des événements qui viennent de se produire à Berlin plus spécialement, mais en Europe orientale aussi, j'ai appris que le vent soufflant de Moscou, et appelé "Perestroïka", ne signifiait pas seulement restructuration, mais aussi réformes. Je souhaite qu'un même vent souffle aussi sur Rome, pour le plus grand bien et la plus grande efficacité de notre Organisation.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Adoption of the Second Report of the General Committee

Adoption du deuxième rapport du Bureau

Aprobación del Segundo Informe del Comité General

**CHAIRMAN:** Before we move to the next speaker, I shall ask the Secretary-General to make two announcements. The first refers to recommendations from the General Committee, and the second to the visit by the Conference to His Holiness, Pope John Paul II.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Le Bureau s'est réuni ce matin. Il a décidé de soumettre à la Conférence les recommandations suivantes: la première recommandation concerne la nomination des Vice-Présidents, en application de l'Article X, point 2c, du Règlement général de l'Organisation. Le Bureau recommande à la Conférence de répartir comme suit les vice-présidences des trois commissions:

Commission I: Monsieur E. DETRAUX (Belgique), Monsieur Amir SOULEIMAN (Iraq);

Commission II: Monsieur THOMSEN (Danemark), Monsieur A.K.M. Fazley RABBI (Bangladesh);

Commission III: Monsieur LAMPTEY (Ghana), Monsieur G. AHMED (Soudan).

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on that recommendation? No, there are no comments. It is adopted.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** La deuxième recommandation porte sur le programme de la séance plénière du mardi 14 novembre 1989: le Bureau a été informé que Son Excellence Monsieur Hissène HABRE, Président de la République du Tchad, prendrait la parole devant la Conférence cet après-midi en qualité de Président en exercice du CILSS.

Pour permettre aux délégations qui le souhaitent de participer au débat général à cette séance, le Bureau recommande que celle-ci soit prolongée jusqu'à ce que tous les orateurs inscrits sur la liste aient pu prendre la parole.

Le Bureau recommande également qu'il soit permis à la Commission I et à la Commission II de suspendre leurs travaux afin que les délégations puissent se rendre en plénière et entendre le discours susmentionné.

**CHAIRMAN:** I will draw the attention of Delegates to the recommendation that we extend the Plenary Session, so that all speakers have an opportunity to address the Conference. As there are no comments, this is adopted.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Je voudrais faire une annonce concernant l'audience pontificale prévue pour le 16 novembre 1989, à 12 heures. Sa Sainteté le Pape Jean-Paul II accordera une audience au Palazzo Apostolico, Vatican, aux Délégués Observateurs, assistant à la 25ème session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Vous êtes priés de bien vouloir confirmer votre participation à cette audience en remplissant l'un des formulaires spéciaux qui ont été distribués à chaque Délégation, au Bureau des Documents. Ces formulaires doivent être remis au Bureau des Documents le mardi 14 novembre, au plus tard, c'est-à-dire aujourd'hui même, afin que les cartons d'invitation puissent être préparés pour les Ministres, Chefs et Membres des délégations.

Les Etats Membres sont par ailleurs priés de bien vouloir indiquer sur le formulaire le nom du Délégué qui représentera le pays à l'audience pontificale. Les cartons d'invitation seront strictement personnels.

Des invitations peuvent être remises aux épouses des Délégués sur demande. Les Délégués sont priés de bien vouloir retirer les invitations au Bureau A-132 le mercredi 15 novembre.

Des renseignements complémentaires concernant le transport et l'interruption de séance de la Conférence seront communiqués en temps utile.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Mr Secretary-General. We now return to the Speakers' List, and I call to the floor the Honourable Charles A. Maynard, representing Dominica.

**Charles A. MAYNARD (Dominica):** It is once again my great pleasure to address this august gathering of the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference, and to bring greetings from my Government and the people of the Commonwealth of Dominica to you, Mr Chairman, the distinguished Director-General, and the staff of FAO. As we meet here, I recall with sadness the passing away on Sunday, 22 October of Dominica's Ambassador to FAO, Dr McDonald Benjamin.

Dr Benjamin was a great public servant, and he contributed greatly to the work of FAO and IFAD. I say with no fear of contradiction that both FAO and IFAD were able to service very much more effectively because of his devotion and dedication. I take this opportunity to publicly thank FAO for the many courtesies extended to us at the Memorial Service held in Rome in his honour on 25 October. Our Government greatly appreciated this fine gesture.

At our last Session, much of our energies were taken up by the matter of the election of the Director-General. I consider that this Session will be able to spend some time on the business of FAO, its operations and plans for its future actions as we enter the 1990s.

I would be grateful for your permission, Mr Chairman, to bring to your attention some of the domestic crises which have faced some of the member countries of the Caribbean as a result of the passage of Hurricane Hugo between 16 and 17 September, 1989. Both as my country was itself one of those directly affected, and also in my position as the current Chairman of the Standing Committee of Ministers of Agriculture in the Caribbean community, we would seek through you, Mr Chairman, this opportunity to inform member countries of the situation and the need to effect emergency reconstruction of the agricultural sector devastated by the storm, and solicit your support for the programme of action to be undertaken.

The event I have just referred to may be a direct consequence of the wider concerns now being so strongly expressed on changes in global environment and the so-called "greenhouse effect". We have been warned that the consequences of this may be increased occurrences of tropical disturbances and climate variations, in both temperature and rainfall, worldwide. We have been informed also that the cause of much of this change in the world environment has been largely because of the accelerated exploitation of some of the Earth's natural resources, primarily its forested areas, now principally located in the more underdeveloped Third World. The effect has also been associated with increased industrialization in developed countries.

However, the solution to these problems appears to be balanced against our efforts in developing our own economies, which must involve the exploitation of our natural resources. It must be made clear that it is imperative that we all understand that unless substantial assistance, both financial and technical, is channelled to underdeveloped countries, the planned exploitation of these resources is unlikely to take place, and may well affect the very survival of our people in the region.

The issues are not restricted to technical support which we may be inclined to give the priority to in this particular forum. There is clearly a case for more substantial financial assistance for programmes in the field that will have a direct impact on our producers. The FAO clearly has a role to play, and in fact, has been instrumental in achieving some of the desired results. However, for FAO to be fully functional and effective in this particular context it is incumbent on us to ensure that the Organization receives the necessary financial support it deserves. I have included this aspect of support because some of us remember the uncertainties in the business of FAO that were raised at the last session of Conference.

I am particularly pleased that the Review of FAO Operations has taken place, and that the findings are most favourable in respect of the Organization's modus operandi. I trust that this will again engender the trust in the Organization that is required from all, and that there will be a stronger

commitment to support its various programmes. This programme support is particularly critical if we agree that the issues of the world environment are to be fought on the lines of our Third World countries, namely countries primarily in the tropical belt and where development actions will undoubtedly affect global environment. Also, countries that face staggering problems of rising populations, insecure food production and security, dependency on foreign assistance and resulting rising debt burdens.

In the context of the new burdens that we have to shoulder because of environmental considerations and our vulnerability to disasters, it is fitting that we should make an extra call on the international community to come to our assistance at this particular time. The utilization and exploitation of resources must generate a sustainable production that will address the issues of poverty and dependency that have plagued our countries.

We know it is not by accident that our countries have been extensively exploited, but primarily because of lack of understanding of our environments and the introduction of technologies and equipment that we were told was all part of the process of the modernization of our agriculture. It is clear that in all cases this modernization has not yielded the desired results. Where then are the opportunities? I believe that there are a number of positive actions that we can take. Firstly, the role of FAO in developing countries will need to be further strengthened. Assistance must not only be considered in the advancement of technology and research, but must be complemented with extensive financial support in the actual transfer of technology generated at the farm level. It is here that I wish our members to take particular note, especially those better placed financially to provide this emergency support.

In the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1990-91 biennium we know that there is only a marginal real increase in resources of 0.45 percent. On the other hand, the demands placed on the FAO can keep going in line with population increases, environmental threats, and persistent malnutrition and poverty in rural areas. These demands, when viewed in the context of staff reductions, the work of FAO, and in particular its impact on the welfare of those in greatest need can be severely reduced. Therefore, the technology that is generated must be appropriate to all situations. Again the question of sustainable research capabilities in our tropical environment needs to be addressed. I stress "sustainable" because we in the Commonwealth, in the area of Dominica and the Caribbean, can no longer remain the training ground for foreign scientists but must train our own. There is a role in this emergency situation for both foreign and local specialists, but in the longer term in the matter of sustainability and capacity to deal with changing situations, we must support the indigenous research institutions and centres of learning that are developing in our tropical and underdeveloped environments. The FAO can provide technical leadership, harness and steer the foreign expertise through its existing programmes, such as the Technical Cooperation Programme and others. However, the survival of our indigenous institutions also requires financial support. There may be various mechanisms we may wish to explore in this process, such as twinning institutions, student exchanges, farmer exchanges and the use of indigenous centres of excellence such as the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, and the University of the West Indies.

I would not wish you to get the impression that we are without our own capacity or capabilities to undertake this task. I believe that within the last couple of decades, our countries have been able, with the assistance of many of the developing countries, to build institutions for training and research that deserve the highest commendation and respect. However, while the flow of cooperation between institutions in some instances has been stronger between north and south as it were, the relationship between our own, within our various tropical regions, have been weaker. There is a wealth of expertise available within our own boundaries that has remained untapped. I emphasize that this expertise is not only that which is often locked up in institutions and various libraries or in the minds of technicians or professionals, but also a real expertise in our farmers themselves, in the experiences and knowledge that we still fail to utilize effectively.

FAO has an effective mechanism for facilitating this exchange, especially in our countries, through its TCDC programme - the programme for Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries. This programme needs to be expanded both in scope and definition if it is to fully harness the expertise I have referred to. Therefore, I make the plea that FAO in its coming Programme of Work and Budget gives this particular programme the regard it deserves and that the essential financial support it requires will be provided. FAO will also need to understand definitions are not to be set in concrete and interpreted as such in the corridors of the headquarters here in Rome.

The Caribbean region, although composed of a number of small sovereign states, is united by a history, culture, and ethnic origin. We are closely bound together in regional institutions and various cooperative programmes that facilitate to an even greater extent the TCDC approach in our context. It would seem, therefore, that the definition of international movement should not be so rigidly applied and enforced in the specific situation of the Caribbean region.

I also make a plea for stronger emphasis on the networks that can promote the utilization of this indigenous expertise. In this battle of survival for our part, and in the wider global context of developing and underdeveloped countries, we are particularly vulnerable to changes in the environment. Our survival depends in a sense on our ability to generate foreign exchange and to develop the technologies now associated with modernization. We cannot consider questions of our own food security without considering the issues of global food security.

I wish to make a plea for assistance to the Caribbean. Their agriculture was devastated by Hurricane Hugo in September this year. In a small island economy such as Dominica, where fishing and agriculture are major occupations for our people, any damage sustained in those areas has serious repercussions. The need for immediate assistance and recovery of this area and the rapid reforestation of our forestry areas is critical. In such circumstances assistance usually flows quickly into the areas of the re-establishment of public utilities, infrastructure, and housing. These are essential and most necessary. But we cannot afford to allow our producers to lose faith and to lose the grip on the advance that they have been making in developing the agricultural sectors of this country. It is for this reason that I find this Conference an appropriate forum to make such a plea for assistance in the agricultural sectors of those countries concerned. Of an estimated US\$40 million direct damages sustained it has been proposed that an emergency assistance programme of US\$20 million will be needed to provide

the relief required. Having said this I am well placed in making these remarks to this distinguished gathering since my country, Dominica, has in the last decade experienced three severe hurricanes, the last of which was in September of this year. Therefore, I am confident if timely technical and financial assistance is provided it is possible to restore the agricultural sectors of our countries, after these events.

As Chairman of the Standing Committee of Ministers of Agriculture of CARICOM I have asked the Director-General to assess the damage done to agricultural economies and to advise on the assistance required. I am happy to say FAO has acted very expeditiously and a mission visited our countries last month and has already produced a report. On the basis of the findings of this commission I am informed that the Director-General will be supporting the appeal that I now make to you all.

Perhaps it is fitting before I conclude that I should seek your permission to recognize the firm support we have received from FAO, the United States Agency for International Development, Britain's ODA through its Caribbean office, CIDA and the Republic of China and Taiwan following the hurricane.

**HE KANG (China) (original language Chinese):** First of all, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to you on your election as Chairman of this august conference. I sincerely wish this session of the Conference a successful conclusion under your able guidance.

Since the last session of the Conference, the international political situation has taken up a trend for detente; the international trade of agricultural commodities has gone through an ebb and is heading for new progress: A number of countries are now on their way to agricultural reform and continue their efforts to modernize their agriculture. All these are positive, favourable factors for future agricultural development. However, we have noted with great concern that world food security is once again faced with a serious threat posed by a reduction of global food production for two consecutive years and a sharp decline of worldwide cereal stocks. The international negotiations aimed at improving trade of agricultural commodities have not achieved envisaged results. Developing countries are faced with serious economic difficulties and many of them have encountered constraints in developing their food production due to a heavy debt burden and lack of necessary technology. The worldwide agro-ecological environment has been deteriorating. These negative factors are also likely to hinder agricultural development in the future. Therefore, we must have a clear cognizance of the stark reality facing us. We must, proceeding from the actual circumstances and facing the challenge of the current agricultural situation, do a good job in the following areas in a bid to achieve further agricultural development in the nineties. Firstly, to ensure world food security by promoting food production, especially by helping developing countries to increase food production. We hope that those developed countries with relatively rich agricultural resources will, bearing in mind the overall interests of obtaining world food security, fully utilize their resources and produce more food to keep the international market supplied. We also hope that all countries in a position to do so will provide practical support and assistance to developing countries with their resources and technology. The developing countries for their part should try their best to increase their food production. All in all, we believe that

all countries need to strengthen their political will in solving world food problems and to honour the agreement reached by relevant international organizations to ensure world food security and the eradication of hunger and malnutrition.

Secondly, to strive for an early successful conclusion of the international negotiations on agricultural trade. Over a dozen negotiations have been concluded since the Uruguay Round of GATT reached agreement in principle on "liberalization of agricultural trade", but so far no remarkable progress has been made on substantive issues. We believe that the development of agricultural trade and of the entire rural economy are supplementary and promoting to each other. Once a sound environment is established for developing countries, they can create much more foreign earnings than official development assistance can provide. For this reason, the principle of "differential treatment" should be earnestly followed in the course of improving the terms of agricultural trade, and first and foremost, the trade barriers should be lifted to open the market for agricultural commodities from developing countries. We agree with the opinions of some countries that in liberalizing trade, consideration of world food security should not be neglected.

Thirdly, to transform the advocacy of "protecting and renewing agricultural resources" into action for developing agriculture. It is of great significance that FAO set out "Food and Environment" as the theme of this year's World Food Day. Sustained agricultural development and environmental protection are closely interactive. In this connection, we should sum up experiences and learn lessons so as to identify and implement a complete set of practical and economical measures for integrated control and management.

The Food and Agriculture Organization is a leading specialized agency for agriculture within the UN system. Over the past 40-odd years, this Organization has made important contributions to worldwide food and agricultural development. We are pleased to note that, after two years' review, the Programme and Finance Committees as well as the expert groups which assisted them in the review unanimously came to the conclusion that "FAO is still a solid and dynamic institution". Following the global agricultural development during the post-war years, an international agricultural community consisting of FAO, WFP, IFAD and WFC has gradually formed in the city of Rome with world-renowned fame. These organizations have, in different ways, provided valuable assistance for developing countries. It is our hope that the relevant international agencies will further coordinate their efforts so as to make new contributions in promoting world agricultural development and in fulfilling the noble task of eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

In 1979, I led the Chinese delegation to WCARRD. At this same podium where I am standing today, for the first time I briefed fellow delegates on how China had initiated reform in the rural areas. Now 10 years have passed and China's reform in the rural economic structure has achieved remarkable success. The introduction and improvement of the multiformed responsibility system characterized by household farming operations with income linked to output not only have greatly mobilized the farmers' enthusiasm for production but also has further brought the advantages of the collective economy into full play. In 1988, the country's gross agricultural output value went up by 82.6% against 1978, registering an average annual growth rate of 6.2%. The year's cereal production increased from 300 million tons to 400 million tons. Efforts are being made to rationalize the rural

economic structure so that agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fishery and sideline occupations are developing in an all-round way. The gross output value of township enterprises has surpassed that of agriculture, becoming a main pillar of the rural economy. The farmers' per capita income rose by 1.6 times over 1978, irrespective of rising prices. Thanks to hard work and the policy of reform and opening to the outside world, we have succeeded in feeding 22% of the world's population with 7% of the world's arable land. Thus we have basically solved the problem of feeding and clothing our people. This year's summer cereal production reached 93 million tons, setting a historical record. In addition, though natural calamities caused damage in some places, the total food production is still expected to reach a higher level than last year.

In China, agriculture is the foundation but also a weak link in the national economy. The communiqué of the recently concluded 5th Plenary Session of the 13th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party reiterated that our government would follow the principle of continuously developing the economy in a sustained and balanced manner and at the same time steadfastly adhere to the policy of reform and opening to the outside world. At present, in our endeavour to "improve the economic environment and rectify the economic order", we shall accord the highest priority to agriculture so that we continue to adjust the economic structure. Meanwhile, we shall stabilize various rural policies, raise the purchasing prices of farm products, increase agricultural input, mobilize all other sectors to support agriculture, further strengthen the agro-technical extension and service network and pay more attention to the exploration of agricultural resources and environment conservation improvement. Efforts will also be devoted to building up agro-industries, all in a bid to achieve steady and sustained development of food and agricultural production. In international agricultural exchange, we shall, as always, stick to the principle of equality, mutual benefit, independence and self-determination. We shall enhance economic and technical cooperation in the field of agriculture with other countries in the world, and South-South cooperation in particular, with a view to assisting each other for common progress.

**CHAIRMAN:** Before calling Mr Braks, the Minister of Agriculture for the Netherlands, I wish to point out that last week he was appointed Minister of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries for the fourth time.

**G.J.M. BRAKS (Netherlands):** I am delighted to be here once again and to have the opportunity of speaking at this Conference. The Conference is being held for the Twenty-fifth time and is therefore a Silver Jubilee. Such a Silver Jubilee should be celebrated, or should it? The world food situation is not splendid. After a number of lean production years, world food stocks have decreased.

The present reserve is only 16% of consumption, which, according to FAO, is too low. Therefore, our Jubilee Celebration seems somewhat clouded by concern about the world food situation. Even so, there is less cause for concern than one would think at first sight.

The existing food situation can be attributed in large part to a conscious restriction of production. A large number of important industrialized countries are compelled by a lack of market outlets to restrict their production. The decline in production is also a result of exceptional weather conditions in western areas.



I am thus of the opinion that the seemingly unfavourable situation of the present will prove to be temporary. Technically speaking, it is certainly possible to achieve the desired reserve level. However, one of the causes of production restriction is serious, namely, the lack of demand resulting from insufficient purchasing power in some parts of the world. This forms a fundamental threat to global food security. The distribution of production in the world (and more and more the way in which production takes place) is also fraught with problems. Some of these points merit attention, so I would like to dwell on them a little longer.

First of all, the market situation. Unfortunately, we know the problems only too well. A heavy burden of debt, an unfavourable balance of payments and currency problems cause a lack of buying power - and not only at macro-level. In countries with problems in this area the individual consumer is also faced with a lack of purchasing power. FAO is right in placing more and more emphasis on access to food. Higher production or import into these areas does not in itself solve the problem of food security. The necessary buying power can be generated by economic developments.

Agriculture is of enormous importance especially to the development of economically weak countries. GATT, too, is aware of this. A lot of attention is fortunately devoted in its negotiations to the special problems of developing countries. This gives them a better chance to develop agriculture in a more balanced way, and to acquire a more favourable competitive position.

Some remarks, now, on production methods. The realization is growing that agriculture should above all be sustainable. It is gratifying to know that FAO, too, is aware of this. This is clearly visible in the present work programme and that for the coming biennium, as well as in the attention given to it in the Review. In my view, it will have to receive even more emphasis. How can we achieve a sustainable agriculture? There can be no agriculture without genetic material, and that genetic material must be conserved. Furthermore, subjects such as integrated crop protection and a safer trade in chemical pesticides are essential conditions for a sustainable agriculture.

The forestry sector is also a focus of attention, both as regards sustainability and in relation to the economics and the environment. In this respect I consider the Tropical Forestry Action Plan highly important. We must also realize that forestry and agriculture cannot be viewed in isolation when it comes to land use. There is, accordingly, a close relation between agriculture and the environment.

Food and the environment was the main theme of the key address by our Prime Minister on World Food Day in this hall last month. I recall his statement that the ultimate goal is the creation of sustainable farm systems which are economically sound and which at the same time produce without affecting the environment.

I would like to add the following to his words. The interaction between agriculture and the environment is highly topical in our small, densely populated, economically highly-developed country. On the one hand, our very intensive agriculture is the cause of environmental problems. We know it. On

the other hand, it is a victim of threats to water, air and soil fertility from industry, traffic and other activities. Government and the private sector together are working on measures to reduce the adverse impact on the environment and their activities.

We have several years of experience now, experience which may also be relevant to countries which have or expect similar problems and which have not yet developed a detailed strategy. Of course, there is also a number of countries with their own specific problems and experiences, such as those connected with the threats to the tropical rain forest.

In any case, exchange of information seems like a good thing to me. I have a proposal for this.

In my opinion the time has come for a conference on this subject, a conference with the theme of "Agriculture and the Environment"; a conference which should be a platform for experts from developed and developing countries; a conference which should result in a report with recommendations for the next FAO Conference. It could also provide inputs to the World Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. The Netherlands is quite willing to organize such a conference in 1991, to host it and to bear the cost of it, of course. Possibly, a more modest meeting to prepare such a conference would be necessary in 1990 to precede the session in 1991. I propose to discuss this with the Director-General, and I hope this Dutch initiative can be elaborated within the framework of FAO and in collaboration with other relevant UN organizations.

I would further like to make the following remarks on sustainable agriculture. It is of essential importance that the technical and socio-economic conditions are created to make it possible. Information, education and training all have an important part to play in this respect, as well as in effecting a change in mentality, a change in approach. For example, the division of roles between men and women and its consequences for rural development requires attention.

The Netherlands attaches great value to these matters. This is apparent, for instance, from the so-called multi-bicooperation with FAO, in which we elaborate these and other priority activities in so-called programme areas. I would like to pursue this point but lack of time compels me to restrict myself. All these issues will, of course, be raised extensively by the Dutch delegation during the Conference.

Today I already point to the role that farmers' organizations and cooperatives can play in agricultural development. Besides, they form an important channel for the transmission of signals from the field to the policy-makers. I base this on the experience gained in my own country. Without farmers' organizations and the whole farm infrastructure, Dutch agriculture would never have reached its present level.

FAO has played and still plays a crucial global role in all aspects of agricultural and forestry developments. This is the FAO's mandate, sometimes together with other UN organizations, of course.

At the moment FAO is at a crossroads, and will have to choose which road to take. The review exercise has ultimately resulted in a large number of recommendations in numerous areas. We agree with many of these recommendations. A major part of them can be implemented by reshuffling tasks and priorities without allocating extra financial resources.

We are prepared to consult intensively with the other Member States about these matters. We do hope that this Conference will be able to take a series of clear decisions that can form the starting point for implementation.

Finally, permit me to devote a few words to the Proposed Programme of Work and Budget. As is well known, the Netherlands adheres to the principle of zero real growth for all UN organizations financed through assessed contributions. Only in exceptional circumstances are we prepared to deviate from that principle. It is possible that some of the decisions to be taken with regard to the review will result in costs that cannot be absorbed in the proposed budget through rearrangement of priorities. We would, therefore, need to see the whole package in order to be able to make a considered judgement on both the budget and the review costing. I will leave it at this for today.

I hope I have succeeded in outlining the challenge confronting FAO, and thus all of us. I sincerely hope that together we will accept that challenge, and that it will be reflected in our decisions to be taken during this Conference.

**Franz FISCHLER (Austria) (original language German):** Mr Chairman, I should like to congratulate you on your election to this very responsible position at this Conference. At the same time I should like to express the hope and wish that success will crown our efforts at this session of the Conference.

Agriculture and forestry have to develop a new thrust on the threshold of the 21st century in order to deal with a great variety of problems and issues before us. We are still facing the fact that 600 million people are going hungry in the world, and this is in spite of the fact that there is enough food in the world to feed everyone if it was properly used and distributed. On the other hand, industrialized countries have problems in finding markets for their crops and in keeping the income of their farmers at levels comparable to those of the remainder of the population.

In addition, we have to face another fact, namely, scientific development, genetic techniques and biotechnology. All of these things are opening up undreamed of opportunities for the future, but also entail risks which are very difficult to assess. Nevertheless, they will bring about another thrust, another further development in productivity, and it is up to us as to whether this progress in production will increase inequality in the world or will ensure a greater balance in the future. In any event, these new possibilities must not result in developing countries being subjected to new constraints or new dependencies.

In recent days and weeks we have seen pictures on our television screens and in the headlines of the newspapers that tell us of events that no one would have dreamed until very recently could happen so quickly, so suddenly. We might say that the path of freedom is opening up at present, but this has implications for the economies, for economic aspects. We find that there, too, concepts of marketing economies seem to be superior, more effective than any others. We must make sure that this freedom and the economic possibilities it opens up are developed in such a way that they work within the framework of conditions that ensure that national and international

solidarity prevails in dealing with all members of society, and also the greatest challenge for the future, in our dealings with nature and our vital resources. Only thus can we progress. Freedom, therefore, must be earned every day; it is not going to fall into our laps.

Agricultural policies have a key role to play on a global scale in order to ensure a new social and economic order, a key role on the way to the next millennium, and this poses an essential requirement. The requirements of economics and of ecology must be reconciled, natural resources must be preserved, which are our force of life, non-renewable raw materials must be used sparingly, and currently open-ended cycles, such as the carbon and nitrogen cycles, must be closed as far as possible. Our policies must sound a harmonious triad of ethics, management and technology so as to develop a style of civilization, which will preserve our sources of life as well as our rights and freedoms. This has been stressed by the seven heads of states and governments of the main industrialized countries at their recent economic summit in Paris, as you will recall.

We must also look to the GATT negotiations in Geneva. There is the matter not only of using new knowledge in the most meaningful way and taking advantage of new political opportunities and commitments, but also we need to use these to solve the problems of agriculture and food all over the world, as well as to ensure access to markets and the eroding of barriers to agricultural trade. These issues have the greatest importance for the economies of developed and developing countries.

In the course of the Uruguay Round, which stands under the sign of further liberalization with national trade, we can say that we know that agriculture is the focal possibility and the essential aspect of these negotiations in the cutting back of national protectionist measures in agriculture.

I stress that Austria is in favour of doing away with protectionism, but our main consideration must be concern for everyone to take into account historical differences, differences in trade structures, measures already taken to stabilize markets in order to maintain environmental standards in production and, in particular, to take into account problems involved in generating agricultural products.

At the last meeting in Geneva, Austria put forward specific proposals in this connection to the effect that in particular direct payment unrelated to production, regional measures and measures to compensate for ecological activities should be excluded in the calculation of the overall support volume. In addition, Austria will continue to press in further negotiations that measures already taken to reduce quotas or similar measures should be taken into account.

I am convinced that farmers can only perform their functions in preserving nature, maintaining population densities in rural areas, and also performing their social and cultural functions, as well as environmental responsibilities, only altogether and in connection with production activities, not in isolation from them. These questions are of paramount importance for the world as a whole. Therefore, we must consider agriculture not just as a sort of industry that is looked at only from the point of view of cost-benefit ratios. It is more than that, much more than that.

Austria considers that the work of the FAO is of particular importance both at regional and world level. We have looked at the budget proposed by the Secretary-General for 1990-91, and we support it.

I would like to draw attention in particular to the significance of the issue of ongoing training in all areas of agriculture and forestry, the role of women in rural development and work in biotechnology and in connection with environmental protection. In particular, I would like to draw attention especially to the work of FAO in connection with the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. I also find of great significance and importance the many projects under the umbrella of TCP, and in particular the work being done there in developing countries.

The Federal Austrian Government has in the past, and will continue in the future to support the goals and targets of FAO and their implementation through carefully targeted activities in a constructive manner. We are glad to see activities such as the research network, work in the area of training in agriculture and forestry, work in connection with the role of women in rural families, in rural development, and last, but not least, the work of the European Forestry Commission. I am particularly glad to note that a greater stress is being placed in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 on the running of agriculture and forestry from an ecological point of view. We therefore support the Programme of Work and Budget proposed by the Director-General of FAO as specified in Conference document C 89/3 in detail. We support it. We issue an invitation to FAO to hold the next summer school for 1990 in our Federal Centre for Agricultural Training in Vienna. We also intend to carry on organizing seminars on forestry management. Finally, I would like to tell you that Austria will be assuming the responsibility for financing regional and national training programmes in seed production and use within the framework of FAO's worldwide campaign against hunger and malnutrition.

I am also glad to draw attention to the EEC invitation to a seminar on land use for non-food purposes to be held in Spring 1991. As regards the further work of the World Food Programme, I would like to state that my country will go on making a suitable contribution through the WFP, also as regards the IEFRR, the International Emergency Food Reserve. As regards the Food Aid Convention, I can assure you that Austria will meet its commitments and that we are considering increasing our contributions to these activities. We have looked with particular interest and studied the documents on goals, roles, priorities and studies of the FAO as well as the study of field operations of FAO, including the management study that has been made available to us. We are sure that FAO will adapt to new conditions and whatever changes may be introduced, and we are glad to see that the Programme of Work and Budget and the budget proposes to carry out activities resulting from the definition of priority targets. The working out of strategies for the 1990s is something which is particularly urgent and deserves our full support. Let us all, therefore, roll up our sleeves and get down to work so that FAO as a whole in its future work, relying on the active support of its Member Nations, may provide a particularly valuable contribution to the well-being of all farmers and agricultural workers for the greater good, not only of rural areas, but of humankind altogether.

**Brinsley SAMAROO (Trinidad and Tobago):** I bring you greetings from the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago. I also wish to fully endorse the statement made by the Distinguished Minter from Dominica, Chairman of the Standing Committee of CARICOM Ministers of Agriculture.

As we enter the decade of the 1990s, it is to be noted that in spite of the overall indication of increased production of goods and services on the global basis, economic activity in some regions does not fit this general pattern of overall growth. This is definitely the case in the Latin America and Caribbean regions, which, of course, includes Trinidad and Tobago.

The debt trap which entangles the economies of developing countries as characterized by the estimated record net outward transfer of US\$43 billion for 1988 remains a major obstacle to future growth, development and stability. Ultimately, the debt-ridden economies will have to face the menu of options put forward largely on the initiatives of the surplus industrial countries of the North.

Over and above this, our delegations meet at a time when there are some disturbing projections with respect to the global agricultural situation. I shall make brief mention of the highlights of some such projections since it is necessary that they remain foremost in our consciousness as our respective delegations pursue the debates in the various Commissions and in the Plenary sessions over the next few days.

It is indicated, for example, that with respect to per capita food production, some 70 countries in 1989 are not likely to have their food production match their population expansion. There were 56 countries in 1988; there are now 70 in 1989.

In the context of food security, the present situation is one of declining carry-over cereal stocks; in 1989, projected stocks are virtually below the FAO estimated minimum level for safeguarding world food security, and with an indication of a worsening situation in 1990.

In this regard, we note that in the context of Food Aid, there are declining shipments on a global basis in 1989, falling well below the target set by the World Food Conference in 1974, barely the minimum commitment under the Food Aid Convention, and with projections again for a worsening situation in 1990.

Against this world food scenario, we can only hope that all delegations will see the necessity of ensuring that our Conference decisions increase the strength as well as the effectiveness in the years ahead.

The Director-General and the Secretariat must be complimented for their recent review of 10 years of implementation following the 1989 World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

It is a most timely publication, and it is important for us to remember that at that Conference some 145 Governments and Representatives of international agencies, organizations and research institutions adopted, in the interest of all mankind, what has been referred to as the "Peasants' Charter", the major concern being "poverty and hunger" on a global scale.

It must be of interest, therefore, for us to get an update on the lot of the peasants during that 10-year period up to 1989.

The report provides us comparative data for two periods: 1979-1981 and 1983-85. We are told, for example, that the early 1980s witnessed a reduction in the rate of growth in the availability of food supplies on a global basis. In more specific terms, one can see that somewhere between 14.6 and 21.5 percent of the population of developing countries were undernourished; as high percentages as 14.6 and 21.5 percent.

Also, while generally there has been a marginal reduction in the incidence of undernutrition in the early 1980s compared to the 1970s, the African continent witnessed a complete deterioration of the former prevailing situation, accounting for 86.5 percent of the estimated additionally undernourished people. It is also by no means encouraging to learn that the incidence of undernourishment increased perceptibly in countries with the largest proportion of their population (that is over 80 percent) in the rural sector. Declining per capita availability of food supplies is also recorded for 29 out of 40 African countries and 9 out of 23 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

On the basis of that report, can we, in the Conference, make decisions on the assumption that surplus food from any group of countries, be they in the North or South, developed or developing, flow readily toward the food-deficit countries in order to compensate for the national deficiencies? The answer is a very resounding "No". The WCARRD Report tells us that 20 out of 32 high poverty countries showed an increased reliance on imports in an effort to cope with feeding their people. Even so, within this group, very few were able, through imported food, to achieve a level of per capita availability of food as would compensate for diminishing internal production.

The Trinidad and Tobago Delegation agrees with your earlier statement that if the FAO did not exist, it would have been necessary to create a similar organization. But we are fortunate in that we already have an appropriate and time-tested institution.

This Conference has the responsibility of dealing with follow-up action from the Twenty-fourth Biennial Conference on the matter of the review of certain aspects of its Goals and Operations. The records will show that the final decision two years ago on this matter did not meet with the approval of all Member Nations. There was much contention.

Fortunately for us, that is all behind us. The experts have reported. The Programme and Finance Committees have jointly executed their responsibilities for the review. There is consensus that the Director-General and the Secretariat provided all the necessary assistance to the review process. In addition, through his own initiative and with the approval of the Committees, the Director-General provided for broadening the scope of the overall review.

Indeed, the Director-General, with his years of accumulated experience in working within and managing the FAO, has given freely his advice, including various alternatives on some matters, with respect to the process of implementation. The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago is of the opinion that Member States and the Programme and Finance Committee have accepted the conclusions of the expert group on FAO's objectives, role, priorities and

strategies. We agree with the experts, that the Constitution of FAO, in their own words, "needs no changes of substance", that, in the words of the Review again, there is "no pressing need to change the terms of the mandate provided by the Constitution; also, that FAO is - and again I assume the words of the Review - a "solid and dynamic institution". In the circumstances, this Conference should already be well on the way to a very successful meeting.

At this crucial juncture in the life of the Organization, it is important that the big States listen to small States and viceversa; the strong, wealthy and powerful States must be prepared to listen to and negotiate in good faith with those which today are weak and deficient in financial and even technological resources. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and we are all part of that great global chain.

Global experiences are forcing us to take greater interest in environmental occurrences everywhere on this planet. For this and many other reasons, it is becoming increasingly clear that even though the work of FAO is focused on developing countries, considerable benefits are also derived by the developed countries, including those which have indicated a desire to shift their resources for international assistance from multilateral to bilateral arrangements. The Trinidad and Tobago Delegation, therefore, is firmly on the side of agreement and implementation on the major recommendations which have emerged from the Review. For this regard we urge full support for the budgetary proposals put forward by the Director-General to this Conference.

After forced Programme cuts in expenditure of \$68M over three successive years and the freezing of over 200 staff positions over the past two years, we do feel that the Organization must not be denied the real 0.45 percent budgetary increase which has been proposed.

Our Delegation also feels very strongly that, whatever the other issues may be, all of which may not be resolved at this Conference, the budget deserves the approval of all Member Nations.

Accumulated experience with the dynamics of growth, development, underemployment, trade issues and other aspects of the overall thrust for national development have proven beyond doubt that sustained development for almost all Third World countries is an elusive goal unless accompanied by a development strategy which gives due priority to a strong agricultural base. In this regard, my delegation stands firmly behind the point of view expressed in the Review that agriculture will continue to present major difficulties for the international community in the years ahead and that there is nothing current in the global scenario of either politics or economies such as would suggest room for complacency on the world food problem.

There is no need for debate on this specific topic. Indeed, I wish to highlight a similar point of view set out in what is called "Plan LAC", Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, approved last month at the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture in Costa Rica. The Plan emphasizes hemispheric action of urgent nature in the reassessment of the role of agriculture in the overall model of an effective development strategy within the international as well as the regional context. I wish to commend that report to this Assembly.



Unlike in the past decades, the consensus is that Agriculture must now take on a leading role, one now which is crucial in targeting the inevitable adjustment process with both growth and development.

Accumulated experience with Growth and Development strategies demands again that we design and implement new arrangements which do not emphasize the traditional dichotomy between growth on the one hand and economic development on the other, leading inevitably, as that always does, to a major imbalance in the distribution of the benefits of development. The rural poor must be involved in technological changes of the Nineties and they must experience positive, social and economic change in tune with the indications of growth at the national level. If we do not achieve this, then social disruption will inevitably follow.

As a member of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, we note that the Review experts recommend FAO's involvement in providing assistance to Governments on policy analysis and the design of programmes representative of operational strategies with "appropriate priority" for agricultural and rural development. Recent experience of Trinidad and Tobago in obtaining assistance from FAO in a review of commodity policy and resource allocation proved to be very enlightening and has provided meaningful points for strategic development both within the agricultural sector and beyond into national planning policy.

Our delegation, therefore, supports FAO's continued activities of this kind; its capability must be strengthened where appropriate in order to facilitate timely and adequate responses to requests of Member States in this regard.

We hope that there will be consensus on the necessity of avoiding any weakening of the Technical Assistance Programme, including the TCP (Technical Cooperation Programme), the flexibility of which has proven its significance in every biennium.

Finally, on the question of the Environment. World events have shown that FAO will have an expanded role in the global effort aimed at containing, managing and even reversing environmental degradation. The issue is at the core of the new thrust for sustainable development. Various continents have been experiencing meaningful changes in seasonal patterns. In the short run, we are somewhat uncertain as to the comparative positive versus negative results of the "greenhouse effect". There are indications, however, of regional climatic changes on the various continents, sufficient to necessitate significant adjustments in agricultural practices in the context of production systems.

My Government considers the matter of the Environment of such significance that it has created a separate Ministry of the Environment and National Service. Accordingly, therefore, the Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago is fully supportive of the full participation of FAO in all international initiatives aimed at relating to the Environment and relating environment with the process of Development.

The Trinidad and Tobago Delegation recognizes the significance of this 25th Conference Session and pledges our assistance in facilitating deliberations.

We must ensure that future historians and development analysts are able to conclude that the Delegates to the 25th Session of the Conference undoubtedly had the welfare of the majority of the world's people in our hearts as we deliberated in this particular Session.

**Clayton YEUTTER (United States of America):** It is a pleasure to be here with you today, Mr Chairman, and a pleasure too to see all my fellow delegates. I have a prepared text of my remarks available to all of you, but I shall try to embellish these remarks extemporaneously. I would also like to say that I'm sorry that I shall not be able to spend more time in this Conference with all of you: I must return to Washington tomorrow, because I am preparing to lead a Presidential Mission to Poland two weeks from today, and, in view of what is transpiring in that part of the world, it is a very high priority endeavour indeed, so I must return to make preparations for that activity.

I would therefore like to take advantage of my few brief moments here to express a few comments about FAO and the problems that we all face in dealing with food production and distribution throughout the world. I was in Government in the Department of Agriculture in the 1970s, when concern over world hunger began to emerge in a major way. I can recall the conduct of the World Food Conference back in those years, and all of the speeches that were made and the articles that were written about the challenge of meeting the nutritional needs of people throughout the world. Those were legitimate concerns. Fortunately, people in this room and elsewhere have responded effectively in the ensuing years and, as you know, agricultural production has risen. Through the help of professionals in FAO and elsewhere, we have been able to significantly increase food production throughout the world, and millions of people who might otherwise today suffer from malnutrition have been spared that undesirable outcome. Obviously, we can do better: but we should recognize the progress that has been made over the last 15 to 20 years. Is there still a problem? Of course there is. Something like 35 000 children die every day from hunger and malnutrition, and that, as we know, is an unacceptable outcome in a civilized world. Certainly some of the difficulties lie with problems outside of the production area - trade distortions, for example - and I shall come back to that in a moment.

Perhaps the major question which we must all ask ourselves today is whether or not we will be able to deal with the larger problems that will exist for the next ten years, twenty years, or fifty years in the future. The Director-General alluded to this in his comments yesterday, and I have often done so in recent speeches. We will have six billion people on this planet by the turn of the century, a billion more than we have today. Some people believe that we will have ten billion on this planet by the year 2050, little more than half a century from now.

Can we provide the agricultural production necessary to feed these people? Let us hope so. I believe that there is room for optimism in this respect, but it will certainly challenge the professionalism and the ingenuity of all of us to meet the task, and without doubt FAO, as an institution, will play a major role in that endeavour.

With respect to what has brought about so much hunger and malnutrition still existing in the world today, one has to conclude that this is much more an issue of both economic and political policies than it is policies of agricultural production. There is enough food in the world today to provide an adequate diet for everyone, and in recent years we have struggled much more with the problem of agricultural surpluses than we have with the problem of agricultural shortages. The latter was the perceived issue of the

1970s; in the 1980s, it has been surpluses, notwithstanding all the people who experience malnutrition. The problem has been one of policies unrelated to agriculture: that certainly must be confronted by nations, and it is certainly possible that FAO can contribute in that regard too.

One cause of failure, of course, is simply a matter of war and FAO is not in a position to determine whether or not nations go to war. FAO plays a role in dealing with the results of war, and at the moment there are something like 14 million refugees in the world who must be fed in some manner. In a lot of countries the larger problem is one of failed economic policies that have simply not provided growth. The answer to poverty is economic growth. If nations do not experience this then we have difficulties because of hunger, malnutrition and many other shortcomings in meeting social needs. I am not going to sermonize on economic policies here today, because that goes beyond the jurisdiction of FAO and I do not wish to be pious about our policy versus everybody else's policies. We have failed economic policies in the United States just as other countries experience failures. Fortunately most of the developed countries of the world have had more policies that have succeeded than have failed which is why we have experienced economic growth and a better way of life for our people. In many other countries in the world there have been too many failures of economic policies. As a consequence of economic growth not occurring, the quality of life of the people in those countries is not as high as it could be or, should be. Therefore, we must continually examine those policies and see if we can change them to achieve economic efficiency, to generate investment, either internally or externally. We need to apply free market incentives and personal incentives for human beings to be more productive. We have discovered that when nations stray from those courses, (the courses that provide economic incentives), it is then that they discover that their economies do not perform as they should. Eastern Europe today is the classical example of the shortcomings in such policies which have led to the major adjustments that we are now observing on our television screens each day.

The debt burden is a part of this problem, and the developing countries in this room find economic growth difficult to generate because of the existing debt burdens that they have - that too goes beyond the jurisdiction of FAO. There is no time to comment thereon, but certainly that issue must be confronted through the Brady Plan or other efforts of that kind. Aid is a part of that effort, and certainly the United States will try to continue to do its share of aid programmes. We have provided more than US\$40 billion in food aid alone through the years, and will continue to provide food aid. But, certainly, that is not the answer to the generation of economic growth. That is a short-term response to difficult problems of hunger and malnutrition, but it is not a long-term policy response that would be appropriate in any country. The better answer is to deal with the economic policies that I mentioned earlier and also to begin to deal with trade policies, specifically.

As most of you know, my experience is in international trade and I am still very much involved in the Uruguay Round trade negotiations. Every nation sitting in this room has a major stake in the outcome of those negotiations over the next twelve months because it is the developing countries in particular who have suffered as a result of the distorted trade policies of the developed world and, in fact, from the distorted trade policies of the developing world as well. We need to correct those and provide market opportunities for nations throughout the globe.

To make a comparison of aid versus trade, I have mentioned already that the United States has provided over US\$40 billion in food aid through the years. That is significant, but the fact is that we have bought almost US\$ 200 billion worth of goods from the developing countries last year. We make a much greater contribution to developing countries' economies by buying from them than we do simply from providing aid. Therefore, we need to work on opening up markets around the world and keeping them open in order for that to occur. Today the United States takes two-thirds of all the manufactured products that are exported by the developing world. Two-thirds of them come into the United States. We probably ought to take more, but certainly the other developed countries should take a lot more than they do today.

In the short time I have available, I would like to deal more specifically with the role of FAO. There has been a lot of comment already about the review effort within FAO and the desire to improve the management of this Organization. I have enjoyed the working relationship that I have established with the Director-General in my short tenure as Secretary of Agriculture in the United States. I am convinced that he is dedicated to making the FAO a stronger, more effective and more efficient organization over time. I certainly wish him well in that regard. I have also talked to him about expanding FAO's role in some areas that relate to the GATT. The Director-General commented on that in his speech yesterday. We believe it is important for the International Office of Epizootics, Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention to establish standards that can be used in the food area, as GATT rules are administered in that area. We hope that FAO will undertake that important new role.

The question is, how does FAO handle all its present responsibilities and take on new roles at a time of budgetary austerity? That is not an easy task and that is why we pay the Director-General to make the hard decisions. That is why Secretaries of Agriculture have to make hard decisions. If they were easy we would not be there, or would not even want the jobs. That is what makes them exciting and challenging, and I know the Director-General feels that way.

Insofar as concerns the budget, the US position has been that we ought to maintain a zero-growth programme in the United Nations organizations simply because budgetary support does not come easily. As most of you know, the United States has not been paying its dues to FAO and some of the other organizations. In my judgement, we ought to pay our dues, and certainly we are going to do everything that we can to alter that situation in the United States. If we cannot pay dues to organizations, we ought to drop out of the organizations - that is my personal view. I hope that we can deal with this question. However, there is no doubt that one of the reasons we find it difficult to support organizations within the UN system is that general public support within the United States for those organizations has dissipated through the years. Without going into the reasons for that and without indicating any dissatisfaction with FAO, because that is not my purpose here, I am simply saying whether it be the United States or any other country, each of these organizations will have to earn such a reputation that people will support them with enthusiasm. We hope that through the leadership of the Director-General and everyone else in FAO that will occur in the future. In the meantime with budgetary constraints on all of us, certainly the Director-General and everyone else at FAO will have to concentrate very heavily on priorities. That is not a happy task for any administrator. I must do the same in my responsibilities in Washington and

you Ministers must do the same in all of your responsibilities throughout the world. Certainly, FAO will have to devote considerable time and attention to the delineation of what its highest priority functions will be next year and in future years.

Having an effective review process is important in that regard, and any organization, including FAO, ought to be continually reviewing and critiquing its operations. Some of that review process should be done as self-critique with internal review programmes which continue on into the future. We need to make sure that FAO has strong internal review and audit programme that will serve that purpose which should be done periodically if not continually through external review programmes. We all should be subjected to review of what we are doing by outsiders as well as insiders. We need to build that into the FAO system over time.

I am convinced that the Director-General and everyone else involved with the leadership of FAO can do that and do it effectively.

In closing, I would mention that I have had a long association with FAO during my agricultural career for a good many decades. I believe that it is an organization with a great deal of potential for resolving or responding to the problems that have been articulated over and over in this meeting thus far. The responsibility that all of us have as a part of the FAO system is to make sure that we do this and do the job well. I believe we have ample talent within FAO to succeed in that regard. I am convinced that we can do so. I am convinced that the Director-General will provide the leadership for that to happen. I hope that we can all be supportive of him within the budgetary constraints that are inevitable with any organization. Nobody writes a blank cheque for any of us. We have to live within dollar constraints. However, within those constraints we ought to be able to accomplish a lot here at FAO. I am convinced that we can, and we in the United States will do everything possible to help.

**Nouri ZORGATI (Tunisie) (langue originale Arabe):** Au nom de Dieu Clément et Miséricordieux, Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, Messieurs les Chefs des délégations, Mesdames, Messieurs, cette Conférence offre une occasion exceptionnelle à la FAO d'étudier la situation alimentaire et de discuter des questions fondamentales qui nous préoccupent dans les domaines de l'alimentation et du développement agricole.

Le problème de l'alimentation occupe une place prédominante dans le cadre des préoccupations des pays en développement qui doivent faire face à de nombreux défis, dont notamment l'augmentation du volume des importations alimentaires et le déséquilibre des niveaux des prix, le tout aux dépens de leurs exportations en produits agricoles.

De nombreuses régions doivent faire face au problème de la pénurie des produits alimentaires, alors que plus d'un huitième de la population mondiale souffre de malnutrition. Nous nous devons, d'autre part, de faire état de cette série de calamités naturelles qui ont eu des répercussions préjudiciables sur les efforts déployés pour développer la production agricole.

Le développement agricole et la disponibilité de denrées alimentaires requièrent la conjugaison des efforts de la communauté internationale et le renforcement de ses liens de coopération.

Toutefois, les règles qui sont à la base des relations et des échanges entre les différents pays et groupements ont grandement contribué à élargir le fossé séparant les pays en développement des pays développés. Il est donc devenu absolument nécessaire de réviser les principes de la coopération dans de nombreux cas.

Il importe donc à la communauté internationale d'aider les pays du Sud afin qu'ils puissent développer leurs propres capacités en vue de garantir un niveau minimum de sécurité alimentaire et d'améliorer les niveaux de production de leurs produits de base.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, en Tunisie, le problème de l'alimentation revêt, à nos yeux, une importance primordiale, car nous sommes parfaitement convaincus que la réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire dans chaque pays est à la base de la paix et de la sécurité dans le monde. En effet, en dépit de l'augmentation substantielle de la production agricole au cours de ces dernières années, il n'en demeure pas moins que les revenus agricoles sont nettement inférieurs à nos besoins, sans cesse croissants, en produits alimentaires et cela en dépit des techniques modernes et des recherches appliquées.

Nous avons donc tenu, depuis le changement historique qu'a vécu notre pays le 7 novembre 1987, à accorder la priorité absolue à l'agriculture. Nous avons mis en application une politique agricole qui repose essentiellement sur la mobilisation totale de nos ressources en eau, afin d'augmenter la production et mettre en exécution les plans sectoriels pour l'intensification de la production et sa diversification.

Nous veillons à garantir et à réorganiser les structures du secteur agricole, et plus spécialement les services techniques, les groupements des agriculteurs comme les coopératives de service, les groupements professionnels, le développement des investissements et du crédit agricole et l'élimination de tous les obstacles susceptibles d'entraver le développement agricole, tels que le régime foncier et la lourdeur administrative.

Tout en veillant à garantir les besoins alimentaires, nous accordons une attention particulière à l'équilibre écologique, à la protection de l'environnement et au renouvellement des ressources naturelles. Dans ce contexte, nous oeuvrons pour l'exécution des projets de reboisement, de conservation du sol et de préservation des réserves naturelles.

Il nous importe, à ce sujet, de souligner, avec un certain optimisme, que la communauté internationale a pris conscience de la gravité du problème de l'environnement. Le président Zein el Abidine Ben Ali, Président de la République tunisienne, avait demandé la convocation d'une conférence internationale pour discuter des problèmes de l'environnement et du développement, et a lancé un appel pour une coopération plus étroite et plus fructueuse entre tous les pays du monde et dans le cadre multilatéral afin de lutter contre les dégâts (sous toutes les formes) et pour rationaliser l'exploitation de l'environnement.

Il va sans dire qu'étant donné que cela requiert des ressources supplémentaires qui alourdiront le fardeau des pays en développement et rendront encore plus difficile la réalisation des investissements nécessaires à leurs projets de production, il serait donc nécessaire de

créer des liens de coopération et de solidarité entre les pays en développement et les pays riches afin de protéger l'environnement, surtout si l'on ne parvient pas à des solutions susceptibles d'alléger le fardeau de la dette des pays en développement.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, cette Conférence est également une occasion qui nous est offerte pour discuter de la bonne marche de notre Organisation et de l'assistance appréciable qu'elle fournit à nos pays dans le domaine du développement agricole.

Tout en insistant sur la nécessité d'exécuter le programme dont les grandes lignes ont été tracées par le Directeur général dans son Rapport à la Conférence, nous aimerions particulièrement insister sur la nécessité de soutenir les programmes dont les axes principaux sont: formulation de plans de développement, adaptation de l'agriculture aux données climatologiques et promotion du rôle des petits et moyens agriculteurs.

La préparation des documents et les études relatives aux politiques et aux conseils à donner constituent deux importantes activités sur lesquelles nous ne pouvons qu'insister, tout en orientant les efforts vers des priorités clairement définies et c'est justement ce que nous constatons dans les documents, les programmes et les budgets qui nous sont soumis.

Toutefois, le rôle de conseiller qu'assume la FAO doit comprendre également les planifications, l'élaboration des programmes de travail et surtout l'aide qui doit être fournie aux pays membres pour exécuter ces programmes, à savoir la mobilisation des ressources qui leur sont nécessaires, resserrer leurs liens avec les institutions de financement et faciliter le dialogue.

D'autre part, les programmes visant à réduire les effets des changements climatologiques sur les ressources et à développer les systèmes agricoles durables doivent jouir d'une plus grande attention de la part de la communauté internationale et être l'objet d'études et de recherches afin de trouver les moyens d'adapter ces changements à des systèmes agricoles plus rentables que les systèmes actuels.

Nous estimons, en outre, que la nécessité de développer la biotechnologie et de l'intégrer au système agricole, dans son sens le plus large tel qu'il ressort des rapports de l'Organisation avec tout ce que cela comporte comme vulgarisation, services de soutien et formation, constitue une méthodologie plus efficace tendant à une complémentarité entre l'élément humain et les ressources naturelles.

En ce qui concerne le développement de l'agriculture auprès des petits et moyens agriculteurs, nous soulignons l'importance des projets pilotes mis au point par la FAO, intégrant l'emploi et l'utilisation des intrants chimiques ainsi que la consolidation du PAM qui contribue à améliorer le niveau de l'emploi et à exécuter des opérations de développement dans les zones pauvres, mais qui, malheureusement, a réduit ses interventions à la suite de la hausse des prix des denrées alimentaires et à la diminution des contributions.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs, dans un désir d'être honnête et objectif, je voudrais souligner la réussite enregistrée par l'Organisation, grâce à la gestion sage et clairvoyante de son Directeur général, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, dans le soutien du développement agricole dans de nombreux pays du monde. Grâce à l'expérience qu'elle a toujours placée au service de ces pays, l'Organisation a contribué au transfert de la technologie et à

l'élaboration d'un grand nombre de stratégies pour le développement. Le rapport des experts et celui de la session conjointe du Comité du programme et du Comité des finances sur les activités de l'Organisation et ses objectifs ont justement souligné ce rôle important de la FAO.

Il m'importe également de souligner le rôle qu'elle assume dans la lutte contre les fléaux, comme l'a prouvé l'aide qu'elle a fournie aux pays dévastés par les acridiens et les efforts déployés en vue de mobiliser les fonds et les moyens nécessaires auprès des pays donateurs. Je rends hommage également aux efforts déployés par la FAO pour lutter contre la mouche du ver taronadeau qui menace actuellement le cheptel en Afrique du Nord et même dans le continent africain et dans le sud de l'Europe. A cet effet, nous soulignons la nécessité absolue de faire face à ce grand danger grâce à la lutte biologique et aux ressources financières nécessaires. Nous proposons que cette question soit inscrite à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient et l'Afrique du Nord que la Tunisie aura l'honneur d'abriter en mars prochain.

Enfin, l'importance des problèmes de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et de la lutte contre les fléaux dans le monde, surtout en cette période, nécessite plus que jamais un plus grand soutien à l'Organisation afin de l'aider à assumer ses tâches le plus efficacement possible.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

**Geoffrey Lee MILLER (Australia):** Mr Chairman, I will begin by disobeying your clear instructions in a typically Australian tradition. On behalf of the Australian Government and the Australian rural community, may I express my pride on your election to the post of Chairman. I thank the Conference for the confidence expressed in you, and I thank you for the credit you have brought to your country. It should come as no surprise to the Conference that you are widely acclaimed in your own country as the most successful Minister ever to carry the responsibility of the rural industries portfolio.

In my address today, I would like to focus on the future. My theme will be that the failures of the 1980s have left us with daunting challenges for the 1990s.

At the outset, let me fulsomely support the words of the Director-General, Edouard Saouma, in his comments on the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees on the FAO Review. He has stated: "The world is going to need a stronger FAO, and FAO is going to need stronger support from the World". Yet, if the world is going to get a stronger FAO and if the FAO is going to get stronger support from the world, then some fundamental realities must be faced. The Organization must use the next biennium once again to consolidate and replenish itself - to strengthen even further the foundations on which the future will be built.

To most of us committed to improve world agricultural performance, the decade of the 1970s ended on a high note. Technological progress had been rapid, with the Green Revolution bringing dramatic improvements in production, especially in South America and Asia; the rate of the growth in the numbers of hungry and malnourished people in the world had begun to decline substantially. A fall in absolute numbers was in prospect; world



economic growth was being led by the developing countries, not the developed, and world trade in both manufactures and commodities was growing at a healthy rate; and although fundamentally lacking in adaptability, domestic agricultural policies were not unduly disrupting world markets.

It took only the emergence again of rapid inflation, as the first half of the decade progressed, to destabilize this optimism. Monetary and fiscal contraction brought demand growth to an abrupt halt. As interest rates escalated, the debt crisis burgeoned. Economic growth became economic contraction, especially in the developing world.

Not only did the numbers of hungry and malnourished grow arithmetically, but they again began to expand geometrically. The rate of growth in the numbers of human beings without adequate basic supplies of food, resumed its inexorable rise.

Farmers in my own country were deprived of their assets. Farmers in the developing world, maize producers in East Africa, wheat farmers in Argentina, sugar growers in Brazil and the Philippines, rice growers in Thailand, palm oil producers in Malaysia, all and many others lost much more. Subsistence producers transforming to cash cropping were at their most vulnerable. It was not their livelihoods that were at stake, it was their lives.

The erosion of developing country food supplies was not confined to agriculture. Driftnet fishing is having a serious effect on fish stocks and other marine resources of the South-West Pacific region, threatening the food supplies of the island people.

Finally, of course, the global ecosystem itself has been put under a cloud, a cloud of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, albeit a cloud with a leaking ozone layer. Our forests are fast being depleted and the excesses of input intensive agriculture, again predominantly in the developed world, are starkly in evidence. Soils are being compacted, acidified and eroded, water supplies are suffering nitrification, phosphate pollution and salination.

In short, to professional agriculturalists the 1980s have left a legacy in which we can take little pride. Let me, however, note some seven redeeming features.

First, the world economy has limped along with a record period of sustained growth in some developed economies. This has given many developing economies hope of being able eventually to cope with their current account problems.

Second, many developing countries, particularly in Asia and South America, have been able to continue fast growth in agricultural output. This has been particularly so in countries not dependent on export markets, although the process has remained stalled in much of Africa.

Third, the Brundtland Commission has focused world leaders on the concept of sustainable development and on the need for international cooperative action to bring it to realization.

Fourth, the Punta del Este Declaration launching the Uruguay Round put agriculture seriously on the negotiation table for the first time.

Fifth, the tide of agricultural protectionism and subsidization in Europe, Japan and the United States has begun slowly to recede. This has for the most part been passive, driven by rising commodity prices rather than active, driven by rigorous policy change. Such active policy change as there has been, has been more in response to budget pressures than to the recognition of the policy problem.

Sixth, the recent Tarawa Declaration called for a ban on driftnet fishing in the South Pacific, a Declaration that has been reinforced by a resolution currently before the Second Committee of the United Nations.

Finally, our institutions, both our companies and our bureaucracies, including our farmers, have gone through, and are still going through, substantial structural change. They will emerge leaner but stronger. They will be more efficient at handling the daunting challenges ahead.

For the FAO, now in its 44th year, the events of the 1980s have brought something of a mid-life crisis. Events outside of the Organization have created great stresses that have been brought into the Organization. Let us openly acknowledge the causes of those stresses.

We cannot condone the morality that has bankers sitting in judgement of the borrowers but not the lender. We cannot condone the morality of those who attack markets with armaments from their Treasuries that their commercial adversaries can never match. We cannot condone the morality of those who barely meet their domestic budget laws only by leaving unpaid bills at the door of institutions whose job is to fight hunger. We need not condone and we need not forget. But if FAO is to face the agenda of the 1990s as a rejuvenated Organization, it must first face some very hard realities.

The cause of economic and agricultural development will be the first to gain from the lower interest rates that will come from reduced government spending. Our sense of injustice should not blind us to that reality.

There are those friends amongst us who belong, with the rest of us, to the great extended world family of people motivated to fight hunger and malnutrition, people who are committed to work to restore development budgets, to reform policies and to repay debts. We must encourage them; indeed, we must help them. We must send the right signals. Our sense of injustice should not blind us to this reality.

All of us in our own institutions, public and private, national and international, have had to do more with less. Mr Chairman, your own Department, whose administration is entrusted to me, employs around 5 000 people and has a turnover of around US\$1 billion annually. We have taken real cuts in budgets and staffing over a sustained six-year period. Yet, we do more now than we ever have. We have achieved productivity gains through focusing our priorities, through delayering of management, through flatter administrative structures, through devolution of responsibility for decision-making and through embracing technical change. We have eliminated duplication and wasteful territorial disputation. We have learned to work even more cooperatively with other agencies.

As the Director-General of this Organization knows only too well, FAO is not immune from these requirements. He has shown a willingness to do more with less in his written comments on the Review, even though he has reminded us of what the individual changes might cost!

Those who have never had to administer a large organization should be sensitive to the demands that such a job imposes on its chief executive. It is much easier to engineer change in a growing organization than it is in a contracting one. Change requires investment; multiskilling of people requires an investment in training; new technology must be bought; even reduced staffing requires spending on redundancy payments and pensions.

We must not demand what cannot be delivered. If we want progress, we must set the budget, set the strategic directions, and then let managers manage. Yet our sensitivity cannot blind us to another hard reality. Like the chief executives of other large organizations, the Director-General of FAO must achieve the impossible. Only when he achieves demonstrably more with demonstrably less will the additional resources he needs to face the challenges of the 1990s be forthcoming. The 1980s have bequeathed the same tough world to administrators as they have to farmers and to developing countries.

FAO faces an inevitable biennium of further consolidation rather than expansion. New demands are certainly being made. At the same time, the outcome of the Review must be implemented. It is unjust that we must win back the support of our sponsors by achieving the impossible. Yet it is a reality. That support is essential if the Organization is to seriously address the agenda it faces in the 1990s.

Another group of people being asked to achieve the impossible are the domestic policy-makers of the industrial countries. They, too, have already achieved a lot, especially in political terms. Let us acknowledge the great political efforts of the members of EEC, EFTA, Japan and the United States in constraining their domestic policies during these past two years. Their achievements have allowed the rise in world prices to substantially cut subsidies and protectionism.

Yet we must acknowledge that with few exceptions the underlying policies remain structurally flawed. These policies are market oriented only at today's market prices. When - not if, but when - prices fall again, measured protection will again rise, markets will again be dislocated, the agriculturally dependent will again be crippled.

The Uruguay Round offers us the chance to learn from history. History has shown that we have experienced a crisis in world agricultural markets roughly once each decade. Each crisis has been prolonged and deepened by our flawed policy responses. The crisis of the mid-1980s is directly related to the effective collapse of the Tokyo Round of agriculture negotiations in 1982. We do not need the crisis of the 1990s that will surely follow if the Uruguay Round were to meet a similar fate next year.

Many have worked hard for the success of the Uruguay Round, and amongst them has been that diverse and unique community of nations, developed and developing, known as the Cairns Group. They have shown that common ground is fertile ground. Australia is proud to be numbered among them as we meet again soon to finalize another comprehensive negotiating proposal.

The Uruguay Round has been given a much needed injection of new life by a proposal recently tabled by the United States. Behind the numbers and the time frames of that proposal is a negotiating framework that is breathtaking in its simplicity, yet comprehensive and practical. That framework allows us

to cut through the details of the complex commodity programmes of individual countries to separately constrain four separate variables: domestic support, market access barriers, export subsidies, and other domestic programmes. Just four variables.

Depending on the nature and strength of those four constraints, all countries can pursue their own legitimate domestic policy goals. The US proposal takes us well past the mere ideological pursuit of the myth of free trade to the practical prospect of effectively constraining the excesses of the past. Let us also remind ourselves that the US itself is making us an offer, an offer that I believe no country can afford to refuse. We must not give the US the chance to retract it.

The industrial countries now face another impossible assignment, namely, another round of domestic agricultural policy reform. We must begin now to contemplate the kinds of changes to our policies and programmes that might make them truly market oriented, that might make them truly compatible with a feasible GATT outcome in 1990. We will never get another chance like it.

Mr Chairman, in the fields of food and agricultural policy and economic development, we face challenges that have been greatly magnified by the mistakes of the 1980s. The great new challenge is the challenge of sustainable development. As FAO knows only too well, there is nothing new about that - nothing new, that is, except the sharp focus in which it has been cast, and the urgency that must be attached to it.

The challenge of sustainable development must be faced at a time of great uncertainty - change is enveloping Eastern Europe. That change will bring new opportunities to FAO. New policies will be needed for agricultural production. New systems will be needed for the distribution and marketing of food and above all, new countries must be encouraged into a more open and liberal world agricultural trading system. A long-absent member of the FAO family may finally take its seat.

That is the agenda for the 1990s. But we have some unfinished business of the 1980s. FAO must implement its further changes and consolidate its capacities. However unjust we find the world, we must again seek the common ground - we must put aside our grievances in the same way as did the founders of this Organization some 44 years ago. Like them, we must face the hard realities and equip ourselves to seize the opportunities ahead.

The other piece of unfinished business from the 1980s is the Uruguay Round. We have one year left to complete the negotiations. To those who say that the task is too tough, I say this: If the shackles of the Berlin Wall can be removed in a day, then the shackles of agricultural protectionism can be removed in a year. We can progressively liberalize world agricultural markets through the 1990s. We must. There is a much bigger agenda that we must get on with.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, it has been a very great privilege for me to address you.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Señor Presidente, Señor Director General, Señores Ministros, colegas y amigos.

Le felicito, señor Presidente, a usted por su elección. Esta reunión está en muy buenas manos. Esta será la última Conferencia de la FAO en los años 80, decenio que generalmente ha sido reconocido como completamente perdido para los países en desarrollo.

Afortunadamente, ya va a terminar este periodo de tan ingrata recordación para el Tercer Mundo. Esperamos que los años 90 serán mejores. Han sido años difíciles e inciertos durante los cuales se han asestado duros golpes a la cooperación internacional, particularmente contra el multilateralismo. La FAO terminará este decenio en las peores condiciones que nunca antes había conocido. La crisis financiera prolongada, y sin solución a la vista, ha quebrantado hasta los más elementales principios institucionales al producir reducciones considerables en los programas aprobados por esta Conferencia, máximo órgano rector.

Se ha cumplido así la violación de la voluntad soberana de ciento cincuenta y ocho Estados independientes.

Naturalmente, los países en desarrollo son aquellos que padecen las consecuencias de esos hechos. Actividades que son de interés vital para nuestros Estados se han tenido que reducir a su mínima expresión.

El Director General ha sabido manejar esa situación con ánimo sereno e inteligencia, que el Gobierno de Colombia se complace en destacar. No obstante se han ya causado grandes males a nuestra Organización, con consecuencias incalculables, difíciles de reparar en el futuro.

Nos inquieta ahora profundamente el porvenir. Dentro de pocos días, esta Conferencia adoptará el Programa de Labores para 1990-91 y el respectivo nivel del Presupuesto. Desde ese momento, todos los Estados Miembros de la Organización adquirirán el compromiso legal y moral de pagar sus contribuciones. ¿Es que, acaso, vamos a repetir la misma desafortunada experiencia del bienio anterior si adoptamos un nivel de Presupuesto, a sabiendas de antemano que algunas de las más altas contribuciones no van a ser pagadas, y así se impondrán de nuevo reducciones forzosas en los Programas para el próximo bienio?.

Una reciente y autorizada declaración fue realista y arrojó una tenue luz de esperanza, pero no se dijo cuánto, cómo ni cuándo.

Reiteramos aquí la posición de Colombia en Naciones Unidas. Nosotros preferimos que, si cualquier país no está en condiciones o no quiere pagar la contribución que actualmente le corresponde, según la escala vigente, será mejor, más realista y constructivo que decida reducir el porcentaje de sus aportes.

El Gobierno Colombiano ha venido dedicando el máximo posible de los recursos al sector agrícola altamente prioritario en nuestros planes nacionales de desarrollo.

Hemos logrado notables avances en la producción hasta suspender la importación de alimentos y exportar algunos de nuestros productos agropecuarios. Los buenos éxitos de esa política, basada en claros principios sociales y humanos, han beneficiado sobre todo a los medianos y pequeños agricultores.

El Gobierno de Colombia ha continuado e intensificado su tarea de erradicar la pobreza absoluta, según lo anunciara en la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas nuestro Presidente Virgilio Barco. Desafortunadamente, los precios internacionales del café, que sigue siendo nuestro principal producto de exportación, han disminuido considerablemente.

El Pacto Cafetero, que incluía cláusulas económicas, confirmación de cuotas, ha dejado de existir en esa forma por razones que preferimos omitir.

Los precios del café han bajado en un 50 por ciento. Cincuenta países, todos de Asia, Africa y América Latina y El Caribe, han visto gravemente afectadas sus ya débiles economías, preservadas, en buena parte, por el Pacto del Café, uno de los pocos acuerdos sobre productos que funcionó bien durante veintisiete años.

En doce meses, los países productores de café perderán más de 5 mil millones de dólares. En Colombia, por cada centavo de dólar que baja la libra del café, perdemos 15 millones de dólares. A fines de 1990, Colombia habrá perdido más de 500 millones de dólares por la baja de los precios del café.

Cordial y respetuosamente les invitamos a comparar esas cifras con el monto de la asistencia que se nos ofrece.

Pensamos que para los países en desarrollo, más que la asistencia paternalista, es importante y decisivo un comercio internacional libre y justo, mediante el cual nuestros principales productos de exportación puedan entrar a los mercados de los países desarrollados y obtener así las divisas indispensables para nuestro crecimiento económico.

La vertiginosa caída de los precios del café ha sido otro factor más de perturbación social y económica, que se ha sumado a los que ya la opinión pública conoce ampliamente y que el Presidente de Colombia, Virgilio Barco, viene afrontando con valor y decisión universalmente reconocidos.

Colombia ha tenido el privilegio de asociarse con Australia, su país, señor Presidente, y con otros importantes países desarrollados y en desarrollo, en el seno del Grupo de CAIRNS, con el objetivo fundamental de contribuir a la liberalización del comercio agrícola internacional.

Somos solidarios y coadyuvamos con interés todas las iniciativas del Grupo de CAIRNS en la Ronda Uruguay del GATT y en muchas otras actividades, porque consideramos inaplazable la necesaria reforma de la actual injusta estructura del comercio agrícola internacional.

Como dijo hace dos años en esta misma sala el ex-Ministro de Agricultura de Colombia, hoy Embajador ante las Naciones Unidas, Enrique Peñalosa, el Gobierno de Colombia reitera su complacencia por el futuro ingreso a la FAO de la Unión de Repúblicas Socialistas Soviéticas, en uso de su derecho como miembro original.

La presencia de un país tan importante como la Unión de Repúblicas Socialistas Soviéticas deberá generar cambios renovadores y saludables en la vida de esta Organización.

El Gobierno de Colombia piensa que los cuatro organismos internacionales dedicados a la agricultura y a la alimentación, con sede en Roma, deben cooperar racional y adecuadamente entre sí, evitar duplicación de actividades y utilizar de la mejor manera posible los escasos recursos de que hoy se dispone para la cooperación internacional en favor del objetivo común: los países en desarrollo. Apoyamos la iniciativa del Director General a ese respecto.

Las autoridades colombianas están agradecidas al Director General de la FAO y a su personal por la forma activa, eficaz y constante como vienen ofreciendo sus servicios a nuestro país.

La calidad de la asistencia técnica ejecutada por la FAO ha mejorado considerablemente. Los mecanismos se han agilizado progresivamente. Nuestras solicitudes son atendidas con prontitud y eficacia. En nombre del Gobierno de Colombia reitero nuestro más pleno apoyo a la FAO y a su Director General.

El Gobierno de Colombia agradece al Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos la asistencia que ofrece a nuestro país en ese programa, que progresivamente se ha venido consagrando como un importante instrumento en favor del desarrollo.

Confiamos en que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos podrá seguir contando con recursos suficientes que le permitan sostener e incrementar su labor que apoyamos y destacamos.

El Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, no obstante los limitados recursos de que dispone, viene haciendo esfuerzos por cumplir sus funciones de mecanismo de coordinación.

Las últimas reposiciones de los recursos del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola confirman que ese Fondo ha sido también víctima de la campaña contra el multilateralismo. En sus condiciones actuales, el FIDA es apenas la pálida caricatura de lo que concebimos en 1974 quienes recomendamos su creación en la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación. Además, la Presidencia del FIDA debe ser permeabilizada para que su funcionamiento sea adecuado, prudente y menos contravertido.

La nueva era que se ha iniciado en las relaciones internacionales con el afianzamiento de la distensión coloca el problema del desarrollo en primer plano.

El Gobierno de Colombia piensa que el problema del desarrollo es hoy el gran desafío al cual se enfrenta la comunidad internacional. En diversos ángulos del planeta ocurren hechos explosivos que son fruto de la injusticia social imperante y que progresivamente podrían amenazar la paz mundial. Los Estados desarrollados, que cuentan con los grandes recursos y las modernas tecnologías, deberán entender esa situación y ofrecer su asistencia técnica y financiera en forma sostenida, volúmenes y condiciones que permitan la recuperación de los empobrecidos países del Tercer Mundo.

Los Estados industrializados, a través de milenios y con base en el esfuerzo creador de sus poblaciones, han logrado formar confortables y florecientes sociedades de consumo, cuyo disfrute sólo podrán preservar si contribuyen adecuadamente a la solución de los problemas que aquejan al Tercer Mundo.

El Gobierno de Colombia es consciente de que los problemas del desarrollo no van a solucionarse en breve período. Será una tarea a largo plazo - dos o tres generaciones -, pero será necesario comenzar a actuar desde ahora, antes de que sea demasiado tarde.

**WARDOYO (Indonesia):** At the outset, allow me to associate myself with the previous distinguished speakers expressing congratulations for your unanimous election as Chairman of the Twenty-fifth Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. Permit me also to convey my congratulations to all the Vice-Chairmen, for their unanimous election to also chair the Conference.

We are now gathering here to deliberate this FAO Conference amidst the global food situation which remains precarious. The world food situation is still alarming. At the beginning of 1989 we were informed that there would be a possibility of an increase of 140 million tons of world cereals production. However, we are currently being confronted with a situation in which even with the "best scenario", the production seems not to rise adequately to permit resumption of normal consumption trends and replenishment of stocks to the minimum volume required for food security.

Worldwide food security will remain precarious throughout 1989-90. I note with concern that in many parts of our world little progress in terms of per capita food production had been achieved, due to so many reasons including the adverse effects of high levels of external debt in the development process and the cost, in the short term, of structural adjustment efforts in agricultural and rural development in many countries.

It therefore seems to me, that in many years to come, the world will continue to face a situation in which the least developed countries and population groups will have inadequate access to food.

Therefore, over the next years to come, perhaps we should focus our efforts on the problem of how to turn the latent demand of food of the developing countries into the effective demand. There is no doubt that we have to increase food production, but many other things also need to be done, including the necessary painful structural adjustment of the economy. Such developments are currently under way in many countries including Indonesia.

Indonesia has in the past three years implemented the politically difficult reforms, such as, for example in the agriculture sector, the policies on fertilizer and the domestic prices to track more quickly rising world prices. In addition, as part of its general deregulation reforms, it has liberalized trade measures for coconut oil and export crops in general, which have narrowed the gap between local and border prices. Similarly, the state might provide temporary incentives to encourage the private sector to build proper storage and treatment facilities for corn in order to compensate for the increased costs during the initial phases of learning a new technology.

Due to the need to be more concerned with efficiency, the Government is moving in the direction of allowing market forces to determine prices and incentives.

The strong performance of the agriculture sector in Indonesia could be attributed to at least three basic sets of Government policies.



First, sound macroeconomic management has helped the growth of the agriculture sector, not only because agriculture accounts for a large share of economic activity, but also because of the strong intersectoral linkages and the impact of macro policy variables on agricultural incentives.

The second set of policies is on food crop production. The Government of Indonesia has given very high priority to rice, maize and soybean production. In effect, this has meant embarking on an ambitious, expansion of research and development, rural infrastructure and support services.

The third major set of policies is on tree crops, livestock and fishery development. Investment in these subsectors has been increased since early 1970s.

To a large extent, the impressive performance of Indonesian agriculture is due to the large amount of Government resources devoted to the sector in the form of infrastructure investments and pricing policies to encourage the adoption of more productive technologies.

While it is clear that the agricultural production could not have increased as dramatically without these resources, it should be noted that the overall price and incentive structure controlled by state agencies was appropriate, and it was this sound incentive structure which ensured that these resources were used more efficiently. To improve a country's ability to take better advantage of the opportunities presented by agricultural trade, one must look at a full range of policies. The impact of fertilizer price policy on world rice prices is the strongest example of this lesson.

The world economy remains caught in prolonged disarray and relations between developed and developing countries continue to be afflicted by severe imbalance and inequities.

The rapid advances in science and technology which have drastically altered the patterns of agriculture production, consumption and of international economy offer new possibilities for more prosperity of nations in an increasingly integrated global economy. However, it could also at the same time implicate negatively on the position of the developing countries in terms of comparative advantage, terms of trade and the international division of labour.

My delegation's attention also goes to the progress of the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations which we believe has implications, directly or indirectly, for the work of FAO.

In a situation in which the agriculture sector is the most important contributor to national economy and provides the largest employment opportunity for the people, changing agricultural policies means changing the national economic policies. I therefore wish to state here that changes in agriculture policies as the consequence of the progress in the multilateral trade negotiations have to be carefully considered, because of their possible negative effects on the livelihood of millions of farm families.

Developing countries need special and differential treatment in the reform process to liberalize agricultural production and trade.

Direct and indirect government assistance measures to encourage agricultural and rural development are an integral element in the development programme of developing countries. In developing ways to reach commitments on support protection and strengthening GATT rules and disciplines, we have to take into account the possible negative effect of the reform process on net food-importing developing countries. With respect to negotiations on natural base products, Indonesia shares the same views expressed by other developing countries that negotiation be emphasized on "access to market" and not on "access to supply" with respect to sanitary and phytosanitary problems. We recognize the need to protect consumers, but the sanitary and phytosanitary measures should not be used as non-tariff barriers to restrict access to market. Provided there is strict adherence to the Punta del Este commitments, the Uruguay Round does offer the prospects of a more open trading system.

It is in the light of the above reality, that Indonesia welcomes the convening of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1990, devoted to the revitalization of the economic growth and development of the developing countries. The elaboration of a new International Development Strategy (IDS) for the 1990s will likewise provide an opportunity to concentrate our efforts on effective ways to enhance international cooperation for development.

My delegation was of the view that it is important for FAO to be actively involved in the preparations of IDS and the Special Session of UNGA, as the food and agriculture and the rural sector had a vital role to play in achieving the objectives in the areas of nutrition, poverty alleviation, human development and the environment. My delegation noted with appreciation that the Director-General has already contributed input to the preparation of IDS, especially in the field of agriculture, which in essence is the FAO Strategy for the near future.

We have learned from our past experience that the important role of international cooperation is not only in maintaining the good relationships among countries, but not less important is its role in bridging the direct relationship among the farmers themselves. It is for this reason that in October 1985 our farmers through the kindness of President Soeharto had requested FAO to assist them in conveying their donation to their brothers and sisters in Africa.

In this connection, I wish to inform this august Conference that on 16 October 1989 during the ceremony of the commemoration of the Ninth World Food Day in Indonesia, we have witnessed for the third time, the handing over of the Indonesian farmers' donation of one million US dollars to the FAO Representative in Indonesia for onward transmission to the needy farmers in Africa, making the total donation to the amount of seven million US dollars. This additional amount of one million US dollars, as requested by the Indonesian farmers, is also to be entrusted to you, Mr Director-General, for implementation of small projects in African countries.

As history has witnessed the remarkable role of FAO in assisting the agricultural sector development in most developing countries, I wish to express our hope that necessary efforts be made so as to maintain FAO's capabilities in discharging its task in the future.

In this connection, we wish to place on record our support for FAO's Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 as proposed by the Programme and Finance Committee. My delegation welcomes the nine priority areas under the Technical and Economic Programmes of the Programme of Work and Budget. However, we also wish to express our concern on the rather limited increase of the budget which may lead to the limitation of FAO's capability in assisting member countries to solve various problems in areas which fall under its mandate as stated in FAO's Constitution.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Programme and Finance Committees which, in compliance to the requirements stipulated in Resolution 6/87, have successfully completed a comprehensive Report on the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations, and presented to the Conference very valuable recommendations. My delegation feels that the recommendations of both Committees are constructive and, therefore, my delegation wishes to support its implementation and furthermore expresses the hope that the Conference will endorse them. These recommendations are of great importance for the future of FAO. We therefore hope that the Conference would also feel able to consider ways and means to ensure their smooth implementation.

One of the important resolutions passed at the 24th Session of the Conference is Resolution 3/87. My delegation has the pleasure to note that a Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development is now ready for consideration by the Conference. Our deliberation on this important agenda will certainly give a clear signal to the world that we have a strong political will to accelerate the implementation of the "Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies" (NFLS). From the very beginning, Indonesia has placed the programme of "Women in Development" as one of the important components of its Development Plan. My Government is of the view that women, as citizens and as an integral part of the family, are potential human resources in development.

They have the same rights, responsibilities and opportunities as men in all aspects of the nation's life and development activities. Therefore, their status in the community and their role in development activities should continuously be accelerated and directed toward facilitating their maximum contribution to nation building in accordance with their nature, self-esteem and dignity as women. It is our earnest hope, that this Conference take the appropriate action, so as to facilitate the integration of WID concern into the main stream of FAO Programmes.

This year we celebrated the Ninth World Food Day under theme of "Food and Environment", which to my delegation's view is not only an important theme, but also very appropriate and relevant to our current global economic situation and challenges. It called upon all of us to assume responsibility for maintaining the function of the environment while making all possible efforts to ensure world food sufficiency.

We feel that our responsibility for keeping the functions of the environment and genetic resources in connection of the bio-diversity is also encouraged by the fullest awareness that national resources and environment are important not only for the Indonesian community, but also for all human beings who inhabit this beautiful and lovely planet. I therefore wish to express the support of my Government for the international undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

From the very beginning, the Indonesian nation has indeed been determined to preserve the natural resources and the environment in its efforts to reach food self-sufficiency. To this end, we have been trying hard to preserve continuously our national resources and environment, and also to intensify the greening and reforestation of our damaged forests, particularly in the upstream areas.

We in Indonesia recognize that pests are one of the major limiting factors on improvement of agriculture production. Although the concept of integrated pest control has been implemented in Indonesia, we believe that as a last alternative pesticide is still needed in agriculture production. As an importing as well as exporting country of pesticides, we understand that the implementation of "Prior Informed Consent" on trading and use of pesticides will avoid adverse effects of the use of pesticides.

Therefore in this connection I wish to express my Government's support for the inclusion of the "Prior Informed Consent" clause into the "International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides".

We appreciate the world awareness for the conservation of tropical forests, but at the same time we are concerned because of the negative propaganda against the use of tropical timber products. The Government of Indonesia has in the past taken all necessary steps and is currently implementing programmes to conserve our nature and to develop our forest. We wish to once again underline that Indonesia is committed to the principles and framework of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

We would like to use the TFAP approach as the rational instrument for developing the forestry sector in Indonesia. Forests are a major part of our natural environment, they are also significant for the improvement of the welfare of our people, through the implementation of our Five-Year Development Plan.

We have the responsibility to undertake the development of our country which should be able to raise the welfare of the people, while on the other hand, if also carried out, the responsibility on the maintenance of Indonesia's forests as part of the world environment.

It is in this sustainable development pattern that we improve the social welfare of our people by harmless ways.

We develop our agriculture by maintaining the integrity of function of our forest, land and water. We improve the standard of living of the present generation without reducing the capability of our natural resources to also contribute to the improvement of the standard of living of the future generation.

In conclusion, I wish to convey my Government's appeal that there is an urgent need for an effective global cooperation, including the mobilization of additional financial resources in order to promote environmentally sound and sustainable development that would ensure continued economic growth and social progress without compromising the well-being of future generations.

C. Kanthawongs, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the Chair  
C. Kanthawongs, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence  
Ocupa la presidencia C. Kanthawongs, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

**Mrs Hoda EL MARASSI (Egypt) (original language Arabic):** Distinguished Heads of Delegations, Your Excellency Dr Edouard Saouma, on behalf of the Delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt, I would like to congratulate you and the other office bearers, on your election to steer the deliberations of this important Conference. We are confident that with your wisdom and high qualities this session of the Conference will reach resolutions conducive to the resolution of our aspirations. At the outset I promise to be brief and keep my remarks within the time allocated.

On behalf of my country I would like to express my special greetings to His Excellency Dr Edouard Saouma for his tireless efforts in the service of FAO to make a towering edifice in the UN family dedicated to the lofty objectives for which it was established and still pursues its mission.

Our Conference today is witness of events of historical significance in the annals of humanity. Summits draw nearer and Eastern Europe is out to embrace Western Europe in a bid to reach new horizons of democracy. This will have repercussions all over the world leading to a wave of global detente which we, in the Third World, receive with marked optimism and high hopes that it will reflect itself positively on our world. Our world, which lurks under heavy burdens of 500 million hungry inhabitants, our world that suffers the burden of debt deploys huge efforts to solve its problems resulting from the huge indebtedness and scarcity of resources, given the increasing - ever-increasing - population.

Given such winds of hope, we should launch an appeal to rich countries so as not to forget the problem of indebtedness in Africa and the Third World, and further pursue the steps already taken by friendly countries, such as France, Italy and West Germany, either to cancel part of these debts or to reduce their burden. At this juncture mention should be made of President Hosni Mubarak for his efforts in his capacity as Chairman of the Organization for African Unity.

Allow me to review briefly the agricultural policy of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the plans and efforts deployed for the modernization of the agriculture sector. As you are aware, agriculture in Egypt is the lifeline and essence of their existence since the dawn of history and given the instrumentality of the agriculture sector, a long-term plan was formulated covering the period from 1982 to 2002. This plan is based on the need to adapt the agricultural sector to modern technology, taking into consideration the need to overcome environmental and climatic conditions and to ease their control of this sector. Since the arable area is limited to 7 fedans producing food and clothing for a population of over 53 million people, increasing at the annual rate of 2.7 percent they will reach 75 million in the year 2000. This strategy of agriculture is based on two main parameters, namely, increasing the yield per unit, using all means of technology relating to intensive farming. The rate of intensive farming has reached 200 percent, namely the crop area reached 14 million fedans. Secondly, obtaining maximum returns for agricultural products of the water units used. This means the optimum use of water resources, including the use of advanced technology in the ways of irrigation and crop selection, genetic mixes and the parameters of agricultural development. Over the second

five-year plan (1987-1992) they are as follows: first, a realization of balanced growth between the agricultural sector and increasing demand resulting from the ever-increasing demand by the increasing population. Secondly, achievement of maximum self-sufficiency in strategic crops, and thirdly, channelling the generation of an export surplus that would reduce the increasing deficit in the current account balance with the other world, especially in agricultural export commodities.

Egypt has already completed two basic studies. One relates to main water resources and the other covers major land resources. Planning is under way for the reclamation of desert lands, based on these two studies. Over the past 35 years we have reclaimed 1 335 000 fedans and in the current five-year plan we are planning to reclaim 150 000 fedans annually. In addition, Egypt believes in the role of technical cooperation between developing countries and based on this the Egyptian International Agricultural Centre was established in 1965. It provides grants for the training of participants from African, Asian and Latin American countries in the field of agriculture. Also, it organizes regular training courses throughout the year in a number of agricultural areas, namely plant production and protection, livestock and animal health, and land and water rural development.

In addition to training programmes that are organized at the request of international organizations or governments within the framework of bilateral agreements, we are pleased that we have already trained about 10 000 participants in the form of training grants so far. The Centre welcomes the sons of sisterly countries in order to share with them our expertise and experience in the various fields of agriculture.

The agenda of this Conference includes a number of important and major issues. I would comment on them as follows; first, the Programme of Work and Budget. We feel comforted and confident, given the achievements of FAO during 1988-89 without being forced to resort to borrowing. This is due to the prudent and vigilant management. However, we would express our regrets for the budget cuts during this period to the amount of US\$45 million adversely affecting the technical backstopping of field programmes and training programmes especially in the role of women in rural development. It also adversely affected the capability of the Regular Programme to respond in a timely and effective manner to the requests of member countries to get the assistance of the Organization, and it also made it difficult to continue the programming of the Regular Programme and to implement it in a regular coherent manner.

We have considered the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 and feel satisfied with the priorities and programmes proposed by the Director-General. These represent balanced concentration, selected priorities in areas where the Organization enjoys comparative advantage and effectiveness. We are aware of the strenuous and persistent efforts deployed by the Director-General to reduce the increase in the budget level compared with the last year to the extent that the increase did not exceed 0.5 percent. In this respect we would like to endorse the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91.

Secondly, I refer to the conclusions of the review of the work of the Organization. As you are aware, the last general Conference had adopted a resolution that the Programme and Finance Committees would be assisted by two groups of experts to review the Organization's objectives, priorities and strategies in addition to the field operations. The experts have done

their work well and they have presented their important reports. It pleases us that the conclusions of the Review are satisfactory and in line with our appreciation of the Organization, that is to say it is strong and dynamic and that it makes efforts in the main three dimensions, namely, the collection and dissemination of information, as an international forum for the agreement of relevant issues, and the provision of technical assistance for member countries. No doubt the Review will result in important changes in the work of the Organization in the future. It concluded that there were some recommendations that would make the Organization more effective and more efficient.

On behalf of my delegation we welcome the conclusions of the Review and endorse the Report submitted together with the views of the Director-General. We are confident that he will implement all the recommendations if we have the necessary resources. As you know, the Organization now is going through very difficult financial circumstances that adversely affect the implementation of its Programme of Work. On this point, we would like to join the previous speakers in their appeal to countries who have not yet paid their contributions to the Organization to respond to the appeal and pay their contributions and arrears.

There is a vital topic to which I should like to refer, namely, the emergence of the American screwworm fly in North Africa. The Director-General has responded in a timely manner to this emergency situation. This has been aided by the excellent work undertaken by him in facing the upsurge of desert locusts. In this respect we endorse the Programme of Work for combatting this fly. We call upon donor countries to support the control of the screwworm fly which now threatens North Africa and tomorrow will threaten all of Africa and then Southern Europe.

Before I end my statement I should like to refer to item 22 on the Agenda of the Conference, namely the resumption of activities of the Near East offices in Cairo, in response to the desires expressed by countries of the region which have been transmitted to the Director-General. In this respect, last October the Arab Republic of Egypt had already signed an agreement with the Director-General of FAO in which it affirms its commitment to undertake all material arrangements and necessary repairs in order to make the premises suitable for the resumption of activities. On behalf of my country I express my thanks to the countries of the Near East Region which have expressed their appreciation for the resumption of activities in the Cairo office when the reasons for the transfer of these activities to the Headquarters in Rome no longer existed.

Agriculture will remain the lifeline of our existence and it will remain instrumental in our life. For thousands of years since man started his first steps toward civilization, agriculture has provided us with food, shelter, clothing, warmth and security and in our time we realize that agriculture plays a vital role in this area.

Based on this, we find FAO is an important data bank from which we can get the focal point for technical expertise. It is one of the opportunities for the developing countries to have a forum for the North and the South from which viewpoints emerge toward a bright future for humanity at large.

**Murlidas Madun DULLOO (Mauritius):** First of all, may I express the endorsement of my delegation of the main issues for discussion placed before us, and the various courses of action outlined by the Director-General in his statement. It is a well-balanced Agenda that takes into account current priorities as well as long-term objectives. The statement of the Director-General very appropriately brings into focus those areas on which we should concentrate in the course of our deliberations.

We also wish to congratulate you, Mr Chairman and your bureau, the Council, the Director-General and his staff, and the various Working Committees for the progress achieved so far. All these people deserve our full support in pressing on with action programmes on the basis of the policy guidelines.

We are meeting at a time when major events are happening around us that will no doubt reshape the political and economic environment as well as the physical and natural environment we live in. There are bound to be major changes in the relationships between East and West, North and South. The winds of democracy, freedom and concern for fundamental human rights is blowing over the whole world, bringing down walls that have stood in the way of peace, stability and harmony between men. Almost all the countries and various regions have now succumbed to the concept of a free market where the private sector plays an eminently predominant role. This gives rise to the need for structural adjustments and reforms on the one hand, and on the other, when the danger of nuclear conflagration is receding into the background with detente and disarmament agreements, there is the global threat to our environment compelling us to think in terms of our common future, the survival of our planet earth and of humanity at large. But we should be careful lest with that concern globally for our planet we forget man's daily needs - his food.

We should not forget that a hungry man is an angry man. All our efforts for peace unification, stability and progress will be nullified if our food and nutrition problems are not solved. We have seen that whole political and economic systems can be shaken up and destabilized as a result of food insecurity and the need for food. I refuse to believe a new world order is being put into place whereby military, political and economic domination is being replaced by food domination and food dependency. This is why at our last Conference I quoted the promoter of the famous Marshall Plan when he said: "Food is an important factor in our foreign policy" or, as others put it, food dependency can constitute a terrifying weapon.

It is at this juncture that the FAO is more than ever an ideal forum, especially for developing countries faced with such tremendous difficulties, in which to make our voices heard whilst far-reaching decisions of direct interest to us are being taken at world level - among others, through the impending Lomé IV Convention between ACP and EEC Countries, the European Single Market starting in 1992 and, closer to our Agenda, the on-going GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations (Uruguay Round).

Trade is as important as aid to our developing economies. Discussions taking place in other fora may have profound implications not only on the activities of FAO but also on our national policies in respect of both production, which falls more appropriately within the competence of FAO, and trade in agricultural products which, if the Uruguay Round succeeds, will fall within GATT. Another aspect of trade in agricultural products which is of relevance to UNCTAD especially is the renewal or the negotiations of new international commodity agreements, and the recent coming into force of the Common Fund for commodities will also have some bearing on world trade in



agriculture. We do hope that these negotiations will be an opportunity of improving the general agricultural trade environment and improving the prospects of agricultural export earnings of developing countries, in particular, against protectionism and non-tariff barriers.

We also give a full mandate to the FAO to contribute in the preparation of an international development strategy for the 4th UN Development Decade. We expect this strategy to put appropriate emphasis on objectives of food production and agricultural development. In concrete terms, this development strategy should be based on the participation of small farmers, the improvement of quality of life in rural areas, the integration of women and the modernization of rural farming through technological changes.

We support fully the initiatives being taken by the FAO in the field of conservation and protection of the environment, especially in mobilizing international efforts for the protection of world plant genetic resources and in devising an International Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides based on the concept of prior informed consent. The FAO should "watch out" lest environment becomes one of the harsh conditions for funding institutions supporting structural adjustment. This may become an obstacle to food production and agricultural development.

The situation regarding food production in certain regions of the world is still far from satisfactory. For example, in Africa the situation has been deteriorating consistently over the last ten years. The present average per capita food production in these regions is lower than in 1979-80. Last year my country had the honour to host the FAO Regional Conference on Africa where the main constraints to African agriculture were examined and a number of recommendations were made. These recommendations should now be followed up. It is true that many countries of Africa have encountered climatic setbacks such as prolonged periods of drought or destruction of crops by locusts, but I think there are also structural causes at the root of this situation.

The failure of agriculture and food production in these regions cannot be taken out of the context of the general economic crisis which continues to afflict most of the developing countries represented here. This crisis, in many cases, has paralysed all efforts at development and has caused a deterioration in many sectors including agriculture.

I will not go through all the factors that have contributed to the deterioration of the situation, such as the debt burden, the constant fall in commodity prices, world inflation, high interest rates and the consistent decrease in resource flow culminating in net negative outflow of capital from developing countries. These have already been dwelt on and you, Mr Chairman, appropriately summed up all these matters yesterday. I support the resumé you gave yesterday on the presentations made by various speakers on these matters.

At this point, we should be reminded that it is a matter of the utmost priority that the World Food Programme be able to raise adequate resources in order to maintain the level of its food aid programmes. It is a "must" that all those countries which can contribute should enable the pledging

target of US\$1 500 millions fixed by the World Food Programme for 1991-92 to be fulfilled. But the magnitude of the problem is such that its solution would require no less than a sustained programme of massive external aid and long-term structural action both at international and domestic levels.

Regarding domestic policy reforms that may prove necessary, developing countries are indeed capable of implementing structural adjustment programmes successfully, provided these are formulated imaginatively on terms which are socially, politically and humanly acceptable. Here, the FAO, by reason of its long field experience in developing countries, should work closely with such organizations as the IMF or the World Bank (or eventually with the EEC since the next Lomé Convention envisages providing structural adjustment assistance) in the formulation of such programmes.

I would add that both our domestic long-term planning and budgetary policies should refocus on food production, food self-sufficiency and agriculture as priority objectives. The uplifting of the small farmers and the integration of women through proper training can give a big boost to such policies. These domestic policies must be supplemented by external aid and urgent structural changes in the international economic and trade environment. These two factors have important roles to play. These are needed first of all to stop the present deterioration process and then to re-activate real growth within the economies of developing countries.

Regarding the flow of external aid, I think it is not empty idealism to speak of international solidarity. This solidarity has still a key role to play. The international community should perhaps be reminded of the commitment taken in the early seventies by developed nations to earmark 0.7 per cent of their GNP for development assistance. This commitment still holds good today, and many developed countries would still wish, and certainly can afford, to recommit themselves to this pledge.

The idea of North-South partnership in the process of development is a sound economic proposition for both sides. It can lead to an immediate improvement in the lives of millions of poverty-stricken populations. But it can also re-activate economic growth in the developing world and expand trade for mutual benefits. Experience also shows that the achievement of food self-sufficiency in developing countries is not an unattainable goal. Many developing countries on the Asian continent continue to prove the green revolutions can be solid realities.

At the beginning of my statement I said that a better trade environment is vital to our developing economies. I wish, therefore, to say a few words about the on-going GATT multilateral trade negotiations. At the mid-term review of the GATT Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations held in Geneva in April of this year, it was agreed among other things to negotiate a framework for liberalizing trade in agriculture and bringing all measures affecting important access and export competition under strengthened GATT rules and disciplines. Such an agreement may perhaps in the long term be beneficial to the international community as a whole but in the short and medium terms, as is already being experienced, net food-importing countries will be adversely affected by an increase in world prices for food items. It is estimated that developing countries will have to pay an additional amount of US\$11 billion if they are to maintain their already low level of imports of foodstuffs.

Perhaps I may here quote the case of my country. After a decade of stagnation and recession, Mauritius has known for the past few years some remarkable economic progress in relative terms, so much so that we have been described as "a cat becoming a tiger", "a small lion of the Indian Ocean" and recently by the newspaper Le Monde as "a little dragon". But if one enters this "little dragon", one sees that all is still fragile and vulnerable. Agriculture, mainly sugar, still represents 65% of the net export earnings of my country. We are a net importer of food, especially staple foods like rice, wheat, milk and meat.

As we know, prices of agricultural commodities, including sugar, on which many developing countries depend for their export earnings to finance imports of essential goods for investment purposes, have continued to decline. In fact, the present situation is clearly to the disadvantage of the developing countries which continue to remain vulnerable to external factors on which they do not have any control.

An agreed principle of the Punta Del Este Ministerial Declaration is to ensure mutual advantage and increased benefits to all participants. To achieve this objective the international community should adopt certain policies in favour of developing nations, especially net food-importing countries such as my own which are bound to be affected adversely by the reform and the liberalization process being envisaged.

In this respect perhaps consideration may be given to the following; (i) increased food aid over a long programmable period; (ii) enhancing the purchasing capacity through concessional sales, including the provision of adequate low-cost export credits and grants; (iii) the conclusion of new international commodity agreements with economic clauses which will ensure, in the medium term at least, a stable and remunerative level of earnings that developing countries derive from the export of their commodities. In this respect FAO may play an important role in conjunction with both GATT and UNCTAD.

To conclude, my delegation would wish to sum up its main views on the essential issues for our consideration:

Firstly, the least developed countries should be given immediate relief from their debt burden, both on a bilateral and multilateral basis, since debt distress is paralyzing all their efforts at development and food production.

Secondly, FAO should assist in obtaining better trade prospects for agricultural produce in the context of the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations (Uruguay Round) and special and differentiated treatment should be given to net food-importing countries.

Thirdly, the International Development Strategy for the UN 4th Decade of Development should place emphasis on food production and investment in the agricultural sector.

Fourthly, flow of aid from developed to developing countries should be stepped up in the light of the standing commitment taken by developed nations to devote 0.7 per cent of their GNP to development assistance.

As regards FAO's activities, my delegation supports the Director-General's plea that FAO should have adequate financial resources to play its role as an effective instrument of our policies. In particular, my delegation wishes to express its support for the following specific proposals: (a) the

Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91; (b) the proposed Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations; (c) FAO's budget resources, especially the share of it earmarked for technology transfer, particularly in biotechnology, should not be decreased. FAO's active cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the transfer of recent technologies (e.g. in isotopes and radiation), as demonstrated by the interesting ongoing exhibition, can assist in avoiding large-scale waste, post-harvest losses and other storage problems in a large number of developing countries; (d) maintenance of FAO's field operations at least at the present level; particularly the creation of a project identification and formulation service for inspection of field operations and technical staff training should continue at full strength; (e) policy coordination between FAO and other multinational agencies such as the World Bank, IMF and GATT. We must congratulate the Director-General for the initiative already taken in this direction; (f) as a follow-up of the Uruguay Round negotiations, the establishment of two small units within FAO, one to work in the Food Policy and Nutrition Division and the other in Plant Production and Protection Division, in order to assist GATT in streamlining health and plant regulations on trade in agricultural commodities - this is important especially with the coming of the single European market; (g) the holding of an International Conference on Nutrition to assist in the formulation of policies dealing with the larger problem of malnutrition. These are some of the policy guidelines on which my delegation would like to express its agreement.

I have listened with keen interest to previous speakers. We have all agreed on the various problems confronting us and the solutions to these problems. We are all with the same sincerity of purpose pledging ourselves to satisfy man's basic need, his food. Therefore, let us resolve to give ourselves and our Organization, the FAO, the means to attain this objective, thereby contributing to make the world a safer and better place in which to live.

**Mrs Victoria SEKITOLEKO (Uganda):** I am delighted and highly honoured to have this opportunity to address the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference. This Conference is important in many ways. The issues on the agenda and those to be raised by the delegates reflect areas of growing concern all over the world. Our coming together in this Conference also signifies a common concern and willingness of the international community to address problems affecting the agricultural sector. I hope that this spirit will be reflected in concrete actions on matters requiring urgent attention.

Many studies have been carried out in the past few years about the African food crisis; the problems have been identified and solutions are available. What is required now is not more consultancies, not additional studies and research but a concerned effort to implement the identified programmes that will reverse the current trend of declining food production. We should avoid acting on a piecemeal approach to the solution of African food problems as this will not ensure long-term solutions. What is happening today is action or reaction to crises and calamities. When a disaster occurs the conscience of the world is aroused to mobilize massive quantities of aid to alleviate the immediate suffering of the people, but without responding to the underlying problems.

It is sad to note that African countries are becoming more and more vulnerable as far as food security is concerned. It is estimated that food production in sub-Saharan Africa has been declining at the rate of 1.25 percent per annum. What is lacking in solving the problems of food shortages is the political will because all the data and information required on food production and availability is readily available. Food is a basic human right, and all of us who cherish respect for basic human rights must work together and ensure that food is provided to all mankind. Developed countries must take necessary measures to supplement the efforts of developing countries in fighting hunger and malnutrition.

Concentration on raising yields per unit area has been the mode as far as agriculture production is concerned. In some areas production increases have been achieved by opening up more land. But the situation in many countries is such that there is no more fresh land that can be brought into production. Efforts and resources should, therefore, be directed toward drastically reducing food losses after harvest. Post-harvest food losses are currently estimated in the range of 20-30 per cent. It is thus worthwhile to reduce these losses, particularly at the farm level. We strongly recommend that the policies and programmes should emphasize food security at the farm level as priority number one. It has been observed that food shortages within each country and region could be accommodated if the distribution of food is properly rationalized.

The current trend is to seek immediate assistance outside the country and region when in fact there is an adequate surplus in the region that could be tapped to look after those with shortages. In any case, such surpluses are often wasted due to lack of storage, processing and handling facilities.

A lot has been said about the environment. I support all that has been said by previous speakers. All I have to add is that, whereas in Uganda we are aware of all these problems, what we lack is the means with which to disseminate information to the public and the money to implement the suggested solutions.

I would now like to talk about women. The declaration of the Women's Decade in 1975 was a significant milestone in history. It ushered in an era of dramatic development in the analysis of gender issues. The roles of women in many spheres of life are beginning to get greater prominence whereas they had been taken for granted in most countries. Nevertheless, there is still a long way to go because attitudes, traditions, customs, norms, beliefs and age-old prejudices cannot all be changed in less than two decades. Consequently, women are still disadvantaged in many ways. Women produce more than half of the world's food and they are actually the backbone of the world's agriculture. Yet such essential services as extension advice and credit are given to men. Most of the landless, the unemployed, the poor and the undernourished are women. In many countries women's issues are not attended to or even raised during meetings. This is because women are marginalized in both decision-making and decision-taking. Sadly enough, this is happening in spite of the official rhetoric on promoting women's participation in decision-making and development.

Appropriate programmes should be designed to assist women in agriculture. FAO, therefore, deserves a pat on the back for its role in sensitizing the role of women in development. For our part in Uganda, when we realized that the problems facing women are many and complex, the government created a

fully-fledged Ministry of Women in Development. It deals exclusively with women's issues. Currently we have a number of women holding high offices of responsibilities in government. In the same vein, I hope FAO will have some women directors to concentrate on women's issues.

The worsening of the economic environment, especially the collapse of the prices of primary commodities such as coffee, mounting external indebtedness, disintegration of the infrastructure facilities, reduction in food production, and deterioration of social services such as health, education and housing, caused a number of African countries to undertake economic reforms. The most recent of such programmes are Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, 1986-1990, adopted by the OAU in 1985, and the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990. In addition, since 1980 (for Uganda 1982), a number of African countries have adopted stabilization and structural adjustment programmes with the support of the IMF and the World Bank. As the largest productive sector in many developing countries, agriculture has been the target of structural adjustment programmes supported by the IMF and World Bank to obtain balance of payment assistance and external finance support. The Fund and Bank structural adjustment programmes that entail expenditure cuts, devaluation, removal of food subsidies and price liberalization have the effect of raising the prices of imported agricultural inputs. Yet in most of these countries agricultural credit institutions are not yet in place.

The effect of increased consumer prices is felt immediately on the demand side, whereas the increased incentives to producers are not there. For salaried workers, the structural adjustment programmes will immediately reduce the real income brought about by a rise in the prices of food and other goods. As a result of the cuts in public expenditure, social services and public sector employment have been adversely affected. The living standards of the most vulnerable in society, namely the women, children and the elderly, have been seriously affected. Women with special nutritional needs like expectant mothers, nursing mothers who need food and special diet, are suffering more as decreasing their food intake and the quality of their diet has a negative effect, not only on their health but also on the children to be born or to other ones being nursed. It is a truism that the transitory period before the supply response for adjustment is established, i.e. the so-called "crossing of the desert period", is very, very tough, especially on the vulnerable groups. To cushion these effects on the structural adjustment programme, anti-poverty measures need to be extended beyond the usual two to three year programmes if structural adjustment programmes are to increase production so as to improve their countries' balance of payments and contribute to the economic growth in the long run. The elements of the programmes should include input subsidies aimed at creating a price incentive for production of export crops, easing restriction on credit ceilings to free funds for investment in agriculture, application of differential tax rates with the agricultural sector, and a cautious approach to interest rates so as to avoid fuelling inflation further. Excessive trade liberalization should be avoided in view of the protectionist practices of the industrialized countries against exports of developing countries. Privatization must be selective. Otherwise, wholesale privatization will lead to the take-over of public enterprises by the transnational corporations contrary to developing countries' determination to build an independent, integrated, self-sustaining economy. Structural adjustment should be approached not only with a human face as UNICEF says, but with a human heart. This is because when a country is constantly bedevilled with permanent currency devaluation, very high interest rates and the terrible credit squeeze, it produces an environment which is alien to

investment. What is unfortunate is that the infamous inflation which leads to the devaluation of their currency is only found among the small urban areas. Most of the repression going on in the rural areas where up to 98 percent of the people live is disregarded. Interestingly enough, economists say that when the poor are given money, for example, if the poor got fed up with poverty and went back to simple methods of growing food, enough for their families and the surplus for the market, the government would be advised not to buy these surplus food crops because this would create inflation. It is claimed that the poor do not save. To the international donors, the reasons for the lack of saving, for example, is the lack of banks, the scarcity of goods to be bought, etc., i.e. material. In the end this attitude keeps food production very low, resulting in the poor becoming poorer. Since excess food will not be bought, it is not prudent to borrow for consumption. It has become very difficult to borrow in order to produce more food.

From the FAO Director-General's statement yesterday, it is encouraging to note that FAO has established dialogue with IMF because in summary, the IMF policies have brought a great impact on the efforts of FAO, so they should be harmonized. I would be very happy to know if there is anybody from the African region who actively represents Africa during this dialogue with the IMF. This is because I happen to come from Africa, and sometimes when we are represented, these people come out with generalities which do not actually give the real issues. I have dwelled on this issue because it is my personal experience, and I believe that if this were so, Uganda - not only Uganda but Africa - would need maybe less help.

Promoting agricultural production in the Third World will require substantial assistance from governments and agencies, national and international development agencies. But I have this to say about that part of assistance. When negotiations are taking place, the negotiations prior to signing the full agreements should be done on the basis of equal partners. Technical assistance staff should only be engaged in fields where local expertise does not exist either in the country or in the region. All technical assistance personnel should be considered as employees of the Executing Agency and not those of FAO, Rome. The facilities accorded to the local counterpart officers should be fairly close to those giving technical assistance.

Lastly, I would welcome clear information telling me as Minister of Agriculture how much money I can expect per year from FAO so that I can tailor my budget accordingly.

Having said that, allow me just a few minutes to make a few comments on some major items of this Conference; that is the Programme of Work and Budget and the subject of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations. Although this may not be the occasion for a detailed examination of the same, I would like to point out some areas and aspects that I would consider to be of particular importance. We find the proposed Programme of Work and Budget to be in line with the basic mandate of FAO, that is of promoting food production and food security. Whereas we are pleased with some of the selected priorities and welcome the continued efforts of the Director-General to select priorities and to shift resources to technical and economic programmes, we would have wished an increased allocation in the programmes concerning root and tuber crop production, increased resources in the development of fisheries, and, as suggested by most people from North Africa, increased resources in the care of animals. Regarding the level of

the budget, my delegation, as I told you in the beginning, comes from a poor country. We would definitely have welcomed a bigger budget if we were going to get it this year, but if only a small one is available, by all means we shall always support FAO.

The meeting rose at 13.20 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 h 20.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.20 horas.



## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 89/PV/6

Twenty-fifth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-cinquième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

25<sup>a</sup> período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE SEXTA SESION PLENARIA

14 November 1989

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours  
John Charles Kerin, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45  
sous la présidence de John Charles Kerin, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la Sexta Sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia de John Charles Kerin, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

**Rodrigo BOTELLO (Panamá):** Sr. Presidente, su Excelencia John Kerin, Ministro de Industrias Primarias y Energía de Australia, en nombre de la delegación de Panamá deseo expresarle nuestras más sinceras felicitaciones por su merecida elección, que estamos seguros ha puesto en manos capaces la delicada responsabilidad de dirigir los debates de este 25º periodo de sesiones de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación.

Al manifestarle el apoyo y colaboración con que podrá contar por parte de la delegación panameña, hago propicia la ocasión para extender tales seguridades, al igual que nuestras felicitaciones a los señores vicepresidentes que le acompañarán durante el desempeño de tan importantes funciones.

De la misma manera, complace a mi Delegación manifestar al Dr. Edouard Saouma, Director General de la FAO, su satisfacción por la forma atinada, capaz y valiente con que viene dirigiendo los destinos de esta Organización en lo concerniente a los problemas de primera magnitud contra el hambre, la pobreza y la malnutrición, y de manera especial, en las actuales circunstancias, de grave coyuntura financiera, provocada por las políticas de la destabilización de quienes anteponen sus intereses hegemónicos a los de la colectividad internacional.

Sr. Presidente, está universalmente reconocido que la principal causa del hambre es la pobreza. Resulta entonces evidente que no puede emprenderse ningún programa, ni ejecutarse campañas u operaciones que tengan como objetivo combatir el hambre de manera eficaz y permanente si no se consideran en ellos los elementos y acciones necesarias para lograr el desarrollo de los pueblos. Todo lo demás, por cuanto imprescindible y apreciado, dadas las circunstancias, son apenas paleativos para mitigar una grave situación que, de persistir, pueden provocar el fin de las sociedades más débiles.

En efecto, el hambre, además de ser causa de desnutrición, conlleva como consecuencia una acentuada disminución de la capacidad intelectual y de rendimiento del individuo y, por ende, a todos los niveles de productividad, provocando una de las muertes más trágicas que existen. Resulta lógico, por tanto, que cualquier argumento que se esgrima o acción que se emprenda, así como todo pretexto que se utilice para impedir el desarrollo y no combatir, o lo que es peor aún, fomentar el hambre y la malnutrición es flagrante crimen de lesa humanidad, que debe ser tenazmente combatido y denunciado, so pena de complicidad.

En este contexto, la Delegación panameña reitera, ante el más importante foro de la actividad agrícola mundial, su reconocimiento y firme apoyo al rol fundamental que, en consonancia con sus objetivos, desempeña la FAO, para - y cito - "... fomentar el bienestar general... a los fines de elevar

los niveles de nutrición y de vida de los pueblos... mejorar el rendimiento de la producción y la eficacia de la distribución de todos los alimentos y productos alimenticios y agrícolas... y contribuir así a la expansión de la economía mundial y de liberar del hambre a la humanidad" - fin de la cita -, tal como se expresa en el preámbulo de su Carta constitutiva y como fuese unánimamente reconocido y afirmado tanto por los comités del programa y de finanzas, cuanto por los grupos de expertos que examinaron algunos de los aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAO, en cumplimiento de la resolución 6/87 de la anterior Conferencia.

Estas consideraciones nos llevan a reafirmar nuestra plena identificación con los objetivos, funciones, estrategias y prioridades de la FAO, así como de sus operaciones de campo, en el convencimiento de que ésta, nuestra Organización, principal órgano de la ayuda multilateral en el campo de la agricultura y la alimentación, responde a las aspiraciones y exigencias del conjunto de países miembros, particularmente de los más necesitados, constituyendo una garantía para el desarrollo y bienestar de la comunidad internacional.

De igual manera, consideramos imprescindible expresar que, aun reconociendo el necesario equilibrio que debe existir entre las tres funciones principales de la Organización, la prestación de asistencia técnica es un eslabón fundamental, que posee, a nuestro juicio y a la luz de la realidad del estado actual de la situación mundial de la agricultura en los países en desarrollo, un papel determinante en el logro de nuestras necesidades más urgentes. Todo intento para debilitar esa función o de negarle los recursos suficientes para su ejecución, en particular en lo que respecta al programa de Cooperación Técnica, debe ser enérgicamente rechazado por esta Asamblea.

Para nuestra delegación es ineludible apoyar la función de la FAO en los esfuerzos por la implantación del nuevo orden internacional, particularmente en que la Organización debe reforzar aquellas actividades relacionadas con la cooperación técnica entre los países en desarrollo, los problemas de la mujer en el desarrollo rural, el desarrollo sostenible y el comercio internacional.

En base a las consideraciones anunciadas, abrigamos la esperanza de que los Estados miembros aquí representados concentraremos nuestros esfuerzos en conseguir resultados positivos para nuestra Organización, que reviertan de manera efectiva en el desarrollo de nuestros pueblos; sobre todo en el momento en que es marcada la reducción de las corrientes de capital hacia los países en desarrollo, en que disminuye drásticamente la ayuda internacional en el campo agrícola y para la cooperación y el desarrollo y en los cuales se acrecientan las necesidades de los países emergentes.

Antes de abordar los aspectos relacionados con los Programas de Labores y Presupuesto, deseamos, sin embargo, referirnos a un concepto que durante los últimos años se nos ha tratado de imponer y que, a nuestro juicio, debe ser eliminado de forma definitiva del léxico del sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Se trata de la denominada "teoría del crecimiento cero". Para nuestra delegación, en base al desequilibrio que objetivamente tal política generalizada está causando en los organismos de las Naciones Unidas, esto se acrecienta frente a un alarmante decrecimiento real en el nivel presupuestario y programático aprobado para esta Organización. En este mismo sentido, el mal llamado concepto, conocido como de "ahorros y ajustes" o de "absorción de costos", que además resulta difícil dudar que las mismas no

tengan, en la mayoría de los casos, fundamentalmente motivaciones políticas tendentes a desestabilizar a la Organización por parte de algunos de los principales contribuyentes, y en especial del mayor de ellos, hoy convertido también en su mayor deudor.

Dentro de este marco de referencia, la delegación que me honro en presidir estima conveniente efectuar algunas consideraciones relacionadas con el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1990-92.

Sr. Presidente, sobre este programa, sometido a nuestra consideración, el Gobierno de Panamá manifiesta su apoyo, reconociendo el esfuerzo que ha hecho el Director General por conciliar las necesidades crecientes de los países y la limitación de los recursos disponibles. Sin embargo, es justo que esta Asamblea reconozca que un aumento real de apenas el 0,5%, como el que se nos propone, es meramente simbólico y está muy por debajo de las necesidades de la Organización. Por todas estas consideraciones, y en aras del consenso, invitamos a la totalidad de los miembros de la Conferencia a brindarle el apoyo consecuente.

En este orden de ideas, es oportuno señalar que mi país está atravesando por la más grave crisis socioeconómica de su historia, crisis que ha sido provocada por factores externos.

Dentro de este contexto la presencia de la República de Panamá en este foro obedece, además de los conceptos ya expresados, al derecho soberano que le asiste a participar en la búsqueda de soluciones a los graves problemas de la agricultura y la alimentación de nuestro país.

En consecuencia con lo que expresáramos al inicio de nuestra intervención, para Panamá es necesario denunciar, en este foro mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, las causas externas que han determinado un crecimiento negativo durante sus dos últimas campañas agrícolas. Este decrecimiento es producto de medidas que catalogamos como lesivas, arbitrarias e ilegales. Las mismas han provocado una alteración en nuestro desenvolvimiento económico, social y político, que algunos economistas denominan una "crisis artificial importada".

Este marco conceptual ha sido confirmado en el Informe anual del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, correspondiente al año 1988, el cual concluye que el producto interno bruto tuvo una contracción aproximada del 20%, situación ésta que produce un empeoramiento de los niveles de vida del pueblo panameño, si lo comparamos con la década de los 70.

Por otra parte, según cifras oficiales, estas restricciones produjeron al fisco una caída en sus ingresos corrientes del orden del 45% respecto a 1987 y la reducción drástica del flujo de su comercio exterior. A este respecto, se aumentó la tasa de desempleo de su población económicamente activa a casi el 20%, señalando además en ese informe que la proyección a corto plazo del efecto de la aplicación de estas medidas contra Panamá indican que el pueblo panameño tendrá que tolerar una caída adicional de su nivel de bienestar, en 1989, del orden del 5% de su ingreso nacional.

En el sector agropecuario, todas estas medidas se traducen objetivamente en un serio problema para la seguridad alimenticia de más de dos millones de habitantes, lo cual podría interpretarse como el uso de los alimentos como arma de presión política.

La incidencia de los factores externos anteriormente expuestos, que afectan al desarrollo socioeconómico de nuestro país, particularmente en el medio rural, han contribuido a agravar aún más los tradicionales problemas estructurales que presentan los países tercermundistas en la producción de alimentos. Nuestro país no escapa entonces a los embates del hambre y la malnutrición, sobre todo en los bolsones de máxima pobreza del medio rural y en la áreas suburbanas de la región metropolitana.

En este sentido, tenemos una clara conciencia de la dimensión del problema alimenticio nacional y de los esfuerzos sostenidos que debemos realizar todos los sectores de la sociedad panameña para apoyar el aumento de la producción de alimentos, especialmente a través de la agricultura.

Se debe destacar que en Panamá el sector agropecuario aporta el 80% de los alimentos que consume la población. A este propósito, cabe señalar que es necesario incrementar los esfuerzos para obtener el total autoabastecimiento de la canasta básica de alimentos.

Por tanto, considerando el papel protagonista que ha jugado el sector primario de la economía del país en el enfrentamiento a la agresión económica, al garantizar la producción y el abastecimiento de los alimentos a la población panameña, se ha tenido que desarrollar una clara estrategia para la reactivación del sector agropecuario en el marco de áreas claves en las que deberán concentrarse las acciones inherentes a la seguridad alimentaria, la diversificación del comercio exterior, el desarrollo agroindustrial, la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural, la tecnología apropiada, las inversiones requeridas, el manejo de los recursos naturales y la nueva adecuación del desarrollo institucional.

Sin embargo, reconocemos que la reactivación económica de Panamá tendrá que realizarse en el marco de la estrategia diseñada para la región centroamericana en particular y de la América Latina en general.

En consecuencia, aspiramos a que todos los gobiernos y organismos internacionales, representados en este importante cónclave internacional, puedan reflexionar y reconocer las necesidades de apoyo solidario hacia Panamá, en el entendimiento de que la seguridad en la alimentación de los pueblos es la única garantía de obtener la paz que todos los países anhelamos.

Para terminar, ante un panorama similar, que afecta a millones de habitantes del tercer mundo, que padecen de hambre y malnutrición, por su carencia de recursos productivos o su falta de acceso a los productos alimenticios, se impone una nueva relación económica y política mundial, para que se garantice el uso pleno y soberano de los recursos naturales de los países pobres y se posibilite una real solución a la adquisición de alimentos y mejoras en la calidad de vida de todos los habitantes del mundo.

**Sheikh Ibrahim D. AL-SABAH (Kuwait) (original language Arabic):** In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful, Mr Chairman, Distinguished Members of Delegations, I greet you in the name of the State of Kuwait and convey to you the sincere appreciation of my country for the efforts you deploy for the world's progress and prosperity.

It gives me great pleasure to express to you personally my heartfelt congratulations on your election to chair this Session of Conference. The challenges are surely huge, however, we are confident that you will measure up to these challenges. It pleases me also at this juncture to commend the Organization for its endeavours and valuable achievements under the leadership of the Director-General who spares no effort in guiding the Organization toward the achievement of its objectives. A living testimony of this is the assessment of the Experts, after having concluded the Review of the Programmes of the Organization, in which they affirmed the strength and dynamism of the Organization and gave the Organization a certificate of good health.

Here, I would like to confirm my country's support for the proposals of the Director-General, and the views expressed by the Programme and Finance Committees, regarding the Review. We request the Organization to implement such views and we believe that its management is well qualified to shoulder the responsibility of achieving the lofty objectives for which it is established. We fully support the contents of the "Programme of Work and Budget", in particular increasing urgent assistance to needy countries. At this juncture, I have the honour to recall what has been stated by His Royal Highness the Emir of Kuwait, the Chairman of the Fifth Session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, in his address to the United Nations General Assembly during its 43rd Session, and the Non-Aligned Conference held recently in Belgrade, wherein His Royal Highness stressed the need for countries in a position to assist to lend support to the needy countries in order to create, adjust, balance and strengthen relations. An important obstacle in the way of achieving such relations is the question of debts and their increased interest, and the relationships between rich and poor countries.

His Royal Highness put forward the following proposals and I quote, "First, we call upon creditor countries to hold a technical meeting among themselves in order to consider the cancellation of interest due by debtor countries together with forgiving part of the principle for debts due by the poorest countries. Kuwait, as a creditor country, stands ready to attend such a meeting, and commits itself to the decisions emanating from there. We deem that this is much better than leaving the matter for the demands of the creditors on the one hand, and the divergent positions taken by debtors on the other. The implementation of such a proposal will assist debtor countries in undertaking development projects, which will be reflected in their economic and social conditions which, in turn, will have a positive impact on creditors and debtors alike.

"Second, we call upon the IMF to reconsider the tough conditionality it imposes on countries requesting its assistance to improve their conditions. It is hoped that these conditions will become more flexible and humane, taking into account differences among countries which should be suited to the conditions prevailing in the country concerned and conducive to the promotion of development therein."

As for the environment and the conservation of natural resources, I am honoured once again to quote from the address of His Royal Highness where he said: "There is a common danger threatening all the human race, the rich and the poor, the developed and the underdeveloped, namely, the continuing deterioration of the natural environment, the place in which we live, where our fathers lived, and where our sons are to live. Scientific progress and backwardness together threaten the ecological balance and natural elements on land, in the sea and in the air. The destiny of man is threatened by

excessive industrialization in developed countries and excessive exploitation of the environment in the form of range lands and forests. Pollution is on the increase on land, in the sea and in the air. Toxic clouds move from one country to another over land and water in the North, while drought, hunger and famine spread in the South, to the extent that in Central Africa, together with parts of Asia and Latin America, the rivers are threatened and rains are becoming fewer.

This danger is no less serious than that of wars. There are sincere protagonists of conservation and the environment, and a need to take positive steps in this regard, together with the control of desertification and drought, in order to combat the spectre of hunger and death. The Summit between the Super Powers constitutes a high-level forum for undertaking positive steps in this area."

It pleases me to refer to the progress and achievements secured by Kuwait in various spheres of agriculture. The agricultural sector assumes a major role in the framework of overall development upon a gracious wish expressed by His Royal Highness the Emir for giving due attention to agricultural production so as to ensure food security through expanded experiments for the cultivation of strategic crops such as wheat, and continual growth in the production of white meat, eggs and vegetables in addition to the conservation of marine resources and their development.

In the area of the assessment of natural resources and their conservation, the State of Kuwait undertook soil surveys and classifications together with other surveys of water resources all over the country. The Government is active in the control of desertification through afforestation. This year, we distributed and planted hundreds of thousands of trees all over Kuwait. This falls within the framework of an immediate plan to be followed by medium- and long-term plans for further afforestation and the improvement of the environment.

In conclusion, Kuwait calls for due attention to be given to coordination and cooperation among countries in the sphere of agriculture, together with the exchange of expertise. This will have a great impact on the food security situation, which we all seek. We wish you all success, and Allah's blessing be upon you.

The meeting was suspended at 15.15 to 15.30 hours

La séance est suspendue de 15 h 15 à 15 h 30

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.15 a las 15.30 horas

**Le Directeur général:** Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, depuis la création, en 1973, du Comité Permanent inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel - le CILSS - la FAO entretient avec lui des liens privilégiés.

Les tragédies qui ont si souvent éprouvé cette zone vulnérable au cours des quinze dernières années n'ont fait que resserrer notre coopération et la rendre plus fructueuse et plus cordiale encore.

A diverses reprises, j'ai eu l'honneur de prendre la parole devant le Sommet des Chefs d'Etats et de gouvernement du CILSS; à plusieurs reprises également, nous avons eu l'honneur et la joie d'accueillir à la FAO le Président en exercice du Comité.

Ainsi donc, notre réunion d'aujourd'hui s'inscrit dans une longue tradition.

Pourtant, c'est la première fois que le Président en exercice du CILSS vient prendre la parole devant notre Conférence plénière.

Je vois là une manifestation de l'intérêt et de l'importance toujours croissants que chacune des deux organisations accorde aux problèmes et aux activités de l'autre.

Nous sommes particulièrement heureux qu'en cette occasion solennelle le Chef d'Etat que nous recevons en sa qualité de Président en exercice du CILSS ne soit autre que Son Excellence Hissène Habré, Président de la République du Tchad.

Il préside aux destinées d'un pays démuné enclavé, où les pluies sont mal réparties et les sols fragiles, exposé à toutes les menaces de la sécheresse, de la désertification, des invasions acridiennes, et qui de plus émerge à peine d'une période particulièrement cruelle et destructive qui aura duré près de 25 ans.

Pour guider son peuple en face de tels défis, le Président Habré y met toute sa jeunesse, sa brillante intelligence, son réalisme, son autorité naturelle.

Dans l'énorme effort de normalisation et de reconstruction qu'il anime, il a su faire une place de premier plan à l'agriculture, insuffler son propre courage aux paysans tchadiens qui travaillent sans relâche une terre souvent ingrate, recommencent les semailles autant de fois qu'il le faut, affrontent à mains nues tous les aléas de l'agriculture en milieu difficile.

Sa grande ambition est de mener son pays à l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

La FAO est heureuse d'apporter au Tchad toute l'assistance possible dans cet effort de progrès mené avec une ténacité incomparable.

Monsieur le Président de la République, je ne veux pas, devant vous, parler longuement de la situation alimentaire et agricole du Sahel.

Vous la connaissez mieux que quiconque.

C'est plutôt à nous d'écouter avec attention et modestie ce que vous aurez à nous en dire.

Ainsi, dans sa difficile et courageuse marche vers le développement agricole et la sécurité alimentaire, le Sahel peut compter sur la solidarité de la FAO, qui continuera de lui apporter sans réserve tout l'appui que ses ressources lui permettront de fournir.

Nous partageons d'un coeur fraternel les angoisses et les espoirs de votre pays et de votre région.

C'est pourquoi nous attendons avec impatience d'entendre le message que vous allez maintenant nous adresser.



**Hissène HABRE** (Président en exercice du CILSS): Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, Messieurs les Ministres, Messieurs les Responsables des institutions de développement, Mesdames, Messieurs,

Ma présence à Rome, au siège de notre prestigieuse organisation mondiale, l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO), traduit entre autres sentiments, celui d'une conviction profonde en notre commune volonté de faire face aux défis de la faim, de la malnutrition et, d'une manière générale, aux défis de la misère.

Il est vrai pourtant que notre monde, dans ses grandes tendances, demeure un monde d'intérêts souvent contradictoires où richesses et abondance côtoient pauvreté et rareté, un monde où l'humanité continue à gaspiller des ressources immenses dans la production à grande échelle des moyens de destruction, un monde où la vaste famille des déshérités ne cesse de s'élargir, de croître.

S'il est vrai que, depuis l'aube de l'humanité, le monde a toujours été confronté à la faim, aujourd'hui, le problème de la faim ou de la malnutrition est intolérable, car l'humanité tient à sa disposition des atouts remarquables, fruits du progrès de la science, de la technique et de la technologie, pouvant lui permettre de dominer cette problématique de l'alimentation qui perdure et interpelle gravement la conscience universelle.

Oui, Mesdames, Messieurs, il faut relativement peu de moyens, mais beaucoup de volonté pour élever l'idéal de la coopération internationale à la hauteur des aspirations de notre temps. Et, au Sahel, les pays membres du Comité permanent inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS) croient en cet idéal et permettez-moi de vous adresser le salut amical des trente-sept millions de Sahéliens au nom desquels j'interviens ici en ma qualité de Président en exercice du CILSS.

Les pays du Sahel, victimes de la longue sécheresse des années 1968-1973, en décidant de créer le CILSS en septembre 1973, voulaient traduire concrètement leur volonté politique d'infléchir, autant que faire se peut, le cours d'un environnement devenu insoutenable, privilégiant ainsi les ressources de la solidarité entre partenaires, confrontés aux mêmes périls, et aussi exprimer leur foi en la coopération internationale.

Le dialogue du CILSS avec ses partenaires de la Communauté internationale constitue aujourd'hui, pour le Sahel, une incontestable réussite. Ainsi, la création trois ans après la naissance du CILSS, du Club des amis du Sahel, cadre informel de réflexion et de concertation entre partenaires de la Communauté internationale et responsables sahéliens, témoignait déjà de notre volonté de partenariat qui ne s'est jamais démentie depuis lors. Aussi souvent que possible, nous avons partagé avec nos partenaires nos craintes et nos raisons d'espérer. Avec eux, nous avons analysé les distorsions qui frappent notre région. Avec eux, nous avons recherché des réponses aux interpellations du temps. Cette concertation approfondie, permanente, avec ses avantages multiples vaut aujourd'hui pour les Sahéliens un soutien de plus en plus adapté de la Communauté internationale dans la lutte de nos peuples contre le phénomène de la sécheresse.

A cet égard, la FAO a été et demeure naturellement parmi les partenaires privilégiés du CILSS et partie prenante dans tous les grands projets de développement du Sahel, également dans les opérations de sauvegarde et de survie. Il est vrai que le défi de la faim et de la malnutrition qui interpelle le Sahel est aussi la raison d'être principale de la FAO. La présence du Directeur général, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, aux hautes instances du CILSS, comme celle des Présidents en exercice de notre institution aux conférences de la FAO, témoignent bien des préoccupations partagées et de la communauté de vues entre la FAO et le CILSS. Mais le Sahel n'est pas seulement le théâtre d'une expérience exaltante de coopération internationale. Il est aussi le terreau d'une solidarité entre nations; une réalité, non seulement physique, géographique, historique, mais aussi et surtout une conscience. De Praia à N'Djamena, la conscience est la même d'une communauté de destin, de la nécessité de pouvoir compter les uns sur les autres, de réfléchir et d'agir ensemble afin de mieux gérer et rendre viable un espace aux variations climatiques incontrôlables et soumis aux assauts destructeurs des criquets pèlerins et autres prédateurs. Mesdames et Messieurs, le drame du Sahel est d'abord celui de millions de nos paysans qui continuent inlassablement à confier à la terre leurs espérances avec leurs semences; des millions de paysans qui voient fréquemment leurs efforts annihilés du fait de la sécheresse qui, non seulement les expose à la merci de la famine, mais également bouleverse leur mode de vie, leurs valeurs et les atteint dans leur dignité et dans leur liberté. En effet, y aurait-il plus terrible que d'observer, impuissants, nos dignes paysans, nos fiers éleveurs transplantés malgré eux à la périphérie des villes, devenus une nouvelle race du lumpenproletariat et réduits à la mendicité, voire à la grande délinquance? Face à cette situation les pays du CILSS, avec le concours de la Communauté internationale, ont initié un certain nombre d'actions tendant à amoindrir les effets de la sécheresse. C'est ainsi que, sur la base d'études appropriées, un programme dit de première génération, composé de plus de six cents projets à travers les pays membres, a été mené à bien de 1976 à 1982. Mais la sécheresse inattendue de 1984 est venue brutalement montrer que malgré les projets réalisés ça et là, la caractéristique majeure du Sahel demeure sa précarité face aux aléas de son climat et de son environnement.

C'est alors que s'est imposée la nécessité de l'évaluation critique du programme de première génération, examen qui a permis d'identifier de graves lacunes, entre autres, celle qui tenait à l'absence d'une stratégie globale basée sur une connaissance approfondie des réalités sahéliennes. Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est chose désormais faite, avec la stratégie révisée de lutte contre la désertification et pour le développement approuvée par la 7ème Conférence des Chefs d'Etats du CILSS qui s'est tenue en janvier 1986 à Dakar au Sénégal.

Et, la continuelle évaluation critique de notre action s'est poursuivie. Elle nous a permis d'affiner encore plus notre stratégie. Les réflexions menées au cours de ces dernières années par le CILSS dans la concertation avec nos partenaires du Nord nous ont permis d'aller encore plus au fond des problèmes de développement rural dans notre région.

Devant le phénomène de la sécheresse et son corollaire, l'avancée du désert, notre conviction est faite que l'on ne peut se contenter ni de projets de développement isolés, ni de mesures partielles. C'est l'ensemble des rapports entre l'Etat et nos sociétés rurales qui doit être révisé.

Les Communautés villageoises dans le Sahel avaient autrefois leurs propres organisations: leur chef de terre, leur conseil des anciens, des organisations qui répondaient efficacement aux problèmes qui se posaient alors. Mais, vous en conviendrez, les temps ont changé; ces institutions traditionnelles n'ont pas suffisamment évolué pour faire face à des problèmes nouveaux et les Etats, qui ont voulu y répondre à leur place, n'ont pas été, finalement, en mesure de le faire efficacement.

Cependant, il est réconfortant de relever que des forces vives nouvelles émergent aujourd'hui de nos villages; des hommes, des femmes plus que jamais conscients des problèmes nouveaux et des menaces terribles qui pèsent sur leur terroir sont désormais résolus à prendre en mains leur destinée. Il importe de leur donner la possibilité d'y faire face eux-mêmes. A cet effet, nos Etats s'efforcent de mettre en place le cadre politique et juridique dans lequel ces hommes et ces femmes prendront la responsabilité de leur terroir, la responsabilité du capital déjà sérieusement entamé dont ils disposent, à savoir des terres usées à force d'être surexploitées, des eaux que la sécheresse a rendues de plus en plus rares, des forêts qui disparaissent à un rythme accéléré. Toutefois, il faut reconnaître que quelle que soit leur bonne volonté, quel que soit leur enthousiasme, nos communautés rurales sont, au demeurant, fort mal outillées pour dominer la situation avec leurs seuls moyens. Les Etats sahéliens eux-mêmes, classés parmi les plus pauvres de la planète, soumis comme l'ensemble des pays du tiers monde aux lois implacables de l'économie et du commerce international, deux fois, hélas, pris dans l'engrenage de conflits aussi inutiles que ruineux, sont bien incapables eux aussi de répondre avec l'efficacité voulue aux défis de l'environnement. Aujourd'hui, seule l'aide technique et financière conséquente de la Communauté internationale pourrait leur permettre de redresser les tendances effrayantes de la nature. Et il est indispensable, je dirai vital, que cet appui ne leur soit pas chichement mesuré, car c'est avec cet appui irremplaçable de la Communauté internationale que les Etats du Sahel entendent construire le cadre nouveau de la vie dans le Sahel, assurer l'adéquation des programmes et des interventions à la stratégie révisée de lutte afin de permettre à nos populations rurales de sortir du cercle étroit, trop étroit, de la survie tout court.

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames, Messieurs,

Le Sahel ne peut être laissé à lui-même. Certes, son combat est d'abord le sien propre, mais le Sahel n'est au bout du compte que la ligne de front du défi de l'environnement qui interpelle toute la planète. Les récents développements à propos de la couche d'ozone ou de l'effet de serre rappellent fort justement l'interdépendance entre les différentes parties de la terre. En d'autres termes, la lutte contre la sécheresse et l'avancée du désert dans le Sahel relèvent de la responsabilité générale des Nations et des Peuples face à la dégradation de l'environnement humain.

Sur notre planète terre, l'homme a, depuis la nuit des temps, accompli d'immenses progrès, remporté d'immenses victoires. Les frontières du possible n'ont jamais cessé de reculer. Pourtant, ces progrès, tout comme leurs résultats très mal répartis, donnent au monde d'aujourd'hui le visage le plus inégalitaire, le plus injuste, le plus brutal dans l'usage des lois qui régissent ses relations. Jamais richesse et abondance aussi démesurées n'ont coexisté avec pauvreté et misère aussi troublantes et chaque jour trente cinq mille enfants meurent de faim ou de malnutrition. Le plus intolérable est qu'à travers les règles iniques et injustes du système économique international, notamment la chute continue des cours des matières

premières, les riches continuent de profiter de la façon la plus cynique des faiblesses des pauvres tout en entretenant à leur avantage une structure d'endettement aggravant encore plus le sort misérable des peuples du Sud. Je n'en dirai pas plus sur ce sujet qui occupe une bonne place dans tous les discours. Je souhaiterais simplement, à ce propos, que riches et pauvres, conscients du mal et de ses dangereux développements, agissent de concert, en apportant des remèdes sérieux au moins autant qu'ils en parlent et autant qu'ils en décrivent les mécanismes.

Certes, l'espoir est permis à considérer l'élan de solidarité qui semble prendre essor non seulement au niveau des Etats, des Organisations Internationales, mais également au niveau des peuples.

Dans cet effort en vue de l'éradication de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde, dans cette lutte pour l'autosuffisance et la sécurité alimentaire pour tous, qu'il me soit permis de saluer la FAO et son Directeur général, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, dont les initiatives et les actions contribuent, de façon précieuse, à l'accomplissement de la gigantesque oeuvre de solidarité internationale. Nous leur exprimons notre soutien et c'est du reste l'une des raisons de ma présence ici.

Puissent les hommes, dépassant leurs égoïsmes, considérant judicieusement leur interdépendance et dans un sursaut salutaire de solidarité redynamisée, puissent les hommes d'aujourd'hui apporter les réponses adéquates aux grands défis qui interpellent la conscience humaine. Cela est possible, cela est réalisable pourvu bien évidemment que les hommes le veuillent et s'engagent avec l'immense capital de savoir, de connaissances et de moyens accumulés.

Plein succès à vos travaux !

Mesdames, Messieurs, je vous remercie!

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**CHAIRMAN:** Mr President, I am sure that every delegate joins with me in thanking you very much for your very penetrating and totally apt speech. I would ask Minister Mukando from Zambia to join me in thanking you.

**Justin J. MURANDO (Zambia):** Mr Chairman, I wish to thank you for allowing me to say a few words on behalf of the African Group, by way of a vote of thanks, following the inspiring speech made by His Excellency Hissene Habre, President of the Republic of Chad.

His speech has clearly illustrated the problems faced by Sahelian countries and the commendable efforts that these countries are making in trying to resolve them. These efforts are exemplified by the presence of His Excellency Hissene Habre at this forum.

Allow me to pay tribute to His Excellency the President of Chad, for bringing unity to his great country after many years of conflicts, and for his personal efforts in trying to resolve the problems of the Sahelian region in particular and those of Africa in general.

The problems of desertification, drought and consequent food shortages are problems which should not be left to the Sahelian countries alone to solve.

Food deficits which are caused by drought and the encroachment of the desert require the full support of the international community to arrest the situation.

Efforts by the Regional Grouping (CILSS) aimed at alleviating hunger and promoting sustainable agricultural development in the region should be commended by all of us.

In a nutshell therefore, we cannot sit by when 35 000 people are dying of hunger every day. We must together fight whether we are in the North or South. The scientific advancements we have achieved so far should help mankind to fight these evils even better.

**Mohamed Saleem KHAN (Pakistan):** The Republic of Chad and its partners in CILSS have been illustrious members of the Group of 77 from the very beginning, and it is a great privilege for my delegation, and for me personally in the capacity of the position which Pakistan occupies in the Group of 77, to express our gratitude to His Excellency Hissene Habre for the honour he has done both FAO and us by his presence amongst us today. We are all indeed the wiser for having been here.

Since its creation in 1973, CILSS have provided to the world at large a truly remarkable demonstration of what countries determined to survive can achieve, whatever the odds. The Saheli confronts practically all known problems of the developing world. In addition, it has grappled with climatic adversities perhaps unequalled anywhere else in their severity and unpredictability. In the face of all this, Sahelian countries, individually or collectively through CILSS, are holding their ground - not high perhaps, but firm. Primary credit for this goes naturally to the people of the Saheli itself and their leaders, but FAO can also rightly congratulate itself for the support it has given to the governments of the region, as mentioned by the President in his statement. We are all proud to be associated with this heroic experience. As we all know, however, despite all the efforts so honourably expended up to now, the Saheli remains one of the regions of the world that most need and deserve the support of the international community. It remains a test case of world solidarity.

I could not add meaningfully to the eloquent plea which His Excellency the President has just made in this regard, and I shall not be tempted to try. Permit me only to stress that the essential nature of the development problem in the Saheli on the one hand, and FAO's mandate on the other, clearly requires this Organization to be in the vanguard of any international engagement on behalf of that region. It is the inescapable duty of all of us to enable our Organization to play that role effectively.

I am anxious to assure His Excellency Hissene Habre, and through him the members and governments of CILSS and the people of the Saheli, that the Group on whose behalf I am addressing you will always be on their side.

**Reishi TESHIMA (Japan):** On behalf of the member companies of the OACD Group, which I chair, I would like to express our thanks and tribute to His Excellency Hissene Habre, President of the Republic of Chad, for his very impressive statement. His statement has clearly illustrated problems which are facing us, especially that of drought, in the Saheli. We have learned a great deal about the efforts by his country and the Sahelian countries, as well as international organizations, to fight against serious drought, and the importance of continuing international cooperation in this field. We hope that by overcoming drought and other serious problems, the agriculture in his country and the Sahelian countries will be developing further.

**CHAIRMAN:** Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, we will resume the Plenary and I call on His Excellency Mr Warwick Franklin, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries of Barbados.

**Warwick FRANKLIN (Barbados):** Mr Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished Heads of Delegations, Representatives of the various Bodies and Observers attending this Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

When I had the honour to make my statement to the Twenty-fourth Session of Conference two years ago, one of the major concerns of FAO at that time, was the very fragile financial situation which impinged upon the policies and programmes necessary to promote the common welfare of nations around the world. Today, the financial outlook is no less threatening. The whole world economy now, as it was then, continues to undergo severe strain. Small States in particular are locked into the economic crisis. They continue to wrestle with many variables which impact adversely on their economies, making it vital to find survival mechanisms capable of withstanding the pressure of the times.

Depressingly low commodity prices, dwindling foreign reserves, high unemployment levels, the adoption of strong protectionist measures which either bar or severely limit access to traditional markets, tariffs and non-tariff barriers, large subsidies by developed countries to their farmers, are but a few of the problems facing developing states; especially small island states such as my own country. Notwithstanding the myriad pressures alluded to, I am confident that we can all take solace in the very profound - if not philosophical - expression of hope averted to by the Director-General in his introduction to the Programme of Work for the coming biennium wherein he states that "problems are challenges".

There is little doubt that the 1990-91 period, and indeed the next Development Decade, will be confronted by problems. For example, the delicate balance between maximum production and environmental enhancement, growing world population, man's inhumanity to man, but by the same token, we must view as challenges to stimulate our minds and actions in the direction of an even greater determination and commitment to a common purpose, that is, the betterment of all mankind. Toward this goal, we must unflinchingly admonish each other to be strengthened by the thought that with divine guidance, sage planning, an element of flexibility, and resilience, our world will not only meet the challenges with fortitude, but will overcome the difficulties.

My delegation has come to this Conference imbued with that desire and that hope. Moreover, it is against that background that we are convinced that the fight against the ravages of poverty and hunger should be tackled.

How can we attack poverty? We welcome the grants and other forms of assistance, but most of all we need equal access to economic activities -that is trade not aid, and an all out attack at every possible level to alleviate the scourge of poverty. For it is only in this way that the Social and Economic fabric of the Third World can be reinforced.

FAO, in undertaking a comprehensive review of its roles, objectives, and priorities, demonstrates the sort of consciousness so essential to a successful operation. This review I am pleased to note has confirmed my opinion, that this great Organization is well managed and exhibits a flexibility that allows it to meet its diverse demands in most cases. The findings of this review deserve our unanimous agreement. My delegation applauds the foresight and determination at the heart of the programme priorities, so clearly enunciated by the Director-General and which now form the pulse of our deliberations.

I refer here to priorities in which he seeks to meet such challenges inter alia, sustainable development, crop monitoring and protection, biotechnology, agriculture, the distribution and use of pesticides and also the transfer of technology.

The Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agriculture and Rural Development is another plan of the Organization's programme. This clearly is a focal point for socio-economic growth and survival. After all, women exert great influence in all societies and by their resourcefulness make a substantial contribution to the development of their society.

As I come from a small island nation, I am rather sensitive to the severity of financial crises and the strain which such crises impose on our citizens. Hence, as we look toward the year 2000 the critical importance of maintaining the ratio, mix and balance of priorities cannot be overstated.

It is equally fitting that the adoption of policies and programmes, which are both compatible with the FAO mission and the specific development needs of its members, must by itself be a priority and at the centre of our deliberations at this Twenty-fifth session of Conference. To go one step further, I would venture to say we should concentrate on waste minimization.

In this undertaking there can be no room for complacency or selfishness. The whole world is ours and together we have a duty to steer a course to see us through the turbulence on the horizons of the 21st century. Indeed, the real economic order demands of us a united spirit, uniformity of action and unity of purpose.

As we look to the future, let us bear in mind that any long term and sustained achievement will hinge upon responsiveness to the situation and concerted action in international fora such as this Conference. The measure of goodwill, so visible that it has permeated the atmosphere ever since the session started, is an indicator that ultimately the success of the United Nations system, and FAO in particular, in meeting the challenges of our times is assured.

My delegation has given serious thought to those challenges (financial and otherwise) especially those that threaten world food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry. We are concerned about the impact of man-made chemicals on the environment. We are equally concerned about the destructive effects of CFCs on the ozone layer, the warming of the earth's atmosphere and general implications of new phenomena and full production cannot be overlooked.

It is reported that more than 2.5 million people around the world die annually from the effect of tobacco. It is reported that another 10 000 people worldwide also die from the use of illicit drugs. There can be no better way to support the global fight against the scourge of drugs than to examine the need for substitute and marketable crops. I mention this to elaborate the range of difficulties confronting our nation.

I crave your indulgence to share with you some of the policies and development strategies enunciated in the current development plan of my country. The plan is founded on two simple but very basic principles. First, that there can be no development before growth. Secondly, that development is essentially about peoples' hopes and aspirations for improvement of the quality of their life and a share in the fruits of the development process. The agriculture sector plan anticipates with confidence that both the traditional sugar sector and non-traditional agriculture will act constantly to stimulate national growth. In the words of our own Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Erskine Sandeford, the Plan projects a vision of hope for Barbados while not overlooking the many known hurdles and many imponderables to be overcome.

Therefore it will be seen, that we most certainly share the serious concern of the Director-General that problems are challenges. We also recognize the similar inescapable pressures which bear upon small economies, particularly those which depend heavily upon the sugar sector for foreign exchange earnings, but at what cost? The returns are way below the level of production costs. More importantly, we remain ever mindful of the fact that such economies are by their very nature small, lacking in material, as well as technical, involvement. Consequently, they are rendered vulnerable to international forces including constant currency fluctuation, and in the case of the sugar sector the elements of strong competition from cheaper sugar as well as alternative sweeteners. To combat these difficulties we have embarked on a policy of agricultural diversification basing optimum size sugar production on a mix with other crops especially those crops with proven marketing potentials and for which good prices are obtained. At the same time through the diversification effort, we hope to enhance our capabilities to feed ourselves with less reliance on imported commodities. Another expected benefit of the programme of diversified production is the prospect of the creation of a stimulus for sustained economic growth and development. This transition presents problems, but again problems are challenges.

Barbados welcomes the assistance both in cash and kind made possible from close ties and associations with the Food and Agriculture Organization and other international organizations, many of which are represented at this Conference. In part, all of the pressures would be overpowering. The level of development we have obtained so far could not easily be realized and maintained.



In the area of fisheries we have even greater optimism. We hope to exploit the unexplored fishery resources in the eastern part of our exclusive economic zone. At the Caribbean community level action has also proceeded toward a policy for trade access to the exclusive economic zones of the Caribbean region.

At the global level the worsening food situation calls for a world policy on food, and as such cannot escape the attention of FAO. It is in this context that the matter of world food security must be addressed. It must also be realized that the poor developing nations, whose richest resources are their people, are under constant strain to feed their population and to alleviate hunger and malnutrition. Basically, the underlying problem is one of finance and hence the virtual dependence on assistance in whatever form.

The task is a huge on-going one. In the accustomed fashion, we are undertaking the business of Conference in various Committees where fundamental issues of the moment are being addressed in greater detail. For what it is worth, I share with you the following philosophy of Prof. Dr Borsch - "Committees are by nature timid. They are based on the premise of safety in numbers and are content to survive inconspicuously rather than take risks and move independently ahead." Before independence, if we did not have the freedom for new ideas to be tried, to fail, and to ultimately succeed, the world would not move ahead, but would live in fear of its own potential. Like Dr Borsch, I believe that if we view roles as limits to follow obediently along before taking risks, we will inherently become like anyone else. We owe it to the world to try new ideas. The importance of continued action at international level to assist the developing countries in coping with their various dilemmas cannot be over-emphasized. The difficulties would hardly be surmounted before the careful planning and action by the more fortunate could bring to bear a fully cooperative approach. We are all familiar with the issues, of which the Director-General so aptly reminded us, on the preparation of funds proposed under the programme priorities outlined. He is hopeful that the Organization will experience new vigour. We value the commitment and enhanced promise of fulfilment. We readily express our entire confidence in FAO and the reassurance which the Programme of Work for the 1990-91 biennium offers. Let us work together, though with independence, as we seek to move the world ahead.

**Henri NALLET (France):** Pour la deuxième fois en un mois, je prends donc devant vous la parole à cette tribune. Certes, notre rencontre d'aujourd'hui est beaucoup plus formelle, plus institutionnelle que les débats que nous avons eus ici même à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Mais au fond le problème qui nous préoccupe aujourd'hui est toujours le même: comment faire pour que nos agricultures assurent à tous les hommes la sécurité de leur approvisionnement alimentaire. Et une fois encore, c'est la FAO qui nous donne l'occasion, à nous responsables de l'agriculture venus de toutes les parties du monde, de nous rencontrer pour faire ensemble le point de la situation, pour confronter nos expériences et nos idées. Elle remplit ainsi l'une de ses missions essentielles, qu'elle a su depuis longtemps compléter par un ensemble de rencontres régionales, qui permettent à des pays appartenant à une même zone, à un même groupe, de débattre de leurs intérêts communs, au sein de la communauté internationale.

Mais je crois que le moment que nous vivons tous exige une nouvelle réflexion et de nouveaux projets. La situation politique dans une grande partie du monde évolue de façon presque inespérée en faveur des valeurs qui nous sont les plus chères: la paix, la liberté, la coopération librement consentie entre les peuples. On peut même envisager que s'ouvre bientôt une ère historique nouvelle où l'ensemble de la communauté internationale se fixera pour tâche commune la lutte contre la pauvreté et la faim, ainsi que la gestion raisonnée des ressources de la nature qui sont notre patrimoine commun.

La situation présente de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans le monde, à partir de laquelle nous devons les uns et les autres travailler, est à la fois je le crois encourageante et préoccupante.

Encourageante, parce que la situation alimentaire s'est depuis quelques années globalement améliorée. Les crises et les famines ont été moins nombreuses, même si de nombreuses régions continuent à souffrir du fait de catastrophes naturelles ou de conflits militaires persistants.

Parallèlement à cette situation, les marchés agricoles mondiaux, et en particulier ceux des céréales, ont été assainis ou rééquilibrés du moins en partie. L'offre de céréales est aujourd'hui mieux contrôlée, le volume des stocks est redevenu plus normal et les prix ont pu remonter à un niveau plus rémunérateur pour les producteurs. Ce rééquilibrage, notons-le, est favorable aux pays développés, mais aussi aux pays en développement dans leur ensemble, dans la mesure où il peut permettre une renaissance de leurs cultures vivrières.

Mais à côté de ces aspects positifs que nous devons souligner, la situation reste préoccupante encore dans trop de pays en développement, parce que la production alimentaire ne suit toujours pas le rythme de la croissance démographique. C'est ainsi que la production alimentaire par habitant continue à régresser en Afrique.

Dans le même temps, les recettes provenant des exportations agricoles des pays en développement, elles aussi, stagnent ou bien même régressent.

C'est pourquoi le poids de la dette pèse encore très lourdement sur les économies de ces pays.

Ces deux derniers éléments me conduisent à l'un des points cruciaux, centraux, de nos réflexions et de nos préoccupations, celui des responsabilités de la communauté internationale, et particulièrement celles des pays développés, dans l'origine, dans la genèse de ces problèmes et dans l'élaboration des solutions que l'on peut apporter.

Nous devons avoir conscience de ce que la situation exige de nous des réactions rapides si nous voulons éviter une évolution dramatique. C'est évident je le crois pour ce qui concerne l'endettement d'un grand nombre de pays: la France, comme certains autres grands pays industrialisés, a déjà apporté sa contribution à un effort de réduction de ce fardeau.

Mais il m'apparaît, malgré tout, qu'en matière de développement agricole et d'alimentation nos idées sont devenues plus claires qu'elles n'étaient il y a dix ou vingt ans dans cette même enceinte.

D'abord nous avons vaincu, me semble-t-il, cette espèce de terreur millénariste qui s'était emparée de nous, de voir peut-être l'humanité tout entière en proie à une croissance démographique incontrôlable et qui donnait le sentiment que nous nous acheminions progressivement mais inexorablement vers une famine généralisée.

Nous savons aujourd'hui que la terre est capable de nourrir toute sa population, dont la multiplication à l'infini n'est d'ailleurs plus considérée comme une fatalité.

Bien plus, après bien des erreurs de toutes sortes, nous pouvons dire que nous connaissons bien les mesures techniques à prendre pour conduire un développement agricole "durable", tel que l'a défini la résolution récemment adoptée par les Nations Unies. Un développement qui assure une production agricole équilibrée et contrôlée, respectueuse du milieu et préoccupée de ne pas dilapider les ressources naturelles, et qui garantit également une juste rémunération du travail des agriculteurs, ainsi qu'une évolution harmonieuse du milieu social et humain.

Cet ensemble de connaissances, cet ensemble de savoirs techniques, qui va de la maîtrise des eaux à la maîtrise des structures institutionnelles et juridiques, a été constitué par un long travail dans lequel la FAO a joué un rôle irremplaçable, auquel nous devons rendre hommage. Partout dans le monde, la FAO fournit un appui technique aux pays en développement, particulièrement aux plus démunis. Elle les aide à préparer leurs programmes de développement et à mettre en oeuvre les mesures politiques à appliquer.

Mais il est aussi parfaitement clair que la mise en application de ces techniques, de ces programmes, de ces projets ne dépend pas seulement de la volonté des intéressés et je crois qu'il y a quelquefois un peu d'hypocrisie à le laisser croire. La mise en oeuvre de ces techniques, de ces programmes, de ces projets dépend tout autant, et peut-être plus encore, de l'ordre international dans lequel chacun des pays doit agir.

C'est sur cet ordre international que nous devons à nouveau, que nous devons encore, réfléchir ensemble et la FAO nous fournit, je le répète, une excellente structure pour en débattre entre responsables des politiques agricoles des pays membres. C'est pour cette raison que la France souhaite vivement qu'aboutissent les pourparlers visant à admettre la Communauté économique européenne en qualité de membre à part entière de la FAO. Etant donné la part que la CEE prend à la formulation et à la mise en oeuvre de la politique agricole commune qui constitue qu'on le veuille ou non un des plus importants "centres de décision" agricoles du monde, il apparaît normal qu'elle puisse s'exprimer à la FAO avec l'autorité voulue, sur les sujets qui bien entendu relèvent de sa compétence.

Sur quoi repose cet ordre international dans lequel se situe aujourd'hui notre action? Pour une bonne part, nous le savons tous, d'abord sur les échanges commerciaux qui font que toutes les agricultures du monde communiquent entre elles, et partagent le même destin pour le meilleur mais aussi pour le pire, car ces échanges n'ont pas toujours lieu sur un pied d'égalité entre les différents partenaires: il faut même avouer qu'en règle générale le commerce international a surtout permis aux pays développés de se débarrasser de leurs problèmes agricoles aux dépens des pays en développement.

Voilà pourquoi les négociations commerciales multilatérales qui se sont engagées depuis Punta del Este dans le cadre du GATT revêtent une importance vitale pour tous les pays, qu'ils soient développés ou qu'ils soient en développement. Les résultats de ces négociations vont en effet orienter pour de nombreuses années leurs politiques agricoles respectives.

Nous devons donc tous conduire ces négociations avec beaucoup de clarté, beaucoup de détermination, mais aussi avec une volonté de compromis, en évitant par-dessus tout des positions rigides inspirées plutôt par des a priori dogmatiques que par la volonté de négocier.

La France et les autres pays de la CEE sont pleinement convaincus qu'il est de l'intérêt de tous que les marchés mondiaux de produits agricoles aient un fonctionnement clair et équilibré, sans protectionnisme systématique, sans mesure introduisant de manière directe ou détournée des distorsions de concurrence. La CEE l'a d'ailleurs prouvé dès l'origine en gardant ses frontières largement ouvertes à toutes sortes de produits agricoles venus des cinq continents et je crois que nous le prouvons encore aujourd'hui en conduisant de notre propre mouvement depuis maintenant 5 ans une politique de réduction du niveau de nos aides à toutes les formes d'agriculture. Nous le prouverons demain en participant à un effort supplémentaire de réduction pourvu qu'il soit concerté et équitablement réparti entre nos partenaires et nous. Je crois d'ailleurs que M. le Commissaire Mc Sharry donnera tout à l'heure de plus amples explications sur cette démarche de la Communauté économique.

Mais pour autant, nous ne pouvons pas compter, pour régler tous les problèmes de l'économie alimentaire, sur un marché entièrement abandonné à lui-même.

Au-delà des querelles académiques, au-delà des discussions parfois bien théoriques, les marchés agricoles ne peuvent fonctionner de manière satisfaisante que moyennant un accord général entre tous les compétiteurs sur un ensemble de règles de fonctionnement et de principes d'organisation minimum.

Cela est nécessaire par exemple si nous voulons lutter de manière efficace contre les grandes pollutions. Cette lutte si nécessaire à la conservation des ressources naturelles pourra-t-elle être menée à bien si chacun n'accepte pas de voir au-delà des perspectives d'avantages immédiats? La dernière Journée mondiale de l'alimentation a, je crois, dégagé une réponse claire sur ce point.

De même en septembre 1991, aura lieu à Paris le Congrès forestier mondial organisé conjointement par la FAO et la France, qui se propose de relancer la réflexion en matière de recherche, d'intervention et d'exploitation dans le secteur des forêts. Je ne doute pas que ce congrès ne nous recommande une telle politique de concertation à long terme excluant toute pratique d'exploitation "sauvage".

Mais nous ne pouvons non plus nous fier exclusivement au marché si nous voulons assurer une certaine sécurité alimentaire aux pays en développement.

Si nous voulons sérieusement que ces pays parviennent un jour à vaincre la pauvreté et la malnutrition, il est indispensable que la communauté internationale leur reconnaisse une sorte de "droit à produire", un droit à assurer leur propre approvisionnement alimentaire, et il est indispensable que la communauté internationale accepte que ces pays prennent à cet effet des mesures de protection sélectives appropriées pour défendre leurs propres productions.

Bien plus, il serait bon que nous offrions aux pays en voie de développement des moyens de compenser leurs handicaps à l'égard des pays industrialisés. Par exemple en leur permettant un accès amélioré à nos marchés. La France souhaite que tous les grands producteurs se concertent pour élaborer des mesures concrètes d'aide au développement. J'ai pour ma part exposé, lors de la dernière Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, la proposition que j'ai faite à mes collègues de la Communauté de consacrer une partie des fonds que nous allons économiser par la baisse des dépenses de soutien des marchés agricoles, à aider les pays en développement à renforcer leurs propres agricultures. Je réitère devant vous cette proposition à l'ensemble de la Communauté internationale. Mais il est évident qu'une telle proposition n'a de sens que si elle suscite un effort de même nature de la part des autres grands pays agricoles, et si les fonds ainsi réunis sont contrôlés dans un cadre multilatéral.

La FAO n'est-elle pas, après tout, par nature l'enceinte où un débat devrait s'engager sur une telle idée?

Mais le rôle de première importance qu'a joué et continue de jouer la FAO dans notre lutte commune contre la faim et la pauvreté, nous rend tous exigeants à son égard. C'est pourquoi je voudrais dire ici quelques mots des résultats de l'"Examen des buts et opérations" de la FAO qui nous sont présentés au cours de cette session. La délégation française, certes, aura l'occasion de développer en détail ses observations lors des débats de la présente Conférence. Je me contenterai donc de vous présenter une appréciation d'ensemble. La France a, dès l'origine soutenu cette entreprise, désireuse qu'elle est de voir la FAO s'adapter à l'évolution de la situation mondiale, pour améliorer continuellement l'efficacité de son action.

Il est clair, et nous nous en félicitons, qu'un travail ample et approfondi a été réalisé par l'ensemble des partenaires concernés: la FAO elle-même, ainsi que ses organes directeurs, les partenaires extérieurs, et les experts. Disons tout de suite que la France se félicite de voir que les grandes missions de la FAO comme organe de coopération technique, comme créatrice d'information sur l'agriculture et l'alimentation dans le monde, comme lieu de rencontre et tribune internationale, ne sont à aucun moment remises en cause. Mais il est un des aspects de ces résultats qui nous laisse dans l'expectative. En effet, les propositions avancées se traduiraient par des besoins supplémentaires de financement. Il y a là, je dois le dire, une démarche qui me semble sortir de l'hypothèse de travail du budget constant qui était dès le départ celle de nombre d'Etats Membres. C'est pourquoi nous considérons qu'il faudrait donner une sélectivité plus grande aux programmes proposés. Cela dit, je comprends évidemment que la difficulté dans laquelle semble se trouver l'Organisation de proposer des redéploiements de ses moyens, tient pour beaucoup à l'embarras où la met le non-versement par certains Etats Membres de leurs contributions. La France attend au cours de cette Conférence des explications précises de la part des

contributeurs défaillants, et en particulier du plus important d'entre eux: ils doivent en effet être conscients de ce que leur attitude a conduit la FAO à s'imposer des restrictions considérables et la prive pratiquement aujourd'hui de toute marge de manoeuvre dans ses activités.

Or la France souhaite que la FAO dispose des moyens d'assurer ses missions. C'est pour cela qu'elle soutient le Programme de travail pour le prochain biennium et le budget courant qui lui correspond.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs les délégués, en terminant je voudrais redire que mon pays reste attaché au rôle que joue la FAO dans le contexte international au profit du développement agricole de ses Etats Membres. Nous sommes loin encore d'avoir vaincu la pauvreté. Or, beaucoup plus que par le passé, nous savons que nous avons les moyens techniques de la vaincre. La F.A.O. a une tâche éminente à accomplir dans cette perspective et je crois qu'elle le fera chaque jour davantage plus efficacement en cherchant à s'adapter à l'évolution du monde. C'est notre rôle de responsable politique que d'affirmer ici une volonté qui permettra à l'Organisation de mieux remplir ses tâches contre la pauvreté et la faim. Je vous remercie.

**RAY MACSHARRY (EEC):** It is indeed a great honour and pleasure for me to speak to you today at this most prestigious international forum.

Since its foundation the FAO has made a major contribution to agricultural development, resource management and the improvement of living standards throughout the world. While much remains to be done, the FAO, and particularly Mr Saouma and his staff, have to be congratulated for the major contribution they made over the years toward improving the plight of the peoples of the underdeveloped world. There are many points on your agenda that are of great interest to the Community. As the Commissioner responsible for agriculture and rural development in the EEC, the subject of the world food and agriculture situation holds a special interest for me, and I would like to make some brief remarks on that point.

The agriculture policy of the Community has been subject to reform for some time now, particularly during the last six years. The underlying philosophy of our reforms has been one of gearing production to market requirements in terms of both quantity and quality. Through a combination of measures, including the introduction of quotas on production, reductions in market support, more restricted access to public purchasing of produce, and a ceiling on agricultural-related expenditure, agriculture has been reorientated toward the market-place. For example, public buying-in prices for cereals, beef and wine have been reduced in real terms by 19 percent, 10 percent and 11 percent, respectively, since 1984. In the case of milk, were it not for the introduction of quotas on production in 1984, production would be about 25 percent higher today than is the actual case. Indeed, when account is taken of all the measures applied, market support as measured by the Support Measurement Unit has been reduced by 10 percent for the arable sector and by 15 percent for the livestock sector since 1986.

A major step toward achieving a market-based agricultural policy has been the removal of the massive stocks of food which had a price-depressing effect on both the Community and world markets. Stocks of a number of products have been virtually eliminated or reduced to manageable levels. More important is the fact that measures have been introduced to ensure that they do not build up again in the future.

Given the diversity and structure of the Community's agricultural sector, adjusting to policy reform as significant as that which we have undertaken is painful and takes time. There is, however, evidence that the reforms are having the desired effect. Considering the importance of the Community food production in global terms, quite clearly policy adjustments affecting this sector have implications for non-EEC countries also, not least, developing countries. A fact seldom appreciated is that the Community continues to be the world's largest importer of agricultural products with imports of over US\$52 million per annum. Developing countries provide 51 percent of these imports, and the Community market accounts for 43 percent of agricultural exports from developing countries as a whole. A significant proportion of these imports enter at very low levels of custom duties, and in the case of the poorer countries concessions have been granted on many products which amount to unrestricted duty-free access.

The 66 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries have been granted preferential access to the Community market under the Lomé Convention, including tariff exceptions on most products exported. I should point out that many products benefiting from preferential access to the Community's market are themselves or are substitutes for products in which the Community has a high degree of self-sufficiency. For example, we import 1.3 million tonnes of sugar from ACP countries and 7.5 million tonnes of manioc on an annual basis. Given the access to the Community market that has been granted to developing countries, a market which is more stable and lucrative than the world market, clearly the ACP has been of some benefit to these countries.

However, the Community is fully aware of the necessity of helping developing countries to expand their export trade further and will address this issue, which we view as a global one in the context of the Uruguay Round. That is a subject to which I will return.

A certain number of factors, including the reform of the CAP, have led to substantial price increases for many staple commodities in the world market. While this has been a benefit to food-exporting countries, both developed and developing, it has contributed to a deterioration of the situation of the food-importing countries. This has been further compounded by the decline in export prices of commodities important to some developing countries, such as cocoa and coffee. Indeed, the price fluctuations which these basic commodities have been experiencing over the years is a point of concern to the Community. We have attempted to alleviate the economic impact of these fluctuations for the Lomé countries through the Stabex instrument.

Despite the encouraging signs regarding the increase in food production in a number of developing countries, import needs in the medium term remain high. Food aid will continue, therefore, to play an important role, especially for low-income developing countries. The Community's policy on food aid is that, apart from emergency situations, it should be integrated with other instruments of development cooperation. The two main approaches toward this integration are, firstly, the use of counterpart funds arising from the sale

of food aid imports for specific projects or programmes, especially benefiting rural areas. Secondly, the distribution of food directly to vulnerable population groups or its use as a wage in food-for-work projects. Notwithstanding the increase in budgetary outlays in food aid arising from the increase in world market prices, the Community has endeavoured to maintain its level of food aid. We have also introduced further flexibility into our food aid operations by the use of triangular transactions where justified and through the substitution of financial and technical assistance for food aid in countries where the food supply situation has improved significantly. Food aid has never been seen by the Community as a long-term solution to the problems of the poorer food-importing countries, but rather as an important transitional instrument easing the food deficit situation of these countries while indigenous production is expanded.

Agricultural and rural development has always been a priority feature of Community development cooperation policy, and the situation is likely to continue for some time. However, the agricultural sector cannot be considered in isolation from the overall economic situation. The economic crisis and the debt problems being experienced by many developing countries pose a serious obstacle to development in all productive sectors. Furthermore, given that growth in agricultural production in developing countries often depends on area expansion rather than intensification, environmental constraints place an increasing restriction on agricultural growth. The scope of Community development cooperation policy will in future be widened to address this issue by focusing its actions on long-term sustainable agricultural and rural development rather than on the drought desertification aspect of the environment alone, as was the case in the past. Our policy will also lay greater emphasis on alleviating the negative social consequences that often arise in the short term from economic adjustment projects. This orientation of our development and cooperation policy will be an important aspect of the new convention which is at present in negotiation between the ACP countries and the Community.

At this stage I believe I should make a specific reference to reforms taking place in Poland and Hungary today. These reforms, being both political and economic and being on such a dramatic scale, will require much outside support to ensure their success. The Community is playing a central role in coordinating the international assistance to help the reforms. Furthermore, on our own part we have already organized the supply of agricultural products to Poland, and many other measures in the technical, financial and trade areas are under active consideration. Both Poland and Hungary have a high potential for agricultural production. The realization of this potential, together with the improvement of their marketing and distribution structure, will warrant a great degree of assistance of a technical nature. Given the wide experience and knowledge FAO has accumulated over the years, the Organization has an important contribution to make in these areas. Furthermore, I believe that useful opportunities should present themselves in this area for cooperation between FAO and the Community in the future.

I would now like to make a brief reference to an issue which has consequences for economic growth and development in developing and developed countries alike. That is the present round of GATT negotiations. This round of negotiations is the most comprehensive undertaken to date. It presents us with a unique opportunity to give world trade, and hence economic growth and development, an impetus. Agriculture constitutes one of the most important areas under discussion. The mid-term agreement in April 1989 goes a long way toward agreement, but a difficult and perilous road lies ahead. The diverging views of the Community and some of their major partners in



negotiations in terms of the ultimate objective continue to pose serious problems for the negotiations. Indeed, the proposals submitted by the US in October on long term agricultural reform are not, in the Community's view, in keeping with the mid-term agreement and actually constitute a step backwards from this point. The Community has always emphasized its willingness and desire to liberalize markets and substantially reduce support, but insists on maintaining the basic principles of the common agricultural policy. We cannot countenance the total abolition of market support or protection. Far from stabilizing world markets, I believe that this approach would, in fact, lead to greater instability in both production and prices. Neither is the Community prepared to take any further unilateral action in this area as long as our trading partners do not put into action the philosophy of support reduction, production control and market liberalization some of them so often expound. We believe, however, that a successful conclusion to the negotiations can be obtained which will achieve the objectives set out in the Punta del Este Declaration while at the same time recognizing the special characteristics and diversity of agriculture throughout the world. The Community will put forward its proposals on how this can be realized in the near future.

Stable markets have a major role to play in stimulating agricultural production in developing countries in the longer term. Therefore, the participation by these countries in the negotiations and their conclusions are important. The Community is, however, fully aware of the special needs of the poorer developing countries and is prepared to address this issue in the negotiations.

Finally, I would like to say a few words about Community participation in the FAO. Over the years, there has been much cooperation between FAO and the Community on developmental projects and programmes throughout the Third World, particularly in the area of crop production and disease eradication. Considering that the Community manages a budget of over two thousand million ecu for cooperation with developing countries, including ACP countries, and with the important work FAO carries out in these countries, it is only logical that we should have closer and more constructive contacts than in the past. The Community would like more involvement in FAO policy formulation in areas of its competence. The status of Observer held by the Community in FAO does not, in our view, take account of the evolution of the Community over the years and that competence, in many areas of interest to the FAO, has been transferred by the Member States to the Community. This presents certain difficulties on the part of the Community and its Member States in terms of effective participation at FAO meetings on subjects which are of Community competence. Equally, it presents problems for FAO when a body as important as the Community cannot fully participate in activities in these areas. It was for this reason that the President of the EEC Council of Ministers requested in April that a mandate be given to the competent bodies of FAO to discuss with the Commission the possibility of the Community being granted the status of membership corresponding to its competence which would allow it to participate effectively in the work of the FAO.

I would like to thank Mr Saouma and the Council Members for their detailed attention given to this subject in June and particularly for their positive and constructive comments. The technical discussions between the two institutions have already commenced, and we look forward to an early conclusion. The Community has much in common with and to offer to the FAO, including in the area of development work. Greater participation by the Community in the work of FAO can only help capitalize on that common interest to the benefit of all the underprivileged in the world.

I would like to say again what a great honour and pleasure it has been for me to speak to you, and I wish your Conference every success.

**P. DE KEERSMAEKER (Belgique):** Monsieur le Président, chers collègues, Mesdames, Messieurs, je voudrais, présentant ce bref exposé, tout d'abord remercier sincèrement et féliciter cordialement le Directeur général, Edouard Saouma, qui durant ces deux années, a mené la FAO avec courage, enthousiasme et opiniâtreté, nonobstant les différents obstacles qu'il a dû franchir. La situation financière de notre Organisation est restée difficile et, malgré les grands défis qu'il faudrait relever dans les années qui viennent, l'espoir que nous avons tous en 1987 de voir les contributeurs importants assumer leur responsabilité, ne s'est pas encore réalisé.

Mon pays a, ces dernières années, fourni un effort particulier pour le paiement de ses contributions dès le début de chaque exercice. Il poursuivra, bien sûr, cet effort dans l'avenir. Mon pays est par ailleurs un membre fidèle de la Communauté économique européenne qui représente le tiers des contributions de notre Organisation.

Le budget qui nous est soumis pour le biennium 1990-91 de 545 millions de dollars traduit une volonté de maîtrise des dépenses administratives au profit d'une ouverture réelle vers les véritables objectifs de la FAO: la conception, l'échange de vues, d'expertise et d'expérience et les opérations de terrain. Le budget du biennium est important car il sert de catalyseur pour une masse importante de fonds, provenant de sources diverses, multilatérales et bilatérales.

Cela dit, il est indispensable de rendre à la FAO son rôle central en matière de développement agricole et les études qui ont été entreprises depuis deux ans, dans le cadre de ce qu'on a appelé "La Réforme", ont démontré que les objectifs, tels qu'ils furent définis il y a plus de 40 ans dans l'Acte constitutif de l'Organisation, non seulement restent encore d'actualité, mais sont devenus, peut-être plus que jamais, des impératifs absolument prioritaires. Je ne crois pas inutile de les rappeler:

- élever le niveau de nutrition et les 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 les conditions des populations rurales, et contribuer ainsi à l'expansion de l'économie mondiale, et libérer l'humanité de la famine.

Le programme de travail que le Secrétariat général soumet à la Conférence et dont je tiens à le féliciter de la qualité, nous montre l'ampleur de la tâche de la FAO.

L'agriculture, - et quand je dis agriculture, c'est au sens large du terme, la culture de la terre - doit, en effet, rester la première préoccupation de la Communauté internationale et je souscris sans réserve à la conclusion du groupe d'experts chargés d'examiner les objectifs, le rôle, les priorités et les stratégies de la FAO quand il est écrit: "C'est de l'agriculture que peut dépendre l'équilibre à long terme ou la détérioration des ressources naturelles, la stabilité ou le désordre politique". Les succès ou les échecs de l'agriculture sont déterminants pour la prospérité mondiale, et donc pour les chances de bien-être de nos populations.

La sécurité alimentaire à cet égard est un souci primaire et majeur. Or je constate que si les approvisionnements alimentaires mondiaux ont été en progrès réels, bien que de distribution inégale jusqu'au milieu des années 80, un coup d'arrêt s'est produit au cours des deux dernières années. En effet, le taux annuel de croissance de la production agricole a été de 2,4 pour cent pendant la décennie septante et 2,5 pour cent de 1980 à 1986; et il est tombé à 1 pour cent seulement en 1988 ! Ceci est sans aucun doute inquiétant.

Pour ce qui concerne plus particulièrement le secteur céréalier, il faut noter que malgré un redressement notable de la production mondiale des céréales en 1989 par rapport à l'an dernier, la consommation devrait, pour la troisième année consécutive, être supérieure à la production. Cette situation entraînera, indubitablement, un nouvel amenuisement des stocks céréaliers. Or ceux-ci sont déjà tombés actuellement à 305 millions de tonnes, soit 7 pour cent de la consommation mondiale. Nous avons donc atteint le minimum de sécurité souhaité par la FAO. Qui plus est, une analyse plus détaillée démontre une faiblesse particulière des stocks publics qui sont tombés à 8 millions de tonnes dans la Communauté européenne et qui, aux Etats-Unis, approchent le seuil minimum de 2 millions de tonnes prévu par le food bill.

Ces chiffres donnent une mesure précise de la précarité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale dans les années présentes et probablement à venir si les données ne changent pas. Dans les produits du secteur animal la situation est pratiquement la même; le secteur animal n'échappe pas non plus à cette tendance et leur croissance se ralentit elle aussi. Cette dernière donnée confirme que la situation alimentaire est en équilibre instable. C'est pourquoi l'agriculture doit essayer de se préserver autant que faire se peut d'éléments exogènes qui hypothèquent ce secteur capital pour le devenir de l'humanité. Des exemples récents ne font que conforter mon opinion: je veux parler des conditions climatiques dont l'influence a été non négligeable, ces dernières années, sur les productions agricoles et dont les conséquences néfastes se traduisent aujourd'hui par une sécurité alimentaire aléatoire. Toutefois, il n'est de l'intérêt ni des pays en développement ni des pays développés que se perpétue le déséquilibre au niveau des marchés internationaux. C'est d'ailleurs en vue de restaurer l'adéquation entre l'offre et la demande que la Communauté économique européenne a pris de difficiles mesures dont les effets bénéfiques ne pourront être pleinement appréciés qu'à terme, car il est évident que si la stabilisation des marchés internationaux doit permettre aux producteurs et plus particulièrement aux producteurs dans les pays en voie de développement, de développer leur production sur des bases plus saines, il convient d'autre part d'éviter de pénaliser les consommateurs, en particulier dans les régions du monde à faible pouvoir d'achat dont les revenus sont encore insuffisants. En ce qui concerne ce dernier domaine, l'agriculture ne peut être traitée, quant aux futures règles internationales à établir, sur un plan similaire aux autres secteurs socio-économiques. Dès lors, au sein des négociations multilatérales de l'Uruguay Round, la Belgique dans le cadre de la CEE est en faveur d'une libéralisation raisonnée et raisonnable du commerce des produits agricoles, tenant compte de la spécificité de l'agriculture. Elle soutient également l'idée d'un traitement spécial et différencié à accorder aux pays en voie de développement.

Mais il reste bien sûr vrai que des solutions d'ordre macro-économique ne pourront produire pleinement leurs effets que si les structures si diverses de l'agriculture à travers le monde sont renforcées pour permettre aux producteurs de tirer le maximum de profit des conditions du marché, La FAO et les autres institutions de financement chargées de promouvoir l'agriculture ont à cet égard un rôle crucial à remplir.

Je tiens dès lors à souligner l'importance particulière que nous attachons au Programme de coopération technique, et à tout le large secteur des programmes de terrain. C'est sur la base de l'expérience du terrain que les services de l'Administration centrale doivent évoluer et s'adapter de façon permanente. La FAO ne peut être un centre d'étude désincarné ni un forum éloigné des réalités mais elle doit être une organisation en contact permanent avec les problèmes que posent l'évolution de l'environnement économique et sociologique, et celle de l'environnement tout court.

A cet égard, je me félicite du débat qui aura lieu sur la réforme et mon pays y participera d'une manière active. Mais il faut aussi qu'après cette discussion, la page soit tournée et qu'on permette aux fonctionnaires de se consacrer efficacement à leurs tâches et à la mission qu'ils doivent poursuivre.

Il a été dit, Monsieur le Président, que la décennie qui se termine fut, pour beaucoup de pays du tiers monde, une décennie perdue. Le monde de demain sera confronté beaucoup plus que celui d'hier, à des défis difficiles à relever. Difficiles peut-être mais certes pas impossibles si tous ensemble nous voulons un monde plus juste.

La détente que l'on constate dans les relations internationales permet d'espérer que plus de ressources soient, dans un avenir que nous espérons proche, consacrées au développement économique de l'ensemble de la planète, développement économique dont notre Organisation a été, reste et restera demain davantage qu'hier une des principales pierres angulaires.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Charoen KANTHAWONGS (Thailand):** I wish at the outset, on behalf of my delegation and myself, to offer to you my warm congratulations on your election as the Chairman of this Conference. I would also like to express my congratulations to the two other Vice-chairmen, and lastly but not least to thank all distinguished delegates for most graciously giving me the honour to serve you as Vice-Chairman.

It has been over forty years that FAO has existed in serving mankind. During this time it has become known to all nations, rich and poor. To me, it is opportune now as it always will be to reflect and take stock of its achievement and of things yet to be achieved. Factually but unfortunately there still exist large discrepancies amongst nations. Poverty, hunger and malnutrition yet abound. Coming from a developing country myself, I have not only read and heard about these dismal and appalling conditions man is facing, but I have myself felt the sufferings and pains associated with them. Significantly, well-to-do nations are by no means immune: just the degree of severity differs. That is to say we all still face the spectre of what this honourable Organization set out to abolish at its conception.

It is my belief that the programme of action adopted by a sister organization, the World Food Council, at its 15th Ministerial Level Session in Cairo in May 1989 provides a way by which FAO can assist in the implementation of technical, economic and social measures toward the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

It is gratifying to know that global output has been expanding at a fairly satisfactory rate of over 4 percent. Needless to say, deliberate policies and measures must be adopted and implemented, and I might add, effectively, so that the benefits may trickle down and be shared by the less fortunate. On this point I feel somewhat anxious and troubled that there should exist at this time some conflict between certain Member Nations and this Organization which will unavoidably constrain its effectiveness. The delegation of Thailand whilst recognizing the other major roles which FAO is assigned under its constitution, is in accordance with the Group of 77's recommendation that at least 17 percent of the total budget be allocated to the Technical Cooperation Programme.

At this juncture, I would like to share my observation, with some concern, that the proportion of TCP in the total budget has been in continuous decline from 14.1 percent, 12.8 percent down to 11.8 percent during 1986 to 1990. This trend, if continued is rather concerning because much must be done with haste to alleviate man's sufferings.

During this period of relatively high economic growth, we feel that it is the opportunity for better-off nations to assist less well-to-do nations and the proportion of TCP allocation should reflect this.

I am hopeful that an early understanding and amiable solution may be reached so that we can progress together in harmony and with the determination and haste required.

Thailand, over the years, has been a recipient of international aid programmes including FAO's for which she is very grateful. Over the time she has accumulated experience and know-how which may prove to be of particular relevance to other developing countries.

We are now ready to share the stock of experience we have accumulated and to offer technical assistance to other developing nations within the limit of our capabilities. We must hasten to add with most humbleness that we are by no means financially well to do. However, we are willing to perform our share of the responsibilities and contribute to global well-being as a member of this distinguished Organization.

Again, it has been expounded that the proper mode of assistance is to help one to help oneself. One of the means by which this principle may be implemented is through trade. Unfortunately a few developed countries have adopted measures which inhibit the export of lower priced goods, the price of which is so because of prevailing low wages, salaries and cost of inputs; a reflection of relative poverty and lower living standards.

Also of concern is the subsidization, in absolute terms, of agricultural goods by more well-to-do countries to retain competitiveness with those from developing countries. Whereas the mere provision of credit with lower interest rates to enable the temporary storage of goods by poor farmers is

vehemently condemned by those well-to-do countries. If developing countries are obstructed in their struggle to earn income based on their relative comparative advantage, then how are they to survive, not to mention upgrading their standard of living and quality of life?

For this reason, I support the suggestion that FAO give added attention to trade, economic and social issues which are closely related to food and agricultural production,

A moment ago I made some reference to "the quality of life". I support the added significance being given to environmental issues which is closely related to the quality of life. In our haste and narrow-mindedness to increase material production, the quality of life has diminished in many instances.

I would like to share an unfortunate experience with other distinguished delegates. On 25 November of last year, a torrent of mud and boulders thundered down a mountain side in the south of Thailand and completely engulfed and "swallowed up" an entire village. Hundreds of families were lost. Those, a little more fortunate to survive, are still recovering from the trauma of being forever separated from their loved ones. The cause was due to deforestation. Henceforth, Thailand ceased all logging concession rights whilst studying ways and means to effectively manage our environment so that man and nature can co-exist.

I would be most negligent were I not to mention the importance of women in agricultural and social development. Economic well-being and good health of the household are very significantly dependent upon women. Thailand has been relatively fortunate in this respect as women have through history shared equal importance and roles in society. Yet because we are acutely aware of the extreme importance of women, many agencies, both government and non-government, have been implementing many activities in support of women. For example, a business enterprise has initiated a project in which unmarried women are trained and provided with credit and all the necessary inputs to set up a proper farm to raise animals such as chickens and hogs efficiently. The rationale behind this is because when marriage takes place, it is most often the man who moves in to live with the wife. In this way the woman gains an additional "hand" and the business is not disrupted.

It is my wish that Thailand's forthcoming 7th National Economic and Social Development Plan include in greater detail and explicitness a plan to further promote the role of women.

I should also mention that Her Majesty, the Queen of Thailand herself, because of her devotion to the uplifting of the quality of life of the rural poor, the handicapped and parentless children as well as Her Majesty's efforts to promote the status of women, was awarded the Ceres Medal by this distinguished Organization.

Should any distinguished delegate feel that our experience may be relevant and useful, this is another field in which we will be pleased to share our experience to the best of our ability.

I feel compelled to express my appreciation to you and all distinguished delegates for their patience and kind attention to my statement. Thailand strongly re-affirms its support in the principles and objectives of FAO and is ever ready to perform its responsibilities in good faith and to the best of its ability however limited it may be.

I would like to take this last opportunity to inform all distinguished delegates that Thailand is planning to host the next ministerial session of the World Food Council in Bangkok in May 1990 and will be most honoured if distinguished delegates attending this Conference will consider attending this session of the WFC.

I thank you all again for your kind attention. May FAO proceed to execute its mission with effectiveness and harmony amongst all Members Nations.

**Jorge DE LA VEGA DOMÍNGUEZ (México):** Señor Presidente, señores Ministros, señor Director General de la FAO, señores Embajadores, señores Delegados. La delegación de México se congratula de asistir a esta Conferencia que se efectúa para revisar y fortalecer nuestros compromisos en el ámbito de la agricultura y de la alimentación.

Como nunca, desde la fundación de las Naciones Unidas un renovado espíritu de acercamiento y respeto entre pueblos e ideologías diferentes es el signo común de un proceso de cambio pacífico y profundo que emerge con fuerza creciente en todos los confines del planeta. Hoy los problemas mundiales se analizan y resuelven en un marco de interdependencia y concertación, que permite a los Estados Nacionales reencauzar sus esfuerzos, sus riquezas y su interés hacia asuntos vitales para la supervivencia y desarrollo de los pueblos. Este es el caso de la producción alimentaria y el desarrollo rural que, durante décadas, ha sido motivo de preocupaciones y declaraciones más que de acciones concretas productivas, suficientes y oportunas.

Es ineludible señalar que ha llegado el momento de librar la batalla crucial contra el hambre, la malnutrición y la poca productividad de la agricultura mundial, principalmente en los países más pobres. Con esta disposición y frente al reto de una población mundial en continuo crecimiento, México asume una actitud de responsabilidad y cooperación.

Reiteramos que resulta intolerable la existencia de 550 millones de hambrientos en vastas regiones de América Latina, Asia y África y que esta situación se traduzca en injusticia e inestabilidad social y política.

En este contexto debemos insistir en la relación directa entre la deuda externa y la escasez de alimentos en los países menos desarrollados.

La transferencia neta de recursos hacia el exterior constituye el principal obstáculo para los programas de reactivación y modernización agrícola de nuestros pueblos, en los que el denominador común es la descapitalización y el empobrecimiento del campo.

Ante esta realidad desalentadora, México propone la redefinición de las políticas globales que hasta hoy se aplican más a los efectos que a las causas del deterioro de la producción de alimentos.

México tiene un nuevo gobierno que preside Carlos Salinas de Gortari. En pocos meses ha habido grandes cambios basados en la concertación democrática de los esfuerzos sociales para avanzar hacia la eficiencia y la modernización. Una de las grandes áreas del cambio es el campo que se ha rezagado en comparación con otros sectores de la economía y con el aumento de la población. Con base en la renegociación de la deuda externa que logramos con éxito, a partir del próximo año, el Gobierno de mi país

invertirá más en el campo, en un nuevo sistema que se caracteriza por la creciente libertad y autonomía de gestión de los productores rurales. Este proceso involucra la decisión de transferirles funciones y recursos que en efecto venían siendo controlados por entidades gubernamentales. Sabemos, sin embargo, que nuestra tarea implica superar rezagos crónicos y problemas coyunturales que se oponen al éxito de una empresa de tales proporciones, que involucra a más de 25 millones de campesinos, de una población total de 287 millones de mexicanos. De aquí la importancia de promover, con la cooperación de la FAO, la modernización de la agricultura de los países menos desarrollados con apoyos concretos que conduzcan a una mayor producción de alimentos y eleve los niveles de bienestar de la población.

La labor de la FAO es digna de reconocimiento. Sin embargo, ante el crecimiento demográfico y el avance de la pobreza y desnutrición, es mucho más lo que se espera de ella, y deberá hacer en el futuro.

Reconocemos que el objetivo de lograr la seguridad alimentaria del mundo es muy difícil en condiciones de falta de cooperación, desorden de los mercados internacionales y relaciones económicas asimétricas. Por ello es necesario renovar y fortalecer el sistema de trabajo de la FAO, concertar nuevas relaciones de cooperación y corresponsabilidad para el desarrollo de la agricultura y de la alimentación; es la necesidad ineludible de nuestro tiempo, es la obligación solidaria de todos los Estados Miembros.

México sostiene que debe disminuirse sustancialmente la transferencia de recursos financieros por pago de la deuda externa para que parte de ellos se inviertan en los programas agropecuarios nacionales. De otra parte, postula que es necesario brindar apoyos reales a los países en desarrollo que se enfrentan a un proteccionismo abierto disfrazado que cierra los mercados de los países ricos a sus productos agrícolas y los condena a mantener una relación desfavorable en sus intercambios comerciales.

Otro aspecto importante es el de la transferencia de tecnología avanzada que el campesino requiere para hacer rentable el trabajo rural. Su aplicación se reduce por la existencia de grupos de interés que monopolizan el conocimiento científico. Esta realidad hace indispensable un nuevo código de conducta para la difusión mundial de los avances en la biotecnología agrícola y en la ingeniería genética.

Para alcanzar estos propósitos se requiere una cooperación franca y solidaria de los Estados aquí representados en apoyo de una estrategia global que acometa la empresa inaplazable de diversificar la producción agropecuaria, tecnificar el campo y fortalecer las comunidades rurales. Apoyos adicionales deben ser instituidos con el fin de aumentar las reservas internacionales de emergencia y alimentaria, acrecentar los recursos del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA) y aumentar de manera preventiva el programa de acción para la erradicación del hambre y la malnutrición. Ello implica una ofensiva conjunta que amplíe y otorgue la máxima autoridad al Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Señores Ministros, señores Delegados, no hay soluciones mágicas que proponer para resolver un problema central que a todos atañe, pero en estos momentos es un cambio de la actitud de la Comunidad Internacional para afrontar con mayor decisión y recursos el gran problema de cuya solución todos somos responsables.



La atención de las necesidades alimentarias requiere un alto grado de solidaridad y corresponsabilidad. Quienes más han avanzado en este camino, las naciones desarrolladas, están más comprometidas en apoyar los esfuerzos que, en condiciones tan difíciles, estamos realizando para superar los problemas del atraso en el medio rural.

Reiteramos nuestra convicción de que los principales objetivos y funciones de la FAO sigan vigentes. Los cambios necesarios para avanzar en su eficiencia deben ser resultado de la concertación y el diálogo democrático de la comunidad de naciones.

México siempre se ha opuesto a que se utilice el cumplimiento de los compromisos financieros como una forma de presión política. La fuerza económica jamás podrá ser el sustituto de la cooperación internacional. En contrapartida, los países que eventualmente reciban apoyos principalmente financieros y los organismos que los canalicen deben comprometerse a hacer un uso eficiente y transparente de los mismos. La búsqueda de una cooperación más efectiva para el desarrollo agropecuario en el contexto internacional tiene que sustentar relaciones dignas y respetuosas que superen esquemas de interdependencia desigual.

No esperamos que desde el exterior se resuelvan los problemas de nuestras naciones en vías de desarrollo, pero si demandamos que cada país asuma la responsabilidad proporcional y los costos que les corresponden, dentro de un esfuerzo global de cooperación solidaria e interesada porque será reciprocamente productiva. En este sentido la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación debe revitalizar su papel protagonista y su vinculación con otros órganos nacionales y mundiales. Corresponde a nuestra iniciativa y voluntad política la reactivación acelerada de todos los programas y acciones dirigidos a la agricultura para garantizar la alimentación y el desarrollo de los pueblos endeudados y empobrecidos por las injustas relaciones económicas que los agobian.

México lucha por la soberanía, la democracia, el desarrollo y la justicia. Por eso hoy renueva su voluntad para impulsar a la FAO, a fin de que pueda cumplir mejor su gran responsabilidad con el desarrollo de la agricultura y la alimentación de todos los pueblos del mundo.

**Toivo T. POHJALA (Finland):** World food security has shown its vulnerability since our last Conference. In 1988 very important production areas in North America were savaged by a serious drought. Food production, especially grains production, in these areas declined which produced sharp price rises on the world market. As a result the import bill of the food-deficit poor countries increased and international food aid declined. FAO's estimate of food aid shipments in cereals declined by almost 30 percent from last year. World cereal stocks are expected to fall to dangerously low levels, not reaching what FAO regards as world food security requirements.

A number of developing countries continue to be faced with decreasing food production in relation to rapid population growth coupled with environmental degradation. At the same time the severe debt problem remains an obstacle to sustainable growth and development as well. Consequently, such countries are not able to utilize their human resources potential for economic and social progress. In my view, human resources development is a key ingredient in all lasting development efforts. As to agricultural production and rural development in general, the FAO experience reaffirms this point.

The Conference of FAO is a forum where the member countries take stock of the developments and trends of the past and try to look into the future. When we review the global economic events of the past two or three years from the viewpoint of the developing world, where the majority of the human race live, we have no reason for complacency. Unfortunately, the present global economic trends are unlikely to provide Third World agriculture with the stimulus to increase output, exports and consumption. The debt problem remains a very serious unresolved threat to growth and stability in many developing countries. Oppressive external debt remains the main obstacle to satisfactory economic growth particularly in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. High debt-servicing payments have resulted in growing net transfers of resources from the poor nations to the rich. These net transfers were, according to the World Bank's estimate, 43 billion US dollars for 1988, a record amount.

FAO is the lead UN agency on food and agriculture. In the 45 years of its existence it has done a remarkable job in alleviating hunger and malnutrition in the world. But a good organization can always be better. Finland has been actively involved in efforts and discussions aimed at the strengthening of FAO. The review process of the Organization is coming to an end at this Conference. We have now the opportunity to look at the reports of the Committees and expert groups and to decide in which way we can improve FAO and make it more effective. It goes without saying that the outcome of our deliberations, to be really meaningful, must be based on a true consensus.

Finland has given her preliminary views of the review and reform of FAO at the Council here last week. We will elaborate our views further at the discussions in Commission II later at the Conference. It suffices for me to say that the recommendations of the Committees do not create any great problems for us as such, and we could generally accept them. What we find missing is the framework and guidance for the implementation of these recommendations. Therefore, while we have been pursuing and developing our ideas in the Nordic context, the emphasis has been concentrated on two issues, priority-setting and medium-term planning. We sincerely hope that the decision of the Conference can be built on this basis.

We note with concern the financial difficulties FAO has faced during the last few years. We strongly appeal to all those countries with arrears in their payments to settle their legal obligations to the Organization as expeditiously as possible. For my part, I can promise you that Finland will pay her assessed contribution for the coming year, as usual in January.

Turning to the proposed budget for the next biennium 1990-91, I recognize some substantial improvements both in presentation and in content. While we can accept the level of the budget in general, we will reserve our right to discuss some points more in detail later at the Conference. Here I restrict myself to two comments: firstly we have been stressing the point that certain prioritized issues should be considered and reflected in all aspects of FAO's work. We appreciate the fact that the cross-sectoral nature of these issues, namely policy advice, women in development, sustainable development, as well as biotechnology and agricultural data development, is appropriately clarified in the budget document. Secondly, forestry and forestry-related activities of FAO are being followed in Finland with particular interest. We would welcome further strengthening of the forestry sector in FAO's work which, keeping in mind its multisectoral character, should be better and clearly reflected in the budget.

Deforestation, desertification and degradation of existing cultivated land are serious threats to the human environment and the use of renewable natural resources. Solutions to these complex problems can be found only through international cooperation. At the national level, governments should pay sufficient attention to the comprehensive land-use policy taking into account its social, agricultural and other implications as well. Sustainability must be the starting point in all the programmes in these areas. As an example we can note how the planting of trees serves multiple purposes, which range from preventing erosion and slowing down the so-called greenhouse effect to fulfilling the everyday household needs for fuelwood and building material. In FAO, the Tropical Forestry Action Plan already promotes such objectives.

In conclusion, let me recall two issues from FAO's constitution, which are of topical importance today: the conservation of natural resources and the adoption of improved methods of agricultural production. It is gratifying to realize that these two basic objectives have guided the work of the Organization during the past 45 years and have become an integral part of all its programmes. Today they are included in the concept of sustainable and environmentally sound development, which enjoys universal support.

**João PEREIRA SILVA (Cap-Vert) (langue originale Portugais)** Monsieur le Président, alors que je prends la parole à cette XXVème session de la Conférence de notre Organisation, il m'est particulièrement agréable de vous adresser, à vous, Monsieur le Président, et aux autres membres du Bureau, mes félicitations les plus chaleureuses pour votre succès et votre brillante élection.

Nous sommes convaincus que vos qualités de fin diplomate, de profond connaisseur des thèmes que nous avons à traiter et de négociateur persévérant, constituent une garantie de succès de nos travaux.

Nous ne pourrions pas laisser échapper une telle occasion d'adresser à M. le Directeur général, Dr Edouard Saouma, nos salutations pour la manière sûre, habile et efficace avec laquelle il s'acquitte de son troisième mandat à la tête de l'Organisation, dans une conjoncture de grandes difficultés, provoquées tant par la crise financière qui s'est abattue sur le système des Nations Unies, que par la contestation du multilatéralisme qui a gagné certains cercles responsables d'un certain nombre de pays, plus précisément ceux qui représentent la plus grande part des contributions.

Il est juste de souligner ici les efforts déployés par notre Organisation et les succès auxquels elle a pu aboutir dans cette période difficile, sous la direction éclairée du Dr Edouard Saouma.

C'est avec une grande joie que nous constatons que les perspectives de paix universelle, d'entendement et de coopération entre les peuples, s'ouvrent à la fin de cette décennie des années quatre-vingt. Malheureusement, on ne peut pas en dire autant des perspectives alimentaires et agricoles au niveau mondial. L'examen, même bref, de la situation mondiale en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture, nous conduit à des conclusions et constatations frustrantes de la permanence du paradoxe d'un monde globalement excédentaire en matière de production d'aliments et un monde dans lequel des êtres humains souffrent de la faim et de la malnutrition. Leur nombre ne cesse de s'accroître.

En effet, en dépit des progrès atteints par l'humanité en matière de technologie agricole et de croissance de la production, les problèmes structurels qui sont à la base de ces phénomènes et de leur permanence sont caractéristiques de la pauvreté. Ils existent et se sont aggravés dans une série de pays et de régions.

Dans ce contexte, la préparation d'une stratégie internationale pour le développement de la IVème Décennie des Nations Unies a une grande importance. Nous espérons que toute stratégie que nous approuverons tirera profit des leçons des résultats atteints au cours des années passées. Si, d'un côté, il ne subsiste pas de doute que le développement (donc l'élimination de la pauvreté) est, avant toute chose une responsabilité nationale, et s'il est vrai que les pays dits sous-développés doivent revoir leurs politiques en vue de promouvoir les réformes indispensables pour tirer un meilleur parti de leurs ressources propres, nous ne pouvons pas méconnaître que la raison fondamentale de l'inefficacité des plans et stratégies de développement approuvés jusqu'ici est le fait d'avoir été conçus et mis en oeuvre dans un contexte d'inégalité, où l'égoïsme est plus fort que la solidarité, dans un contexte où le plus fort impose ses conditions à ceux qui sont privés de pouvoir.

"Paix, stabilité et prévisibilité dans les relations internationales sont des conditions indispensables pour un développement, pour la création d'un monde juste, libre, et pour la réalisation matérielle et spirituelle de l'être humain". Le succès de toute stratégie de développement que nous puissions adopter dépendra de la mise en oeuvre effective de ce principe, mais devra aussi prendre en considération des solutions réalistes au problème de la dette extérieure et à la question de la protection de l'environnement, entre autres.

C'est compte tenu de la nécessité de trouver des solutions urgentes aux problèmes de développement dans lesquels se trouvent la grande majorité des Etats que nous exprimons ici notre accord et notre appui aux propositions avancées par le Directeur général relatives aux priorités de base de la FAO. En ce qui concerne le budget, encore que nous reconnaissons la nécessité de poursuivre l'effort de bonne gestion qui a caractérisé le travail de cette organisation, nous ne voyons pas comment on pourra atteindre les objectifs définis avec une augmentation aussi modeste et avec l'actuel niveau d'arriérés et de contributions en retard.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique, nous regrettons profondément la diminution de ses ressources. Il s'agit d'un instrument important de coopération dont l'efficacité est unanimement reconnue par les pays bénéficiaires et nous sommes d'avis qu'il faut le renforcer de plus en plus compte tenu de notre expérience très vaste dans la mise en oeuvre de ce programme.

J'aimerais associer ma voix à celle de ceux qui ont reconnu la qualité du document sur les objectifs, le rôle, les priorités et les stratégies de la FAO, document qui témoigne d'une atmosphère de dialogue franc et ouvert dans laquelle se sont déroulés les travaux au cours des dernières années. L'appui donné aux trois grandes lignes d'action de la FAO fait que nous acceptons la conclusion du Conseil, de ne pas poursuivre le processus d'examen.

Si nous prenons cet ensemble de positions c'est parce que depuis son indépendance, le Cap-Vert, mon pays, constitue la preuve vivante de combien est bénéfique la coopération dans le cadre de la FAO.

Un des points les plus importants de l'ordre du jour de la présente session de la Conférence est sans doute ce qu'on a appelé la "réforme de la FAO". Les documents qui nous ont été présentés constituent une bonne synthèse du travail réalisé en exécution de la résolution N. 6/87 de la XXIV<sup>ème</sup> session de la Conférence. La conclusion qui s'impose est que la FAO fonctionne bien mais qu'elle peut fonctionner et travailler encore mieux. Pour autant, elle a besoin de ressources additionnelles importantes, notamment pour mettre en oeuvre les réformes proposées. Les pays qui, dans le passé, ont le plus insisté sur la nécessité d'introduire des réformes dans le fonctionnement de la FAO, ont eu l'occasion de participer pleinement aux travaux des organes compétents qui nous ont conduit aux résultats qui nous sont présentés aujourd'hui. Nous pensons donc qu'il faut parvenir rapidement à un consensus constructif qui puisse renforcer notre organisation.

Les autorités de la République du Cap-Vert soutiendront et défendront toutes les mesures qui pourront renforcer le rôle de la FAO dans la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde. Nous serons contre toutes les propositions qui viseront à enlever aux organes de la FAO leur capacité de décision et d'action, leur dynamisme, leur rapidité et leur indépendance. Nous défendrons toutes les propositions qui pourront contribuer au renforcement de l'universalité de l'Organisation et nous soutiendrons toutes celles qui renforceront la pleine égalité entre tous les Etats Membres, indépendamment de leur dimension ou de l'importance de leurs contributions.

Mon pays, la République du Cap-Vert, est un petit pays, archipélagique et qui, en plus, appartient au groupe des pays qualifiés les "moins développés". Je veux, ainsi, saisir cette occasion pour aborder ici l'ensemble des problèmes qui se posent aux micro-Etats, en particulier à ceux dont les territoires sont constitués par de petites îles ou des archipels.

L'existence de micro-Etats, actifs politiquement sur la scène mondiale, constitue une caractéristique des relations internationales contemporaines. Il faut également signaler que la plupart de ces Etats sont apparus sur la scène internationale dans les 20 dernières années, résultat d'un processus de décolonisation conduit, avec succès, sous les auspices des Nations Unies. Les micro-Etats, dans la plupart des cas insulaires, sont normalement caractérisés par une population réduite, par un territoire limité et par des ressources restreintes. Historiquement, ils ont été manipulés, en particulier dans le cadre des stratégies militaires des puissances grandes et moyennes. Dans un nouveau scénario international de détente et de réduction des risques de confrontation, les micro-Etats trouvent maintenant les conditions pour pouvoir être considérés pour eux-mêmes. Il est urgent d'attirer l'attention de la Communauté internationale sur leurs problèmes spécifiques et sur la nécessité d'envisager des mesures bien adaptées d'aide destinées à trouver des solutions appropriées à leurs problèmes de développement, en particulier les problèmes ayant trait à l'agriculture et l'alimentation.

Nous partageons les points de vue de ceux qui estiment qu'il existe une obligation fondamentale de la part de la Communauté internationale par rapport aux petits Etats, dont l'utilité dans le concertées nations est quelque chose qui se passe de tout commentaire. Les coûts élevés du développement des micro-Etats, en particulier des archipels situés au milieu de l'océan, à des distances considérables des marchés continentaux, justifient que ces Etats puissent bénéficier ou être affranchis de certaines limites imposées à l'aide publique et à des conditions de facteurs. Il n'y a

pas de sens à dire, par exemple, que mon pays, parce que son PIB est passé de moins de 400 dollars E.-U., à plus de 400 dollars E.-U., doit faire face immédiatement à la réduction de l'aide publique au développement ou avoir un accès plus difficile aux ressources des organisations internationales.

Compte tenu des limites de temps auxquelles nous sommes soumis, je ne pourrai pas m'étendre davantage. Ma délégation aura l'occasion de s'exprimer sur tous les points de l'ordre du jour au cours des débats qui auront lieu au sein des commissions.

Je termine donc en réaffirmant nos meilleurs vœux de succès pour l'accomplissement de votre tâche et notre totale disponibilité à coopérer pour le succès de la présente Conférence.

Qu'elle soit un plein succès. Je vous remercie.

**Laurits TORNAES (Denmark):** Mr Chairman, may I congratulate you and the other Members of the Bureau on your election. We sincerely hope that your task will be easy. I can assure you that the Danish delegation will contribute positively and I hope this Conference will be a real milestone in the history of FAO.

In general the agricultural situation looks fairly good. However, the variations in harvest yields from one year to another and from one region of the world to another, remind us how dependent we are on the climatic conditions. Even in technologically advanced countries, the climate often causes drastic changes in the yields.

The global agricultural situation is displaying an apparent paradox: many industrialized countries are faced with the need to curtail production. In the EEC we have certainly come a long way toward a more market-oriented price policy.

At the same time, developing countries must step up their efforts to increase food production. Such problems can only be solved by increased national efforts and by joint international action. My country will continue to participate actively in this process.

In Denmark farmers are presently benefiting from a good harvest and increased prices, particularly in the animal sector. This improvement in income is welcome after an extended period of crisis in our farming community.

The present GATT negotiations are making progress on the agricultural issues. We find that FAO can provide a valuable contribution to these issues, both on the questions of harmonization of international sanitary and phytosanitary standards, and in increasing activities in the field of Codex Alimentarius.

The economic climate in the industrialized countries has improved. Even so we have to meet new challenges where resources have to be used more efficiently. Thus efficiency will be the key word.

Technological advances help to increase production. This is also the case in many developing countries. The transfer and use of technology in the developing world must, however, be accelerated. Denmark is actively participating in this process.

In addition to technological achievements improved efficiency is required. We are all - in agriculture and elsewhere in our communities - under pressure to produce more with less resources.

This need is also passed on to our national administrations, and from there the demand goes to our UN organizations, including FAO.

Since the last Conference FAO has been in a financial crisis due to the lack of payments from a number of member countries.

We commend the Director-General and his staff for having managed to maintain a reasonable level of programmes in spite of a substantial lack of resources. We realize the reductions made in meetings, publications and the freezing of posts have not been easy decisions. Such a situation can hardly avoid affecting the Organization. Therefore, we have followed and will follow this difficult process with concern.

In examining the proposed Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 we consider that the content of the Programmes is more important than the level of the Budget. In further discussions we, therefore, intend to participate actively in the debate of individual elements of the programme in Commission II.

This brings me to the subject of Review process and Reform.

My Government, together with the other Nordic countries, was in the forefront in suggesting the review of FAO.

This stems from a desire that FAO - our Organization - should be equipped in the best possible way, to meet the challenges which the next decade will present in the field of agriculture, forestry and in fisheries, especially for the developing countries.

What I underline now should be seen as a follow-up to my comments at the 1987 conference.

My Government has not been entirely satisfied with the review process. We are particularly worried about the linking together of reform and the request for additional funds. In my view the issue is clearly one of optimizing the use of funds available, whatever their size.

The Danish delegation will participate actively in the discussions on this subject in Commission II. We look for consensus in formulating priorities for FAO's work and securing government influence in medium-term planning.

I do not want to deal with the reform issue in any detail. But I should like to single out some of the aspects which are of special importance to us.

First I should like to emphasize that the point of departure should be to strike the right balance among FAO's three main tasks: Data collection and information, formulation of food and agricultural policies, and technical assistance. The three are obviously closely interrelated. For example, FAO should have a comparative advantage in providing technical assistance for data collection and information and for the formulation of food and agricultural policies.

More specifically, with regard to technical assistance there is a need for a closer coordination of all FAO field activities, irrespective of the source of funding. The best solution to this problem seems to be the establishment of a field programming committee, which should ensure coherence between the Regular Programme, including TCP, and the various components of the field programme.

The establishment of a medium-term planning process could contribute significantly to improve technical assistance, where activities today tend to be too short term, too scattered and not based on well-defined policy objectives.

My Government is strongly committed to multilateral cooperation and to the strengthening of the UN system. Therefore, a positive outcome of the review and reform process in FAO is very important to us.

I would now like to turn to the World Food Programme. This Programme has grown to become the largest development programme in the UN system, outside the World Bank Group. It has managed to administer food aid very efficiently with a minimum of administrative costs. The Programme continues to work as an action-oriented development programme with enough flexibility to adapt itself to changing circumstances.

I would hope that new and potential donors will support the Programme in order that the pledge target for 1991-92 of US dollars 1.5 billion can be achieved.

We realize that there are today certain problems of an administrative nature between WFP and FAO. I wish to stress the need for solving these problems between the organizations concerned, including the UN itself.

I have noted with interest that FAO and WHO intend to co-sponsor an International Conference on Nutrition. My delegation has always felt that the nutrition issue should be a main concern for FAO activities. Therefore, we will follow the preparation of the Conference with great interest.

Finally, may I conclude by referring to the main subject selected for World Food Day in 1989: "Food and the Environment". The environmental issue in agriculture, forestry and fisheries is a problem which concerns not only single nations. It is an international issue which does not respect national boundaries. The fight to ensure freedom from hunger cannot be won unless the planet's natural resources and environment are safeguarded. This is a matter we must solve together through international action. We look to the UN system, including FAO, for creating the best possible framework for such cooperation and action.



**John MCGOWAN (Canada):** Mr Chairman, Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I begin by joining my fellow colleagues in expressing our congratulations to the Chairman, on his election and our confidence that his conduct of this meeting will contribute to our success.

I would also congratulate the Chairman, the Director-General and the Independent Chairman of Council on the breadth of the vision of global challenges and prospects articulated in your addresses to this body.

The Canadian Government is responding to these global challenges in its domestic and international agricultural policies. At home, Minister Mazankowski and Minister Mayer who would otherwise have been with us today, have just launched a major review of agricultural policy. An intense process of consultation with client groups across the country has begun. It would of course be premature for me to comment on particular changes that will result from these consultations.

The basic principles of our strategy are nonetheless very clear. Our basic commitment to agriculture in the 1990s is to foster a productive self-reliant industry in a stable and predictable policy environment, which does not impede innovations, risk-taking and diversification. The farm sector will be encouraged to respond to new market opportunities. Policies and programmes that insulate farmers from market signals will be thoroughly examined. Our policies will foster environmentally-sustainable development, consistent with the safety and health of Canadians and the long-term conservation of Canada's soil and water base.

This comprehensive review of domestic agricultural policy complements the reorientation of Canadian development assistance policy introduced last year. The new Canadian aid strategy has six thematic objectives, all of which correspond to the agriculture and rural development strategy of the FAO. Our basic objectives in development cooperation are poverty alleviation, structural adjustment, increased participation of women in development, sustainability of the environment, energy availability and food security. We will pursue these objectives through several channels, including multilateral institutions such as the FAO and the WFP.

Agriculture has been at the heart of Canadian aid since the early days of the Colombo Plan. Over the years, our bilateral commitment to projects of a specifically agricultural character has grown to an annual level of roughly 170 million dollars. The total Canadian commitment is of course far greater when related programmes in rural development and multilateral contributions in these fields are taken into account.

Against this background, Chairman, I would like briefly to address four agriculture issues prominent on our Agenda.

Canada continues to support major agricultural trade reform in the Uruguay Round of the GATT to reduce both tariff and other barriers to trade, including such impediments as inconsistent zoo-sanitary phyto-sanitary and food standards. FAO's assistance in rationalizing phyto-sanitary and food

standards is in this respect critical. Equally important is a global secretariat for the international plant protection convention, to coordinate the work of the regional organizations in standard setting. All this will strengthen the dispute settlement mechanism under the GATT.

Agriculturalists are among the best placed to recognize the imperative of new, much deeper respect for our threatened environment. In both ecological and economic terms, individually and collectively, we all now recognize the need to end the environmental degradation menacing our agriculture, fisheries and forests. This organization has a vital role to play - in screening its programmes and projects for environmental compatibility and sustainability and in promoting integrated resource management. The FAO will have much to contribute to the 1992 conference on the environment and development now being considered by the General Assembly.

Environmental issues in the fisheries sector have been of special interest to Canada as we are a major fishing nation.

As already expressed in Committee 2 of the United Nations General Assembly, Canadians are deeply concerned about the threat to the environment of high seas drift-net fishing. We are seeking a halt to further expansion of this practice and prompt transition to non-destructive fishing technology in the North Pacific. Canada, in cooperation with several other like-minded nations, is sponsoring a resolution in the United Nations General Assembly to seek a moratorium on high-seas drift-net fishing by mid-1992, unless or until it is agreed that the unacceptable impacts of such practices can be prevented and that the conservation of the world's living marine resources can be assured.

The gathering, analysis and dissemination of agricultural information is recognized as the backbone of the technical work of the FAO as well as a valuable component of its field work. In Canadian agriculture, we find highly valuable many of the products of FAO's worldwide data collection. We encourage the FAO to continue to modernize its procedures and management in this important field.

The Director-General began his address yesterday by drawing attention to the phenomenal growth of 178 million in world population since our last General Conference and the profound implications of this growth for our Organization. We believe that prospects for increased agricultural production to meet the needs of a growing population depend fundamentally on equality for women and their full participation in development. We are therefore pleased to note the progress that this Organization has made since our last Conference in implementing "The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies" and the recommendations of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. The plan of action for the integration of women in FAO's programmes and the progress report on the plan prepared by the Secretariat - which set out the framework and provided a detailed, costed approach for the FAO - have been expertly prepared and are highly commendable.

Much nonetheless remains to be done by all international agencies, multilateral and bilateral, to integrate women fully into agricultural development and to recognize the unique role they must play in each country to maximize national development efforts.

Canada trusts that FAO's current plans relating to women in development will continue to receive the attention and support needed for their implementation. We look forward to sharing of experience in this vital undertaking.

For the last two years, we have been engaged in an unprecedented, comprehensive review of the FAO's role, priorities and objectives, field operations and management procedures. This review provided for input from several sources: from experts in the fields of agriculture, development, finance and administration, from the Programme and Finance Committees, from the Secretariat and from the Council.

All these various participants have done admirable work analysing the challenges before us and the capacity of our Organization to contend with them. We have appreciated and tried to take full advantage of our opportunities to contribute to this analysis. We have been encouraged by progress to date. Fundamental issues cited in Resolution 6/87 have been subject to painstaking review. Broad consensus has already been achieved on some major issues and significant change is already in train. There is already, for example, greater clarity in priority-setting, thanks to the intensified process of consultation and review through which this year's Programme of Work and Budget has been developed. Committees of Member States are already playing enhanced roles - the Programme and Finance Committees have performed with unprecedented intensity and effectiveness in their conduct of the review exercise. This encouraging progress must be sustained. There is still much to be done, as the governing body of the FAO, we must now take up where the SJS and the Council left off and strive for consensus commitment to a series of measures responding comprehensively to our 1987 Resolution.

In respect of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91, my delegation recognizes the acute dilemma faced by the Secretariat trying to reconcile increased demand for service with continuing, sharp restraints on resources. We recognize as well that the FAO's human resources and reservoir of technical expertise are its most valuable assets and thus that the attractiveness of employment at the FAO must be maintained. Unfortunately, it appears that prospects are not promising for significantly increased resources from Member States for the coming biennium. It also appears that reform activities, therefore, will have to be financed by redeployments within existing budget ceilings. We view this as an inevitable policy at a time when many Members' domestic government programmes are being cut to reduce unsustainable deficits and when many of our Members are already having difficulty paying their current assessments.

Despite the painful lack of growth in resources, Mr Chairman, the progress already achieved in fulfilling Resolution 6/87 must be sustained. On such continued progress depends hope for increased resources in the future - whether through full payment by Members, through increased voluntary contributions, or through any possible future increases in assessments.

I conclude by endorsing the Director-General's call for harmony, for relief of the tension which has resulted from our diverse sensitivities and conceptions and for a broadly-based commitment to action to provide the services so urgently needed by our Members, particularly the poorest amongst us. To the achievement of these fundamentally important ends, be assured of Canada's enduring commitment.

**Abdullah A. AL MOAMMAR (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic):** In the name of God, the Compassionate and Merciful: It is a great pleasure for the delegate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to congratulate you, Mr President, and your Vice-Presidents for the confidence bestowed upon you by the Conference. We would like to assure you of our full support in order to reach positive conclusions and decisions which will contribute to the development of agriculture and the consolidation of world food security,

A review of the 1980s, which will come to their end next year, would reveal that it was a lost decade for most developing countries. Indeed, that decade was characterized by negative effects in many Third World countries as a result of economic crises as well as natural and man-made disasters. This has led to low emphasis on production and development of necessary services. However, we look forward to full achievement in the coming decade, the 1990s, which we hope will witness better security, stability and prosperity, as well as the alleviation of the threat of hunger.

The economies of developing countries have not witnessed any substantial improvement since our last meeting. Some of them have even registered deterioration, or negative growth, while some of us have only achieved modest growth. These economic changes and developments have led to an increase in inflation rates, unemployment, and the cost of living, to levels with which a large proportion of the population of these countries cannot cope. Lower demand for developing countries' exports of agricultural produce, and the shortage of foreign currency in most of these countries, have led to a limitation of the capacity of developing countries to import raw materials and spare parts for their industrial and agricultural production requirements. This has led to lower production, and economies have got into a vicious circle which jeopardises the results expected from economic reforms within the structural adjustment policies. The results of unfair terms of trade for developing countries, as well as their obligation to repay their debts, not only hinders the implementation of their development programmes, but also jeopardises their stability and threatens their economic systems.

The Saudi delegation has already appealed from this forum to the international family - and we reiterate this appeal today - to cooperate in an effort to reform the economic situation and give stimulus, backing and support to free trade. Moreover, efforts should be made to facilitate the transfer of technologies related to agricultural produce development, and to intensify the flow of financial resources needed for development programmes in the developing countries, through all types of channels and institutions in the field.

Although cereal production has been reasonable in certain countries, the world still faces serious shortages in cereal stocks as a result of very low production rates in some developed countries for climatic reasons, or in order to balance supply and demand.

This has obliged countries to draw upon their cereal stocks over the last three years to attain a level below the minimum world food security level required. Low production levels have also led to a rise in prices, rendering the situation even more difficult for food-deficit countries and increasing the deficit in their balance of trade. The Saudi delegation pointed out at the meeting of the last session of the Conference that the food aid by donor countries would not provide a radical solution for the problems of developing countries. Moreover, there could be no guarantee that such aid would continue at the level of 12.5 million tons attained in 1984/85 as the

policies in most donor countries might lead to the reduction of their surpluses. The realities at present, show that what we pointed out and drew to your attention two years ago is confirmed. Indeed, world food aid is expected to fall from 12.5 million tons of cereals down to less than 10 million tons. Such a decrease will have a negative effect on emergency food resources.

Therefore, the Saudi delegation would like to affirm once more that the radical and lasting solution lies in the economic policies and development plans adopted by the Governments of developing countries themselves in order to boost their food production and provide remunerative job opportunities for their citizens will enable them to raise their purchasing power to buy their own food if they cannot produce it.

The Saudi delegation's view concerning this issue was not unfounded, in fact, it emanated from the successful experience of the Kingdom in the development of its agricultural sector in spite of the limited basis of its natural resources, mainly soil and water resources. However, the Kingdom, with the help of the gracious God, managed in a few years, relatively speaking, not only to obtain self-sufficiency, but to have a surplus of food commodities for export, and to constitute an important stock for its food security.

As the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was going through its successful experience with its own resources, in order to develop its agricultural sector and ensure its food security, the Kingdom never ceased to play its humanitarian role in providing food aid in its own production to alleviate the burden of poverty whether through direct aid or through the World Food Programme. Indeed, the value of the Kingdom's contributions to WFP attained more than US\$300 million including 124 000 tons of high quality dates.

Furthermore, the Kingdom's contribution to IFAD has attained so far US\$364 million. The Kingdom also contributed, and continues to contribute, to the development of agriculture in many developing countries within the framework of bilateral cooperation through the Saudi Development Fund, and its participation in the regional Development Funds, and the Islamic Bank, as well as through international financial institutions and UN specialist agencies. The Saudi delegation appreciates the efforts made by FAO with a view to developing and increasing the world agricultural production, while at the same time, trying to preserve world resources and disseminating modern technologies through the organization of training seminars and granting scholarships to several members in the agricultural sector of Member States. This is in order to enable them to pursue their higher studies and attain higher scientific qualifications which would enable them to contribute to the improvement of agriculture in their countries.

We also appreciate FAO's efforts to provide information and statistical data which enables researchers to carry out their research work and develop their capacities in the different fields of agriculture. The Saudi delegation has studied the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1990-91 and would like to express our appreciation for the efforts exerted in its preparation. We consider it acceptable in the present circumstances.

The Director-General and his colleagues, aware of their responsibilities, have undoubtedly elaborated on a good programme which meets the aspirations of member countries for the present and the future. Our delegation hopes that the Conference will adopt by consensus the positive recommendations

concerning the conclusions of the reports of the Committees which have reviewed certain aspects related to the Organization's objectives and management to the benefit of the Member States in general, and the developing countries in particular.

I reiterate my thanks to you and express the hope that our deliberations will be crowned with a successful conclusion and sound decisions. May God's mercy, peace and blessings be upon you.

**Justin J. MUKANDO (Zambia):** Let me begin by extending to you and your bureau my delegation's sincere and warm congratulations on your unanimous election. Your election is a clear reflection not only of the valuable contribution your great country, Australia, has made in the field of agriculture but is also a tribute to the part which you personally have played in fashioning a highly developed agricultural industry in your country. My delegation is therefore confident that you will steer the deliberations of our Conference to a very successful conclusion.

May I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Director-General of our Organization, Dr Edouard Saouma, for the tireless efforts he has made to further the cause and objectives of FAO. We wish him well in the heavy task ahead.

Mr Chairman, we are meeting at a time when the global food outlook still remains unsatisfactory. While a number of developing countries registered significant improvements in their agricultural performance, mainly due to favourable weather conditions, there are still a number of Third World countries where people are actually dying from hunger and malnutrition.

The reasons for the poor agricultural performance in such countries are many and varied. They range from unfavourable weather conditions, lack of financial resources and technical know-how to internal strife. What is more worrying is that the excess cereal stocks in the developed countries are now on the verge of depletion. This will naturally lead to a reduction in food aid for the needy.

Needless to add that the recent spate of natural calamities such as hurricanes, earthquakes and floods have no doubt increased demand, among other relief measures, for food aid. Let me at this juncture express my country's appreciation to donor countries, FAO and the World Food Programme for the timely assistance they have rendered when such tragic situations have arisen.

I maintain that low food production is not the only cause of hunger and malnutrition. There are some countries which are in fact self-sufficient in food production and yet some of their areas still face food shortage. The problem is largely one of poor food distribution. To overcome this anomaly there is need to improve food distribution and marketing systems.

With reference to food aid, I would like to clarify Zambia's stand which appears to have been misunderstood in certain quarters.

Zambia, Mr Chairman, welcomes Food Aid in times of need. But we are of the opinion that no country should, other things being equal, be permanently dependent on food aid. All well-meaning donor countries and agencies should work out appropriate programmes which will ultimately enable food-deficit countries to attain self-sufficiency.

In other words what we suggest, is for developed countries and donor agencies to give opportunities to the developing countries to establish a viable agricultural base which is the most important prerequisite for genuine economic recovery. Indeed, we all know that even the economies of the most industrialized nations have relied quite heavily on agriculture, not only as a source of food but also for raw materials in their industries.

I do not want to politicize this professional meeting. However, coming, as I do, from Southern Africa, I cannot talk of food security without mentioning that the ongoing acts of aggression and destabilization by the racist South African regime have adversely affected agricultural production in a number of countries in our sub-region. Some people are forced by circumstances to move away from their established homes and gardens to other parts of the country while some flee to neighbouring countries. Some farmers stay away from their fields for fear of attacks by rebels. There is an old saying that the darkest hour comes just before dawn.

We in Southern Africa are therefore following with great interest the current political developments in our sub-region in the hope that they will usher in an era of peace so that our farmers can go about their daily lives normally like their colleagues elsewhere.

In my introductory remarks, I clearly stated that a number of developing countries have made significant progress in the field of agriculture. Regrettably, the current unfavourable terms of trade for our exportable agricultural produce has seriously frustrated these efforts. The large fiscal and trade imbalances of some of the major economies have created considerable strains in the global trading system. Protectionist tendencies have been mounting thereby seriously restricting access of developing countries' exports to markets in the industrialized countries.

It is my delegation's view therefore that the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations must lead, inter alia, to the removal of both tariff and non-tariff barriers so as to restore free trade to its proper place in the international trading system.

In 1988, global trade recorded a remarkable growth rate of 8.3 percent. However, we are concerned that the benefits of this strong growth in world trade and output were not evenly shared. Except for meatals, the prices of agricultural products either fell or remained static. It is therefore Zambia's hope that a way will be found to bring about stability to commodity markets and ensure prices which are fair to both producer and consumer alike.

In short, what I am saying Mr Chairman, is that if developing countries cannot find markets for their exportable agricultural produce due to protectionism and/or low returns realized from any saleable surpluses, further investments in the areas of agriculture with export potential will be discouraged at the time when most developing countries need foreign exchange.

It is obvious, therefore, that unless developed countries become more accommodating, miseries of poverty and hunger will continue in developing countries, particularly in Africa.

It is for this reason Mr Chairman, that we feel grateful to FAO and other donor agencies like IFAD for the assistance they give to developing countries in form of technical programmes and projects which are aimed at improving agricultural production. It is however saddening to note that this effort by FAO is being frustrated deliberately by non-payment of contributions by some Member Nations, even when those nations have the capacity to pay. This act obviously limits the capacity of FAO to cope with the demands for assistance from some of its members. We wish to appeal to those countries with the ability to pay but are deliberately holding back to reconsider their position.

About seven years ago, the international community expressed concern over the external debt of developing countries. Despite several meetings and seminars, we are not nearer to resolving the debt crisis. If anything, the crisis has deepened. Globally, the debt service ratio has increased from a few million dollars to about US\$1.3 trillion today. Rescheduling payment including accrued interest have only postponed the problem. Ironically, the world is now faced with stark reality whereby multilateral financial institutions, which were created to meet the short- and long-term resource needs of developing countries, have now become net recipients of resources even from the debt-distressed developing countries. What we see therefore is a net transfer of huge resources from developing countries to developed countries because of the former's determination to meet some of their debt obligations. At this juncture may I take this opportunity to pay well-deserved tribute to those developed countries which have taken welcome measures to write off or reduce loans for certain developing countries.

In the meantime, it is my delegation's hope that the idea of convening an international conference on debt will, sooner rather than later, materialize.

In case of sponsored adjustment programmes, developing countries would like these programmes to take into account the existing local economic and social structures. Developing countries are against such programmes when their attendant conditions are such that they only perpetuate the sufferings of the people thereby creating a recipe for political unrest.

I now wish to refer to another important issue of the participation of women in development. Zambia does not only support FAO's plan of action for the integration of women in development. It has in fact already taken practical steps to facilitate the implementation of this programme. We recognize that unless women are given the chance to make their own decisions, especially at farm level, there can be no real participation by them. The challenge for FAO in this programme of action is immense, particularly in the field of research for appropriate technology. Women spend more time in the kitchen and fields using laborious methods of cooking or cultivating, thereby spending much of their lifetime away from other economically attractive occupations.

Much has been said about sustainable growth in agriculture vis-à-vis environmental degradation.



We need a form of agricultural development which is capable of achieving high yields for the present and future generations without degrading the environment. It is in this connection that no country today can afford to remain indifferent to the concern expressed worldwide over environmental degradation and the likely negative effects on the climate. The ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 held in Caracas this year acknowledged the importance of this issue and stressed the close relationship between poverty and environmental degradation.

One cannot over-emphasize the importance of land, forests, water and air to the life of man. The poor methods used in land cultivation, irrigation or application of pesticides and dumping of chemical industrial wastes, will surely lead to man's self destruction. The big challenge is, therefore, to find ways of redressing this destructive trend of development by researching into methods of production which will strike a balance between the two requirements of food and fuelwood on one hand and preservation of natural resources on the other.

In Zambia we are seriously considering the development of water resources for irrigation purposes, both at smallholder and large-scale levels. This is as a result of our past experience with drought which reduced food production in many parts of the country. However, these plans have been affected by lack of adequate financial resources.

As a land-locked country, we in Zambia are also seriously engaged in the development of inland fishing. A few projects that have been established with the help of FAO and other donor agencies show very encouraging results.

Zambia also welcomes FAO's tropical forestry action plan whose main objective is the development and rational utilization of tropical forests through local and global efforts. Furthermore, we are, in conjunction with FAO, finalizing a community forestry project on people's participation in forestry. To implement this strategy, Zambia will need the support of the international community.

I wish to add that while we are all geared to promoting increased agricultural production, we should not overlook the concept of comprehensive rural development which includes the development of various infrastructures such as roads, bridges, storage, clinics and many other facilities. We are aware that FAO's mandate is limited to agricultural development issues. We however believe that an integrated approach can maximize the utilization of resources.

Given Zambia's limited financial resources, it will be extremely difficult to meet the above-mentioned goals without external assistance. It is for this reason that Zambia is inviting international investors to participate alongside our nationals in agricultural development. Major reforms in our agricultural policies have already taken place and indeed further refinements are under way to facilitate this development. This is one area, among many other areas of change, where we do not hesitate to invite FAO to give expert advice because we value the Organization's experience in this field.

The ultimate goal for all these efforts is to attain food self-sufficiency. My country has also instituted food security programmes so as to reduce vulnerability to drops in output resulting from unfavourable weather conditions and related natural calamities. Based on a plan of action developed with technical assistance from the FAO, an early warning system

was established in the Ministry of Agriculture and cooperatives together with a project to strengthen food security through assistance to the department of marketing. Zambia has also committed itself to a reserve stock policy which calls for holding of up to twenty-four months' supply of maize with a preferred minimum of twelve months. Such a policy will require that additional investment be made in storage in preparation for increased requirements when surpluses become available to initiate the stock.

Let me conclude by stating that, as we enter the last decade of the 20th century, there are still a number of challenges ahead of us in the area of food and agriculture. Food security still eludes us especially in the developing world while food surpluses for possible food aid from developed countries are getting depleted. Environmental degradation is seriously threatening agricultural production. As if this is not enough, the already debt-distressed developing countries do not fetch fair prices for their exportable agricultural produce. It is therefore my delegation's hope that, through frank and constructive dialogue at this and other fora, lasting solutions will be found to all these problems.

**Carlos G. DOMÍNGUEZ (Philippines):** As head of the Philippine Delegation to the Twenty-fifth FAO Conference, I have the honour to convey to you the warmest greetings of the President of the Republic of the Philippines, Her Excellency Corazón C. Aquino. On her behalf and on behalf of the Filipino people, I thank the FAO for the support it has given to my country and for strengthening world cooperation in agricultural and rural development, particularly among the member countries of the Asia Pacific region.

Excellencies, it is in this spirit of cooperation and solidarity that we have assembled here to unite our efforts to address the urgent problems that confront our nations.

At the outset, therefore, allow me to commend the FAO for coming up with a comprehensive agenda that encompasses the main concerns of developing countries like the Philippines.

I cannot over-emphasize the urgent need for us to explore all possible means to spur each country's economic and agricultural growth, reduce rural poverty and social inequity, and ensure the sustainability of the world's natural resources.

In close coordination with the FAO, we in the Philippines have been striving to address these concerns. Today, therefore, allow me to share with you the Philippines' rural development thrusts as we approach the decade of the '90s.

In my country, two thirds of the population who live in the rural areas depend on agriculture, fisheries and forestry as main sources of livelihood. The rural sector produces one third of the gross national product, employs half of the country's labour force and earns 36.7 percent of the country's total export revenue.

Despite these contributions, however, poverty is still widespread in the rural areas. Equally alarming are the threats in our environment spawned by the pressure that an ever-increasing population exerts on our agricultural, fishery, and forest resources.

It is obvious that any programme for economic recovery and long-term stability hinges on inducing increased incomes and employment in the rural areas and ensuring the sustainability of the resource base from which these incomes are derived.

#### Development perspective of the Aquino administration

The basic aim of the Aquino administration is to lay the foundation for equitable and sustainable growth in the rural sector, and in so doing, foster a healthy and vibrant rural economy.

Thus, the three overriding concerns which guide the Philippine Government's medium-term development plan are: the alleviation of poverty, the generation of productive employment, and the promotion of equity and social justice.

This priority laid on agriculture and rural development recognizes two imperatives: first, that placing the well-being of the farmers and the rural populace at the centre of development concerns is the sound and logical path to stable growth; and second, that the farmer's productive potential can be unleashed only if he can work in a policy environment that is hospitable to his interests, and if he is provided with equitable access to land and the services he needs to make his land productive.

In the last three years, the Aquino Government has scored substantial achievements in addressing these concerns: To evolve a policy environment more conducive to agricultural productivity, we have rectified many of the biases that cramped profitability in agriculture and foiled the farmer's incentive to produce. First of all, we took steps to free the market by dismantling monopolies and monopsonies. To "keep government in government and business in business", we have withdrawn government participation in the trading of wheat, flour, and soybean meal, and transferred the management of grain and fish processing and storage facilities to the private sector.

We continue to restructure a tax and tariff system that generally served as a disincentive to farmers. We abolished all agricultural export taxes, exempted agricultural products from the value added tax and reduced duties on fertilizer and other agricultural inputs.

At the same time, we realize the need to "empower" our farmers and fishermen so that they can gain the economic and political leverage to obtain access to vital resources and support services.

We have therefore implemented a comprehensive agrarian reform programme that will ensure our farmer's access not only to land, but other agricultural requisites as well.

To provide them with greater access to technology, we have aligned our agricultural research and extension efforts to locating specific priorities identified by farming communities which seek to ensure not only agricultural productivity, but the sustainability of resources as well.

One important feature of our technology-transfer efforts, for example, has been the FAO-assisted integrated pest management programme. As of the first quarter of 1989, a total of 148 473 farmers have been trained in IPM. Rice farmers applying IPM techniques were able to save about P200 per hectare, or

a total sum of P84 million annually due to the use of less pesticides. Likewise, the mass rearing and use of trichogramma to control the corn stalk borer has gained wide acceptance among farmers as a cost-effective and biological pest control method.

Recently, with FAO's support, we launched a campaign to use the IPM in combatting the "golden snail" menace which is affecting rice farms in many parts of my country.

To further protect the resource base, a nationwide network of crop and fishery nurseries as well as animal breeding stations have been revitalized, thus providing farmers and fishermen with high quality genetic material and breeding stock.

The country's fishing grounds are being rejuvenated through the establishment of artificial reefs in coastal areas. To date we have constructed more than 12 000 functional artificial reef modules. Water and soil conservation activities focus on the construction of small water impounding units and the planting of fruit tree seedlings in denuded watersheds.

To ensure our farmers and fishermen access to credit, we have evolved a guarantee scheme that encourages private banks to increase agricultural lending. To assure farmers of infrastructure support and access to markets, we continue to improve our market information services, facilitate link-ups between farmers and buyers, improve post-harvest and storage facilities, and push for the installation of better transport and communications systems in the rural areas.

On top of these, we encourage farmers and fishermen to organize themselves, so that they can better articulate and address their needs through joint efforts.

Farmers and the economy in general are now reaping the gains from these reforms. For instance, with free competition in the fertilizer trade, domestic prices of fertilizer are today closer to the border prices than they had ever been before we liberalized the fertilizer trade.

Corn policies implemented since 1986 have induced greater local production of this vital feed ingredient. Production in 1989 is 30 percent over levels achieved 5 years earlier, saving our country at least sixty million US dollars per year in imports. Since 1986, we have tipped the rural-urban terms of trade in favour of our farmers.

Average farm-gate prices of principal aggregate commodities have been rising steadily last year; price increases gained for the farmers additional gross revenue of 8.86 billion pesos. For the first half of 1989, price increases for major commodities imply additional gross national revenues of roughly 7.42 billion.

#### Stronger purchasing power and production gains

These price increases have resulted in increased incomes for our farmers. Initial survey results from the National Statistics Office reveal that the average income of families in the rural sector rose by 27.2 percent between 1985 and 1988.

Such increases in farm incomes have enabled the rural populace to purchase more of the output of our domestic industries, as shown by the upsurge in the purchase of household appliances, motorcycles, construction materials and beverages in the last two years.

With increases in farm incomes, coupled with the promotion of appropriate technologies, major production gains have also been achieved in agriculture.

For the first semester of this year, total agricultural output recorded a positive growth of 4.3 percent over the 1988 level.

Crop production went up by 4.2 percent over the first semester production of 1988. Due to expansion of the area cultivated and improved yields, corn production grew by 8.7 percent and palay by 7.4 percent.

Livestock production recorded a very impressive performance that exceeded last year's performance by around 10 percent. The poultry subsector output moved up by 9 percent, while fisheries posted a 3 percent production growth.

These gains in production, accompanied by stronger farm prices pushed up the gross value of agricultural output for the first half of this year by 5 percent at constant prices over the recorded level during the same period last year.

#### Rural development strategy for the 1990s

Notwithstanding these achievements, the Philippine Government recognized the need to address the remaining constraints that continue to hamper the full growth of our rural sector. Towards this goal, the following principal thrusts have emerged as the basic elements of our rural development strategy for the coming decade.

#### One, we seek to remove the remaining economic policy and public investment biases that work against agriculture, proper resource utilization and the rural sector

Despite the liberalization of our country's tariff and non-tariff policies, we found out that the current trade protection structure continues to restrict the flow of private investment into the agricultural sector. To remove the injurious effects of these trade policies on agriculture, we shall continue to push for lower tariff rates on industrial products used as inputs in agriculture, such as capital goods, feed ingredients, livestock vaccines, pesticides and fishing gear.

We are likewise pushing for reforms in our taxation policy, particularly the value-added-tax system, or VAT, which raises the tax rate on processed agricultural products by making the agricultural processor pay an effective tax instead of the VAT.

To speed up the movement of agricultural products, we are pushing for the deregulation of our shipping and port services.

Because past government spending on agriculture and the rural sector has been inadequate, averaging only 10 percent of the total ratio of the share of agriculture to gross domestic product, the Philippine Government has resolved to increase spending for the economic and social rural infrastructure. Rural facilities in support of increased agricultural productivity and incomes are top priority: irrigation, farm-to-market roads,

ports, inter-island shipping, electrification, communications, public markets and abattoirs. Social infrastructure - schools, health centres and local civic facilities - will also contribute greatly to the development of our country's human resources and result in greater productivity.

To discourage degradation of critical ecosystems, we are increasing fees and charges on timber and mineral resources.

To facilitate the availability of credit in the rural areas, we are working toward banking and credit reforms that will reduce rural lending costs and risks.

Two, we are accelerating the pace of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme (CARP) to achieve equity in the distribution of wealth and boost producer incentives

Because land is fast becoming a scarce resource and land ownership is closely linked with access to credit and production inputs, redistribution of land ownership in my country is acknowledged as a critical component of our agriculture-led and employment-oriented development strategy.

To hasten the implementation of the CARP, several steps must be taken. Specifically, for the land transfer component selected or lead provinces have been identified where the ability to methodically transfer land wholesale can be demonstrated. Likewise, we are focusing on wholesale transfer of land to large groups of farmers who can take care of their own individual subdivision and titling. We also see the need to build the social infrastructure, particularly farmers' organizations, and adopt an efficient field operating system for land acquisition and distribution and provision of support services.

Three, we are adopting policies and programmes that grant the underprivileged in the rural sector equitable access to the benefits derived from natural resource exploitation

Because for so long only a privileged few have had access and control over the Philippines' natural resources, we are implementing property rights reform in the public domain. We are evolving innovative approaches toward the implementation of agrarian reform in public lands, recognition of vested rights of indigenous cultural communities, and ensuring security of tenure for smallholder farmers and forest occupants over primary resources on government lands.

Four, we seek to improve support services and infrastructure which increase rural productivity and expand markets: specifically research and extension services, irrigation and drainage systems and transport and communication structures

Five, we are strictly enforcing environmentally sound policies that protect the country's land, water and marine resources in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the resource base

Rural development entails the effective enforcement of conservation laws and the promotion of cultivation methods that ensure the judicious use of land, forest and marine resources. These are essential if we are to sustain the viability and productivity of the natural resource base over the long term.

The Philippine Government will continue to promote a community-based forest management system that will encourage the private sector, especially the forest dwellers, to be the vanguard of the country's reforestation projects. Programmes to rehabilitate coastal fisheries through the establishment of artificial reef, restoration of seagrass bed, and rehabilitation of mangrove and polluted river systems will be intensified. Special attention is also being given to the provision of alternative livelihood opportunities for landless shifting cultivators in the uplands, illegal occupants of forest and pasture areas, and subsistence fishermen in overfished coastal waters.

Six, we are adopting a population programme and strengthening social services such as education, health and nutrition services to enrich and 'sustain our human resources

We have decided to implement a population programme to mitigate the pressure of a rapidly expanding population on the fixed supply of land and other natural resources. This is critical in sustaining the productive capacity of our resource base and increasing farmers' access to the benefits of economic and social development.

Along with a population programme, increased provision of education, health, and nutrition services will enhance human capital. These services will improve the productivity of the poor's prime asset - their own labour and consequently, their contribution to economic development.

Lastly, we seek to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government agencies that provide rural development services and further encourage people participation in the decision-making processes

Rural development requires that government improve its delivery of services to the rural sector. This means: (a) unclogging the project funding pipeline; (b) decentralizing authority down to the provincial and municipal levels; (c) engaging the full participation of the rural populace in the decision-making and development processes and (d) strengthening coordination within and among government agencies whose activities bear directly on the welfare of the rural sector.

This blueprint for rural development would lead to industrialization and stable economic growth in at least four ways.

One, higher farm productivity and incomes will expand the demand and market for manufactured goods and agricultural products.

Two, it will encourage agro-industrial activities and increase rural employment.

Three, as it increases agricultural productivity, it will shore up the supply of locally produced raw materials for industry.

Four, with higher farm incomes, this strategy will generate additional savings to finance investments in industry and help meet our foreign debt obligations.

The FAO: A partner in progress

I believe that this rural development strategy is congruent to this meeting's agenda and the concerns that FAO seeks to address in the coming decade.

With our unified support I am confident that the FAO will continue its partnership with us as we pursue the implementation of this plan.

As a global agent of technical transfer, FAO plays an important role in enabling developing countries like the Philippines to attain continued development and growth. Indeed, world cooperation is vital in confronting the challenge of economic growth and rural development, poverty alleviation and people empowerment, and ensuring the sustainability of our remaining resources for the sake of future generations.

Together with the FAO, I therefore look forward to further strengthening our unity and solidarity as we face up to the challenges of the 1990s and beyond.

The meeting rose at 19.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 19 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.00 horas.

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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 89/PV/7

Twenty-fifth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-cinquième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

25° período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

## SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

15 November 1989

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours  
John Charles Kerin, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La septième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45  
sous la présidence de John Charles Kerin, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la Séptima Sesión a las 9,45 horas  
ba jo la presidencia de John Charles Kerin, Presidente de la Conferencia

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)

**Desmond LEAKEY (Jamaica):** It is indeed a pleasure for me to lead my country's delegation to this Twenty-fifth session of the FAO conference.

Let me begin, Mr Chairman, by congratulating you on your election to office. The Jamaican delegation is confident that under your guidance the proceedings of this Conference will be most constructive and will contribute positively to the search for solutions to hunger and poverty.

I would also take this opportunity of congratulating you, Mr Director-General, on successfully piloting the affairs of FAO through what can be considered a most difficult period as we sought to review the role of the organization and to effectively deal with the financial crisis. We are indeed impressed by the determined manner in which you have faced these challenges and in many instances found solutions. My delegation is heartened by this since we in the developing world continue to look to FAO for providing technical leadership in agricultural development.

Turning now to a discussion of the more critical agenda items, I would wish to comment briefly on the world food and agriculture situation. It is important to note, Mr Chairman, that while economic recovery has been gaining momentum in the developed world, most of the developing world is yet to experience any significant level of recovery. Increasing inequality in the terms of trade has caused many developing countries 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 all aware that many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean continue to suffer from a most protracted crisis. The reasons for this are also well known and include the soaring net international payments which render the region a net exporter of capital, and the falling prices of primary commodities which have crippled some of the region's main sources of income and foreign exchange.

Against this background one of the major challenges is how to increase agricultural production and productivity in developing countries, since these countries are increasingly hard pressed to find the required foreign exchange to import the necessary agricultural inputs required to increase productivity. It is also becoming increasingly difficult in many countries to import adequate supplies of food staples not produced locally. The implications of this foreign exchange shortage related to food and agriculture are twofold. Firstly, the contribution of agriculture to the overall economy continues to stagnate although in many instances the overwhelming majority of people are dependent on the sector, and secondly, the poorest section of the population of many countries is becoming more vulnerable since it is difficult to ensure adequate levels of nutrition.

The problem of increased nutritional vulnerability is indeed grave and must surely lead us to renewed efforts to secure national and international food security. My delegation is perturbed to note that production of staple foods has fallen below aggregate consumption levels for the second consecutive year and that in per capita terms it was only 1 percent more in 1988 than it had been at the beginning of this decade. We also note that world carry-over stocks of cereals are targeted to be drawn down by the largest recorded amount in any one year in 1988/89 which will result in the minimum level of stocks that FAO considers necessary to safeguard food security. These developments have caused the price of cereals to rise significantly on international markets creating serious problems for low-income, food deficit countries.

Many of our countries, in attempts to come to grips with the problems, have already implemented stringent and painful structural adjustment programmes which in many instances have increased the hardships experienced by the poor. In addition, tariff barriers in developing countries are being removed as a result of conditionalities of structural adjustments loans. This means that fragile agricultural sectors in developing countries must face the full blast of international competition, although in many cases ill-prepared to do so.

My delegation is of the view that these problems are significantly severe to warrant special attention by FAO and would like to see them at the top of the agenda for international agricultural policy debate. It is partly for this reason that Jamaica together with net food importing developing countries will vigorously seek to ensure during the negotiations of this Uruguay Round that proper account is taken of our situation.

In this connection my delegation would also like to make a renewed plea for greater collaboration amongst donor agencies when discussing issues of vital importance to the developing world. We should also like to see more effective cooperation in project preparation and a greater sharing of experiences in the implementation of projects. We believe that such a course of action would ensure improved planning and husbandry of scarce resources and should lead to a reduction in dissipation of efforts and results.

My delegation is of the view that FAO by virtue of its knowledge and interest in agriculture and its close relationship with both the developing and the developed world can and should play a leading role in seeking to bring about such cooperation.

Turning specifically to the Caribbean region it is well-known that many countries of the region were severely affected by hurricanes in 1988 and again in 1989, in some cases to the point of devastation. One effect of this is to make already fragile agricultural sectors even more vulnerable and to wipe out economic gains made in recent times. In my own country, Jamaica, damage to the agricultural sector caused by Hurricane Gilbert in 1988 was estimated at US\$ 1.6 billion. What has come to the forefront in this experience is the critical absence of adequate agriculture insurance and this has had an inhibiting influence on new investment in the sector. It is clear that we cannot depend on traditional insurance companies to underwrite agriculture since they regard the risk as too great. We will therefore have to find another solution. Countries prone to such disasters will therefore have to work together to develop appropriate programmes and FAO could be of great assistance in this undertaking.

Another area in which FAO can be of great support, is in helping us to quickly access information from earth satellites on changed land cover data immediately following disasters.

My delegation wishes to comment briefly on the report of the fifty-seventh session of the committee on commodity problems. We note that although world merchandise trade increased by five percent in 1987, this increase was concentrated largely in the developed countries, where agricultural exports increased by 11 percent, while that of developing countries declined by four percent. In this respect we are particularly interested in the report of the inter-governmental group on bananas and of its reference to the "delicate balance" in world trade. We are pleased at the decision of the group to "explore equitable solutions to emerging questions regarding movement towards regional integration which would be likely to have an impact on international trade in bananas". This is a subject of vital importance to my country and region and we believe that a forum such as this is appropriate to draw the attention of the European Economic Community (EEC) to the vital importance of the banana industry to many Caribbean countries, and the disastrous consequences which would result if our exports to the United Kingdom should in any way be jeopardized by the unification of the European Market in 1992.

Turning now to the code of conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides. My delegation attaches much importance to the proposed incorporation of the "prior informed consent" clause to protect importing countries which might be ignorant of the fact that a specific pesticide has been banned or its use severely restricted by a particular government. In many cases, developing countries are unaware of such action, sometimes with disastrous consequences. We are supportive of the proposal that any government taking action to ban or severely restrict a pesticide should notify FAO of the action taken. FAO would then be able to play a vital role in advising governments on the issues related to the use of such pesticides. This should greatly assist governments to properly assess the risks involved and to take appropriate action.

Commenting on the FAO plan of action for the integration of women in development, my delegation is supportive of the proposal to introduce a gender code into FAO's regular programme planning and evaluation system, since we believe that every effort should be made to integrate women fully into development. We would, however, like to stress that programmes developed for women should not disrupt the cultural and family values obtaining in recipient countries but rather should build on these. It would therefore be necessary to develop each programme based on an assessment of the real needs of women in recipient countries and taking into account the contribution that women themselves wish to make.

Commenting on the report on the review of field programmes, we are gratified by the importance being attached by FAO to evaluation of programmes. This is critical to the effective functioning of the organization and the contribution it can make to developing countries. We note that US\$2.1 Billion was expended in 1988 for some 2 500 projects in 140 countries. This is indeed an impressive number of projects but every effort must be made to get the maximum results from such projects in a way which enhances development in recipient countries and ensures the transfer of appropriate technology. In this regard, it is encouraging to observe that the employment of national staff in these projects has increased significantly. We are confident that this is one of the best ways of ensuring effective technology transfer.

In introducing this section, I wish to congratulate the Director-General on the prudent management of the financial resources which has allowed the Organization to maintain an effective presence in many developing countries in spite of continuing liquidity problems.

Reviewing the proposed programme of work for 1990-91, we welcome the decision to channel additional resources only to technical and economic programmes, including the Technical Cooperation Programme and to streamline administrative expenses as much as possible. My country certainly regards the Technical Cooperation Programme as the life-line of the Organization.

The priority areas selected for funding seem broad enough to cover areas of real need and my government is particularly pleased at the inclusion of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan since it is of vital importance to us.

Turning now to the proposed budget, my delegation is satisfied that positive efforts have been made to contain cost increases. We are also pleased that the Technical Cooperation Programme will receive a programme increase of 2.4 percent. We are still not completely satisfied however, with the level of funding since even after the proposed increase, the share of the TCP in the total budget will decline to 11.8 percent, down from 14 percent in 1986/87 and 12.8 percent in 1988/89. We believe that greater efforts will have to be made in the 1992/93 budget to increase it to at least the percentage which was obtained in the 1986/87 budget.

Overall, we regard the proposed budget of US\$574 million as a pragmatic one taking into consideration the need to balance problems of funding against the real needs of developing countries. My delegation therefore supports the proposed budget of US\$574 Million and in doing so, we re-affirm our commitment to the goals and objectives of the Organization.

In closing Mr Chairman, my delegation takes this opportunity of thanking the Government and people of Italy for the hospitality extended to us and also to the Director-General and FAO Secretariat for the very excellent arrangements which have been made for this Conference.

**Mrs Lynda CHALKER (United Kingdom):** I am conscious of the pressure of time in this assembly and there is a great deal to cover. If I may, I will circulate a full version of my speech, which I have cut a little in order to save time for other delegates.

Two years ago, my predecessor, Chris Patten, painted a vivid picture of the achievements and continuing challenges facing the world's farmers, fishermen and herdsman as they sought to sustain themselves and to feed and provide for the rest of society. While in the short term the agricultural scene was not too discouraging, he emphasised several growing problems - the issues of the environment and climate, of domestic policy and structural adjustment, and of technical limits hard-pressed by rising population. He called for a thorough reorientation of FAO's own structure and policies, to enable it to play a more effective role in supporting the profound changes already under way in so many of its individual beneficiary members.

Two years on, as we stand on the brink of the '90s, his analysis and prescriptions are even more relevant than they were then. The colours in the picture stand out more starkly.

Our scientific understanding of the damage the human race can do to our common home has grown by leaps and bounds. This has spurred on international work on climate change, and on the conservation and proper use of tropical forests and other endangered natural habitats whose bio-diversity has yet to become known, let alone analysed. The world has adopted the slogan of sustainable development. That concept must span the entire range of FAO's activities - from fertiliser use to fishing methods. The Commonwealth Heads of Government have recently taken their stand on these and other environmental issues, in the Langkawi Declaration.

But sustainability has twin aspects and faces a twin threat. It does not exist in a vacuum. Its essence is looking ahead to the long term, taking account of our children's needs, and their children's. The question we have to ask ourselves each time is whether the development we undertake can be kept up indefinitely.

The first threat to sustainability comes from the rate at which the world's population is growing. It has doubled since 1950. There are now over 5 billion people in the world and as others have noted there will be more than 6 billion by the end of the century. Our numbers will not stabilize till the second half of the next century, and then at over 10 billion - twice today's population. I am glad to see that the Director-General spoke of this problem right at the start of his general statement. Even though action here is not for FAO, practically none of the Organization's technical work in any country can be carried out effectively without a clear understanding of the local social and cultural tradition, and how this affects both the pattern of agricultural work - in its broadest sense - and attitudes towards family growth, and the consequences for the natural resource base.

But FAO is right at the heart of the action in the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. Last week, my Prime Minister announced at the General Assembly that Britain would aim to commit a further £100 million bilaterally to tropical forestry activities over the next three years, mostly within the framework of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. We strongly support the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. We are already helping it in twenty countries. But, I think we should consider whether the Tropical Forestry Action Plan needs revitalizing so that it fully addresses its mandate.

Policies relating to forests need re-examining and those that encourage destruction need changing. Policies should encourage reforestation and agro-forestry, and better agricultural practices which help take the pressures off forests. They should take account of the knowledge and interest of the peoples of the forests. Priorities for investment and research must be agreed. Through the Tropical Forestry Action Plan the richer countries should be prepared to help provide the resources to implement these programmes. This should be seen as a contract between the industrialized countries and the developing countries, based upon a common interest in recapitalizing the world's forests. It should have clear objectives and measurable performance indicators, against which progress can be assessed, and to which assistance can be linked.

We shall take these ideas further at the Tropical Forestry Action Plan forestry advisers' meeting later this month. We look confidently to the FAO to see that the TFAP Secretariat, which it provides, will meet this new challenge. I also expect that as a result of the current IDA 9 negotiations the World Bank will take a much more active role in helping to carry out country forestry sector reviews and to follow them up.

The second threat to sustainability comes from institutional weakness and the grave financial and economic problems besetting so many developing countries. Again this is directly relevant to FAO's work across the board. The fashion throughout the UN system of technical cooperation has increasingly been for short-term projects, in and out, to help tackle specific difficulties. Of course, there is money and prestige in this approach for the Agencies - including FAO. But unless project action has a lasting effect - unless it is sustainable - we are tackling the symptoms, rather than curing the disease. Another Director-General - M. Blanca, in New York - has just brought to the General Assembly the conclusions of seven country reviews of assistance given by the entire UN System. Amongst these conclusions are that there are:

"too many problems in the design of projects... above all because of the continued neglect of above and before project analysis": and that we need "new approaches to maintaining support to institutions after projects are terminated".

Britain's own experience as a donor shows that a programmed step by step approach to helping institutional development is the only way to build up self-sufficient, sustainable national capacity. It is especially needed by the weakest and poorest countries, and by countries grappling with the serious problems of structural and sectoral adjustment. I am glad to see that FAO's review of its field activities strongly supports this line of thinking. It suggests that longer-term programmes of help should be created in such countries, with only limited FAO actions in areas outside the agreed programmes.

Once again, this requires donor agencies, both in the field and in headquarters, to have a clear and continuous grasp of the individual situation, problems and priorities of each recipient country, especially when they cut across sectors.

The same is true for other cross-cutting issues too. One of the most important is the impact of women upon development, and the impact of development upon women.

It is a major challenge to promote the conditions which allow women to play their full part in development. For example under our aid programme in the Yemen Arab Republic, our Women's Agricultural Extension Officer in the Central Highlands faces heavy demands. She has been working with informal women's groups, carrying out training in places acceptable to women. Improved nutrition has been achieved by introducing new vegetables and better ways of cooking. Another example is the Indo-British Fertiliser Project, where materials are being produced to meet the needs of illiterate women farmers. A pilot programme has been established to integrate women farmers in demonstration villages. A staff member with special responsibility for women will coordinate training for integrating women into the agricultural extension programme.

So I am delighted that the Conference is being asked to approve a detailed Plan of Action on this subject. I am even more delighted that the Director-General proposes to begin by training all professional FAO staff in the so-called "gender issues". We have found this the best way to start in our own aid programme. Too often the world's women are fobbed off with a few

grassroots projects worked up by hard-pressed NGOs. A much broader approach is needed which permeates the whole system. But since social and cultural traditions vary so much from nation to nation, it again raises the need for a clear country-differentiated view of these traditions in FAO headquarters.

If a strong country focus is needed to deal with these cross-cutting issues, it is even more necessary so as to allow FAO to fulfil its policy role. Ever since the last Conference there has been a strong demand for FAO to be able to join in, as a full partner, in proffering advice to individual countries on their policies across the board in FAO's area of competence and cooperative advantage. The expert groups who reported as part of the recent review have recommended that:

"country policy studies and advice should be an integral part of the Regular Programme".

And they say that such studies should be cast within the macro-economic perspective of the relevant country, with FAO making systematic use of country economic data and knowledge accumulated by the international financial institutions. I agree with them 100 percent. Now we have to make it happen.

The demand for such advice is not confined to FAO. One of the conclusions just submitted by Director-General Blanca to the General Assembly is that "many governments are seeking a "partnership dialogue" from the UN system, but are seldom able to obtain it at the quality, comprehensiveness and timeliness required". So there is a current of unease and dissatisfaction here, which every UN institution needs to address.

One call which is voiced time and again is for much closer exchanges of view between different agencies supporting the same country. This has materialized in FAO partly in the shape of proposals that the Organization should play a much more active role in aid Consultative Groups and Round Tables.

But with FAO's present internal structure this is impossible. There is virtually nobody between the Director-General's Office and the Field Representatives, where they exist, who can speak with authority and responsibility to the senior country managers of the African or Asian Development Banks, the World Bank, the UNDP or even UNIDO. FAO's African Rehabilitation Programme kicked off well by forming ad hoc country teams to do this, but it lost all momentum because after projects were identified the responsibility for processing them and carrying them out was split, according to normal FAO practice.

These factors all point straight to one conclusion. FAO needs to be reshaped internally to create a geographically-based managerial chain alongside the technical chain. Only then will effective decentralization of decisions, and even some staff, be possible. This can go down to Regional Offices, where it is sensible to run activities covering more than one country - as it often is in the Caribbean or Central America for example. But more often it will go right to Field Office level. Only then, too, will clear responsibility for internal coordination also follow in headquarters. Many of the specially-created bodies which now have to be added to one another to meet each new cross-disciplinary challenge could be scrapped. Headquarters responsibility for identifying, formulating and carrying out projects in



particular countries and regions would be brought together, instead of being dispersed. Proposals for a few geographical inspectors are not enough. Nor is a geographical focus an optional extra, to be paid for largely by others. It should be integral to FAO's structure.

I believe such a reorganization could also lead to a better focus and much greater use of the Field Programme, and FAO's own Technical Cooperation Programme, to stimulate actual investments. It is a shock to discover that only 10 percent of the projects successfully worked up by FAO's excellent Investment Centre can claim any direct link with the Field Programme.

I have spent some time on this point because it illustrates clearly why the results of the FAO Review carried out by the Programme and Finance Committees are insufficient. Unless they are complemented by other steps, FAO will not be geared up properly for the '90s. Before we meet again, our Governments will have considered, and I hope resolved, the whole sweep of issues affecting the place of the UN system of technical cooperation in the wider donor effort, and affecting the place of the Agencies - including FAO - in the UN system. These decisions could change quite radically the whole system under which we have been operating for 20 years. The tide is running in favour of a much more integrated team of UN country specialists, working together much more closely with the central authorities of each host State, as well as with their technical counterpart Ministries. That will require, above all, a new spirit of cooperation from all members of the UN family, including FAO. Director-General Saouma has it absolutely right when he insists that it is up to Governments to take the same line both in FAO and in the corresponding bodies of other organizations. By the same token, we should all expect FAO's management, like that of other organizations, to be open to change proposed not only here but in those other bodies, and to carry out an extensive and rigorous re-examination of its own structures, with outside management advice where necessary, to look at proposals for doing things in a better way.

I have described the outcome of the recent review as incomplete. Despite the doubts some of us had about its constitution and scope, it has been worthwhile. This is due in particular to the work of the two groups of distinguished experts, and the two Committees. Their findings point to some broad lessons in addition to the country and cross-cutting policy issues which I have already mentioned.

The first lesson is the need for selectivity and concentration, in both the Regular and Field Programmes. Neither the experts nor I feel that the answer to the strains created by trying to manage over 2 500 field projects of uneven quality is just more technical and support staff. Until there is a more careful streamlining of field activities with recipient countries, according to the programme approach I mentioned earlier, their systems will be overloaded as well as FAO's. That will postpone the day when they can manage these programmes largely on their own. I accept, of course, that wealthier recipients, or those better equipped with human resources, may be able to manage a more scattered approach successfully. FAO also now faces a special task as events in Eastern Europe unfold, for example in Poland and Hungary.

For the Regular Programme the Committees have endorsed criteria for selection which the Director-General and my Government also support. I disagree, however, that there is no sensible way then of ranking the priority activities chosen as between each other. For instance, there must be shifts in standing capacity as the composition of the Field Programme

changes over time in réponse to recipients' national priorities. And it must be feasible to run down, and even discontinue, activities which now command relatively lower priority in favour of those that have become internationally most urgent. Forestry, for example, has not received nearly enough of an increase in the draft budget, given its immensely increased importance. It should have been raised accordingly and other activities of less urgency should be downgraded.

Some of you may fear that talk of selectivity and concentration really means fewer FAO activities in your countries. Of course that is not so. If these activities are regrouped, they do not need to be fewer. And national priorities must also govern that FAO does. But the contrast between transfer of technology for countries at the top of the scale, and institution-building for those lower down, is pointed up by FAO's own review. Nor is "concentration" a dirty word. For instance FAO's own survey of the networks it finances under its programme for technical cooperation between developing countries (TCDC) recommends "concentrating on those which demonstrate clear evidence of results, or at least clear potential" and weeding out others. That is exactly the approach we want to see throughout all FAO's work.

Sadly, the whole debate over priorities is clouded by suspicion that it conceals a quite separate debate about budget levels. Nothing could be more wrong. Of course there is a link: the arguments for budget growth are convincing only if every possible step has been taken to improve structures and efficient delivery of programmes so that any fat is cut out. In that way, specific increases will be clearly justified by what they will achieve in measurable terms. But priorities need to be ranked internally by every organization, at any budget level. We expect FAO to do this, and we think FAO's Member States should play a greater part in approving and guiding the process through the Governing Bodies.

A key way of putting changing priorities in perspective is to look further ahead than just the next two years. A return to medium-term planning has been recommended. I support the idea of a six-year plan. It would be reviewed every two years to ensure that we confront new challenges. Member States cannot now promise fixed commitments to either regular or operational resources for so long ahead. But we need to set a clear direction in focusing FAO's main efforts, while keeping different patterns of field activities in different Member States to meet their specific priorities. I agree that this longer-term planning should be carried out at the same time as we prepare for the new International Development Strategy. Perhaps the chapter that goes into the Strategy will be enough. But the membership must be fully involved in this preparation. And FAO should take account of the contributions by others in the UN family - such as the excellent study just done by the World Bank on sustainable growth with equity over the longer term in Africa. But we do not yet know whether the Strategy will be a coherent and consistent blueprint. If it summarizes all the aspirations of the human race, in every sector, as we reach out to the new millennium, ignoring the failings of past strategies, it may give us only limited guidance, little focus and no sense of the real priorities.

All of us who start on the process of Perestroika eventually find that we go much further than first expected, in order to reap its full benefits. This Conference must therefore consider the outcome of the review only as one stage in a longer process. It must reach specific decisions - and I hope we can do that by consensus. But it must also put in place detailed arrangements to monitor the way those decisions are carried out, and to carry them still further. Here a heavy weight of responsibility falls on us,

carry them still further. Here a heavy weight of responsibility falls on us, as Member States in the Governing Bodies and technical committees. So far as I can see there is much to be done, by us, to turn these into more effective places, where there can be a real meeting of minds. Maybe we need to look again at our own procedures, and the way we discuss and record our decisions and give guidance to FAO's management. We need this to ensure that FAO keeps the capacity to change.

We also have the duty to oversee more closely the way the Field Programme is carried out, and its actual impact, together with the relationship between it and the resources we are using from the regular budget to back it up.

In short, we have a very full agenda before us stretching over several years. We have every confidence in you, Mr Chairman, and in your colleagues, and in our very experienced Director-General, that together you can help us turn this Conference into the important milestone it must be for the future of FAO, and for the future of the world.

José Ignacio **DOKINGUEZ C.** (Chile): En primer término deseo asociarme a los representantes que me han precedido y expresar las felicitaciones de la delegación de Chile por su elección como Presidente de esta Conferencia. Estoy seguro de que bajo su dirección esta Conferencia tendrá éxito en su desarrollo.

Una vez más nos reunimos representantes de los países del mundo, en este importante foro dedicado a tratar los problemas de la agricultura y la alimentación. En nombre de mi país agradezco a la FAO este nuevo esfuerzo de organización, que nos permite analizar materias de tanta trascendencia para toda la humanidad.

El problema vital que aqueja en forma permanente a nuestros pueblos, y que ocupará particularmente nuestra atención, presenta en la actualidad varios aspectos importantes a considerar. Entre estos destaca la urgencia por aumentar la producción agropecuaria, tomando debida consideración a la creciente exigencia de preservar los recursos naturales y de garantizar un medio ambiente estable y libre de contaminación para las futuras generaciones. Al mismo tiempo, otro aspecto esencial del problema radica en la urgencia de hacer llegar los beneficios del desarrollo hacia vastos sectores rurales, donde se concentran en muchos casos las situaciones de extrema pobreza. Es evidente, en todo caso que la causa fundamental de la subalimentación y la pobreza es básicamente de naturaleza económica y se sustenta en situaciones de desarrollo insuficiente, especialmente en el ámbito agropecuario.

Sin necesidad de reiterar las cifras, que ya están mencionadas en los documentos referenciales de FAO, es claro que globalmente los países en desarrollo no han sido muy exitosos en la presente década. En el caso de nuestra región, América Latina y el Caribe, encontramos aún muchos países enfrentados a situaciones de crecimiento insuficiente, endeudamiento excesivo, estancamiento e inflación. La crisis económica de los años 80 aún persiste y se estima que, al concluir el año, el producto medio por habitante será casi un diez por ciento inferior al de 1980.

Sin embargo, creemos realmente que es posible romper este círculo si logramos estructurar y llevar a cabo en nuestros países políticas realistas que, reconociendo las limitaciones que hay, planteen estrategias acordes con las posibilidades existentes.

Para ello es imprescindible valorar ciertos hechos, lo que supone superar esquemas ideológicos de análisis de los problemas y aplicar enfoques pragmáticos. El primero de éstos es el reconocimiento de la posibilidad que ofrece la tecnología para inducir el desarrollo productivo de la agricultura, en vez de seguir intentando enfoques redistributivos de la ciudad o centros urbanos al campo. En la misma agricultura existen potenciales efectivos de crecimiento, que radican fundamentalmente en la capacidad de los individuos, de los agricultores.

Si efectivamente creemos en la capacidad e iniciativa libre de los individuos, más allá que en la dirección omnipotente de los Estados o gobiernos, y promovemos estrategias que provean los estímulos reales para ello, así como la asistencia y capacitación para que esta iniciativa se exprese, estaremos sentando las bases para que se manifieste el potencial que existe en nuestros campos y, en general, entre nuestros agricultores.

El segundo aspecto o hecho básico es la necesidad de establecer para estas agriculturas un marco económico y legal, que permita a los agricultores utilizar su racionalidad y sus capacidades para asignar los recursos productivos y para beneficiarse del éxito, fruto de su esfuerzo; ello supone una estabilidad en las políticas y una seguridad en el pleno ejercicio del derecho de propiedad individual sobre los bienes físicos y sobre los resultados del proceso productivo.

El tercer aspecto, cada vez más real, radica en el reconocimiento de la necesaria interacción e interdependencia entre los países y regiones del mundo. La consideración de que no constituimos países aislados, y de que el mercado internacional ofrece oportunidades enormes para el crecimiento de nuestros sectores rurales, es una necesidad en la actualidad. Es importante modificar los objetivos para un autoabastecimiento forzoso y analizar las posibilidades reales que la integración con otros países y con el comercio mundial puede brindarnos, para aprovechar las ventajas comparativas que todos tenemos.

Sin pretender señalar un modelo, ya que cada país requiere soluciones propias y estrategias acordes a su propia realidad, debemos recalcar que la aplicación de los principios mencionados ha hecho que Chile mantenga un crecimiento sostenido de su agricultura en los últimos ocho años, con el consiguiente aumento en la producción, productividad, disponibilidad de divisas, empleo y mejoramiento en el nivel de vida del sector rural.

Cada país, en función de su propia realidad, al igual que la FAO y otros organismos internacionales, debe estudiar y proponer estrategias para el desarrollo, en el convencimiento de que éste es posible, en tanto ellas se sustenten en el estímulo y desarrollo de las capacidades del hombre como sujeto del mismo, y de su capacidad empresarial como instrumento de este desarrollo.

Aparte de estas consideraciones, sin embargo, me parece indispensable señalar la problemática a que nuestras agriculturas se ven enfrentadas en el ámbito internacional y que pueden entorpecer este desarrollo.

A riesgo de ser reiterativo en esta materia, es indispensable hacer referencia a la difícil situación de competencia y acceso a los mercados internacionales, que afecta a nuestros productos y, en especial, a los de origen agropecuario. Esta realidad, como sabemos, lejos de haberse ido solucionando, ha tomado cada vez características más apremiantes y, como en el caso de nuestra fruta, ha llegado a asumir, por decirlo con mucha mesura, rasgos inaceptables y poco conocidos hasta el momento.

La reciente mejoría de los precios internacionales para los productos básicos ha constituido sólo un paliativo a los problemas que generan las medidas como los subsidios y las cuotas, aplicadas principalmente por los países desarrollados.

Tal como lo he indicado, creemos que los países deben basar sus estrategias de desarrollo en la liberación de las fuerzas productivas, revirtiendo el proteccionismo y la intervención estatal.

El desafío actual es lograr que se supere el rígido esquema que por décadas ha resultado en una creciente intervención estatal, vencer la resistencia de algunos sectores productivos a la innovación y la oposición de ciertos grupos políticos, que se esmeran en mantener los atrofiantes esquemas del pasado.

En el caso de Chile, nuestro país ha optado por desafiar la tentación proteccionista en favor de la integración al comercio internacional. Se ha superado el dirigismo estatal del pasado, dando paso al ejercicio de la libertad económica, donde el Estado cumple un efectivo rol subsidiario.

Estamos aquí para analizar lo que se ha hecho en favor de la agricultura y la alimentación en el último tiempo, lo que está previsto hacer en esta materia próximamente y, sobre todo, para comprometer nuestras voluntades en la acción futura.

Nuestra región, la Conferencia Interamericana de Ministros de Agricultura resolvió, en su reunión de Ottawa, Canadá, dar forma a lo que hoy denominamos plan de acción conjunta para la reactivación de la agricultura de Latinoamérica y el Caribe. Este mandato fue ejecutado mediante la colaboración entre los países y el Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura y hoy, luego de haber sido recientemente aprobado el plan por la Junta Interamericana de Agricultura, éste se encuentra al inicio de su fase de ejecución.

Valga señalar que el referido plan incluye entre sus fundamentos y objetivos tanto los elementos conceptuales como las orientaciones desarrolladas por la FAO en su plan de acción para el desarrollo agrícola y rural en América Latina y el Caribe, plan que fue realizado como respuesta a la petición formulada en 1986 por los Ministros de Agricultura en la decimonovena Conferencia Regional.

Los proyectos contenidos en el plan de acción conjunta, mencionado en primer lugar, y los que se vayan incorporando al mismo, así como las acciones independientes de cada uno de nuestros países deberán constituir el camino que conduzca al mayor desarrollo de nuestras agriculturas.

Sin embargo, sabemos que nuestro intento será más difícil, o no será posible, de no contar, por una parte, con el respaldo amplio de los organismos internacionales de cooperación técnica y financiera, y, por otra, con la comprensión y colaboración de los países de mayor desarrollo.

En relación a los primeros, debo señalar que, si bien su apoyo es ya valioso, en un esfuerzo común debemos mejorarlo y acrecentarlo. En materia de colaboración técnica, por ejemplo, es indispensable lograr la mayor coordinación entre los organismos pertinentes. Creemos también de la mayor importancia la colaboración y coordinación entre los organismos de cooperación técnica y los de acción financiera.

En cuanto a la relación con los países desarrollados, me parece necesario señalar que, más que una ayuda directa, necesitamos que se nos proporcione el espacio, la oportunidad y el justo trato para desenvolver nuestras capacidades y utilizar nuestras ventajas comparativas.

En concreto, se hace necesario, en primer lugar, acelerar la aplicación de mecanismos destinados a facilitar la solución del problema del endeudamiento. En segundo término, es imprescindible redoblar los esfuerzos para allanar los problemas que hasta el momento dificultan los intentos por liberalizar el comercio.

Las acciones proteccionistas aún están presente. De nuevo reiteramos a los países industrializados que, para alcanzar el desarrollo, se requiere la oportunidad de competir abiertamente con el resto de las naciones. La ayuda económica de gobiernos extranjeros a nuestros países siempre es bienvenida, pero ésta no reemplaza los beneficios que genera la libre competencia en todos los mercados, más aún cuando son estos mismos países los que normalmente distorsionan los procesos comerciales, tanto internos como externos.

Llamamos a nuestros colegas, particularmente de los países desarrollados, a unificar voluntades y redoblar esfuerzos para lograr que los trabajos en curso, en el seno de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT, culmine en una liberalización efectiva del comercio de productos agropecuarios. En este sentido, Chile comparte plenamente los esfuerzos del Grupo Cairns y es partícipe activo en sus acuerdos.

Alentamos el apoyo que ha estado prestando la FAO a la Secretaría del GATT en torno a la Ronda de Negociaciones Comerciales, cuyo éxito permitiría la concreción de las orientaciones y objetivos del reajuste agrícola internacional.

Chile ha venido recibiendo, desde hace ya muchos años, la colaboración de la FAO en favor de sus actividades agrícolas, forestales y pesqueras. Queremos expresar, una vez más en este foro, nuestro reconocimiento a la labor desarrollada por la Organización, así como nuestro apoyo a su programación técnica y a las orientaciones previstas para los años venideros.

Reiteramos nuestra disposición e interés en participar en las actividades que la Organización impulse, así como nuestra voluntad de colaborar para el éxito de sus programas.

Hemos seguido con profundo interés la labor de los expertos y de los Comités, que analizaron en forma exhaustiva las orientaciones, funciones y prioridades de la Organización. De dicho análisis, cuyas conclusiones apoyamos, creemos que este proceso de revisión debe darse por terminado, ya que su continuación distrae los recursos humanos y materiales del fin último

para el cual la FAO fue constituida. De la misma forma, nos preocupa el eventual crecimiento cero en el presupuesto de la Organización, lo que, en términos prácticos, significaría una contracción real de las actividades de FAO.

Nuestro país vive en estos meses un proceso electoral, contemplado en la Constitución de 1980, que conduce a la recuperación del ejercicio de la plena democracia. En forma paralela, se han establecido efectivamente las bases del proceso de modernización que nos permita, en breve, alejarnos del subdesarrollo y enfrentar el siglo XXI bajo las perspectivas de un país desarrollado. Hemos basado nuestra política y nuestro esfuerzo en el reconocimiento a la capacidad e iniciativa de nuestros compatriotas, en la creencia de que el verdadero desarrollo se logra a través del establecimiento de una sociedad libre y justa, donde todos tengan el estímulo y la posibilidad de construir su propio bienestar.

A nivel internacional, solicitamos del resto de los países, y en especial de los de mayor desarrollo, que colaboren en la eliminación de los obstáculos artificiales para el intercambio justo entre los países y así, al igual que las personas, nuestros países tengan la oportunidad de construir su propio bienestar.

**Mrs Anne VIK (Norway):** Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Norwegian delegation I would like to congratulate the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman upon their elections.

Poverty, hunger and malnutrition remain among the most serious threats facing many developing countries. Combined with economic stagnation, debt burden, population growth and environmental degradation, this threatens to cripple the development process, particularly in the least developed countries. When we look at the development of the world food situation during the last few years, it is clear that the food shortage is serious for many countries. Strengthening the efforts to increase food production and ensure a more equal distribution of food are therefore of the utmost importance.

In this situation, the need for efficient international cooperation through the UN system is more important than ever. It is a major challenge for these organizations to examine their planning processes, priorities and working methods to adopt to changing circumstances and growing needs. Norway has taken an active interest in this reform process, because we consider international cooperation necessary and have great confidence in the UN system.

Mr Chairman, it is necessary to strengthen the process of priority setting in FAO. The Organization gives valuable support to Member States, and as a consequence it receives a number of requests for new initiatives and involvements. At the same time the financial and organizational resources are limited. It is only by concentrating its efforts in the areas where it can contribute the most, that FAO can use its limited resources most efficiently and defend its position as a leading institution in its field of competence.

To set priorities between and within the different areas of FAO's work an improved planning policy and a dialogue between the Secretariat and the member countries are required. Discussions of the Programme of Work and Budget for the next two years cannot provide sufficient guidelines for planning of the following biennium. The introduction of medium-term planning would provide possibilities for exchanges of views on priority setting in a longer term perspective and give the Director-General increased flexibility based on agreed priorities, goals and strategies.

Mr Chairman, in our view environmentally sustainable development is a priority issue. Since publication of the report of the World Commission of Environment and Development in 1987, the threats to the world environment have become even more serious.

Recently, we have seen a marked increase in the awareness regarding the threats to the environment and the need for urgent action. Active work to follow up the environmental challenges is now in progress in most international organizations as well as in many countries.

FAO's work related to environmental questions is important. Together with the other Nordic countries Norway has therefore contributed actively to follow-up the discussion at the last FAO conference regarding sustainable development. An independent study on FAO and sustainable development has been initiated and its conclusions shared with the Secretariat as well as other member countries. The study emphasizes the need for FAO to give increased priority to environmental issues and incorporate environmental concerns into all the Organization's activities.

We note with appreciation that environment is placed among the priority areas in the draft Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 and given special attention in connection with the analysis of the food and agricultural situation. It is necessary to actively follow-up the integration of environmental concerns in FAO's activities. Norway will, on behalf of the Nordic countries, introduce a draft resolution to this end under agenda item 6.1.

The World Commission on Environment and Development pointed to poverty as a major cause of environmental problems. Population growth and scarce resources in many developing countries are leading to increased marginalization, forcing weaker segments of the community into ecologically fragile areas. The daily struggle of rural poor people to obtain the basic necessities of life is often taking a tremendous toll on the natural resources upon which their very survival depends. It must be recognized that we cannot deal with environmental problems without including the factors underlying poverty and inequality. It is therefore necessary for FAO to target activities more specifically to poor segments of the population dealing among others with factors influencing their situation.

Mr Chairman, it is a fact that poverty is particularly increasing among women in developing countries. At the same time, women are often the main food producers, income-earners and guardians of family health and welfare. As food producers and wood and water gatherers, women are also the main natural-resource managers over much of the developing world. They are at the same time frequently excluded from development activities, and their concerns, needs and knowledge are often ignored.



It is therefore vital to consider women's multiple roles in relation to agricultural development in developed as well as developing countries. In particular macro-economic planning, national development strategies and adjustment policies relating to the agricultural field must deal with women's multiple roles and include measures to increase women's resources and improve their status. Here FAO has an important contribution to make.

My delegation has noted with satisfaction that the issue of women in development is a separate item on the agenda. The plan of action can serve as a useful basis for the Organization's further work, and we look forward to seeing regular reports on its implementation and results.

When focusing on this agenda item, I would like to add that FAO has a task right here in this building. Women are underrepresented in professional and higher categories within the FAO Secretariat, as only approximately 10 percent are women. There is thus a need for greater efforts to increase the number of women holding important positions within the Organization.

Personally, I also wish to add that I would like to see more female Ministers of Agriculture throughout the world.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to underline that FAO has an important role to play in the agricultural field and must develop and adjust to the challenges ahead. We believe that FAO can do this, and that this Conference will take the Organization an important step forward. The Norwegian delegation will make every effort to contribute to this end.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Sik KIM (Republic of Korea):** Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, distinguished delegates and honourable guests it gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity to share and exchange views on world food and agriculture problems with the delegates from member countries on the occasion of the Twenty-fifth FAO Conference.

Mr Chairman and distinguished delegates, certainly, most countries of the world are deeply concerned about food problems, and are devoting their utmost efforts to solve the problems. However, the food supply has not been sufficient to satisfy the ever increasing population due to the limitation of arable land and low agricultural productivity in the developing countries.

In recent years, food production has been quite unstable due to repeated adverse climatic conditions and resultant agricultural disasters in many parts of the world.

World cereal stocks which declined in 1988-89 were expected to decline further and will amount to 16 percent of the world annual apparent consumption by the end of 1989. This level will be below the minimum necessary to safeguard world food security.

This unstable food supply situation has resulted in lower export availabilities and higher international market prices of cereals which had adversely affected the low-income and food-deficit countries, most of which are already suffering from heavy debt burden and lack of foreign exchange reserves.

In this connection, my delegation would like to express my deep concern on this matter and to urge Member Nations and concerned international organizations to take effective and urgent measures to solve the current serious world food supply situation,

Mr Chairman, my delegation firmly believes that in order to increase food production in developing countries, the self-help efforts by the developing countries, assistance from developed countries and cooperation among developing countries need to be secured to the problem.

As regards the cooperation among developing countries, my delegation is pleased to inform the Conference that, recognizing the importance of mutual cooperation, the Government of the Republic of Korea has launched the international cooperation programmes in recent years. The programme includes training of foreign nationals and dispatch of skilled experts to other developing countries in the field of rice and sericulture production, irrigation and water management and other related areas.

For this, the Korean Government had established the Economic Development Cooperation Fund in 1987 and has participated in ESCAP activities by providing finance through the Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund for development projects in Asia and Pacific Region.

Secondly, in connection with the agricultural adjustment policy which FAO and other international organizations have been deeply involved in the process of implementation, I would like to make a very brief comment. As is recognized, it is true that the adjustment programme by its very nature, requires longer time and larger budgetary requirements for realizing the benefits from the programmes.

However in the short-run, it creates a number of problems such as foreign indebtedness, adverse effects on agricultural income and employment, and on food security for the countries concerned.

Considering the complicated nature of the policies, we, member countries and international organizations including FAO and World Bank, should try to find a way with a view to minimising the negative effects arising in the process of implementation of agricultural adjustment policies. In this context, my delegation believes that special studies by FAO and exchange of experiences among member countries will be highly desirable. At the same time it is necessary for developed countries to provide to the developing countries financial assistance on concessional terms and for long period, which will help them to overcome difficulties caused by the trade liberalization, especially during the initial adjustment period.

Thirdly, as regards the international trade of agricultural commodities, my delegation would like to express its appreciation for the significant progress which has been made at the GATT multilateral negotiations on agriculture, in which FAO has provided strong technical support to UNCTAD and member countries.

In this regard, I would like to inform that Korea has continuously expanded its agricultural market liberalization policies since the early 1980s, despite our difficult agricultural conditions, insufficient structural development and poor rural economy. Particularly, in April this year, the Korean Government announced a vigorous agricultural import liberalization programme covering the period of 1989-1991.

However, it is inevitable for a food-importing country like Korea to maintain an optimal level of domestic food supply and to continue to adopt the necessary policy measures to ensure adequate food supplies.

Furthermore, as farm population continues to occupy an important place in the country as a whole, it is imperative to apply suitable trade policies so as to protect poor farmers in the country from the imported agricultural commodities, most of which are heavily subsidized even by the exporting countries.

In this context, my delegation would like to urge FAO and other world agricultural organizations to take into consideration the special situations of developing countries in the Uruguay Round negotiations.

In taking this opportunity, I would like to briefly mention the recent developments in Korean agricultural policies.

Although the Republic of Korea has made substantial improvement in the agricultural sector in recent years, we still face many difficult problems, principally because of small land holdings and the imbalance of rural-urban income gap. To overcome these problems, the Korean Government has earmarked US\$ 24 billion to launch the new Comprehensive Rural Development Plan, 1989-1992. This plan will focus mainly on structural adjustment of agriculture, improvement of farm income, and enhancement of the rural living environment.

For the structural adjustment, my Government plans to establish the Rural Development Corporation to facilitate land transfer, so as to consolidate and enlarge land holdings per farm household.

Please permit me to briefly comment on the FAO's role and operations. The elimination of starvation and poverty of mankind still remains as the ultimate goal of FAO. For this, the main task of FAO is to eliminate the various technical and institutional obstacles hampering the increase of agricultural production and rural development, particularly in the many developing countries. Bearing this in mind, my delegation would like to endorse the conclusions and recommendations made by the joint session of the Programme and Finance Committees on the basis of the Study Group Report on FAO goals and functions.

I hope this Conference will adopt the conclusions and recommendations for the future work of FAO.

With regard to programme and budget for 1990-91, my delegation would like to support the proposed budget presented by the Director-General of FAO, although it seems insufficient to meet the demands of development programmes for developing countries. We also endorse the nine priority areas, with special emphasis on sustainable development, biotechnology and women in development.

In closing, I wish to re-emphasize the utmost importance of mutual exchanges of experiences among member countries, and financial and technical assistance from developed countries, so that together we may contribute to solve the difficult agricultural problems facing many developing countries.

**Jaromir ALGAYER (Czechoslovakia) (original language Slovak):** A month ago it was also in Czechoslovakia that on the occasion of the World Food Day great appreciation was given to the effort of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to solve the global problems of the world.

Czechoslovakia is among the 42 nations which added their signatures to the Organization's foundation charter. This General Conference is held in a period when, within the whole UN system, efforts are taken to improve the effectiveness of the work of the Agencies, including FAO. We are ready to support rational proposals aimed at a strengthening and improvement of the effectiveness of FAO's work and to take tangible measures to enhance international cooperation.

The political climate in international relations is gradually improving on a world scale, and is favourable to implementation of multilateral as well as bilateral cooperation programmes between countries with different social orders. Czechoslovakia attaches great importance to the practical implementation of the policy of peaceful coexistence and international cooperation.

As to the environmental problems, we held in Prague a conference of ministers responsible for environment in May this year; the conference discussed the coordination of efforts in the field of environment conservation.

The steps towards understanding among nations and towards disarmament, made during the recent period, create good prerequisites which can allow, in the near future, to release considerable financial means and to use economic resources in order to enhance international economic security and achieve a world food security.

I am convinced that the FAO as the largest specialized UN agency will contribute to developing new approaches not only to solving the problems of food production in the world but also to international economic security as a way towards the removal of the causes of starvation and malnutrition. Considering this, we thoroughly studied the Programme of Work and Budget for the years 1990-1991. We regard this document as realistic. Our comments and proposals will be raised during discussions in the commission concerned.

Czechoslovakia as a FAO Council member fully acknowledges the leading role of FAO in world agriculture, fisheries and forestry and the great merit of FAO in the development of rural regions. We regularly fulfil our duties associated with regular membership in the Organization, including the membership fees paid to FAO budget, though the geographical proportion of our country both in FAO Headquarters and in the field programmes is far from corresponding to the high standard of Czechoslovak agriculture, to the high qualifications of our experts and to the long tradition of farmer cooperatives. We fully support the principle of a just geographical representation in all FAO bodies and posts, as well as the requirement for a higher flexibility of using the experts for the Organization's purposes.

In spite of these facts about which we are concerned, we are ready to intensify and extend our cooperation with the FAO and to contribute our proposals and active involvement to the solution of the complex tasks the Organization has. Czechoslovakia's agriculture has had good results for a long time and is considered as a stabilizing factor of our national economy. This is so in spite of the fact that we are among the few countries of the world with a very small area of land per head of population: we have only

0.43 ha of agricultural land per caput, and only 0.30 ha of this area is arable land. In recent years our cereal yields per hectare have been about 4.8 tonnes. We produce 309 kg of meat and almost 1' 000 litres of milk per hectare of agricultural land. The consumption of meat and meat products per caput of population is 92 kg annually. We have 1 600 cooperative farms of an average size of 3 000 hectares and 173 state farms of an average size of 6 600 hectares. This is proof that large-scale agricultural production with adequate management produces progressive farming.

This year Czechoslovak agriculture celebrates an important anniversary: forty years ago the Czechoslovak Parliament passed the Law on the Unified Agricultural Cooperatives which formed a basis for the unification and dynamic development of Czechoslovak agriculture. This significant anniversary as well as the successful forty-year path of the development of agriculture in our country will be evaluated at the eleventh National Congress of Unified Agricultural Cooperatives which will be held on December 1-3, 1989, in Prague, with wide international participation.

I am of the opinion that the use of Czechoslovak cooperatives' results and experience within the FAO may contribute to attainment of the main objectives of the Organization. Some specialized events of the FAO have been held in Czechoslovakia in the recent period. These included, for instance, the seminar on the use of remote sensing on farms, the session of the Technical Committee of the European Commission for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control, the training course for specialists from developing countries on embryo transfer. Moreover, we also take active part in various FAO programmes and research networks.

Intending to improve the effectiveness of our involvement in FAO activities, we considered thoroughly the fields in which we could offer our experience. We recommend that adequate attention should be paid to the problems of management of large farms, especially in developing countries. In view of the fact that in my country agricultural production is done on large cooperative and state farms, we have prepared a draft project of a training course for specialists in large-scale farm management. Thorough utilization of the reserves that exist in the management of large farms is one of the possibilities of increasing the effectiveness of food production. We also offer to organize training courses, in cooperation with the FAO, on in-vitro fertilization, on the use of roughage in dairy cattle nutrition, on embryo transfer, on the use of remote sensing for agricultural purposes and in other fields. We welcome FAO's initiative to hold an international Conference on nutrition. As to the problems of rational and balanced nutrition of the population, we intend in cooperation with Austrian experts to hold an international seminar on this subject early next year; FAO experts will be invited to take part in that seminar. Next year we shall organize in Prague the 16th Session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Committee. I would like to use the occasion of the session of the General Conference of the FAO to confirm again our interest to organize the 18th Regional FAO Conference in Prague in 1992.

It is our interest that the FAO should enhance its cooperation with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, and with other subregional organizations. This topic was discussed recently at the 3rd session of CMEA Committee for the Agro-Industrial Complex, held in Czechoslovakia. In our view there are good prerequisites for the relationships of both international organizations to develop into mutually advantageous forms.

After studying the Conference documents and the opening statements we fully agree with the claims presented by Mr Saounia, Director-General of FAO. At the same time we recommend that the Programme of Work and Budget should concentrate for the next years on the elements connected with the prevention of negative influences on world agricultural production.

In conclusion I would like to express my conviction that the 25th General Conference of the FAO will become an important turning point in the development of the activity of the Food and Agriculture Organization as the largest specialized agency of the UN system, and that it will contribute to the solution of the most urgent problems of mankind and to the strengthening of peace in the world.

**Sakue MATSUMOTO (Japan):** I am greatly honoured to have this opportunity of representing the Japanese Government at this 25th 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, John Charles Kerin, my warmest congratulations for your election as Chairman. I am convinced that, with the benefit of your outstanding knowledge and guidance, this session will yield fruitful results for all member countries.

I should also like to express my sincere gratitude and respects for the FAO Secretariat under the leadership of the Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, particularly for its efforts in the alleviation of hunger and assistance to small farmers and women. In order to solve world food and agricultural problems, I hope that the Secretariat will continue this hard, but important, task.

In the longer perspective, I dare say that we seem to have so many destabilizing factors such as the effect of climatic changes including global warming on agricultural production, swelling world food demand arising from population increase, or conversion of food consumption patterns to more elementary food.

I feel that we should not be too optimistic about the future world food security. My country currently heavily relies on supply from abroad for our food. The self-sufficiency rate of food measured in calorie terms has fallen to as low as 49 percent, which is among the lowest in the developed countries. As a nation which experienced serious food shortage and hunger not so long ago, Japan maintains strong interest in stable supply of world food on the long-term basis. We share concerns about world food security and fully support the efforts made in the belief that each country should produce at least the basic foodstuff within its own territory. We consider it highly necessary for each country to recognize its own role and responsibility in ensuring the world food security and to make utmost efforts by itself, at the same time international cooperation to attain world food security and alleviate hunger and malnutrition should be continued toward the 21st century.

We highly appreciate FAO's initiative to resolve the world food and agricultural problems. My country has been making every possible effort to implement FAO's resolutions and decisions agreed upon by consensus in order to fulfil its responsibility as the second largest contributor to the organization.

Furthermore, I would like to emphasize the important role accomplished by the United Nations and its related agencies for the development of developing countries.

Japan has been improving market access for agricultural commodities. The number of commodity items subjected to import restriction is to decrease from 103 in 1962 to 13 in 1992, taking into account the abolition of import restriction for beef and citrus fruits which was decided last year.

Enlarged food imports resulting from the improvement of the market access has made Japan the largest net importer of agricultural commodities in the world. I am convinced that Japan, as a large and stable importer, has contributed to the progressive growth of the world market.

However, there is concern that this steady increase in agricultural import might have an adverse effect on Japanese agriculture and erode some basic elements for a society which has been sustained by agriculture, namely, national food security, conservation of natural environment, and sound family farms and rural communities.

We are fully aware that the most important task in the Uruguay Round is the formation of a new grade order for agricultural, forest and fishery products through the establishment of "new GATT Rules and Disciplines". In formulating these Rules and Disciplines, we consider it necessary to take fully into consideration such roles played by agriculture, forestry and fisheries such as food security and conservation of environment.

In order to reach a successful conclusion by the end of 1990, we continue to participate actively in the Uruguay Round in order to contribute to the world agricultural trade and to the harmonious development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

We consider that the appropriate management of global environment is the common responsibility imposed on the whole mankind. This sacred task should be carried out jointly in cooperation with the UN System, including FAO and other International Organizations.

We are convinced that, in the field of agriculture, every country is required to pay due attention not only to the economic aspect but also to the maintenance of ecosystem and thus maintain and develop agricultural production in each region, on a stable basis.

My country has been implementing research and studies regarding the effects of global environment on agriculture, forestry and fisheries. We have also participated in multilateral and bilateral research activities such as FAO field projects on the prevention of land degradation and the support for the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticides.

Furthermore, my Government intends to cope with global environmental problems more positively by full use of our own scientific techniques, experience and knowledge.

I should like to touch upon forestry and fisheries, particularly from the viewpoint of sustainable development. The forests - a vital component of the global ecosystem - have always contributed to the welfare of mankind through their various functions, namely, multiple resources, providing a variety of

social, economic and environmental services. However, unfortunately, critical situations such as deforestation of tropical forests, and expanding forest damage caused by acid rains, are underway in many parts of the world at present.

In those circumstances, formulation of national action programmes are in progress under the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, and my country has extended cooperation such as fielding missions and taking budgetary measures. My Government highly appreciates the leading role played by FAO in these activities.

Starting with the rehabilitation of devastated land right after the Second World War, my country has developed more than 10 million hectares of man-made forests.

Also, my country has been striving for forestry development in order to ensure the stable supply of forest products, the conservation of land and the natural environment, while bearing in mind the utilization of forest resources in the interest of the inhabitants in mountain areas.

Japan has extended cooperation in the field of forestry in the form of bilateral cooperation. We are convinced that our cooperation based on these long experiences in forest and forestry (as well as in various research and development) would contribute to the efforts of developing countries in this field.

My Government will continue to support the activities for the formulation of national TFAPs, while trying to intensify bilateral cooperation for forest conservation, afforestation and related researches, as well as further support to the International Tropical Timber Organization and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

I would like to turn to the fisheries issues. Needless to say, fishery products are important protein sources to world food and nutrition. In this regard, my country highly appreciates the Action Plan for Fishery Management and Development adopted by the 1984 World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. We are extending technical and financial assistance to developing countries for the promotion of the fishery sector along the lines of FAO's resolution. We also actively support the continuation of this plan which was considered in the Committee on Fisheries this April.

My country is really interested in the active utilization of fishery resources, while paying attention to their effective conservation. From this point of view, my country anticipates the FAO's efforts for the proper use and conservation of fishery resources by further promoting active coordination between coastal fishery and long-distance fishery countries, such as the initiative by FAO to establish an international organization for resource management of highly migratory species in the Indian Ocean.

On the other hand, I regret the negation of rational utilization of a specific species without scientific evidence, such as in the case of whaling. In the case of the high seas drift net fishery, there is the opinion to prohibit it throughout the world. However, the drift net fishing method is one of the traditional and important fishery methods, widely used in the world. My country considers that restriction on fishery should be based upon sound scientific evidence to facilitate the conservation and rational utilization of fishery resources.



We hope that FAO will review the actual situation of drift net fishery in the world and examine appropriate action for promoting a study on the effect on the ecosystem of practising the method within its capacities, and take a rational approach based on scientific evidence. Here I would like to touch upon the FAO review which is one of the main agenda items in this Conference. My country expects that FAO will play a dynamic role in technical assistance to the developing countries. We also hope that FAO will strengthen its cooperation with other international organizations. For instance, at the GATT Uruguay Round, plant and animal quarantine issues as well as food standards have been taken up. I think it is FAO's obligation to offer assistance to it. In the field of food aid, FAO can efficiently assist the implementation of multilateral food aid by the World Food Programme through mutual cooperation.

More importantly, FAO should strengthen its capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate information from and to member countries while utilizing its scientific knowledge as a world agricultural information centre. As a global agricultural forum FAO also can strengthen its capacity to exert policy advice. As the policy requirements of developing countries diversify reflecting their own background, policy advice must be given based on the specific needs of individual countries.

There is an urgent need for FAO as the outstanding group of agricultural experts, to establish a more effective and efficient system in operating and managing various programmes including field projects. The key is to utilize a trust fund as well as the UNDP fund in implementing the field projects, taking into full account the intentions both of donor and recipient countries. In a large organization like FAO, covering a wide range of agricultural fields including forestry and fisheries, the activities tend to be carried out in a fragmented manner in each specific field. From this viewpoint, inter-sectoral and overall coordination among activities should be implemented. I hope that all delegates get a practical, final report reflecting the essential objectives of the review, and that appropriate reformation will progress along the lines of the final report.

I would like to close this statement by stating that the Government of Japan will continue to participate actively in FAO's activities. We will work together with other member countries and assume our responsibility for resolving worldwide food and agricultural problems.

**Chit SWE (Myanmar):** First of all, may I on behalf of the Myanmar Delegation, offer my warm and sincere congratulations to Mr John Charles Kerin on his unanimous election as Chairman of this august Conference. We fully subscribe to his Chairmanship and are highly confident that the wealth of his wisdom and experience will be of invaluable assistance in steering this Conference to a successful conclusion. At the same time, while expressing our appreciation for the excellent arrangements made by the Secretariat, we would also like to take this opportunity to assure this Conference of the full support and cooperation of the Myanmar Delegation.

We are assembled here once again for the 25th Session. We shall be evaluating and assessing the outlook of the world food situation. In addition, the problems of decreasing export earnings and the associated economic decline of the developing countries will be the focus of attention and intensive discussion. Regretfully, this has become a regular feature; yet it is hoped that the Conference will recognize that the issue has circumstantially become a dire necessity.

The past decades have, on the whole, witnessed substantial progress in agricultural development and significant increases in food production. As a result, global total agricultural trade has registered a sustained increase. The increase in the level of exports, however, has been in favour of the agricultural produce of developed countries. These trends coupled with depressed commodity prices have led to serious balance of payment problems and hindered endeavours for economic development.

World economic performance, after undergoing a slackening growth in the early 1980s, recovered considerably in 1988. Consequently world trade accelerated sharply in 1988. Though the developing countries benefitted partially from the said upsurge, the lion's share was as usual confined mostly to the developed countries.

It is obvious that the deeper causes lie in the persistent problems of severe trade imbalances. These constitute imbalances between developed and developing countries and also the chronic imbalances between some of the developed countries themselves. We appreciate the efforts being undertaken by the industrialized countries in addressing these problems. The magnitude of the issue, however, has not diminished, and has led to intensified protectionist measures and the emergence of regional trade blocks.

At the same time, the export earnings of the majority of developing countries continue to decline. The adverse impacts have steadily eroded their fragile economic foundations and heightened their debt burdens. The debt service crisis has struck certain countries. Many other developing countries may soon be joining the club, if the current trade and monetary practices continue unabated.

At this juncture, kindly permit me to convey our appreciation to the UNCTAD, GATT, IMF, World Bank, ADB and related institutions, which have been resolutely assessing these problems. It is hoped that the candid facts brought to the fore in this forum will accelerate the momentum of their quest for equitable and fair solutions to the world's trade and fiscal imbalances.

On the other hand, the need and urgency for developing countries to restructure their economic framework has also become highly apparent. In recognition of this, the Government of Myanmar in mid-1988 instituted drastic changes in its production, manufacturing and trading policies with the objective of maximizing domestic private sector participation and foreign investment.

In the field of agriculture, the dominant sector of the economy, production and marketing of all crops including paddy have been decontrolled. The farmers have been given latitude to plant the crops of their choice and to trade their produce freely, at prevailing market prices. The necessary requirement of inputs is still being made available by the Government, while the burdensome subsidies are being gradually reduced.

Similar measures have been instituted in the fisheries and forestry sectors. Fishing rights have been granted to local entrepreneurs, with permission for their fishing vessels to export marine products direct at the border areas. These rights are also being extended to foreign enterprises in Myanmar waters on contractual terms.

Certain restrictions imposed on the extraction and trading of timber, other than teak, have been lifted. In addition, arrangements have been undertaken to allow foreign lumber companies to extract teak and hardwood logs direct from border areas. Similarly, permission for the extraction and export of hardwoods, from coastal areas, has also been granted.

In the sphere of external trade, registered private entrepreneurs have been permitted transactions, with the exception of teak, petroleum, natural gas, metals and gems, either individually, in partnership, by way of limited companies or through local or foreign vested joint ventures. A foreign investment law was also enacted in November 1988, as a corollary and impetus to the economic reforms. Meanwhile, trade in a number of commodities has been permitted across land frontiers with certain neighbouring countries.

It is hoped that said dynamic restructuring would accelerate Myanmar's economic growth and create a compatible climate for fuller domestic and external participation. May I now be kindly allowed to present the agricultural situation of our country. A review of the past two years indicates that the performance of the agriculture sector, which had remained strong since the 1970s encountered a setback during 1987-88. In that year the total sown area declined to 23.87 million acres, against a previous peak of 25.89 million acres in 1984-85. The principal drop was in the cultivation of paddy, leading to a decrease of 0.5 million acres and a production loss of 0.40 million tons of paddy.

Remedial measures in the production and marketing of major crops including paddy were accordingly effected during 1987-88 and the rate of agriculture loans for a number of crops were also raised. Consequently, the agricultural performance showed signs of improvement in 1988-89. Weather conditions were favourable; the total sown area increased to 24.60 million acres and with paddy, the major crop, increasing by 0.27 million acres.

The prospects of crop production for the current year have been highly encouraging. It is mainly contributed by the mechanisms of free markets, set in motion last year, and the anticipation of higher farm-gate prices. Accordingly, we have much pleasure in informing this Conference that the forecast of crop production at this juncture is highly favourable.

As a predominantly agriculture country, the livestock and fishery sectors are of high significance; the former, in particular, for the increasing requirements of draught cattle, which still constitute the main source of animal power needed for cultivation and rural transport. Improved methods of breeding, the provision of selected breeds, increased artificial insemination facilities and attentive animal health services will continue to serve as the core in strengthening the livestock infrastructure.

The fisheries sector as a major source of animal protein and hard currency earner has also assumed increasing importance. The potential for inland fisheries development is still vast, and measures are being taken to improve its structure and utilize its resources fully and systematically in conjunction with appropriate laws and regulations. Similarly, the average

annual marine fish catch remains far below the sustainable yields. In accordance with the new economic policy, fishing rights have now been granted to foreign entrepreneurs in order to tap the maximum potential. In this context we wish to assure this Conference that the extent of such fishing rights will be based on resource surveys and exploratory fishing research activities so as to serve as an insurance against the depletion of the marine resources and environmental degradation.

May I now turn to the forestry sector. The forests of Myanmar have been under systematic management for over a century, and we wish to assure this Conference that the said policy will continue to be strictly adhered to. During the past decade about 4550 square miles of high value forests were additionally brought under reservation. Further, 0.24 million acres have been reforested to date, and will continue to be stepped up at the rate of about 80 000 acres annually.

All the same, as a country still inadequate in petroleum-based energy, the pressure on wood fuel has taken tolls on timber resources in certain localized zones. As a counter-measure, extensive acreage of fast-growing tree species are being expanded, while arrangements for the introduction of agroforestry practices have been stepped up. The data obtained from an ongoing UNDP/FAO assisted Forest Resources Inventory Survey will also soon be serving as a basis for a complete and updated management plan covering the silvicultural and production aspects of the changing forestry conditions.

In connection with crop diversification it may not be irrelevant to mention my Government's earnest efforts being carried out for the integrated rural development programme with particular emphasis on crop diversification and overall alleviation of the socio-economic conditions in the remote border areas where opium poppy cultivation has been their livelihood.

The areas under opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar are concentrated in inaccessible highly elevated and heavily forested areas. As a matter of national concern, and as a duty to the international community, the Union of Myanmar has been resolutely waging a war against the opium poppy cultivation and trafficking. The eradication of opium poppy is being carried out through diversification with the free provision of appropriate planting materials and inputs. It is evident that these measures would soon significantly contribute to regional development and the eventual eradication of opium poppy. In this regard, we are most grateful to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control for their assistance rendered to us. We hope the international community would also take cognizance of our sincere attempts and reciprocate with their cooperation and assistance.

The agriculture sector has been given, and continues to be accorded, priority in investment. But the level of investment still remains inadequate, and the declining terms of trade have aggravated the situation further.

In this respect, the need for private and foreign investment has become more imperative. In recognition of this my Government has already paved the way for domestic as well as external participation and it is hoped that the response for cooperation in the development of our agriculture, fisheries and forestry resources will be substantial.

We also would like to take this opportunity of extending our gratitude and sincere thanks to the agencies affiliated to the United Nations and the banking institutions for their consideration and assistance, and also to the respective governments for their generous bilateral and multilateral aid and grants. We highly appreciate their gestures and invaluable contributions.

The FAO has been contributing significantly towards agricultural development. The international food situation has improved appreciably under its policies, and the developing agricultural nations have achieved substantial growth through its assistance and direction.

In spite of these strides, however, most of the developing nations still remain steeped in economic decline. The achievements of the developing nations attained so far are bound to be dissipated if opportunities for fair trade and economic growth remain strangled and limited. We earnestly appeal to the higher values of the industrialized countries to seek solutions to these pressing aspects, and in these endeavours we also look forward to the leadership of FAO.

**Saeed Mohamed AL RAQABANI (United Arab Emirates) (original language Arabic):** Mr Chairman, it is a pleasure for the delegation of the United Arab Emirates to congratulate you on your election to chair this important Conference. I am firmly convinced that you will direct the work of this Conference most ably. I would also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen, hoping that the work of this Session will be crowned with success.

The State of the United Arab Emirates would like to stress most clearly the leading role played by the Food and Agriculture Organization within and outside the United Nations system in tackling problems related to food, agriculture and the environment. This is a noble task with which our brother, Dr Edouard Saouma, is entrusted. We thank him most warmly for establishing in the past strategies and approaches that respond to the aspirations of the international community. FAO has displayed a great deal of insight and has adopted an integrated approach towards agricultural production, food security and the preservation of the environment. The Organization continues its efforts and has strengthened its support in various fields, efforts for which we are most thankful. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to our brother, Lassaad Ben Osman, for his efforts as Independent Chairman of the Council.

The spread and the worsening of malnutrition is gradually attracting increasing interest at the international level. Together with other specialized agencies the FAO has paid major attention to this issue ever since its inception. Evidence shows that malnutrition is likely to remain a major problem well into the 1990s and even beyond.

The reason for such interest, of course, is the seriousness of this issue. Statistics show that half a billion people suffer from hunger. The problem does not lie in the scarcity of food but in its unequal distribution and the serious imbalances between producing countries and those that cannot produce due to circumstances we are all aware of.

Experts are unanimous in saying that one of the main reasons for the worsening of the problem is the distortion of the structure of international trade for the benefit of some and at the expense of others. In this context we strongly support the proposals to convene an international conference on

nutrition. FAO, in view of its mandate and expertise, should call for the convening of such a conference as soon as possible in cooperation with other concerned organizations of the United Nations system, such as the World Health Organization. No doubt this conference would be an opportunity to review the problem and to agree on coordinating corrective measures to make nutrition part and parcel of development strategies. It would be an opportunity to restore the balance in a world divided into societies that indulge in overeating and others that have to go hungry to repay their debts.

We are all well aware of the various techniques invented in some countries to dispose of food surpluses to prevent falling prices instead of transferring them, as is natural, to those countries which are in need of them, and whose conditions did not permit to expand their food production. We had hoped that such abundance would help to deepen the concept of world food security defined by FAO in the 1980s as guaranteeing access to food for each and everyone in sufficient quantities and at all times. We believe that FAO's proposal made a decade ago in this same place has not responded to the expectations of the peoples of the world.

The State of the United Arab Emirates, since its establishment in 1972, has been aware of its full role as a developing country and has begun by implementing an ambitious agricultural policy to achieve more self-sufficiency and to vary the sources of national income in order to contribute at the international level and at the levels of the Arab region and the Gulf in any activities aiming at coordination and complementarity. This is thanks to the wise guidance of his Majesty Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates. The UAE has made contributions in world economic activities through IFAD and its own institutions such as "The Abu Dhabi Fund for Economic Development", "The Abu Dhabi Investment Centre." It also cooperates with Arab States through the "Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa" and the "Arab Fund for Technical Assistance to Arab and African Countries." It cooperates with the Islamic countries through the "Islamic Development Bank." The UAE is also involved, together with other developing countries, in financing joint projects such as bilateral investment companies and companies for agricultural and livestock development. It has also sought to establish friendly relations with Arab States and assisted them in completing agricultural projects and financing irrigation and fisheries projects.

As to external assistance, the United Arab Emirates' contribution ranged between 16 to 20 percent of its national income during past years, a share considered to be one of the highest in the world in this field.

In the recent past, the world celebrated the Ninth World Food Day by shedding light on one of the most important issues of our time, Nutrition and Environment. The UAE took part in this celebration firmly convinced that agricultural development, whose foundations were laid by His Majesty, is a vital necessity and that environmental conservation is an urgent problem requiring a strong will. It is on this basis that our country began the march towards increasing food production without causing pollution or contamination to the environment.

My country managed, in a short period of time, to achieve self-sufficiency in certain foodstuffs such as fish and vegetables and has neared self-sufficiency in some fruit crops, fodder, meat, poultry, eggs, dairy products and even managed to export some of its surpluses.

It has also carried out reforestation projects of vast forestlands, established green belts and issued decisions prohibiting the use of pesticides harmful to human and animal health and the environment. Legislation was also enacted to protect fish resources, and precautions were taken to prohibit the entry of radiated foodstuffs for the protection of the environment and human health.

As to prospects for the 1990s as related to the international debt, flow of resources, trade, the elimination of poverty, the development of human resources and natural resources, these issues are of a scientific, technical, economic and political nature. International organizations sounded the alarm several years ago, and the international community must confront them by adopting short-term, long-term and medium-term policies and measures at both regional and international levels for the benefit of future generations.

The State of the United Arab Emirates cannot hide its concern as to the economic difficulties faced by developing countries, problems related to commodity prices, trades, finances, the external debt and the instability of the international monetary system. We believe that cooperation among developed and developing countries should be based on justice, equity and common interests.

We would like to stress that international economic negotiations for the establishment of a new international economic order will give an impetus to the development process in developing countries.

The support of the agricultural sector means the elimination of want, poverty and famine. It means economic growth and industrialization. It means the preservation of the environment, the restoring of equilibrium among countries at a time during which we are witnessing enormous scientific, economic and agricultural strides forward. I am quite convinced that man is perfectly capable of winning the fight against problems which hamper his efforts provided he is attached to the principle of international cooperation.

Finally, we would like to thank you, Mr Chairman, for your wise guidance in the work of our Conference, and our special thanks go to the Secretariat of the Conference for providing comprehensive and detailed documents.

May God help us in fulfilling all our hopes and aspirations for the benefit of mankind as a whole. May peace and the grace of God be with you.

**Gueorgui MENOV (Bulgarie) (langue originale Bulgare):** Je suis heureux de vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, et de souhaiter à tous les membres de la Conférence beaucoup de succès à l'occasion de la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence. Les deux années qui se sont écoulées depuis notre dernière session n'ont pas été faciles pour l'Organisation.

Ces difficultés étaient dues à des problèmes intérieurs notamment. Cependant, nous estimons que malgré les difficultés financières le Programme 1988/89 a été réalisé dans les grandes lignes, grâce aux efforts déployés par la gestion de l'Organisation, grâce à la coopération de la majorité des Etats Membres, grâce à l'aide des Nations Unies et d'autres organisations internationales.

Un résultat positif à ce sujet a été réalisé par certaines décisions du Secrétariat pour améliorer l'organisation et l'évaluation des projets de terrain, la structure des projets, autant que le renforcement des efforts déployés dans des domaines nouveaux, actuellement importants pour l'agriculture.

C'est avec préoccupation que nous avons pris connaissance de ce qu'a fait le Conseil, de ce qu'ont fait d'autres organes de la FAO, de ce qu'ont dit les pays membres, à savoir que, hélas, on n'a pas pu accomplir de véritables progrès dans le secteur de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans les pays en développement, même si, dans telle ou telle région, certains succès ont été obtenus. Cela est dû à la situation dans ces pays, cela est dû au fait qu'il n'y a pas eu de modifications qualitatives à l'échelle mondiale, tout d'abord sur le plan de la dette et ensuite sur les marchés internationaux.

Comme le rapport du Conseil le dit au sujet de la situation agricole et alimentaire dans le monde, la production des aliments de base en 1989 a diminué par rapport à l'ensemble de la consommation.

Les stocks mondiaux également sont à un niveau alarmant, les prix des céréales sur les marchés internationaux ont fortement augmenté et cela pose des problèmes de plus en plus importants aux pays importateurs les plus pauvres. Pourquoi ? Parce qu'ils n'ont de ressources financières que limitées. Entre-temps, un certain nombre de revenus agricoles sont restés bas si on les compare aux prix des produits industriels et il est évident que cela a réduit les possibilités d'importation de la part de certains pays et que les pays exportateurs eux non plus ne peuvent pas vendre puisqu'ils n'ont pas d'acheteurs.

Si on veut vraiment résoudre de manière durable ces problèmes aigus d'alimentation, il faut introduire des méthodes modernes, efficaces et qui ne nuisent pas au milieu. Mais le facteur humain jouera un rôle déterminant dans cette voie.

Pour nous la session actuelle de la Conférence devra discuter et trancher un certain nombre de problèmes très importants pour l'avenir de l'agriculture et de l'apport alimentaire. La collaboration en vue d'une stratégie internationale de développement dans le cadre des négociations du GATT, pour les programmes de terrain, les ressources phytogénétiques, l'utilisation des pesticides, etc., tout cela nous paraît très important. Au cours de la présente session, nous devons donner priorité à l'adoption du Programme de travail et budget pour 1990/91. Ce Programme a été préparé avec compétence en équilibrant utilement les besoins et les possibilités. La discussion finale qui aura lieu à la Conférence devrait trouver le moyen de renforcer la collaboration entre pays européens en matière de recherche. Il serait utile de créer un réseau de recherche par exemple sur l'élevage des buffles. Comme vous le savez, en 1991 un congrès mondial sur ce point aura lieu en Bulgarie précisément.

A notre avis, la FAO devrait s'engager fermement à soutenir cette Conférence, à l'aider, ce qui serait très bénéfique pour les pays membres.

Les pays européens doivent aussi collaborer davantage en matière de nutrition ou de protection de l'environnement, ce qui permettra d'ailleurs de renforcer la collaboration avec d'autres régions. Nous nous félicitons de ce qui a été proposé, à savoir organiser une conférence mondiale de l'Alimentation en 1993; ce projet serait discuté aux conférences régionales dès 1990.



Notre délégation appuiera des propositions visant à améliorer la structure et les fonctions de l'Organisation pour que soient créées des conditions d'une gestion vraiment efficace pour une bonne répartition des ressources, afin que la FAO soit mieux apte à résoudre les problèmes du développement agricole, dans tous les pays et dans toutes les régions.

Nous attachons aussi de l'importance à la participation de la FAO à la préparation de la nouvelle stratégie internationale du développement durant la quatrième décennie des Nations Unies. Pour nous la FAO devrait épauler ces efforts qui vont dans un sens pratique, avec des objectifs réalistes, concrets, compte tenu des vrais problèmes de développement que connaissent actuellement les pays. Selon nous, la session spéciale des Nations Unies sur la coopération économique internationale, qui aura lieu en 1990, permettra de bien centrer l'effort de recherche pour trouver une solution à ces problèmes de la faim, de la malnutrition, de la pauvreté.

La République populaire de Bulgarie participe aux activités de la FAO dans la mesure de ses moyens et, selon ce qui est devenu une tradition, nous continuerons de compter sur l'assistance et sur les perspectives de la FAO dans le développement de nos propres sciences et pratiques agricoles. Je rappelle que la session spéciale de la FAO et de la CEE sur les structures agraires et sur la rationalisation des exploitations a eu lieu à Varna, en septembre, avec des participants des pays européens. Nous avons eu d'ailleurs des cours de formation pour des experts agricoles venant de pays en développement.

En fait, notre pays a été une barrière empêchant certaines infections et maladies de passer la frontière et de pénétrer en Europe. Nous avons d'ailleurs un Institut créé en Europe avec l'aide de la FAO et du PNUD mais peut-être n'a-t-on pas assez tiré parti de ces fonds pour intégrer notre pays dans le réseau de collaboration avec les pays en développement.

Notre gouvernement souhaite tout particulièrement étoffer sa collaboration dans les secteurs que nous avons évoqués ici. Nous voulons aussi participer à des projets techniques de la FAO dans notre pays pour une collaboration en matière d'élevage, de sélections végétales, de forêts, de pêches et d'aquacultures.

Dans notre pays l'agriculture a pratiquement transformé de manière radicale la situation; de nouvelles formes économiques et d'organisation dans la gestion des terres ont été créées, il s'agit d'assurer une plus grande autonomie, un plus grand intérêt des paysans. Différents types d'exploitations ont été créés, autonomes ou non autonomes, par exemple pour stimuler l'initiative et l'intérêt des producteurs. Le gouvernement veut encourager ces productions par des facilités en matière d'impôts, avec des taux d'intérêt favorables, des règlements sur les prix, etc.

Les résultats économiques de cette année nous laissent entendre que les fondations sont maintenant en place pour que l'agriculture se développe au cours de la période qui s'ouvre actuellement.

La population du globe se trouve menacée par la pollution de l'air, de la terre et des eaux; il faut préserver ce milieu naturel, c'est essentiel pour que l'humanité survive.

Nous constatons avec plaisir que c'est là un problème sur lequel l'Organisation se penche tout particulièrement elle aussi. Les représentants de tous les pays européens, lors de la réunion intergouvernementale à Sofia tout récemment, ont bien souligné l'importance de ce problème et des mesures ont été proposées pour ce qui est des efforts des gouvernements et de l'effort international.

La FAO devrait continuer de renforcer la collaboration dans le secteur de l'environnement. Les pays sont conscients de ces problèmes. Ils savent que c'est essentiel dans le sanitaire si l'on veut que l'agriculture progresse.

Des événements internationaux se sont produits au cours des dernières années; ils devraient permettre d'apporter des mesures encore plus décisives pour lutter contre le retard dans le secteur agricole. Notre pays se félicite des relations améliorées entre l'Union soviétique et les Etats-Unis.

D'autre part, à la Conférence sur la sécurité et la coopération en Europe, il y a des progrès. Ceci nous inspire de l'optimisme. On devrait pouvoir trouver une solution utile aux problèmes du désarmement. Ainsi, des ressources considérables seront libérées, ressources que l'on pourra consacrer au développement et en priorité, bien entendu, dans le secteur de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. J'en viens à ma conclusion. Mon pays est bien persuadé que cette vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence permettra de faire un pas en avant et un pas important pour le développement agricole et pour résoudre les problèmes alimentaires du monde. Je vous remercie.

**Colin J. MOYLE (New Zealand):** I would, at the outset, like to congratulate my friend and colleague from Australia, John Kerin, on his election to the chairmanship of this year's Conference. I know he wants to see this organization healthy and effective, and its work advanced. I wish him well, in that.

Mr Chairman, when we note that FAO is currently covering more than 2 500 field projects, we simply must see that our priorities are right and that we are not spreading our resources too thinly to do essential jobs well. We do have to ask whether low priority activities can be discontinued so that we can redirect resources to new priorities. We do have to ask whether all practicable steps have been taken to improve coordination and communication. We do have to check that our field activities are adequately integrated with those of other UN bodies. Most of all, we simply must keep on demanding that the accounting methods give us a clear picture of our spending and its effectiveness.

This call for more effective, more careful and better targetted spending is not an attack on the professionalism of FAO staff, or a demand that they do less. It simply reflects the pressure on all governments to target spending on jobs and priorities that taxpayers can understand and support. We are not being asked to curtail essential work or developments; we are each being challenged to use the resources entrusted to us more effectively, so that we can do more overall.

I am heartened to see the growing acceptance that agricultural trade must be based on exploiting the comparative advantages each country may have.

In promoting the cause of liberalized agricultural trade, New Zealand has never asked for one set of rules for itself and another for everyone else. We have accepted the fact that reform of agricultural policy is never easy, but global reforms must begin at home.

Over the last five or more years, the New Zealand Government has carried through a set of economic reforms aimed to promote greater competition, to improve efficiency, to adjust production systems to what markets will pay and to remove the distortions that obscure the choices farmers must make when deciding what they are going to produce and how much. We have reduced tariff protection across the board. We have eliminated practically all forms of support for domestic agriculture. We have liberalized and deregulated, and are now decentralizing, our economy. It is largely market forces that now influence production and investment decisions in our agriculture.

This adjustment process has not been without its pain, but we could see that interventions by government had developed into intricate webs of subsidies that were too complex and too costly to justify or even manage. Reform became essential. We believe that the benefits of reform will far outweigh short-term adjustment problems. We have proved that there is life after subsidies, and our farmers are better off knowing just what they are farming for.

I believe firmly, that such reforms are necessary before we, as the team of agricultural ministers from all countries, can decide together how to harness and connect our production systems to meet the challenge of adequately feeding ever more people. This brings me to the question of global reform and liberalization of agricultural trade.

It is not enough for each of us to improve the flexibility, responsiveness, and efficiency of our own production systems. We must do better when we put our systems together.

You will know what critical importance New Zealand puts on the current round of multi-lateral negotiations. It is the first time nations have ever agreed to include agriculture at all. We now have the first real opportunity to negotiate meaningful reform of domestic and international trade policies for agriculture. We can dispense with the nonsense of having one set of rules for agriculture and another for industrial trade. Since the GATT Round of negotiations were launched some three years ago, New Zealand and other members of the Cairns Group have worked hard to promote agreement on fundamental reforms. Based now on our own experience, we are certain that competitive, market-led world systems of agriculture will best serve the common, long-term needs of all countries - both developed and developing. New Zealand must therefore commend the role FAO is adopting in furthering the objectives of the GATT negotiations on agriculture. We recommend these steps to all members and we congratulate the United States on the recent policy statement in this regard.

I would like to turn now to the issue of sustainable development. This is one of the most vital issues all of us have to face and resolve. In evolving patterns of sustainable agriculture, forestry and fishing, our interdependence is obvious. Each of us may find our responsibilities in our own countries onerous enough: but like it or not, as ministers we must also admit to global responsibilities. The job of feeding the world while sustaining the capacity to keep on doing so, is a job that will not wait.

One of the issues that highlights our responsibilities is that of drift-net fishing. It is of great concern to New Zealand and to all other members of the Southwest Pacific. Many of the small island states depend on the sea to keep on feeding them - it provides both their livelihood and their sustenance. It gives them access to migratory species of tuna. For many of them the growth of an indigenous tuna fishing industry holds out some of the best prospects for self-sustaining economic development.

South Pacific tuna stocks are coming under increasing pressure, as catches by distant-water fishing operators grow. The most dramatic threat comes from large-scale pelagic drift-netting.

I am talking about nets of up to 50 kilometres long, set in lines across the ocean each night, left to drift and catch almost all living creatures in their path. They catch not just target tuna species but other fish, seals, dolphins, whales, turtles and sea birds. Nets lost at sea last for a long time and go on catching and killing marine life indiscriminately while they last.

I am talking about these nets at a time when those of us responsible for fishing are developing sophisticated management regimes that try to balance the harvesting against the recruitment of each species. I am talking about the use of nets that ignore or blatantly defy all of those techniques being used to bring concepts of sustainable development to life in fisheries management.

The use of large-scale drift-netting in the South Pacific, in the way it plunders stocks now without measuring what is needed for the future, is environmental piracy.

In the way it threatens the livelihood of small island states, without giving them any say in the matter, it is economic piracy and cannot be allowed to continue. We must develop procedures for saying so and taking action. Let me say briefly what we have done so far to develop such procedures. The South Pacific countries have taken measures to stop drift-netting in their own Exclusive Economic Zones. The Tarawa declaration sought support for the South Pacific position. The Commonwealth heads of government, meeting recently in Malaysia, urged the abandonment of this disastrous practice. South Pacific representatives will meet this month to consider a convention banning the use of drift-nets by their own nationals on the high seas. They will begin discussions with distant water fishing nations on a management regime for albacore tuna in the region. With the United States, they will ask the United Nations to support an immediate ban on drift-netting in the South Pacific. Such a resolution is before the United Nations at present.

I hope all members of FAO will support this resolution. New Zealand looks to FAO to respond to these concerns and to see them reflected in its work programmes.

We, in this forum, have inherited the responsibility of feeding populations that are still growing. We cannot abdicate the field to those concerned only with conserving the environment but who are less ready to take on the responsibility for feeding the people in it. That is what sustainable development means.

Let me sum up, by urging that calls for reforms in the way we operate FAO must be pressed forward with vigour. Reform of our operations is not an attack on our staff; it is a prerequisite if we are to have any chance of obtaining more support for FAO. It is a prerequisite too if we are to be honest to ourselves and FAO's goals. The job to be done is immense.

We must each demonstrate to our own people the need to reform our own agricultures as we call for world reforms. We must also get them to accept that economic development is wider in scope than economic growth alone. The reforms each of us must carry out at home now have to be done in the context of global responsibilities. These responsibilities require new patterns for agricultural trade, uncluttered by subsidies, and trade barriers, and require practical and working models for sustainable development.

Mr Chairman, in your opening comments you reminded us that ministers of agriculture usually don't last very long. You and I and a handful of others are among the longer serving ministers of agriculture. I am stepping down next year after almost a decade in the hot seat, so perhaps you will permit me a few words of advice.

Time is short for ministers of agriculture and time is short for the world to find solutions to the problems that face us.

So while you are here my colleagues - whether your time is short or not -remember to make it effective. This forum is not a bunch of foreign office diplomats.

Don't pussy-foot around - don't be afraid to cast the odd rock into the international pool of smugness, complacency and excuses. Excuses are not reasons. The problems of the undernourished and underprivileged will not be solved by excuses, pontification, food aid, pop concerts or charities. What they need is the means to produce and the right to sell that production in a free and fair market. I believe that this GATT round gives us that chance -let us take it.

Our thanks to Italy - our hosts - the home of much of the world's great Art. Michelangelo's "David" inspires the world. Our agriculture - your countries' and mine- can feed the world, so long as our agriculture is coupled with fair trade, then we can and we will feed the world.

**Thomas MAPOUKA (République centrafricaine):** Monsieur le Président, Excellences Messieurs les Ministres, Excellences Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Mesdames et Messieurs les Délégués et Observateurs, Mesdames et Messieurs.

Permettez-moi de présenter à l'introduction de mon intervention les congratulations les plus vives de la délégation centrafricaine à l'endroit du Président pour sa brillante élection.

Monsieur le Président, votre élection à la présidence de la présente Conférence est le résultat conséquent de votre dévouement manifeste à la cause des déshérités. La République centrafricaine par ma voix vous prie d'accepter ses vives félicitations et souhaite que de cette session placée sous votre autorité sortent des décisions porteuses d'espoir pour auréoler à jamais votre auguste personne.

Cette 25ème session de la Conférence de la FAO nous réunit à un moment où le poids du service de la dette a atteint un niveau insupportable pour la quasi-totalité des pays en voie de développement, pour ne pas citer les pays les moins avancés qui, eux, en sont déjà à une asphyxie.

Les termes de l'échange se sont considérablement détériorés, rendant l'avenir hypothétique.

Depuis deux ans, les cours mondiaux des principaux produits d'exportation connaissent d'amples fluctuations; c'est le cas du coton, du café, du cacao et autres qui assurent l'essentiel des revenus monétaires de plus de 80 pour cent de la population du tiers monde.

Parlant de mon pays, la République centrafricaine, le gouvernement a toujours consenti d'énormes efforts pour garantir un revenu acceptable aux paysans qui représentent 85 pour cent de la population en s'endettant auprès des bailleurs de fonds, non pour des investissements mais pour subventionner la production des principaux produits agricoles d'exportation.

Parlant du café et du coton, rien que pour ces deux spéculations, le gouvernement a consenti 9 milliards de FCFA pour l'année 1988 et 6 milliards pour 1989.

A bout d'efforts, le gouvernement a été contraint de réduire presque de moitié le prix d'achat aux producteurs du café, comme tant d'autres pays. Cette décision, bien que courageuse, entraînera des conséquences multiples, notamment la baisse du niveau de vie des masses rurales déjà déshéritées.

C'est pourquoi la mise au point d'arrangements efficaces pour stabiliser l'offre et assurer des cours mondiaux rémunérateurs doit demeurer la préoccupation majeure de la Communauté internationale. Encore mieux, ces arrangements doivent constituer un objectif prioritaire.

Malgré les dispositions prises pour rentabiliser les productions d'exportation au niveau des paysans, malgré les divers programmes d'ajustement structurel auxquels plusieurs Africains et Latino-Américains se sont engagés dans l'espoir d'assainir leur économie, les résultats enregistrés restent minimes, voire aléatoires.

A toutes ces situations s'ajoutent d'autres facteurs qui pénalisent l'avenir du tiers monde. Je veux citer la menace acridienne, la malnutrition, l'analphabétisme, les effets pervers de la sécheresse, l'insuffisance de la couverture sanitaire et j'en passe.

La République centrafricaine s'est toujours préoccupée des problèmes liés à la bonne alimentation, à l'amélioration du niveau de vie (de l'humanité). Non seulement elle appuie la politique alimentaire de la FAO en organisant des manifestations qui regroupent tout le pays le 16 octobre autour du Représentant de la FAO en République centrafricaine pour la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation depuis son instauration en 1981, mais elle recherche les voies et moyens susceptibles de la conduire vers un développement intégré et intégral.

C'est ainsi que pour le suivi de la table ronde de Genève en 1987, présidée par Son Excellence le Général d'armée André Kolingba, Président de la République, Chef de l'Etat, Président fondateur du rassemblement démocratique centrafricain et qui a réuni les principaux partenaires, il a été organisé à Bangui du 20 au 24 juin 1989, une consultation sectorielle sur le développement rural.

Lors de cette sectorielle, la République centrafricaine a réaffirmé que l'agriculture reste et demeure le principal moteur de sa croissance économique et que sa politique de développement rural vise à:

- assurer l'autosuffisance alimentaire,
- augmenter les exportations,
- améliorer le niveau de vie en milieu rural.

Elle a réaffirmé par ailleurs sa volonté de décentraliser l'économie nationale, notamment par une approche régionale de développement rural intégré en se fondant sur une démarche du type "systèmes de production". La cohérence globale de cette approche sera assurée dans le cadre de politiques et programmes nationaux. Ces politiques concerneront notamment:

- la mise en valeur et la préservation des ressources naturelles,
- le crédit agricole et rural,
- la recherche,
- la vulgarisation,
- la formation,
- l'aménagement rural,
- la promotion du monde rural à travers les groupements avec un accent particulier sur l'organisation des femmes qui jouent un rôle prépondérant dans les activités agropastorales.

Les bailleurs de fonds ont dans l'ensemble répondu favorablement en faisant des déclarations d'intention dont nous attendons la concrétisation sur le terrain suivant un plan d'action comportant trois phases d'exécution:

- à court terme: 1989-1990,
- à moyen terme: 1991-1995,
- et à long terme: 1996 à l'an 2000.

Il va sans dire que la réalisation d'un tel plan d'action ne peut se faire sans le précieux concours de tous les pays amis, des organisations non gouvernementales et des institutions financières à qui nous lançons un vibrant appel pour leurs généreuses subventions et des prêts à conditions douces.

D'ores et déjà, nous rendons hommage au Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD) pour avoir accepté de financer et d'organiser ces consultations qui ont permis de diagnostiquer les principales contraintes du développement rural de la République centrafricaine et de proposer des solutions thérapeutiques sur lesquelles nous fondons de réels espoirs pour le devenir de notre économie.

Les Comités chargés de l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO ont conclu, en ce qui concerne les finalités de la FAO, que "45 ans après la création de la FAO, le souci des Etats Membres est bien:

- d'élever le niveau de la nutrition et les conditions de vie des populations placées sous leur juridiction respective;

- d'améliorer le rendement de la production et l'efficacité de la répartition de tous les produits agricoles et alimentaires;
- d'améliorer la condition des populations rurales;
- et ainsi de contribuer à l'expansion de l'économie mondiale et de libérer l'humanité de la faim".

Les Comités ont estimé que "cette conception de la FAO se justifie toujours et qu'il n'est pas nécessaire d'apporter des modifications aux grandes finalités que lui assigne le préambule de son Acte constitutif".

C'est en respect de ces principes que la FAO, lors de la Consultation sectorielle, s'est engagée à intervenir en République centrafricaine dans divers domaines, notamment:

- la définition des politiques,
- la mise en place d'un plan de développement de l'élevage à moyen et long termes,
- la recherche sur la chimiorésistance afin de prévenir les effets pervers de l'utilisation massive des trypanocides,
- l'appui au projet de conservation des ressources naturelles,
- l'assistance préparatoire au programme de formation avec l'assistance de la Banque mondiale et du Fonds des Nations Unies et de l'équipement (FENU),
- l'étude pour la mise en place d'un institut national de recherche agronomique et forestière pour ne citer que celle-là.

Le Directeur général de la FAO, depuis son investiture à la tête de notre Organisation, a toujours su prêter une attention particulière aux sollicitations de nos Etats malgré la crise qui n'épargne aucune institution aussi philanthropique soit-elle. Qu'il retrouve ici l'expression de notre reconnaissance et notre profonde gratitude.

Je vous parlais tantôt des effets pervers de la sécheresse et de la malnutrition. Ces fléaux constituent une réelle menace dans les pays du tiers monde. La République centrafricaine profite de l'occasion qui lui est offerte pour saluer les nobles efforts du Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) en faveur de nos populations déshéritées et fait appel à la générosité des donateurs d'accroître leur aide en dépit de la conjoncture économique défavorable, tout en souhaitant que ces aides soient ponctuelles et réorientées vers des investissements durables pour la survie des concernés.

Voilà les quelques réflexions que j'ai tenu à apporter à nos débats en ce moment opportun et crucial où nous devons rechercher les voies et moyens susceptibles de nous aider à affronter un environnement international particulièrement défavorable qui ne tend qu'à annihiler les efforts de nos braves paysans.



En effet, le faible taux de croissance de l'économie lié à la chute inexorable des cours de nos produits d'exportation, les déséquilibres des finances publiques et de la balance des paiements, le faible taux d'investissement demeurent nos préoccupations quotidiennes.

Dans le cadre de cette vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence de la FAO je lance un appel à tous les partenaires du tiers monde pour continuer à l'aider à rechercher des solutions à court, moyen et long termes aux problèmes de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture pour la survie de l'humanité.

Je vous remercie.

**Monseigneur A. FERRARI-TONIOLO (Observateur du Saint-Siège):** Monsieur le Président de la Conférence, Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Qu'il soit permis à l'Observateur permanent que je suis de témoigner par la présente intervention son appréciation pour le travail quotidien de la FAO qu'il suit constamment. Il effectue une évaluation attentive du point de vue moral des initiatives et des critères, notamment ceux qui sont adoptés dans cette Conférence générale, dans une vision universelle répondant à la mission de l'Eglise, et en vous soumettant toutefois des remarques et des suggestions spécifiques qui se réfèrent à certains points de l'ordre du jour.

De cet intérêt continu de l'Eglise à fournir l'élaboration d'une doctrine appropriée et mise à jour, répondant aux engagements de justice dans la solidarité pour le développement économique et le progrès civil, témoigne aussi le récent Colloque d'étude sur "La science pour le développement dans une structure de solidarité" réalisé par l'Académie Pontificale des Sciences. Dans cette rencontre il y avait la présence de savants, d'experts et de personnalités éminentes du monde entier, ainsi que des responsables des nombreuses organisations intergouvernementales qui sont appelées à agir dans le cadre d'une coopération convergente pour le développement et la lutte complexe contre la faim.

Je dois tout d'abord me féliciter avec la FAO pour la préparation en temps utile de la documentation préparatoire de cette vingt-cinquième session et pour la possibilité qui nous est ainsi offerte d'effectuer une évaluation attentive du bilan tant relative au Programme ordinaire qu'au Programme sur le terrain pour les deux ans 1988-89 (C 88/89 et 89/4), et surtout d'affronter l'examen détaillé des différents points du Programme de travail et budget pour les deux ans qui vont suivre 1990/91 (C 89/3, C 89/3-Sup.1 et C 89/3-Sup.2). De surcroît, il nous est permis de connaître en temps opportun la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, non seulement par le document annuel principal présenté dans ce lieu (C 89/2) avec les plus récentes mises à jour (C 89/2-Sup.1 et 2), mais aussi par rapport aux problématiques les plus significatives sur les différents aspects et facteurs du développement agricole et alimentaire et en ce qui concerne la révision de certains buts et opérations de la FAO (C 89/21).

Je tiens à souligner que la FAO satisfait ainsi au but de service des Etats Membres selon sa principale activité statutaire de documentation mise à jour et communiquée en temps utile, sur la réalité productive et sur les réserves agricoles et alimentaires. Il faut rappeler que l'estime et l'appréciation

positive de la FAO sont dues avant tout en vertu de son efficacité par rapport à ce but primaire de documentation et d'orientation de l'action de politique intérieure et internationale, et non pas seulement en se référant à la réalisation de ses propres activités opérationnelles. De cette manière l'on favorise la formulation de programmes et de projets sur demande des gouvernements de ses Etats Membres; la précision de l'amplitude à conférer à l'assistance technique relative; les propositions pour l'action commune et pour les initiatives visant des objectifs spécifiques adoptés par la Conférence générale.

Il est vrai aussi que, louablement, la FAO favorise la détection des différents facteurs proches et lointains à appliquer au moment de la réalisation des projets concrets formulés au service des gouvernements, surtout celui de plus en plus important des financements correspondants. Il m'est agréable dans ce sens de souligner la grande opportunité de la célébration qui a été faite le 13 juin 1989 dans ce siège central de la FAO, pour les vingt ans de l'organe spécial préposé aux financements qui est le "FAO Investment Centre". On a pu à cette occasion mieux évaluer l'ampleur croissante de l'apport réalisé au cours de ces dernières années.

Naturellement il n'échappe pas à l'Observateur Permanent du Saint-Siège à quel point il est important que soit garantie la participation active des Etats Membres par leur concours continu de manière à assurer non seulement l'analyse et l'approbation des différents aspects du Programme ordinaire, mais aussi l'attention constante aux réalisations de ce qui est décidé dans cette Assemblée.

Je ne peux me dispenser de remarquer - ainsi qu'il nous a été justement signalé - qu'il est urgent même de la part des Etats Membres de reconnaître concrètement leur obligation de contribution annuelle pour le budget ordinaire de la FAO et le versement régulier de celle-ci. Il faut déplorer de graves retards dans les paiements, qui sont d'autant moins compréhensibles lorsqu'ils sont le fait de pays grands et prospères, qu'ils obligent à de néfastes limitations des activités des programmes déjà prévus, et empêchent d'assurer d'éventuels financements additionnels en vue des initiatives suggérées dans les évaluations des buts et opérations de la FAO (C 89/21) en tant que développement nécessaire pour le futur.

Une préoccupation plus grave est provoquée par la tendance de certains Etats à réduire leur soutien aux plus importantes organisations internationales intergouvernementales, en abandonnant même parfois leur position d'Etat Membre, ce qui fait manquer aussi une partie importante du budget ordinaire.

Qu'il me soit permis aussi de mettre en relief qu'au cours de ces derniers temps est de plus en plus évidente l'utilité que l'on réalise une coordination entre les organisations et les organismes qui opèrent directement dans le domaine du développement agricole et alimentaire. A l'apport qualifié et continu de la FAO s'ajoutent en effet l'action spécifique de l'IFAD pour les investissements en agriculture et l'importance de l'aide alimentaire de la part de cet organisme interinstitutionnel des Nations Unies et de la FAO qu'est le Programme Alimentaire Mondial. En faisant référence à ce dernier il faudrait que dans l'activité du PAM soit rendue une amplitude prédominante au soutien des programmes de développement continu, plutôt qu'au concours pour les urgences qui est devenu trop important en pourcentage par rapport aux moyens mis à disposition.

Et il ne faut pas négliger l'invitation aux gouvernements des Etats Membres à donner une plus grande place aux tâches de définition annuelle des lignes de la politique internationale et intérieure pour la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition confiée à la rencontre des Ministres de l'Agriculture auprès du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, avec le Secrétariat correspondant. La FAO, l'IFAD et le PAM doivent confirmer leur disponibilité à participer au CMA à l'égard des tâches de coordination qui sont confiées à celui-ci, sans obliger à recourir à d'autres structures additionnelles.

Cela permettrait une utilisation plus ordonnée du concours à la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition pour laquelle on reconnaît désormais l'apport spécifique et nécessaire de plus de 25 institutions du système des Nations Unies.

Il paraît opportun de souligner certains points spécifiques rappelés dans la partie que cette session dédie aux tendances et politiques principales en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture.

Les problèmes de l'ajustement agricole international trouvent d'utiles indications dans le document C 89/18 qui se réfère à certaines lignes d'orientation - parmi les 12 déjà approuvées dans la Conférence générale de la FAO de 1975 (Résolution 9/75) - et qui se rattache à la synthèse précieuse offerte sur des faits nouveaux intervenus dans le Système des Nations Unies (C 89/9) et spécifiquement au rapport intermédiaire sur les négociations commerciales du GATT.

La tentative d'une évaluation sur l'évolution récente des politiques agricoles qui ont une incidence sur le commerce international (C 89/18, par. 3-21) est d'une actualité remarquable.

On fournit des éléments mis à jour sur les retours préoccupants de formes différentes du protectionnisme dans le commerce agricole et sur la continuité de mesures particulières de contingentement et de soutien à certains produits, en créant de nouveaux obstacles dans les échanges et dans l'accès aux marchés par rapport aux pays en voie de développement.

L'appel à prêter l'attention qui leur est due aux accords initiaux obtenus dans les négociations multilatérales au milieu de l'Uruguay Round dans le cadre du GATT (C 89/23) paraît opportun.

Naturellement on accueille avec juste intérêt la conclusion d'un ensemble de lignes qui paraissent en accord avec des critères de justice dans la solidarité en ce qui concerne la réglementation des rapports commerciaux dans le domaine de l'agriculture. Se dessine ainsi un système plus équitable de commerce des produits agricoles qui soit basé sur le marché. On souhaite que le processus successif prévu parvienne à des réductions progressives et substantielles dans les politiques de soutien à l'agriculture, de manière à remédier aux restrictions et aux distorsions qui se manifestent dans les marchés agricoles mondiaux et à les prévenir.

Dans cette deuxième partie de l'Uruguay Round il faudra réaliser des accords multilatéraux ultérieurs et plus précis qui donnent lieu à une réglementation inspirée aux principes directeurs de la réforme et aux éléments à long terme, rapportée aussi aux applications à court terme.

On rappelle que les participants à ces négociations se sont engagés dans l'immédiat à ne pas dépasser les niveaux actuels de protection du secteur agricole sur le plan intérieur et à l'exportation, et à faire en sorte que les obstacles tarifaires et non tarifaires ne soient pas intensifiés et ne soient pas étendus à d'autres produits.

Il est évident qu'il serait important que non seulement la FAO dans son ensemble, mais chacun des Etats Membres singulièrement, participant aux négociations, se sentent sincèrement engagés à définir la réglementation esquissée du commerce agricole international.

En ce qui concerne la stabilité du marché mondial des produits agricoles et des prix rémunérateurs, je me borne à me référer - plutôt qu'aux accords internationaux sur les produits individuels - à l'institution de mécanismes multilatéraux particuliers pour faire accroître le soutien à la commercialisation effective et stable des produits agricoles.

Il faut noter que l'UNCTAD a rendu opératoire le Fonds commun institué pour le Programme intégré des produits de base. Il paraît intéressant de remarquer qu'à ce fonds commun participent par leurs apports conjoints tant des pays en voie de développement que des pays développés.

En outre en raison de la diminution de la disponibilité d'aliments au niveau global mondial on a constaté une réduction des réserves qui représentent un soutien décisif dans les moments de demandes particulières de produits.

On a ainsi réduit l'apport de la Réserve Alimentaire Internationale d'Urgence (RAIU) gérée par le Programme Alimentaire Mondial.

Il s'avère nécessaire par contre que par une solidarité effective à laquelle tous les pays apportent leur contribution, surtout les plus développés et hautement producteurs, on assure des niveaux de sécurité alimentaire convenables. Il faut favoriser le concours extérieur, même moyennant une action d'organes multilatéraux et désintéressés, à la constitution de fonds de sécurité nationale dans chaque pays.

Il faut encourager les mesures prises dans le but d'accroître les investissements dans le domaine agricole. Quant à l'aide extérieure provenant de sources de financements tant bilatérales que multilatérales (C 89/18, par. 40-50), il est opportun de se rapporter davantage aux investissements qui constituent de véritables aides financières.

On souhaiterait mettre en lumière un éclaircissement - utile surtout aux informateurs de l'opinion publique - pour une évaluation plus objective et précise de la portée des revendications qui sont faites de manière trop générale et indifférenciée de la part des gouvernements et de la part des populations.

En affrontant la problématique de l'endettement extérieur de chaque pays, il faut avant toute chose reconnaître que les dettes croissantes de chaque pays proviennent d'une multiplicité de causes, surtout des facteurs rattachés aux importations et aux exportations des produits agricoles et à la balance des paiements subséquente.

Il faudrait essayer d'éviter l'attribution globale et générale de l'endettement aux emprunts provenant des organisations multilatérales.

C'est de plus un devoir que de distinguer, dans le cadre de l'endettement extérieur, les dettes provenant de prêts consentis par des banques commerciales privées et leurs taux d'intérêt élevés, des dettes provenant des banques qui opèrent par la voie multilatérale. Ces dernières mettent en oeuvre des étalements graduels des charges, tant en ce qui concerne les périodes de délai pour le remboursement du capital prêté qu'en ce qui concerne les intérêts, définis plutôt en tenant compte des conditions économiques et financières des pays qui y accèdent.

A ce propos il faut louer les recommandations précises et actuelles proposées dans le document de mise à jour rédigé par la FAO pour ce qui est des opérations de prêts et de contributions de la part des différentes formes bancaires (C 89/9, par. 59-76).

Au niveau mondial donc il existe d'efficaces opérations de financement du Fonds monétaire international et de la Banque mondiale et des filiales relatives, qui soutiennent des projets d'investissement tant public que privé dans les pays en voie de développement même à des conditions de faveur particulières.

On y retrouve en effet non seulement la référence à l'Organisation intergouvernementale de la Banque mondiale (IBRD), mais aussi les données concrètes relatives aux opérations de l'Association internationale pour le développement (IDA) dont les prêts à des conditions de faveur au cours de l'année fiscale 1988-89 se chiffrent à presque 5 milliards de dollars E.-U. (C 89/9, par. 61-66).

On y cite aussi l'autre filiale de la Banque mondiale - la Société financière internationale (IFC) - qui finance directement des entreprises privées à des conditions d'étalement graduel compte tenu de la situation dans les pays en voie de développement.

On fait remarquer de surcroît qu'à de telles opérations se sont ajoutés des fonds fiduciaires spécifiques provenant d'institutions bilatérales comme Pays-Bas, Canada, Italie, Suisse, Etats-Unis et CEE.

Dans une autre partie du document (C 89/9, par. 71-76), on donne un juste relief aux formes bancaires régionales aussi, auxquelles il faut ajouter les établissements bancaires reliés aux organisations internationales de zone et de regroupement qui sont en train d'assumer une capacité croissante à affronter les problèmes des pays en voie de développement.

Il faut remarquer, en tant que fait positif, l'ensemble des suggestions en matière de réorganisation de l'économie des pays endettés et de critères mieux adaptés en vue d'un renouvellement de la politique économique intérieure qui sont esquissées et indiquées aux pays individuellement par le Fonds monétaire international et par la Banque mondiale et ses organisations affiliées. On favorise ainsi - à l'instant où les prêts sont assurés - une orientation réaliste au profit du pays bénéficiaire et de son développement organique, et pas seulement des mesures temporaires visant sa condition financière.

Le document C 89/17 me permet de revenir sur un sujet affronté plusieurs fois par l'Observateur permanent.

Dans les rapports officiels des différentes organisations intergouvernementales à l'échelle mondiale et à l'échelle régionale, on peut remarquer qu'il est fait de plus en plus référence aux ONG et à leur apport au développement du fait de leurs activités. On ne voudrait pas que ce recours aux ONG, plutôt que de constituer une reconnaissance de leur contribution fonctionnelle aux objectifs du développement agricole et alimentaire, n'ait d'autre but que de faire tomber sur celles-ci les responsabilités d'objectifs qui n'ont pas été atteints et qui ressortissent à la responsabilité des organisations intergouvernementales et de leurs Etats Membres.

Je tiens à renouveler la confiance dans les Organisations non gouvernementales - surtout celles qui sont réellement l'expression d'un volontariat désintéressé opérant au niveau international - et dans leur participation aux activités de la FAO, tout en réaffirmant la juste distinction par rapport aux Etats Membres et leur fonction officielle concernant les décisions, les programmes et les normes.

Il faut répéter que la liaison entre la FAO et les ONG - aux trois différents degrés de reconnaissance dans la condition de statut juridique: consultatif, consultatif spécial, et de liaison - ne se limite pas à l'enregistrement auprès du fonctionnaire de la FAO responsable ou dans la liste des participants à une réunion convoquée par la FAO.

Il s'agit de mettre en lumière de quelle façon les ONG peuvent effectivement participer non seulement à des réunions spécifiques convoquées pour les ONG mais en intervenant tant au cours de la séance plénière que dans les commissions de cette Conférence générale, suivant leur droit d'intervention à chaque point de l'ordre du jour, mais après les Etats Membres et les observateurs des organisations internationales intergouvernementales.

Il faut donner effectivement de l'espace à cette participation active au moment des choix afin d'obtenir de faire participer par la suite les ONG au moment des opérations de mise à exécution, en ce qui concerne le programme ordinaire et les initiatives spécifiques.

Je tiens à remarquer que la coopération de la part des ONG dans des programmes communs au niveau mondial ou régional, et surtout dans des programmes et des projets au niveau de chaque pays, doit être conçue et mise en oeuvre afin d'obtenir la coordination dans la vision d'ensemble en ce qui concerne les lignes de politique de développement établies par la population locale et par la communauté civile, de manière à assurer en même temps l'autonomie de chaque ONG selon ses fins propres et ses méthodes statutaires.

Les ententes nécessaires dans les situations de difficultés spécifiques que l'on peut rencontrer en portant son aide dans des zones particulières peuvent plus facilement amener au dépassement des oppositions de la part des gouvernements si habituellement de la part des ONG on essayait constamment de servir le pays de manière désintéressée et subordonnant sa propre action au dessein de politique du développement qui répond aux nécessités et aux priorités réelles présentées par les populations intéressées et aux choix définis dans les programmes et dans les projets officiels.

Je prends la liberté de demander, Monsieur le Président, que le texte étendu de la présente intervention soit entièrement publié dans le procès-verbal, même si, pour des raisons de brièveté, toutes les parties qui le composent n'ont pas été exposées oralement.

En conclusion, je voudrais encore une fois renouveler la cordiale invitation pour la participation à l'audience spéciale que, cette année encore selon une longue tradition, le Pape Jean-Paul II tiendra demain, jeudi 16, pour les personnalités qualifiées et les délégations et représentations des Etats Membres et des organisations internationales ici présentes.

**John NIBA NGU (Cameroon):** On behalf of the Cameroon Delegation, I am pleased to address to you, Mr Chairman, in particular, and to the Conference in general our warm and hearty congratulations on the occasion of your election to the important office of Chairman of the Twenty-fifth Conference Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. At the same time, I am pleased and deeply honoured to be the bearer of greetings from all the Cameroon people and from our Head of State to you, Mr Chairman, to the Director-General, and to all the distinguished Delegates of FAO. Our Head of State hopes that the deliberations of this Session will be crowned with resounding success and will give to our respective governments, to the various organizations of FAO, to all the institutions within the United Nations system, to all governmental and non-governmental organizations, to Observers present or represented here, the necessary force required to take stock of the crucial problems facing the development of agriculture in developing countries where the food situation is and remains a matter of great concern. For my own part, I am anxious to assure you, Mr Chairman, of the support and collaboration of my Delegation in all the deliberations of the Conference.

The FAO is 44 years old and has played a very important role in the development of world agriculture. It has contributed significantly to the efforts made by my country to safeguard our food self-sufficiency which must now be transformed into food security. My country is most grateful to the FAO, and especially to the Director-General for the sustained efforts which have brought benefit to Cameroon.

Data furnished by the Secretariat of FAO in the copious working documents prepared for us clearly indicate that by the end of the century the total land surface of developing nations - about three times the surface presently in cultivation - will hardly produce enough to feed their populations if farming techniques presently practised continue to preserve their traditional nature. In other words, this means that appropriate strategies must be adopted by each Government concerned to steer the agricultural sector clear of all the constraints presently slowing it down. It will be necessary to rationalize the production apparatus through the management of soil and water, the improvement of farming techniques, the use of fertilizers, improved seeds and all other planting materials wherever and whenever possible.

At this stage it is imperative that agronomic and zootechnical research programmes should be integrated with those of extension and training.

The structurization of the rural milieu through the creation of agricultural production and marketing co-operatives and the institution of agricultural credit adapted to the conditions of the small farmer require particular attention.

At its creation the FAO assigned to itself the noble ideal of eliminating hunger, malnutrition and misery from the surface of the earth and took upon itself the ambitious and exalting mission of:

- raising the level of nutrition and living conditions of the masses;
- improving the production and efficiency of the distribution of food and agricultural products;
- improving the lot of rural masses, and in so doing contribute to global economic expansion through the liberation of humanity from hunger.

Actually, 44 years after the birth of our Organization much progress has been achieved in the area of food production the world over.

Enormous efforts have been made by the international community to raise agricultural production, but in spite of spectacular results obtained in Europe and North America the ghost of hunger, misery and malnutrition is still haunting with impunity a good number of developing countries suffering from food shortages. The Sub-Saharan zone of the African continent demonstrates, among these countries, the cruel image of this crushing reality which illustrates the disequilibrium in the functioning of the system regulating cooperation between well-to-do and developing countries. In effect, we are witnesses to the ever-present world of abundance and food security on the one hand, and that of malnutrition and food insecurity on the other.

The ninth World Food Day was celebrated this year under the theme "Food and the Environment". This theme remains a crucial reality for black African countries, especially when note is taken of the fact that for most countries in this region their ever-disturbing food situation is characterized by persistent shortages of basic foodstuffs, in short, a situation of near chronic underfeeding and quasi-generalized malnutrition.

It has been established that the causes of hunger, malnutrition and misery are directly linked with the destruction of the environment and that food insecurity experienced by a good number of countries is due mainly to a food producing sector that is not performing very well. This situation is closely linked with the degradation and perturbation of the ecosystems by man.

To this disturbing situation has to be added the distressing phenomenon of desertification, which has already affected thousands of millions of hectares of land bordering the Sahara to the south.

These lands, devastated by drought and made bare by over-grazing may, perhaps, never again be restored, given the extent to which their productive capacities have been reduced. This will with time fatally culminate in the creation of a fundamentally deficient agricultural sector in this zone. All this goes to underscore the fact that the food crisis in Africa is a reality.

In Cameroon we are fully aware of the danger of the degradation of agricultural lands by rain erosion and of desertification, which is visibly affecting the northern part of our country. Aware of the exigencies imposed by the management of our forest resources, the government has, with bilateral and multilateral assistance, just drawn up its Tropical Forestry



Action Plan. The plan, which in no way substitutes for our VIth National Plan for economic and social development, clarifies and complements the forestry sector guidelines in a long-term global approach by way of projects.

In this context, my Government intends setting up a modern forestry sector with the aim of exploiting in the most profitable and rational manner all the resources of this sector while safeguarding existing ecosystems, including its flora and fauna. Agriculture remains the key sector of our economy, employing more than 70% of the active population and contributing more than 30% of our gross national product (GNP).

The Government recognizes this priority position of agriculture and does all to enhance its role as the pivot of development. In this approach man is the object of sustained attention because he is considered as one whose efforts can result in real progress.

In the main orientations of our economic and social policy top priority is given to the mobilization of human resources since the sum total of the objectives of the National Development Plan is the active and effective participation of the masses.

It is also for this reason that rural exodus constitutes a major preoccupation of my Government, because, when a farmer or a breeder leaves the countryside for the town, he ceases to be a producer and becomes a mere consumer, if not an unemployed person.

Contrary to the European rural exodus which drained farm labour to industries, urbanization in developing countries has the sad effects of attracting rural youth to towns where living conditions seem more attractive, and thereby depopulates villages and contributes to the growth of delinquency and crime. Rehabilitation of the peasant condition requires the reduction of rural exodus and increased mobilization of the active population in the production apparatus.

To achieve this it would be necessary to encourage the farmer to produce through ensuring attractive prices, markets and accessible agricultural credit, which enhances the acquisition of indispensable inputs. Once this motivation is expressed in concrete terms, the peasant routine syndrome, characterized by instinctive prudence vis-à-vis the complex relations that exist between man, the land and plants and animals, will disappear.

We are of the conviction that the consolidation of real food security in developing countries requires the priority of sustained growth in production. But, faced with the constraints imposed on us by the present economic crisis, the amount of resources Third World governments can afford for the financing of the agricultural sector is in permanent decline.

We are aware of the fact that the war against hunger can be won. We are equally convinced that food problems can be effectively resolved only when the rural populations are given the means to produce enough food for their consumption and the satisfaction of the ever-growing demands of rapidly expanding urban populations. And since there cannot be evolutive agriculture without investment in the sector, the problem of modernization of the agricultural production apparatus requires more and more heavy financial resources.

The big question, however, is how can it be possible to think of investing in agriculture when the meagre resources obtained from exports must be used either in the servicing of an increasing foreign debt or in importing foodstuffs because drought, locusts, inundations or other calamities have plundered the local harvest?

It is a fact that the level of government assistance to development continues to drop and that the quota for agriculture is becoming even smaller and smaller. The situation is rendered more and more difficult by the current economic crisis where prices for primary products have fallen rather vertically and discouragingly for the rural populations. Our traditional export crops have been hit in an unprecedented manner and primary commodities have known price falls of well over 60 percent compared to prices ruling in the 1980s.

The consequences of this situation are many and nefarious for Cameroonian agriculture. We have difficulties selling our cash crops, whose stocks are rising as a result, while foreign exchange earnings are falling. At the same time, government investment has been reduced.

Faced with this situation, the Government of the Republic of Cameroon has taken several decisions with the objective of making the agricultural sector more efficient while protecting the farmer's earning capacity. The government's intervention in economic development has been streamlined through the liquidation of non-viable state or parastatal enterprises, the privatization of those which can best be managed by the private sector, and the rehabilitation and restructuring of some strategic public utility corporations.

Efforts are being made to diversify agricultural production, increase and diversify markets for our export crops, develop trade among member states of the Central African Economic and Customs Union (UDEAC) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and encouraging in-country processing and consumption of our farm produce to take more advantage of "added value".

The creation of an agricultural "credit" Organization, the farmers' bank, will not only encourage savings among people in the rural communities, it will make for easy access to credit facilities to farmers of all sizes thus enabling them to modernize agricultural fertilizers, plant protection, etc.

The present Conference Session is taking place at a time when my country, like many others in Africa and elsewhere, is seriously hurt by the vicious effects of world's economic and financial problems. In fact, despite some favourable developments which led to a sustained global growth in 1988 and 1989, the world economy still faces the persistence of protectionist and other reprehensible trade practices, the debt problem exacerbated by monetary disorders, the persistence of low prices for the major tropical commodities and the decline in the global food security and food aid supplies following the drop in the cereals crop in 1988.

That is why the discussion of issues on our agenda dealing with the intervention of the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is of particular importance. In effect the WFP and IFAD capability to mobilize and furnish added material and financial resources on special conditions to the poorest peasants of developing countries constitutes a great boost to their food production.

The reactivation of agriculture with a view to raising the contribution of this sector to the global development of the peasant farmer is one of the major options of the Cameroon Government. In this context FAO assistance is highly solicited. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations needs to play a leading role in the identification, the formulation and either the execution or monitoring of projects requiring its technical and financial assistance.

This Session of the Conference has before it many issues, one of the most important of which is the reform process. My country has been closely associated with the efforts to reform the activities of FAO. Cameroon chaired the Twenty-third Session of the Conference and suggested in the closing remarks that a new reform process be launched. I am, therefore, happy to see that the experts group appointed by the Programme and Finance Committees has completed its work. I congratulate the experts as well as the members of the two Committees for the diligence with which they approached their tasks. I thank the Director-General for his support, which has in no small way helped the experts group to prepare the reports which are before us today.

My delegation welcomes the review reports but wishes to point out that our understanding of a review is that it is the examination and evaluation of existing activities to see where improvements can be made, costs reduced, efficiency improved, relevance increased and impact assessed, if possible. Of course, in the course of a review new areas requiring attention could be identified but the essential objective of a review is to ensure that existing activities are relevant and to make suggestions for improving implementation.

My delegation is in agreement with the roles and objectives of the Organization as stated. We agree with the Director-General that it would be difficult to assign precise priorities, but in the view of the Cameroonian delegation the technical assistance role of FAO should be the first. Of course, technical assistance can be interpreted as making experts available to execute projects.

In the view of my delegation highest priority should be accorded to technical assistance aimed at human resource development, which will in turn permit countries to identify, formulate, implement and evaluate their own development projects. We, therefore, support the recommendation of the experts for the institution of such a training programme in the FAO. It should be noted that the FAO Regional Conference for Africa called for specific training programmes to develop human resources in Africa during its Twelfth and Thirteenth Sessions held in 1982 and 1984. I would, therefore, suggest that the training programme now included under Category 3 to be financed from extrabudgetary funds be moved to Category I for financing from regular resources.

The Cameroon Government is convinced that it is possible to eliminate hunger, misery and malnutrition from poor countries through the application of the extraordinary results of science and technology, but this objective can only be achieved with the assistance of men of goodwill, animated by a high sense of generosity.

The fight against hunger and misery can be won but first poor nations have to pay a high price in efforts. This is the path we in Cameroon have chosen.

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

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C 89/PV/8

Twenty-fifth Session  
PLENARYVingt-cinquième session  
PLÉNIÈRE25° período de sesiones  
PLENARIAEIGHTH PLENARY MEETING  
HUITIÈME SEANCE PLÉNIÈRE  
OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA

15 November 1989

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours  
John Charles Kerin, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45. sous la présidence  
de John Charles Kerin, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la Octava Sesión Plenaria a las 14.45 horas. bajo la presidencia  
de John Charles Kerin, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

**Maina WANJIGI (Kenya):** It is my very great pleasure and honour to convey to this Conference the greetings and best wishes of the Government and the people of Kenya. The vast majority of Kenyans are small scale farmers who look upon the FAO for and have for many years received invaluable technical and resource support to enhance their individual and collective efforts in Agriculture.

Mr Chairman, I wish also to take this opportunity firstly to congratulate you, and your colleagues in the Bureau on your election to steer the deliberations of this important Conference. Secondly, I wish to assure you of my delegation's cooperation and the fullest support. I wish also to register my Delegation's satisfaction with the Secretariat for the wonderful effort that has been made in the preparation of the Conference and in particular the very detailed conference documents before us.

The Kenya Delegation has noted carefully the contents of Document C 89/12 which, *inter alia*, lays the guidelines for the conduct of this Conference. As a parliamentarian, I subscribe to the need to adhere to the rules of the house, and therefore, in presenting my Delegation's statement, I shall, to the extent possible, resist the great temptation to deviate from these guidelines. Let me, however, observe that the agenda is sufficiently broad but comprehensive and relevant to the current needs in Kenya in matters pertaining to food and agriculture and related services.

Coincidental to our First National Five Year Development Plan, the World Food Conference of 1974 recognized that poverty and hunger are very closely linked. Since then, the World Food Council has been making efforts to contain the global threat of hunger and poverty, but the objectives of the 1974 World Food Conference are far from being achieved. It is gratifying, however, to know that poverty and hunger will feature prominently in the deliberations of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on International Economic Co-operation scheduled to take place in New York next year. While the world has managed to achieve high levels of food production and surplus stocks, ironically 500 million people in the world continue to face starvation and the threat of death. Many more are under-nourished. It is these many silent hungry of this world that should receive increased attention under FAO and other multilateral and bilateral assistance programmes. My delegation would hope that this Conference will give this matter the attention it deserves and avoid the platitudes and generalities that have come to be associated with International Conferences.

I say this, Mr Chairman, because with the adverse terms of trade between primary commodities and manufactured goods, virtually none of the developing countries can cope with the threat of hunger arising from natural calamities such as occasional droughts, floods, typhoons, earthquakes, etc. In the absence of hard currency, and in the absence of timely food aid, starvation

and death become inevitable. The FAO and the entire United Nations system should therefore have both short-term and long-term intervention mechanisms to minimize and ultimately eliminate poverty and hunger from the face of the earth.

In this connection, my Delegation strongly believes that by improving the global economic environment, poverty and hunger can be controlled. Specifically there is need for this Conference to address the problems of international commodity prices, high cost of inputs necessary for the development process, protectionism through tariff and non-tariff barriers and legislation that discriminates products from tropical countries. At the expense of breaching the rules, I cannot resist the temptation to draw the attention of the Conference to the plight of the millions of coffee farmers throughout the world following the collapse of the International Coffee Agreement. Prices have dropped by 40 percent in the last one year alone, and our economies have continued to suffer to a point whereby some countries are now unable to service their external debts. Against this background my Delegation urges for greater political will and co-operation in accelerating the Uruguay Round of GATT and other commodity negotiations to give hope to millions and millions in the developing world whom we represent.

My Delegation welcomes the programmes that have been initiated in an attempt to assist developing countries. Among these are the structural adjustment programmes which have unfortunately caused major difficulties in the short term where implementation is being undertaken and to this extent it is in our opinion necessary for structural adjustment programmes to include some measures to identify and ameliorate some if not all of the inevitable short-term negative effects. My Delegation therefore welcomes FAO's initiative in studying these issues.

Turning again to the agenda, my Delegation appreciates very much the efforts made by the Finance and Programme Committees in carrying out the review process in accordance with Resolution 6/87 of the 24th Session of FAO Conference. The delegation of Kenya reiterates that regular reviews such as this one are and will be necessary for efficient management in the light of changing priorities and diversity of problems. We hope that the Conference will consider the report and take appropriate action.

The proposed budget of US\$ 557 million meets with our approval but we are however, concerned that despite increasing requirements of the developing countries FAO has been faced with severe financial constraints. We urge all our member countries to honour their obligations to this august body. My Delegation supports the nine priority areas which have been discussed and approved by the main committees of FAO. These committees have done a commendable job and need to be congratulated.

We note with deep concern that production of staple foods has fallen far below aggregate consumption levels for the second consecutive year leading to a large draw-down on stocks to a level that can barely be considered the minimum for world food security. At the same time cereal prices have risen significantly, creating problems for low income food deficit countries. These are issues which should receive maximum attention during our deliberations.

On the proposed programmes, we welcome the emphasis on biotechnology, sustainable development, aquaculture and the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. We also agree that policy analysis capability, weather and crop monitoring for early warning, are vital inputs in agriculture and food security.

However, it is a matter of concern to us that in the current biennial work programme, a number of activities that are of particular importance to Africa, namely the support to applied research, vaccine production, trypanosomiasis control, fodder and traditional food crops development have unfortunately been reduced. While we hope that these programmes will be undertaken under new activities, we genuinely fear that the particular emphasis to Africa may be lost at a time when the problems that created their need have not been resolved. In particular, I refer to the imminent threat by the screw worm which is currently found in some North African countries. We consider it vital that this threat be eradicated before it spreads and therefore this activity should be included in the biennial plan.

With regard to women, my Delegation fully shares the aspirations of FAO in developing strategies to involve women in developing endeavours of their respective communities and in the world in general. From our own national experience, women are indispensable in national development. We call on FAO to expand its support to women through women group sponsored projects but, in doing so it must be recognized that women are part and parcel of a family and the community, and efforts to circumvent or by-pass these linkages to reach the womenfolk could often be counterproductive.

While we appreciate that environmental conservation matters are key to the development of agriculture and that soil and water are the basic resources in agricultural production, regrettably, as a result of the ever-increasing population pressure, there is an increasing, and threatening encroachment on forests and water catchment. There is also overstocking in the marginal rainfall areas which has led in turn to environmental degradation and desertification.

In the industrialized countries on the other hand, acid rains, smog, biologically dead rivers, and the greenhouse effect are commonplace. Kenya takes a serious view of this trend and would like to associate itself with any global and/or regional cooperation in environmental conservation.

Kenya has made efforts, thanks to the political will and personal concern and involvement of our President in the rehabilitation and conservation of our forests, soils, and wildlife. The forest cover is limited while the demand for forest products is on the increase. There is also an increasing pressure to expand agricultural land. The indigenous forests and woodlands for fuel and other domestic uses require increased efforts to achieve sufficiency levels. Towards these goals, Kenya's main drive is on Agroforestry, communal forests and individual farm woodlots. The afforestation of the arid and semi-arid and wastelands is also a priority area in Kenya and we would like to appeal for more donor support towards the realisation of this goal. Kenya is also undertaking major forestry sector review programmes and continuing with the implementation of the forestry sector management programme under the World Bank Funding Programme. The objectives of this programme are similar to those of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. We call upon the donor community and the FAO in particular to continue to support, supplement and strengthen these efforts in this vital sector.

Regrettably, Kenya Fishery Resources are far from being realised, even though fish production has increased at an annual rate of 14% since 1980. The reasons for this include a number of constraints such as the use of outmoded fishing methods which are not suited to offshore and deep sea operations; inadequate support and inappropriate fisheries technology; poor infrastructure at the fish landing beaches and in the distribution network;



lack of fish processing and cold storage facilities and lack of effective credit and financing schemes for fishermen. All these hinder full realisation of our fisheries potential. Kenya is endowed with rich aquaculture and Shrimp Farming potential. Our limited products have met high quality standards and are well received in export markets. With improved infrastructure, training opportunities, improvement in fishing gear as well as cold storage and processing facilities, Kenya should be able to expand the potential for quality fishery products both for domestic and export markets. In this regard Kenya encourages joint ventures and is keen to strengthen regional and international cooperation in the conservation and management of its fisheries and other shared marine resources. Such cooperation, however, should respect our exclusive economic zones and provide direct benefits to the fishermen and to Kenya as a whole. We hope that donor communities will help us, as we help ourselves, in this field.

The potential for horticultural production in Kenya is slowly being realised with over one million tonnes of fresh produce being marketed locally in the main urban centres and a further 60 000 tonnes exported annually. About 135 000 tonnes is also processed for export market. Kenya has a wide variety of tropical and temperate horticultural products. There are however, a number of areas that require improvement to further strengthen the sector. The development and expansion of small-scale irrigation systems are essential in order to eliminate the seasonality that characterises present Kenya horticulture. In addition, infrastructural development, particularly rural roads, collection centres, transport facilities, including refrigerated carriers and storage, and training facilities for both farmers and technicians are required. All these have been accorded a high priority by the government and project proposals draw up, which now await support in funding. The successful implementation of these projects should result in a substantial improvement in the quantity and quality of our products.

With Kenya's rising population growth and consequential growth in food requirement, encroachment into the marginal areas has been inevitable. These vast marginal areas, though characterized by erratic rainfall and fragile soils, are also where the bulk of livestock production and wildlife is found. These arid lands urgently require water development programmes to rescue them from imminent desertification. The Kenya Government, in recognition of this threat, has created the Ministry of Reclamation and Development of the arid and semi-arid areas to address the development needs of these lands and to ensure equitable and sustainable development opportunities in all these areas which comprise 75% of our country's land mass. Kenya joined the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) to ensure regional cooperation for accelerated development in this vital area of development. The resources required however are far beyond the reach of our country and a fairly large infusion of external resources will be required to implement what promises to be a very rewarding programme.

I am glad to report that Kenya has intensified her food production to reach a level of self-sufficiency in staple grains and pulses over the last three years. The country, is however, not yet able to meet its demand for wheat, rice and vegetable oils from domestic production, but these problems are being actively addressed to ensure self-sufficiency.

In order to attain these objectives, our research programmes will need to be strengthened through institutional building and provision of vehicles and equipment and training opportunities. There is also need to revitalize our Farmers' Training Centers so that farmers and our extension staff can keep pace with the new challenges. The FAO's contribution towards this endeavour and indeed those of our other donors would be most welcome.

Acknowledging the support of many donors and the relentless efforts of International Agencies, Kenya would like to underline the importance of coordination, complementarity and regular consultations among the donor and International Agencies as well as within Government Institutions. By so doing, the resulting concerted efforts would yield greater benefits to the recipients and at the same time reduce duplication of our own efforts.

In this connection, we wish to recognize the excellent role played by UNEP on conservation and environment and also underscore the collaboration and consultation between FAO and UNEP on this endeavour. We also note with appreciation the continued cooperation in the use of the technical resources from FAO by the World Food Programme and IFAD. We urge that in the interest of the Member States, and particularly the developing countries, greater cooperation, improved efficiency and consultations should be the guiding principle among the UN Agencies concerned in food and agriculture. This would ensure maximum utilization of the limited resources at our disposal. All too often we tend to forget that the farmer is our "Target" and we are intermediaries in that process irrespective of whatever Agency or institution we may be working for.

My delegation also wishes to recognize the commendable work being undertaken by the World Food Programme whose personnel often have to work under great difficulties and risky situations.

IFAD has also greatly contributed in availing us scarce development resources which are targeted at the poorest sectors of our population. It is therefore with great pleasure that we welcome the increased contributions towards IFAD's third replenishment that has enabled a new level of US\$ 565 million to be reached.

I must also pay tribute to the work that the World Food Council is undertaking in generating the necessary political will of the International Community to raise funds to support food and agricultural policies in developing nations.

We urge the World Food Council to intensify their efforts, in the hope that the goals and objectives of the Cyprus initiative can be realized sooner than later.

In conclusion, my delegation looks forward to very fruitful deliberations and resolutions from this Conference. Times are changing fast. The aspirations and expectations of the people we represent demand action and action now.

We have total faith in FAO and its ability to meet these challenges, but the days of rhetoric speeches and nice platitudes are gone.

A.M.Al Kaoud, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair

A.M.Al Kaoud, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Occupant la presidencia A.M.Al Kaoud, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

**Stevó MIRJANIC (Yugoslavia) (original language Serbo-Croatian):** It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you most cordially on your election on behalf of the Yugoslav Government and in my own name.

The last decade of this century heralds quite radical changes on the world political scene. The process of the relaxation of tensions in the world is bearing positively on the settlement of some protracted world crises and problems. However, the process of political détente is not matched by a similar process at the economic level. As was amply illustrated in the important statement of the Director-General to this Conference, the impoverishment of the world's South, particularly in the 1980s, has been manifested by its growing indebtedness, and a marked deterioration in the terms of trade with consequent, increased capital outflow. Transfer of technology also gives cause for concern. For those countries, all this means a mortgage on their future and is an obstacle to their more equitable participation in the increasingly interdependent world economy. Such trends are not only an impediment to a speedier and more harmonized development of the world as a whole, but could also represent a latent threat to global peace and stability.

The messages of the Ninth Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries held in Belgrade in September of this year expressed the readiness of the non-aligned and other developing countries to search jointly for constructive and universally acceptable solutions for the key and interrelated problems in global economic relations as well as for specific and acute problems which burden developing countries and especially the least developed among them. We are confident that the situation today is ripe for the establishment of a new global development consensus and that the international community should not miss this opportunity. The more favourable international political atmosphere, the growing awareness of interdependence and several years of relatively stable growth of the developed countries' economies form a propitious basis for more successful continuation of cooperation and dialogue between North and South.

Allow me, as the representative of the host-country of the Ninth Non-Aligned Summit, to say a few words about the more specific messages of the Summit related to global food and agriculture issues and, of course, to FAO. The Summit called upon FAO to follow closely, on behalf of the international community, the development of the world food situation, especially in countries where food is in short supply, and to devote special attention at this Conference to these issues. The Summit emphasized FAO's indispensable coordinating and technical role in the promotion of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and declared its support for the further development of the general information and early warning system programmes geared to stop desertification, deforestation, soil erosion and to alleviating the consequences of natural disasters with the ultimate aim of promoting food security. The Summit also expressed its concern over FAO's financial situation and called upon all countries, particularly the main contributors, to honour their financial obligations. It also appealed to the non-aligned and developing countries to continue giving priority in their development

plans to increasing food production and to reaching the highest possible degree of self-sufficiency in food in the most effective way possible with a view to achieving a long-term solution of this problem I am quite confident that our Conference will give its full attention to these issues.

The stagnation and even decline of agricultural production in the world, especially in certain regions, in 1987 and 1988, was at least partly due to the measures undertaken by the developed countries to adjust production to the slow-growing export demand for agricultural and food products. In particular there has been a pronounced decline of imports of developing countries due to the problems of debt servicing. Decelerated growth of world agricultural production was also affected by the shrinking export of agricultural products from the Third World countries due essentially to a high degree of agricultural protectionism in the industrialized countries.

A certain slow-down in economic growth of industrialized countries in the 1980s, as well as the growing trade imbalances among them, resulted, among other things, in a restrictive economic policy and thus, in a slow-down in the demand for agricultural products. Somewhat improved relations between the prices of some agricultural products and agricultural inputs, for example energy and fertilizers, etcetera, could not offset these negative trends.

The growth of prices of agricultural products in international trade in 1988 was likewise insufficient to offset the unfavourable price ratios which prevailed throughout the 1980's. This brought about a slow-down in agricultural production and even a decline in per capita production in many countries. The expected recovery in 1989 cannot alleviate our concern for these issues of crucial significance for the development of humanity.

It transpires clearly from all that I have said that we cannot reconcile ourselves to these unfavourable global trends with respect to food and agriculture. However, we have good reason to be satisfied with the performance of FAO, and it is our assessment that FAO's programme orientation and efficiency rank it very high in the UN system.

In our view, the Programme of Work and Budget for the following two-year period reflects an appropriate mixture of continuation and innovation. We feel that it reflects faithfully our efforts to minimize the effects of the financial crisis on the execution of regular programmes. We believe that there is general agreement among members on the priorities and even details of the next two-year programme. I think the same holds true of medium-term objectives. As ever, a high degree of agreement on the essence does not necessarily imply a similar degree of agreement on the budget. Yugoslavia urges the adoption of such a budget as will make possible the most efficient implementation of the programmes and objectives of this Organization. We believe that a budget increase has also to take into account the limited capacity of so many developing countries to meet their financial obligations. In other words, we are committed to moderation in demand for more funds and to their more rational use. The programme for 1990/91 is in conformity with these criteria and that is why it deserves our support.

I would like to stress that Yugoslavia, despite its grave economic difficulties, is honouring its obligations to FAO and so are the majority of countries. I appeal to all countries, especially the main contributors, to meet their obligations to the Organization.

Yugoslavia is doing its best to take an active part in the UN effort to formulate an International Development Strategy for the last decade of this century. Adverse trends in the world economy which I have referred to require a new approach and a serious debate on the burning issues of development and environmental protection. In this context, we are pleased to see that the FAO Council reacted positively to the Director-General's initiative on FAO's contribution in formulating the International Strategy in such a vital sector as agriculture, including forestry and fisheries.

Allow me to present some facts concerning the development of Yugoslav agriculture and to indicate some important elements of the new development concept for Yugoslav agriculture.

Yugoslav agricultural production in the 1980s has been characterized by exceptional fluctuations. To illustrate, let me emphasize that the annual physical volume of production index has been ranging between minus 7 to plus 11 percent.

The difficulties Yugoslav agriculture is presently facing stem from a number of factors ranging from its internal economic environment, to staggering inflation, to world economic trends, especially in agriculture, but also from adverse agro-ecologic conditions in 1987 and 1988.

After the negative trends experienced in the past two years, we expect the economic policy measures taken by the Yugoslav Government in 1989 to result in recovery of production as well as in agricultural trade, and in a faster development of the agro-industry.

Accumulated economic and development problems in Yugoslavia's agriculture required the elaboration of a new development concept. Within the framework of the creation of institutional prerequisites for the development of a market economy and a new economic system which would grant economic entities their independence, an appropriate agricultural development policy is being charted as well. Our new agricultural policy is based primarily on increased economic efficiency, on growing production specialization, on technological inventiveness, on an ecologically-rational utilization of natural resources and on complete equalizing of the private and socialized sectors.

Time does not allow me to dwell on other, no less important, topics of the Conference. The Yugoslav delegation will actively participate in the debate on these issues in the Commissions.

However, we firmly believe that world development problems and those of particular countries cannot be resolved shortly and more successfully without a faster development of the agro-industry, greater linking of the developed with the developing and of the developing countries among themselves, as well as without a broader introduction of science and technology into agriculture without which the perspective for future development cannot be conceived. In this context, FAO plays an irreplaceable role and for this reason we have to extend it our full support and reaffirm all of its functions.

In conclusion, allow me to express our desire that the 25th FAO Conference make a substantial contribution to the strengthening and further affirmation of this Organization in addressing key problems of the world in the area of food and agriculture, and reflect in the largest possible measure the

genuine cooperation among all countries towards our lofty objectives. Our country is resolved, as an FAO member and Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, to give its full and constructive contribution to that effect.

**Mrs Cecil PILGRIM (Guyana):** Over the last few decades, the world has recorded a rate of aggregate food production exceeding its rate of population growth. We can all be, in a global sense, rightly proud of this performance, as such indicators have effectively quashed earlier predictions of a world unable to feed itself from its available resources.

It is commonly believed that such an achievement has been due not only to unparalleled technological advances and the adaptation of new knowledge, but also to the use of official subsidies on a very large scale in the developed world. These countries have now become principal exporters of grain with former exporters from the developing world now relying largely on imports. This shift in food production has engendered a growing dependence by many developing countries on a few areas of the world for food.

These truths apart, there is a general belief that the problem facing the world is not so much one of production. It is rather a problem of an imbalance between food production/distribution and food availability. And it has led, as we are all aware, to a real problem of food security, with huge masses of people becoming chronically dependent on food imports and thus highly vulnerable to the vagaries of political, economic and other forces well beyond their control.

These very disquieting features are not alone. Recent authoritative reports have revealed that: first, production of staple foods had fallen below aggregate consumption for the second consecutive year; secondly, prices for some cereals had risen significantly on international markets, thus creating problems for the financing of imports by low income countries, particularly those with severe debt servicing difficulties, the volume of food aid had fallen to its lowest in the past six years and that the agricultural export earnings of developing countries had hardly expanded in recent years.

For most of us these are indeed worrying features. As a body responsible for monitoring the state of the world's agricultural endeavours, it should be and, I dare say, it is, the primary task of the Food and Agriculture Organization to address these and other related issues. It is the responsibility of each state that is a part of this organization, to pool its ideas and resources, in support of work directed at addressing the imbalance of which I spoke earlier on.

It is the responsibility of this Organization and its collective membership to seek solutions to the immediate needs of the vast majority of the world's population affected, as we have noted, by the recent trends in the decline in the production of staple foods below levels of consumption, the increasing inability of many States to command the means of access to available food resources because of the attendant difficulties in import financing, debt servicing and the stagnation or decline in export earnings. It is our responsibility to seek solutions not only for these immediate needs and problems but to find ways of securing the long-term future of the world's population.

These trends of which I speak, have been noted by none other than this very institution at the 95th Session of the FAO Council in June 1989. I am acutely aware of the fact that by drawing attention to these issues I am positing nothing new, for these are by now well-worn and oft-repeated problems of which we are all so poignantly cognizant. But I shall run a further risk of repetition or possible regurgitation by proposing some necessary requirements for action.

In the view of my delegation, what is needed is firstly, large-scale investment in the agricultural sectors of developing countries; secondly, the transfer of appropriate technological and other resources, especially to facilitate increased agricultural production and processing in developing countries. This will in turn improve incomes and standards of living and above all enhance the accessibility of the poor to available food resources. And thirdly, market access for agricultural exports of developing countries, both primary and processed, is intrinsic to the solution of the problems confronting that section of the global community.

Let me pause to give due recognition to the past and present efforts of all States in that regard, but more particularly to our partners of the developed world. We should commend such effort, but we should also urge a much greater contribution than is presently the case. In making this appeal to the industrialized world, I am cognizant of the various resource, political and social constraints that our partners inevitably must face and, therefore, their own need to be cautious in giving. I am aware, however, of the prevailing scope for increasing their contribution to alleviating the difficulties confronting poor States; difficulties born largely, as was noted earlier on, of inherent imbalances in production and availability of, or access to, food globally.

There is a second very pressing issue that I should like to deal with. It is an issue of equal and urgent concern to rich and poor nations alike, but the relative urgency of which is perhaps greater for poor States. I refer to the threat to the global environment and I speak of a greater relative urgency for poor countries such as my own not merely because, according to the experts, the consequences of global warming and the greenhouse effect are likely to be experienced more harshly by our countries in the form of increased flooding and other occurrences, but simply because of our relative inability to deal with such effects.

The effect of changes in climatic conditions on agricultural production and productivity will undoubtedly change the pattern of world food trade. The global effects are well known and have been clearly documented. More than that, however, it is likely to have grave consequences for poor States, most of whose very survival depends on agricultural production and agriculture-related activities.

In a report delivered by the Heads of the Caribbean Meteorological Council held in Trinidad in November 1984, which is relevant today, in assessing the behaviour of the wet seasons during the period 1968 to 1980 in Guyana, the authors found as it related to rice production that: "Only five out of 23 wet seasons (equivalent to 2 1/2 years out of 13 years) exhibited normal behaviour, another five experienced very mild deviations and 16 out of 26 wet seasons experienced abnormal seasonal weather".

For a country such as Guyana, with a growing emphasis on agriculture and in particular rice, I need not spell out the consequences of unseasonal and abnormal weather patterns. For us, the effects of global warming are not a matter for the future. They are presently being experienced.

The effects of sea-level rise are a further immediate concern for Guyana, whose coastland is below sea-level. According to a study completed by a Guyanese engineer, climatic changes and sea-level rise would cause increasing flooding of the coastal areas due to higher tides and storm surges, unless a long-term programme for raising and strengthening coastal protection and improving drainage and irrigation systems was implemented. The report notes furthermore that most agricultural areas could be inundated by sea water and the infrastructure in coastal areas would cease to function due to constant flooding. In 37 years, the sea along Guyana's coastland has risen by almost one foot. There is for us, therefore, no greater urgency than that posed by the social and economic implications of environmental damage.

Other problems arise such as hurricanes. Of immediate concern to us is Hurricane Hugo which caused substantial damage in the Caribbean. It is our hope that the international community will respond to us in our hour of need with the necessary generosity.

With respect to one aspect of the exceptional work being done by FAO, we hope technical assistance will continue to be available to us in our overall plans for development under the Programme of Technical Cooperation among developing countries. We support this Programme and expect to see a continuation and expansion of it. On the other hand, like so many others in the developing world, my country is very heavily dependent for its economic well-being on the full and rational exploitation of its natural resources, including a large endowment of forestry resource. Those development goals must undoubtedly take account of the environment. There is thus an intrinsic link between the environment and development and the need for poor countries to be assisted in the effective utilization of their natural resources for the realization of their material and social development.

It is not enough for developing countries to be told of the need to conserve their forests, for example, for the common good. This need we recognize and we observe without reservation the requirements of a healthy environment. However, it is now time for the developed world to recognize its responsibility to developing countries and to provide us with the kind of material assistance that would make it possible for us to continue along the path of environmental sanity, while at the same providing for our people the advantages of the 20th and 21st centuries. The time for action is now.

The outstanding contribution which the FAO has made in this regard is gratefully acknowledged. However, more is now required if we are to meet the challenges facing the world community and developing States in particular. For this to happen, it is again necessary for the strengths and ideas of all nations to be harnessed but more particularly for the technological and material resources of the developed world to become available for the benefit of all.



I have attempted to focus this presentation on two very broad themes. It is my sincere hope that, in so doing, I have fulfilled the objectives of Conference to inform and to be informed, to plan and to cooperate. It is my hope, too, that the pressing issues to which I have referred will result not in the pointing of fingers in an effort to lay blame but in the joining of hands in genuine development.

**Carlos CORREIA (Guinée-Bissau) (langue originale Portugais):** Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée, au cours de cette 25ème Conférence de la FAO, pour vous féliciter à l'occasion de votre brillante élection à la Présidence de cette Conférence, qui porte sur des questions d'une importance capitale eu égard au développement économique et social de nos pays.

Le Directeur général de la FAO, comme nous l'avons déjà dit par le passé et nous tenons à le répéter ici, reçoit toute notre confiance pour sa capacité à persévérer depuis de si longues années à la tête d'une organisation aussi prestigieuse que la FAO. Nous tenons également à le féliciter pour ses interventions brillantes dans le cadre des modifications organiques et statutaires de l'Organisation et pour avoir mis le doigt sur les préoccupations constantes, relatives aux problèmes économiques et alimentaires auxquels nous sommes confrontés, tout particulièrement sur le continent africain.

La situation économique internationale actuelle n'est nullement favorable à nos pays en développement, tout particulièrement pour les moins avancés d'entre eux, notamment mon pays.

Le déséquilibre croissant entre les pays les plus développés et les nôtres se voit aggravé par les relations commerciales injustes qui déprécient de plus en plus les efforts consentis par les agriculteurs, qui voient leurs productions principales payées à des prix inférieurs sur le marché international, ce qui nous conduit à pécher par pessimisme quant à la situation de notre économie d'ici à l'an 2000.

Les trois solutions préconisées par la Banque mondiale pour améliorer la situation économique des pays les moins avancés ou de ceux dont le revenu est intermédiaire ne nous semblent nullement réalistes.

La Guinée-Bissau, petit pays en développement, est un pays pauvre, c'est un pays sans ressources autres que ses capacités agricoles, il ne peut nullement échapper au sort des pays qui ont d'énormes problèmes socio-économiques.

C'est dans ce contexte que, avec courage, notre gouvernement a entamé, à partir de 1983, un programme de stabilisation économique et financière, de sorte qu'en 1990 le Congrès du Parti a décidé de mettre en oeuvre la politique suivante pour le secteur agricole:

- la dynamisation de la production pour parvenir à l'autosuffisance alimentaire et à l'augmentation de la production exportable;
- l'augmentation par ailleurs des surfaces cultivées sous irrigation, le renforcement de la recherche, l'exploitation des eaux souterraines et une meilleure utilisation des ressources hydriques de surface;

- ensuite, l'intensification du programme de préservation des sols et des surfaces de reforestation, de reboisement et d'arboriculture.

Il s'agit d'apporter une attention particulière à la production populaire, d'améliorer le système de crédit agricole et d'appuyer l'exploitation agricole privée.

C'est à la suite de ces mesures et de la volonté manifestée par notre gouvernement que celui-ci a décidé, en 1987, de mettre en oeuvre un programme rigoureux d'ajustement structurel, de concert avec la Banque mondiale et le Fonds Monétaire International.

La croissance de l'économie de notre pays pendant les années 80 s'est vue profondément marquée par l'exécution du Premier Plan national de développement pour 1983/86 et par la mise en oeuvre du Programme de stabilisation économique et financière. L'évolution globale de l'économie au cours de la période 1982/88 calculée par les variations du PIB fait état d'écarts allant de moins 4,4 % à 5,5 % en 1987.

Le taux moyen de croissance pour la même période était de 1,8 %, taux qui est de loin inférieur à celui de la croissance démographique moyenne de l'ordre de 2,1 %, environ, ce qui traduit ainsi une diminution de la production par tête d'habitant.

Parmi les secteurs productifs, l'agriculture se démarque par rapport aux autres car elle est considérée comme étant prioritaire dans le processus de développement de la Guinée-Bissau. Cet important secteur contribue désormais aujourd'hui pour presque 75 % aux recettes d'exportation et pour plus de 50 % au PIB. Ce secteur emploie par ailleurs environ 80 % de la population active du pays.

La production agricole, lors de la campagne 1988, a réalisé les chiffres suivants: 145 000 tonnes de riz; 79 milliers de tonnes d'autres céréales; 10 milliers de tonnes de noix de cajou commercialisées; 15 milliers de tonnes d'arachide coque; 2 milliers de tonnes de coton-graine et 5 milliers de tonnes de bois d'oeuvre.

Parmi cet ensemble d'indicateurs nous pouvons facilement déduire l'importance que revêt le secteur agricole pour l'économie du pays. Les mesures de réforme économique et commerciale ont sans doute eu une incidence déterminante sur le dynamisme des circuits commerciaux, ce qui à son tour a poussé à une augmentation du volume de la production agricole.

Malgré les quelques bénéfices qui ont découlé de la politique d'ajustement structurel, le milieu rural guinéen continue de faire face à plusieurs difficultés, à certaines limitations qu'il convient de résoudre. Pour l'heure, ce n'est nullement le producteur agricole qui profite d'abord et avant tout des mesures prises, mais plutôt les commerçants et les intermédiaires qui réalisent ainsi une accumulation de capitaux extrêmement rapide.

Voilà pourquoi notre gouvernement, conscient de ces problèmes, a décidé de mettre en oeuvre un deuxième Plan national de développement dans le cadre duquel le secteur agricole se voit accorder un rôle prioritaire, avec les stratégies suivantes :

- augmentation de la production pour atteindre une sécurité alimentaire suffisante grâce à l'approvisionnement du marché intérieur, et à long terme, pour atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire;
- augmentation des produits agricoles d'exportation en s'inspirant de la monétarisation des échanges marchands agricoles (noix de cajou, palmiste, arachide, huile de palme) ainsi que des projets d'agriculture privée qui soient rentables (manioc, fruits, bananes, etc.);
- augmentation des surfaces cultivées pour améliorer la productivité du travail en utilisant au maximum les ressources et les outils de travail, ainsi que la traction animale là où elle est possible;
- augmentation des superficies irriguées, réactivation de l'utilisation des aménagements de rizières déjà réhabilités, en entamant la construction de systèmes d'irrigation dans les bas-fonds de l'Est du pays;
- intensification des travaux de recherche/développement sur les systèmes de production;
- développement des enquêtes et de l'expérimentation au niveau des zones qui permettront d'augmenter la productivité et la production;
- meilleure intégration de l'agriculture grâce à l'utilisation plus ordonnée des sols;
- renforcement de l'appui intégré aux producteurs des zones rurales en intensifiant les mesures déjà mises en oeuvre par le truchement de projets de développement rural intégré;
- accorder enfin une attention toute particulière aux actions de promotion et de développement harmonieux de l'agriculture privée.

Voilà donc les préoccupations majeures de notre gouvernement pour assurer l'impulsion de son économie, en s'appuyant sur le secteur prioritaire qu'est l'agriculture.

Pour ce qui est des questions soumises aux débats de notre Conférence, ma délégation voudrait apporter les observations suivantes:

Je commence par le document "Examen de certains aspects, buts et opérations de la FAO". Dans un premier temps, nous tenons à féliciter le Comité du Programme, le Comité financier ainsi que le groupe de techniciens qui ont élaboré ce document, eu égard à l'excellent travail qu'ils ont accompli et à la perspicacité dont ils ont fait preuve pour présenter les questions principales relatives à l'amélioration des programmes d'activités et d'organisation de la FAO. C'est pourquoi nous lançons un appel à cette assemblée pour qu'elle consente des efforts afin de parvenir à un plein accord pour que les conclusions de cet examen soient adoptées à l'unanimité.

Quant aux aspects financiers, nous osons espérer que les pays les plus aisés voudront bien collaborer davantage avec le groupe de techniciens pour appliquer les mesures préconisées.

Nous sommes d'avis que les efforts déployés par la FAO pour améliorer l'exécution des programmes et l'efficacité sur le terrain méritent notre appui pour ce qui est des mesures préconisées. Voilà pourquoi ma délégation appuie totalement et approuve vigoureusement les recommandations et mesures proposées.

Quant au Programme de travail et budget 1990/91 et aux objectifs à moyen terme, nous pensons qu'il s'agit d'un texte réaliste eu égard à la situation économique internationale. Il constitue par ailleurs un minimum indispensable à la réalisation et la concrétisation des demandes croissantes exprimées par nos pays. C'est pourquoi nous approuvons ces propositions. Il y a également un autre aspect de notre Conférence que ma délégation a souligné: le Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes au développement agricole et rural.

Une des prémisses de base garantissant le succès de l'émancipation des femmes présuppose leur participation au secteur productif. Cette participation se manifeste de façon évidente dans le secteur rural où la femme guinéenne participe activement, aux côtés de l'homme, aux diverses tâches agricoles, allant de la culture des terres jusqu'à la récolte et au traitement des produits.

Par ailleurs, en plus de sa participation à l'agriculture, elle doit également déployer des activités fondamentales - je parle des diverses activités de production populaire - notamment la fabrication du sel, la vente de fruits d'espèces forestières, la coupe, la collecte et la vente de bois de feu, l'extraction de l'huile de palme, la fabrication du savon, l'élevage et la vente de petits animaux.

Sur le plan social, on constate une amélioration qualitative de la participation des femmes surtout dans le domaine de l'éducation et de l'alphabétisation, et des progrès considérables réalisés au sujet de la santé de la femme, de la planification familiale ainsi que des projets de soins de santé primaire.

C'est pourquoi nous approuvons totalement les mesures prévues dans le cadre du Plan d'action, pour permettre une totale intégration de la femme dans tous les aspects de la vie socio-économique et culturelle de nos pays. Nous tenons par ailleurs à mentionner le rôle important que le PAM a joué pour assurer la complémentarisation des divers projets mis en oeuvre dans les domaines de la production, de la création d'infrastructures sociales. Nous saisissons cette occasion pour exprimer notre reconnaissance à tous les pays qui ont apporté leurs contributions à ce programme. Espérons qu'ils voudront bien annoncer leurs contributions bientôt pour nous permettre de réaliser les objectifs que s'est fixés le PAM pour les années 1991/1992. Je ne voudrais nullement terminer mon intervention sans évoquer les thèmes importants ayant trait à l'évolution du monde rural aujourd'hui et qui ont fait l'objet de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation cette année, c'est-à-dire la préservation de l'environnement.

Dans mon pays, l'augmentation de la production agricole et les efforts consentis dans les activités de la pêche et l'accroissement de l'exploitation forestière doivent aller de pair avec les efforts à consentir pour assurer la préservation de l'environnement et améliorer la qualité de la vie de notre peuple. A notre avis, les notions ayant trait à l'augmentation de la production et la réalisation de l'objectif qu'est l'autosuffisance alimentaire ne peuvent être nullement dissociées des notions de préservation et de conservation de l'environnement.

Dans notre sous-région, le désert avance à vue d'oeil. Le déboisement est le résultat des feux de brousse, de la coupe à des fins industrielles et énergétiques et touche quelque 60 000 ha/an dans notre pays.

C'est pourquoi nous nous sommes imposé un effort national de reboisement et de production dans notre environnement pour maintenir les activités de production dans les pays et garantir l'avenir des générations futures. Je vous remercie.

**Saimin REDJOSENTONO (Suriname):** Mr Chairman. The near future looks bleak if we compare the decreasing agricultural growth in most African, Latin American and Caribbean countries with an increasing world population which will top approximately 6 000 million by the year 2000.

Despite considerable progress made in world food production, the acute problem of malnutrition still affects hundreds of millions of people, mostly in developing countries. Unfortunately, this situation is more the result of failure to execute adequate political, economic and social policies than of farmers' inability to produce adequate supplies of food.

Bearing in mind these developments, my country strongly supports the proposal to convene the International Conference on Nutrition to be organized by FAO, WHO, and other interested agencies of the UN system.

Over and above this imbalance, the world is faced by an environmental crisis which could endanger it if adequate remedial steps are not taken in time.

The increasing pollution of water, soil and air and degradation of the land pervades almost every region. According to FAO studies, between 5 and 7 million hectares of land under cultivation are lost each year, mostly in developing countries.

This destruction of our environment is the consequence of our attitude: "conquer nature". Our attitude should be "live in harmony with nature". Because the law of nature is "Action is Reaction". Everything reacts on everything. How can we internalize the attitude "live in harmony with nature"? We can achieve this by raising the level of consciousness of the majority of the world's population. As long as this is not achieved we will not have fundamental changes in all aspects of life and means of living, be it political, economic, social or industrial, agricultural, environmental, etc.

After this short excursion into a higher and philosophical view on life, let us come down again to its lower and more material aspects.

As has already been stated by many speakers before me, the FAO, acting on one of the recommendations of the 1986 Regional Conference in Barbados, produced a study. This study identified the potential for agricultural and rural development in the region and formed the basis for the Twentieth FAO Regional Conference in Brazil in 1988. And although my country could not participate, my Government fully supports the objectives and recommendations. In this respect my Government, with the assistance of the FAO and IICA, recently started training programmes in cooperatives and extension at the grassroot level.

Like many countries in the developing world, Suriname, too, has been confronted in this decade with falling prices of our main export commodities, and with difficulties in penetrating the markets of the industrialized nations. My Government is strongly in favour to resume, at short notice, the Uruguay Round regarding GATT multilateral trade negotiations in the four areas of agriculture, textiles and clothing, safeguards and intellectual property rights on which, as yet, no consensus has been reached.

If developing countries are seriously to be assisted in their efforts to improve the conditions of their people, it is necessary to establish fair and market-oriented trading systems, including that tariff and non-tariff barriers be neither intensified nor extended to additional products and support prices to producers.

After about seven years of a military regime, free, secret and fair general elections were held in Suriname on November 25, 1987. These elections were overwhelmingly won by the Front for Democracy and Development. On the basis of the results, President Ramsewak Shankar is leading the new Government.

One of the first activities of the new Government was to take stock of the main constraints hindering economic and social growth and development. One very critical situation, which still demands a solution, is the ongoing armed conflict in my country that dates back to 1986.

Further on, the relationship with the Netherlands had to be and is normalized. Based on the results of the stocktaking, my Government decided on the following framework for agrarian-sector policy.

The agrarian production in my country experienced a decreasing to stagnant development and growth since 1981. This was accompanied by a decrease in real income, stagnant productivity, decreasing competition in both export-markets and in comparison to imported foodstuffs and commodities, deterioration of physical infrastructure and capacity, as well as living conditions. This development was caused mainly by:

First, shortage of foreign exchange, as a consequence of which the supply of import inputs and the maintenance of capital goods declined;

Second, deficit in the State Budget, so that normal functions in the agrarian sector could barely be executed;

Third, the monetary and fiscal policy which in fact further stimulated inflation and profit margins of the trade sector with a decreasing and stagnant supply of locally manufactured goods and decrease of imports, because of a shortage of foreign currency.

These conditions require answers that create conditions for adequate growth and development. The present conditions, however, justify a gradual approach in order to arrive safely at a point where the people of Suriname can enjoy a decent standard of living and a good future for years to come.

In order to come to restoration and growth of the Surinamese agricultural sector, the policy is to work according to a so-called three-phase approach:

- the urgency phase;
- the restoration phase; and
- the growth phase.

Because of the under-utilization and decline of the agricultural production capacity, first of all the inputs supply must be brought up to the mark. By doing so the sector will optimally utilize the existing and still functioning capacity before coming to expansion of the capacity. Secondly, the policy wants to restore and maintain again the existing but unused capacity by securing the import of re-investment goods. This implies among other things that the present physical infrastructure such as roads, productive buildings, machines, pumps be restored and rehabilitated and normal maintenance secured.

The third phase will be the expansion and import-substitution investments. These require more preparation time and will take place during the implementation of the first two phases.

The three phases won't be strictly chronological. In fact, it will take place simultaneously. The expectation is that through this the income in the agricultural sector will be influenced positively. By increasing the soil and labour productivity as well as an efficient use of the foreign component, a strategical place will be given to a coordinated and practical-oriented research. This is technical as well as economical and marketing research.

Having described the strategy of how we plan to grow and develop our economy, having informed you about the critical situation my country experiences nowadays, it should be made clear that after about two years in power of the new government, we are still in the urgency phase.

Last but not least, the agricultural policy will give an essential role to the private sector. The Administration will concentrate on its initiating, coordinating, steering and supporting function. This implies that direct involvement in the production process by the Government will gradually be reduced, unless this is undesirable in the framework of price and income intervention policy.

In view of what I have stated, the FAO programme for 1990 and 1991 is fully supported by my delegation. I have no doubt that all that has already been stated and is yet to be stated by delegations attending this Conference, will receive serious attention for further elaboration by FAO.

However, allow me to make the following remarks in particular. The first regards the Technical Cooperation Programme. The dramatic decline in submissions for TCP assistance is a matter of concern for my delegation. The lack of red tape with which a TCP activity could be made operational in the field did assist the recipient countries in an effective and appreciated way. My delegation, therefore, is of the opinion that TCP activities must be in a position to act fast and adequately, and as a consequence funding has to be safeguarded.

The second remark refers to the support of FAO in looking for solutions to assist the people in the Caribbean area, where Hurricane Hugo has destroyed homes and crops.

We stand on the threshold of the nineties. We do hope that this decade will be a more fruitful and enlightened one than the eighties.

**Adolfo DIAZ SUAREZ (Cuba):** Asistimos a este 25º periodo de sesiones animados por el interés de que, en el marco de sus deliberaciones, el conjunto de naciones aquí reunidas encontremos alternativas viables para resolver los grandes problemas que enfrenta la humanidad en cuanto a su seguridad alimentaria.

Dispuestos a contribuir con nuestro trabajo al éxito de esta Conferencia, expreso, en nombre de la Delegación de Cuba, nuestra felicitación al Sr. Presidente y demás miembros de la mesa por su elección para dirigir nuestros debates y, a su vez, nuestra confianza en que sabrán conducirlos con plena conciencia de la alta responsabilidad que han contraído.

Es lamentable que nuevamente tengamos que expresar, con pesar, que el panorama de la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación no ha experimentado cambios que permitan siquiera avizorar que los esfuerzos que ha venido realizando la FAO por establecer políticas que se implementen de manera efectiva, a fin de lograr el mejoramiento de la situación de más de 500 millones de seres humanos que padecen de hambre y malnutrición tengan perspectivas inmediatas de aportar las soluciones que, con urgencia, tal situación demanda.

Conspira contra ellas la falta de voluntad política de algunos de los países industrialmente desarrollados, que persisten en aplicar fórmulas obsoletas a las relaciones económicas entre los Estados, entorpecen la cooperación multilateral que promueve el sistema de las Naciones Unidas, limitando el flujo de recursos financieros y de productos destinados a los programas de ayuda alimentaria, más necesitados que nunca de que los países más ricos aumenten los fondos destinados a paliar las consecuencias del subdesarrollo que se nos ha impuesto, saqueando nuestras riquezas, limitando nuestras potencialidades y condicionándolas no a la necesidad de un mundo donde se luche y se trabaje por una mejor distribución de las riquezas, sino acusando a los países de su subdesarrollo por responsabilidades de sus capacidades para organizar su producción, limitando sus exportaciones con medidas proteccionistas, creando, mediante un intercambio desigual, una deuda externa que agrava sus condiciones de vida y limita sus posibilidades de desarrollo. Por esto se hace imprescindible que de los excedentes de la producción alimentaria mundial fluyan, en mayor medida, los productos destinados a mitigar el hambre de los que carecen de un pedazo de pan y que, inmersos en el atraso cultural y técnico a que están sometidos, no pueden aspirar por sí solos al desarrollo de que están urgidos para asegurar su subsistencia.

Las injustas relaciones de intercambio y el proteccionismo continúan caracterizando las relaciones económicas internacionales, y el agobiante problema del endeudamiento externo se agrava desmesuradamente ante la tozudez de los acreedores, que cierran toda posibilidad justa a la renegociación y los refuerzan como una barrera infranqueable para nuestros países, que continúan dedicando dolorosamente los exiguos recursos procedentes de las exportaciones, que pudieran destinarse al desarrollo, al pago de los servicios de la deuda, que se torna cada vez más insoportable ante la ineficiencia de los programas de estabilización y ajuste estructural que se han llevado a cabo, en especial en varios países de América Latina, patrocinados por las principales organizaciones financieras, con la anuencia



de los gobiernos y la repulsa de los pueblos. Para estos países, la solución no puede ser, en modo alguno, la de detener su desarrollo, pues ello no resuelve sus problemas de hoy y, menos aún, constituye una respuesta a las necesidades futuras de sus pueblos.

Tal parece, ante este dramático cuadro, que a las aspiraciones que proclamamos en este foro de que el hombre alcance la satisfacción de la más elemental de sus necesidades vitales, los poderosos opongan a esa voluntad la declaración puesta a la puerta del Infierno de Dante: ¡Dejad toda esperanza!

Es necesario que sigamos emprendiendo acciones concretas para el establecimiento del nuevo orden económico internacional, que asegure condiciones de intercambio más justas y traiga beneficios compartidos para unos y otros, permitiendo el acceso de nuestros pueblos al desarrollo y preservando, para disfrute de todo, el medio natural que garantiza nuestra existencia.

Tal como expresara el Director General de la FAO, señor Edouard Saouma, en su declaración con ocasión del Día Mundial de la Alimentación -y cito-: "la humanidad no podrá encontrar la vía de la supervivencia y de la salud si no consigue librarse de la dictadura de lo inmediato y orientar sus pensamientos y acciones hacia una perspectiva de futuro; es decir, teniendo en cuenta la duración, los unos tendrán que renunciar a obtener máximos beneficios inmediatos, desinteresándose del estado en que dejan el planeta a sus descendientes, los otros no deberán sentirse forzados a destruir su patrimonio para poder comer cada día." -fin de la cita-.

Cuba, inserta en una línea de acción consecuente con alcanzar niveles de desarrollo aceptables, ha enfrentado con decisión su tránsito hacia un estatus superior de desarrollo económico y social. No somos ajenos a los efectos de la crisis económica internacional, que sacude los cimientos mismos de la comunidad de la que formamos parte, agravada nuestra situación por el bloqueo económico que ha impuesto a nuestro pueblo, por más de tres décadas, la potencia imperialista más poderosa del mundo.

Somos, con orgullo y dignidad, un elemento del conjunto de naciones de América Latina y el Caribe, que conforman por la naturaleza de sus orígenes, un sistema que ha de alcanzar su plena integración económica, basado en el respeto mutuo a la autodeterminación de sus exponentes, a las opciones que cada uno de ellos considere más viable para actuar con plena independencia política y responder a los anhelos de sus pueblos, y a ese propósito dedicamos nuestros mayores esfuerzos.

Continuamos empeñados en el adelanto de nuestros programas de desarrollo agrícola, pecuario y silvícola. Avanzamos en un esfuerzo que aborda de manera integral el desarrollo de nuestras potencialidades. Ejemplo de ello es el proyecto de desarrollo lechero de la cuenca de Jimaguayú, que cuenta con la colaboración eficaz y oportuna del Programa Mundial de Alimentos y que abre, junto a la perspectiva inmediata del incremento de la producción, el acceso a mayores beneficios en el terreno de la salud, de la educación, de la vivienda, de la integración de la mujer al desarrollo en el medio rural y de la preservación del medio ambiente del territorio en que se lleva a cabo, y que es una expresión de nuestra política en todos los programas agrícolas y ganaderos que se realizan en nuestro país.

La movilización de las masas populares en la ejecución de un programa de rehabilitación forestal y la transformación de las condiciones socioeconómicas de las zonas de montaña del país, son programas de primera prioridad que, vistos en el plano del desarrollo rural integral, demandan, además de nuestros propios esfuerzos, la cooperación indispensable de la ayuda multilateral proveniente de la FAO y de otras agencias del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, de las organizaciones no gubernamentales y de aquellos países que, al margen del nivel de desarrollo alcanzado y del credo político que sustentan, estén dispuestos a apoyar nuestras acciones por el desarrollo.

Estos esfuerzos, al igual que los que realizan otros pueblos de nuestra región, requieren, además del mejoramiento de las relaciones económicas entre los Estados, que reine un clima de paz, que desaparezca la política ingerencista que prevalece en la actitud del imperialismo hacia nuestros pueblos y que se alcancen soluciones negociadas a los conflictos originados en nuestra región, sobre la base del respeto a los principios de la plena dignidad y soberanía que enarbolamos. Ello debe concitar la solidaridad internacional para lograr que la paz se establezca definitivamente y que fructifiquen en su favor los procesos esperanzadores que tienen lugar especialmente en Centroamérica.

Las acciones que se derivan de la colaboración multilateral y la defensa de los principios que animan a la FAO a impulsar la asistencia técnica, la transferencia tecnológica, la integración de voluntades de los gobiernos y de las Organizaciones Internacionales que coadyuvan con visión progresista el desarrollo de nuestros pueblos encuentran en nosotros el más firme respaldo.

Vemos con preocupación como el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1990-91 de la Organización ha experimentado un crecimiento de sólo un 0,45 por ciento equiparable a un crecimiento "cero", que hemos reiterada-mente censurado en conferencias anteriores, ante las necesidades cada vez mayores de los países beneficiarios de esta cooperación. Tal estado de cosas pone en situación precaria la ayuda que la FAO ha propugnado a través de sus programas de cooperación técnica y que tanta repercusión tienen en los países de nuestra región y abogamos porque los principales contribuyentes de los fondos de la FAO cumplan sus responsabilidades para que puedan continuar aplicándose proyectos concretos en nuestros países para la solución de los principales problemas que enfrentamos en la agricultura.

Consideramos que, a pesar de los obstáculos que se oponen a los nobles propósitos de la FAO, aún estamos a tiempo de mirar hacia adelante con optimismo y de encontrar fórmulas aceptables para todos, sin abandonar los preceptos fundamentales que rigen la Organización.

El papel que ha estado jugando esta prestigiosa Organización en favor del bienestar de los países del mundo subdesarrollado es encomiable y nuestra Delegación considera que la FAO actúa con plena conciencia de que el hambre no es solamente una cuestión moral, como tampoco un problema material que puede resolverse con una mezcla de economía y técnica, sino que es, ante todo, un problema político que condiciona el futuro de nuestro planeta. Los fines de la Organización están perfectamente expresados en el preámbulo de su constitución, tal como ha sido ampliamente comprobado por los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, quienes, auxiliados por un grupo de expertos escogidos, han realizado una ardua y positiva labor para examinar algunos aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAO.

Es tarea de todos los Estados Miembros luchar por mejorar su trabajo para que cumplimente de manera óptima sus tareas dentro del marco de los textos básicos ya establecidos, y debemos, en primer lugar, asegurar los medios del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto del bienio 1990-91; fortalecer y apoyar el trabajo de la FAO como vehículo idóneo para que nuestros países reciban respaldo técnico y asesoramiento oportuno a los programas que se llevan a cabo en la agricultura; para que continúe impulsando la plena integración de la mujer al desarrollo del medio rural; para que la protección del medio ambiente y la repoblación forestal en el trópico encuentren respaldo seguro para su realización. Somos suficientemente capaces de supervisar las actividades de la FAO mediante el ejercicio de nuestras prerrogativas en el seno de la Conferencia, en el Consejo y en los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas. Consideramos que esto es un mecanismo suficiente.

Queremos saludar el trabajo realizado por el Doctor Saouma y sus colaboradores y les exhortamos a continuar su lucha por elevar el trabajo de la Organización.

No se trata de dar una visión pesimista del mundo, Sr. Presidente, señores delegados, pero, por otro lado, es difícil oír exposiciones como las que hemos oído aquí de algunas delegaciones de países desarrollados de un optimismo que no se corresponde con la realidad de nuestros pueblos. Es por eso que, como afortunadamente han expresado otros países también desarrollados, es imprescindible que la paz no sea un patrimonio de "paz entre los grandes", sino "paz para todos"; desarrollo y estabilidad no sólo para una región del mundo, sino para todas las regiones del mundo. Si esto no se asegura, no habrá una paz estable y duradera. Los países del Tercer Mundo no somos un grupo de países residuales, somos la mayoría de los países del mundo, por lo que no podemos sentirnos satisfechos con lo que se ha logrado hoy; y se hace imprescindible buscar soluciones urgentes a los problemas, en tantas ocasiones denunciado, de tratamiento desigual y de abuso hacia los países pequeños, sometiendo a sus pueblos al hambre, a la incultura, a la insalubridad y cerrándoles las puertas a un futuro más decoroso. Que la humanidad acepte esto y se pliegue a la voluntad de algunos, por muy poderosos que sean, atenta contra la dignidad y la honestidad humanas, y esto, Sr. Presidente, es inadmisibile.

Fortalezcamos el papel de nuestras instituciones y avancemos hacia el pleno disfrute de lo que el genio y la inteligencia humana ha creado para su pleno bienestar.

**Mauro BERTERO GUTIERREZ (Bolivia):** Señor Presidente, señor Director General, señores Ministros, señores Embajadores, señores Observadores, señoras y señores.

En nombre del Gobierno de Unidad Nacional de la República de Bolivia y de su Excelencia el Presidente Constitucional, Don Jaime Paz Zamora, me es grato y muy honroso transmitir los saludos fraternos de Bolivia para todos y cada uno de los países que asisten a esta importante reunión, donde, seguramente, tocaremos temas relativos a la actividad económica y social de mayor importancia para el bienestar de toda la humanidad.

Deseo expresar mi convicción que el diálogo, el conocimiento mutuo y el sincero intercambio de ideas son las únicas vías para el progreso de los pueblos y el establecimiento de una sociedad mundial justa y equitativa.

Hago votos para que las intervenciones de todos los países presentes sean escuchadas con ecuanimidad y sus planteamientos sean atendidos dentro de un marco de solidaridad y comprensión. De esta manera, confío que en estas jornadas se lograrán resultados positivos para resolver muchos de los problemas derivados del hambre, la pobreza, el deterioro del ecosistema, los bajos niveles de producción alimenticia y otros que hoy se constituyen en verdaderos obstáculos al desarrollo de nuestros pueblos.

Es de conocimiento mundial que hasta 1986 mi país, Bolivia, sufría una de las más severas tasas de inflación en la historia de la humanidad, con índices que llegaron a superar el 20 mil por ciento anual.

Después de someter a la economía boliviana a un duro programa de estabilización financiera, racionalización del aparato estatal y política de ajuste en todos los sectores productivos, todo lo cual ha significado un elevado costo social reflejado en altas tasas de desempleo y rígidas políticas salariales para los sectores más empobrecidos de la población, presentamos al mundo el resultado del esfuerzo del pueblo boliviano: una economía estable, con tasas de inflación de alrededor del 12 por ciento anual y crecimiento positivo en los dos últimos años.

Ahora bien, una vez conseguida la estabilización, mi Gobierno encara la difícil tarea de reactivar la economía y comenzar a dar respuestas positivas a las urgentes necesidades sociales, plasmando voluntades en mejores oportunidades de trabajo y bienestar social.

Para dar una pauta de los desafíos que enfrenta mi Gobierno, quisiera hacer conocer a ustedes, señor Presidente y señores Delegados, algunas cifras relativas a la pobreza rural en mi país.

De las aproximadamente 690 mil unidades productivas agropecuarias en Bolivia, el 93 por ciento está compuesta por campesinos, de los cuales 410 mil se encuentran en niveles de subsistencia e infrasubsistencia, con una mortalidad infantil de hasta 385 niños muertos por cada 1 000 nacidos, con una deficiencia nutricional que cubre sólo el 43 por ciento de los requerimientos mínimos de proteína animal, una tasa de analfabetismo del 62 por ciento entre los trabajadores rurales y una vivienda rural, donde solamente el 7 por ciento tiene acceso a energía eléctrica, el 8 por ciento al agua potable, y el 93 por ciento carece de instalaciones sanitarias básicas.

En estas condiciones, el 97 por ciento de la población rural en Bolivia se encuentra por debajo de los niveles de pobreza y el 67 por ciento se encuentra debajo de los niveles de pobreza crítica de acuerdo a datos del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola en 1985.

Esta realidad indica claramente que se debe aplicar un concepto de desarrollo integral del área rural, que considere de igual importancia los aspectos sociales como los económicos y que no absuelva en ningún momento las necesidades de un aspecto de la vida nacional, con un sacrificio extremo del otro.

Como indudablemente se observa en la mayoría de los países del mundo hoy aquí representados, son los pobres, y principalmente los pobres de las áreas rurales, nuestras áreas rurales, los que reciben la mayor parte del brutal impacto de las políticas de ajuste y estabilización. Ellos son los que sufren y se sacrifican, sin tener aún suficiente decir y palabra sobre el curso de los acontecimientos y decisiones.

En Bolivia hemos avanzado mucho, sefior Presidente, en el desarrollo del sistema democrático al constitucionalizarse los gobiernos elegidos por el pueblo y para el pueblo, y, sin embargo, a la par que desarrollamos esta joven democracia en Bolivia, es menester, es urgente democratizar el desarrollo, dirigiendo los esfuerzos, las inversiones y los programas a socorrer, a ayudar y a levantar a los millones de seres humanos pobres que constituyen la gran mayoría de habitantes de este planeta.

El desarrollo tiene que ser para todos, para que los más pobres puedan participar activamente de los beneficios que este desarrollo económico y social trae a las naciones del mundo. El desarrollo tiene que ser para todos y especialmente para aquéllos que más lo necesitan.

Si bien la pobreza es un desafío de todos en este mundo en el que vivimos, existen problemas particulares a ciertos países de la subregión Andina, aparte de aquéllos comunes como la deuda externa y el manejo irracional de los recursos naturales.

Los escasos recursos que genera Bolivia hoy, y que bien podrían ser dirigidos hacia el financiamiento propio de nuestro desarrollo, tienen que destinarse a responder a deudas elevadas, muy elevadas, contraídas en otras épocas, bajo otras condiciones, en otros gobiernos y en otras circunstancias.

Pero, como si el peso de esta deuda externa no fuera suficiente, países como Colombia, Perú y Bolivia soportan hoy el terrible flagelo del narcotráfico. El narcotráfico hoy, señores delegados y señor presidente, es un tema electoral en algunos países industrializados. Para nosotros es un tema de vida o muerte, y hago propicia esta ocasión para solidarizar a nombre del gobierno de Bolivia ante el foro del mundo entero con la lucha que lleva adelante el gobierno Colombiano y el pueblo Colombiano contra este flagelo, que no es de algunos, sino de toda la humanidad; éste es un problema de preocupación mundial. Este es, sin duda, no sólo el problema de los países productores de la hoja de coca, es también un problema para aquéllos países que demandan cocaína y la consumen.

Asimismo, debo enfatizar que el cultivo de la hoja de coca es un cultivo andino de tradición milenaria, -se cultiva desde mucho antes que nosotros fuéramos repúblicas- que hasta la década de los años 70 se desarrolló como cualquier otro cultivo agrícola. Solamente cuando en los países más desarrollados la demanda de cocaína aumentó vertiginosamente y el precio de la hoja de coca subió a tal punto que ningún otro cultivo pudo competir económicamente y los campesinos pobres, los campesinos colombianos, peruanos y bolivianos, residentes en áreas deprimidas, que ya he descrito anteriormente en el índice de materias sociales, fueron atraídos racionalmente por la posibilidad de obtener ganancias en un cultivo que ellos conocían y que nunca antes había sido causa de ningún daño. También en esta circunstancia es menester, es necesario y urgente reconocer y admitir la corresponsabilidad de aquellos países consumidores en la búsqueda de soluciones económicas a un problema que es esencialmente económico.

Inspirados en las conclusiones de la Conferencia sobre narcotráfico realizada en Viena, en junio de 1987, debemos tener, la Comunidad Internacional una clara conciencia de los efectos del tráfico ilícito y el uso indebido de drogas sobre las estructuras económicas, sociales, políticas y culturales de los estados así como su soberanía y la seguridad de los mismos.

Asimismo debemos alentar los aportes de instituciones financieras internacionales para estudiar la producción alternativa a esta hoja de coca, viabilizando así una situación económica atractiva para aquellos campesinos que voluntariamente participan de programas de desarrollo alternativo, sustituyendo cicales por productos agrícolas diferentes.

Porque yo le pregunto a usted, señor Presidente, y a la Comunidad Mundial aquí presente: ¿Qué puede hacer un campesino boliviano al que hace cuatro años le convencí personalmente para que pudiera dedicarse en vez de a la hoja de coca a la producción del café y hoy en día, como todos sabemos, el café no tiene mercado? Luego, éste es un problema social, político y económico pero que tiene una solución: el compromiso de los gobiernos de Colombia, Perú y Bolivia para luchar frontalmente contra el narcotráfico, estableciendo programas de prevención contra la droga y su consumo y el desarrollo alternativo con la cooperación de los países para que esta solución económica pueda ser muy efectiva.

Dentro del marco de comprensión que debe caracterizar nuestras mutuas relaciones, deseo apelar vehementemente a la Comunidad Mundial de los Países Desarrollados para que permita un acceso preferencial arancelario, algo ya sugerido por el Presidente de los Estados Unidos hace pocas semanas, un acceso preferencial a los mercados de estos países industrializados para productos alternativos a la hoja de coca, sin crear barreras artificiales, como ya se ha mencionado acá, a los productos agropecuarios de países en desarrollo y dejando de un lado las siempre vigentes prácticas proteccionistas y las subvenciones que distorsionan las relaciones económicas, sociales y políticas entre las naciones del mundo entero.

De otra parte, es fundamental reconocer la importancia de dar atención prioritaria a la crítica relación entre la capacidad de producir alimentos y la crisis ambiental que vivimos hoy.

Por un lado, perdemos suelos agrícolas día a día; por el otro, debido al crecimiento poblacional, aumentan dramáticamente las necesidades de alimentación.

Se nota muy bien en discursos de la FAO que el uso exhaustivo del recurso suelo por parte de los pequeños productores agrícolas es, sin duda, y en la mayoría de los casos, debido al carácter de subsistencia de las economías campesinas, usando la tierra más allá de los límites permisibles, un desenfrenado esfuerzo por sobrevivir en la crisis que nos agobia.

Sin embargo, los crecientes éxodos del área rural hacia los centros urbanos ponen en verdadero relieve la poca atención que los gobiernos del mundo hemos prestado al área rural, permitiendo la generación de una serie de situaciones que ponen en verdadero riesgo la viabilidad de las economías campesinas, dentro de un contexto donde es fundamental la "utilización de tecnologías ambientales racionales, culturalmente apropiadas y cada vez más productivas", usando las palabras del Director General de la FAO, en su mensaje al mundo en el Día de la Alimentación, en octubre pasado.

Las cuestiones globales apuntadas anteriormente son, en definitiva, desafíos a la imaginación y a la voluntad política de los gobiernos del mundo entero.

Es preciso reconocer que ha llegado la hora de traducir estas voluntades en realidades y hechos concretos, en lo referente a la administración más responsable de los recursos naturales que hemos heredado y que, a su vez, se constituyen en nuestra herencia para las generaciones que vendrán después y es cabalmente para con las nuevas generaciones que vendrán en el futuro con las que debemos tener especial consideración, porque al no estar presentes hoy aquí, tornan aún más grande la responsabilidad de velar por sus intereses en la administración del planeta que nos toca conservar.

Por estas razones es que en Bolivia, el Gobierno de Unidad Nacional, ha decidido proponer a la población una pausa ecológica histórica de diez años, para permitir la reflexión profunda del pueblo boliviano sobre la creación de áreas de reserva y establecer una conciencia ecológica nacional con especial énfasis en la educación de los más jóvenes, de tal manera que ellos se conviertan en verdaderos guardianes del patrimonio ecológico nacional, que no es sólo de Bolivia, sino que es del mundo entero.

Bolivia tiene mucho que agradecer a la cooperación internacional, bilateral y multilateral, por las innumerables ocasiones y múltiples maneras en que ayudan a la solución de nuestros problemas y apoyan nuestro desarrollo.

En este último período de estabilización y ajuste, al que hice referencia al principio de nuestra exposición, los bolivianos hemos recibido continuas y oportunas donaciones a través del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, lo que nos ha permitido proveer asistencia a sectores muy marginados socialmente, a los más pobres. Pero dado que Bolivia posee gran potencial productivo en el sector agropecuario, con una amplia oferta de mano de obra, creemos vital que los alimentos donados sean también en parte adquiridos de la producción nacional y así aumente la demanda de trabajo y producción de nuestros campesinos.

Asimismo, el gobierno de Bolivia vería con muy buenos ojos la posibilidad de otorgar mayor autonomía financiera y operativa a este Programa Mundial de Alimentos, en un decidido esfuerzo para mejorar aún más su ya reconocida eficiencia institucional.

Nuestro país también participa de la necesidad de realizar y fortalecer el rol de la mujer en el desarrollo rural y nacional, y continuará fomentando iniciativas que conduzcan a la superación de la mujer campesina en el campo social, cultural, político y económico.

En otro orden de cosas, una fuerte preocupación de mi gobierno es la preparación de instrumentos idóneos para aplicar medidas de reformas y mejoras en el marco institucional de las estructuras del Estado en materia de programación y políticas para el desarrollo. En este sentido, apoyamos decididamente el fortalecimiento financiero de organismos como la FAO, para que estos a su vez coadyuven, a través de los programas de asistencia técnica, a los gobiernos, a los gobiernos de los países miembros, para que podamos mejorar sustancialmente la eficiencia social de nuestras gestiones en la administración de los pueblos.

El hambre, la pobreza y el deterioro del ecosistema son males que andan juntos y de la mano. Si pretendemos un mundo regido por principios de equidad humana, estabilidad en producción y mantenimiento de los procesos y equilibrios ecológicos, es preciso, es urgente que todos nosotros, los ciudadanos de todo el mundo, pobres y ricos, nos demos la mano, en un gesto de fortaleza, hermandad y esperanza en un futuro siempre mejor.

En un mundo donde comienzan a caer murallas que parecían eternas -hemos tenido un claro ejemplo de ello hace pocos días en Europa-; en un mundo donde los seres humanos estamos tan necesitados de fe, humanidad, solidaridad y amor; en un mundo como éste, a veces tan frío, tan estadístico, a veces tan ausente, deseo que todos ustedes, en nombre de Bolivia, acepten un pequeño gesto de amistad, un gesto de fe en un futuro mejor, traducido en el símbolo de una rosa del pueblo de mi país a los pueblos de todo el mundo.

¡Dios los bendiga hoy y siempre!

Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair

Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

**Nguyen CONG TAN (Viet Nam) (original language Vietnamese):** May I first of all warmly congratulate you, Mr. Chairman for having been unanimously elected to preside over the Twenty-fifth Session of" this important Conference of the FAO. May I also convey to the Director-General Dr. Edouard Saouma and his FAO staff the high appreciation of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the active efforts and noticeable achievement contributed by the FAO in the process of food and agriculture development of the world for the last few years. I would like, on this occasion, to express the sincere gratitude of our Government and people to the FAO, Mr Director-General, and to the fraternal and friendly countries and international organizations for developing and promoting cooperation with, and assistance to Viet Nam in agriculture, forestry and fishery.

The world economy has continued to face difficulties. The development of food and agriculture production over recent years has been unstable, tending to decrease from 1986 to 1988, uneven from country to country and from region to region. The economies of the poor and debt-burdened countries have not yet had effective solutions. The chronic problems of the human race namely poverty, hunger, malnutrition do not seem to be alleviated very much - in some places they are still serious in spite of great efforts to cure them and of course, without these efforts the situation would have been worse.

For the developing countries, especially the low income ones, generally they are facing the same problems i.e. their population growth rates are now lower than they were but are still higher than they would wish. The majority of population live in rural areas and earn from agriculture while other industries which are still small and backward, cannot provide sufficient support to other economic sector development and also cannot absorb much labour. The rural population thus is continuing or even worsening the tension of unemployment not only in urban, but also in rural areas. Infrastructure is poor and incomplete; the environment is under continuous damage especially forest land, and agriculture suffers the consequences; there is lack of investment capital and appropriate improved techniques, especially agroproduct-processing technologies for turning raw materials into high-value processed commodities; productivity is generally low, and is much lower in the agricultural sector creating high-cost products which are not competitive in the market, resulting in low incomes; and finally, heavy pressures in the world market exist because of trade protectionism and hard trading competition mainly between developed and developing countries.



During the last decade, the Food and Agriculture Organization has played an active role with others in the removal of some of these problems. Under the Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 FAO will continue to take responsibility on some major issues such as "Preparations for an International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade", "The GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations (Uruguay Round) and Implications for FAO", "Plan for Action for the Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development", and other specialized issues of FAO concern.

The activities and efforts of FAO in the past and at present are necessary and meaningful. However, the above-mentioned problems still remain in various countries. This implies that there has to be a continuation of the efforts of every individual member country with the constant and even stronger endeavours of FAO in the future on issues which cannot be effectively resolved by an individual country and in taking care of every-day techniques to preserve and more effectively harness the potential of flora and fauna, environment and abundant rural manpower of every country, region and the world.

With regard to Integrated Rural Development (IRD), permit me to refer to the activities of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), a regional intergovernmental and autonomous institution established in July 1979, on the initiative of FAO, with the main objectives of assisting national action, promoting regional cooperation and acting as a servicing institution for IRD through research, action research, training and documentation to alleviate rural poverty through people's participation. In the past ten years CIRDAP conducted 102 projects and has now prepared a six-year plan for 1990-95 which will be considered and approved by the CIRDAP Governing Council meeting on 7-8 December 1989 in Hanoi, Viet Nam, a ministerial level meeting<sup>1</sup> of its eleven members namely Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. CIRDAP has received valuable support from FAO, EDI of the World Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat, IFAD, ADB, UNDP, CIDA, SIDA, Japan and the Netherlands. We, therefore, sincerely hope CIRDAP will receive further assistance and support from donor countries and agencies, and that more non-member countries in the region will join CIRDAP in the future.

As many other developing countries, Viet Nam is facing the same problems, characterized moreover by suffering the consequences of the long and devastating war. Viet Nam urgently needs many things at the same time; among others, food and foodstuffs, consumer goods and public services are the most pressing to stabilize the normal life of the people, along with rebuilding the damaged infrastructure and the construction of new important projects in the long-term service of production and people's life. In order to realize these large capital investments, technology and appropriate policies, organization and management are needed.

Looking back to 1976 (after the end of the war) the food and agriculture development of Viet Nam has seen shifts and changes but has generally recorded a great and important step.

Under the condition of a very little change in acreage, the annual mean food production increased from 13.35 million tons (1976-1980) to 16.96 million tons (1981-1985) and then continued to increase up to 18.49 million tons (1986-1988). Food production in 1988 reached 19 583 million tons and the estimate for 1989 is more than 20 million tons. The food production increase was mainly due to increased productivity, from 2 tons/ha during the mid-seventies to 3 tons/ha now. Production and yield of other crops have

also increased, especially some of the major industrial crops such as rubber, coffee, and tea. These have rapidly increased both in acreage and production. Animal and poultry production, aquaculture, fishery, afforestation, also recorded good development.

These important results have made an initial contribution in stabilizing the life of people, including more than 50 million living in rural areas with more than 70 percent of their households joining over 16 000 agricultural cooperatives and over 40 000 agricultural collectives and thousands of fishery and forestry cooperatives. These have supplied a part of the raw material for industry, increased the export budget, and created a new driving force and a basis for comprehensive development for greater quantity and better quality of production in the future.

The reason for the outstanding achievements in the recent past in our agricultural economy is firstly due to the very wide and deep renovation in our socio-economic life, especially the renovation of economic management mechanisms in agriculture and rural development, by concrete and appropriate policies and measures aiming at releasing the productive force of producers for greater benefit for themselves and society, and secondly, due to better investment than before on advanced technology especially in plant and animal breeding, irrigation, fertilizer, insecticides, energy, farm tools and machinery and applying optimum farming systems for every ecological zone. This result was attributed partly to the cooperative programmes of FAO, UNDP, WFP, other international organizations, research institutions like IRRI, CIMMYT, CIP, etc. and bilateral and multilateral cooperations.

However, Viet Nam's agriculture and rural development still faces several problems, in which the major issues are to implement and complete sector reviews of agriculture, forestry, fishery, rural industry, finalize development strategies, identify major development programmes, formulate and implement development projects based on priority in content and time.

In the process of realizing the development strategy, due attention must be fully paid to the interrelations between:

- Increase in productivity and production of crops and animals aiming at rapidly filling gaps between yields gained in research/applied research institutions and yields in large-scale commercial production with post-harvest loss reduction;
- Raw material production and agroproduct processing industry and consumption (both inside and outside country);
- Renovation of techniques and technologies to improve productivity and product quality and generation of employment opportunities for rural labour force surplus, especially the female labour force;
- Capital accumulation and consumption;
- Benefits for individuals and society;

In order to carry out these objectives, Viet Nam - apart from its endeavours in mobilizing all the human, financial and material resources available by political commitments of the Government who are willing to do what they can as a government by the people, of the people and for the people in the cause of the agriculture and rural development - needs the cooperation, and assistance of the FAO and other international organizations, brotherly and

friendly countries, generous individuals on science, technology and economy in the form of exchange, trading, loan/credit, joint venture or investment of 100 percent on the basis of the Law of International Investment issued by the State of Viet Nam.

In the background of the world as well as the regions, the requirement of goodwill for development of relationships and cooperation between countries and regions is increasing. The Programme of Work of FAO for 1990-1991 as presented, discussed and approved at this Conference will be brought to practise thus, I hope giving active support to the national development programmes of member countries.

**Avraham KATZ-OZ (Israel):** Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Israeli Delegation please accept our congratulations on your election as Chairman of this Conference. I am sure that under your wise guidance the discussions of this meeting will reach meaningful results.

It is my pleasure to address this distinguished forum and share with you Israel's views on the state of agriculture and the rural regions towards the year 2000, especially with regard to the smaller countries in their efforts to preserve their rural population and increase agricultural production.

We all appreciate that the cold war among nations is abating, but we should not underestimate the looming of a new kind of war: the economic war, namely - the struggle for the international market. Conventional wars are being fought with tanks and canons. In economic wars the weapons are the interest rates, investment capital, international market channels and, if you want to continue the analogy, one country fights the other by heavy artillery such as interest rates for investment capital, subsidized research and development and protective regulations for domestic produce.

In this struggle the small and Third World countries are at a disadvantage which has a bearing on their political and economic standing. Those nations which rule the world economies and markets should carefully consider the situation and put no obstacles, direct or indirect, in the way of competitive imports. Let me voice, here and now, the demand that small countries be given an equal opportunity to compete on the world market.

We as agricultural producers should be encouraged that agricultural trade has received such a high priority in the Uruguay Round of GATT Negotiations, and we look forward to the development in GATT of a clear discipline on the rules for agricultural trade, market access and subsidies. Our concern in Israel is not only with agriculture per se, but also with the social and political role that agriculture plays in keeping the rural areas rural and viable, and making the desert - about 50% of Israel's land area - a livable and attractive habitat.

I am sure that you are all aware of the water resource problems our region and other semi-arid regions are facing: the growing use of fertilizers increases the amount of phosphorus pouring into the aquifers, groundwater resources are threatened by organic refuse from fish ponds and manure, and the growing utilization of low quality water such as purified effluents or saline water increase the threat to the water resources. This concerns the Middle East as it concerns Arizona and California in the United States.

To ward off these dangers we in Israel have decided on new strategies such as:

- prevention of use of toxic materials in irrigation and water networks;
- stringent control of rationing and distribution of water quotas;
- drastic reduction of fresh water fish ponds in the catchment area to prevent organic matter from polluting the Lake of Galilee and the Jordan River;
- steps to prevent the piling up of waste and refuse which cause environmental damage and pollutes the aquifers.

We believe that such an integrated management of the catchment areas is the only way to preserve the water reservoirs of the world.

Israel is situated at a very sensitive crossroads concerning epidemics of animal diseases. We are well known for our high yields in livestock production. However, this achievement is also the cause for a high vulnerability to epidemic diseases. We are aware of the danger that epizootics in the Middle East might spread not only to Israel but to other regions as well, especially Europe. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to establish an efficient network of data collection and distribution and the rapid transfer of information on every sign of disease in the area.

This year at least four diseases have infiltrated from other regions and are endangering the region: foot and mouth disease, and particularly exotic types of the virus, lump skin disease in cattle, rinderpest (cattle plague), and African horse sickness.

Nowadays the world is no more than one big village. Infectious diseases can travel thousands of miles in one single airplane flight. This is what probably happened recently with the American screwworm that was discovered in North Africa and is threatening to spread throughout the Mediterranean basin.

Israel proposes to establish a computerized information base on animal diseases accessible to all countries. Thus, countries having no diplomatic relations with each other can make use of this knowledge for immediate action to effectively prevent the spread of diseases in the region.

In the framework of the FAO European Commission for Foot and Mouth Disease such activity is already taking place. However, besides foot and mouth disease it should extend to other problems as well. The Israeli Veterinary Services have developed a highly efficient system for disease surveillance, diagnosis and control. We are both willing and able to share our know-how with each and all countries within and outside the Mediterranean region.

Israel is one of the strongest supporters of the International Plant Protection Convention. The IPPC's chief objective is to prevent the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products.

The European Plant Protection Organization recommended that a secretariat be established within the FAO, and we strongly support this recommendation. Such a secretariat should convene technical consultations among the regional plant protection organizations and coordinate a programme of activity to implement principles and procedures for IPPC work, along the same lines as the International Organization of Animal Disease.

Since its establishment Israel made tremendous advances in agriculture. However, it has a broad common denominator with many developing countries, namely:

- dependence on the world market;
- problems of water shortage.

Therefore, many developing countries, struggling to develop their food production under similar conditions, are making use of Israel's know-how to develop their own agriculture.

Since 1955, when Israel's International Agricultural Technical Cooperation began, thousands of individuals have attended agriculture and agriculture-related courses in Israel, and thousands of Israeli experts have been active in agricultural assignments abroad. During the last two years alone, 40 courses and workshops - in English, Spanish and French - were held in Israel for more than a thousand participants from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Oceania. These training activities included subjects of topical interest to the developing world, such as the role of women in agricultural production, arid zone agriculture and integrated pest management. In 1990, we will be adding a new course-subject: agro-ecology, geared to the needs of the developing world. Besides these courses in Israel, more than 100 on-the-spot courses overseas for nearly 2 500 participants were held on specific subjects at the request of host countries. The use of computers in agriculture is a new subject which has been introduced in these on-the-spot courses.

Israel, being a part of the Mediterranean basin, is facing the same problems in agriculture as our neighbours do: shortage of water and land and the protection of the rural environment.

I extend an invitation to all countries in our region to cooperate with us in all spheres of agricultural development. Agriculture is the cornerstone of a country's economy, and I am convinced that regional cooperation in the Middle East will pave the way towards a prosperous future and peace among the nations.

**Omar A. JALLOW (Gambia):** Let me first of all congratulate you, Mr Vice-Chairman, for your election to the high office of the Bureau for this Conference. It also gives me great pleasure for the first time in my capacity as the Minister of Agriculture of The Gambia to address this FAO Conference. I wish to extend to you all greetings from the government and people of The Gambia, particularly the Gambia farmers whom we are here to represent.

As we deliberate on the state of food and agriculture in the world, we must pay particular attention to the food situation in the developing countries, especially in Africa where the food crisis is most acute. As all of you are aware, the food crisis in Africa is intricately linked with the economic crisis which has been going on for over a decade.

Many of our countries, therefore, embarked upon structural adjustment programmes, with the support of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (the IMF) with the hope of bringing back our economies to a healthy state.

The major objectives of such structural adjustment programmes are geared towards exchange rate reform, promotion of agricultural development, promotion of other productive sectors, civil service and parastatal reform, fiscal and financial reform, and the restructuring of the public investment programmes of our countries.

It is true to say that while some of these objectives are being met to some extent, and in fact in some areas a high degree of success has been registered, it is fair to say that the full impact of these measures is yet to be felt in the food and agricultural sector. I believe that in most of these developing economies the agricultural and food sector is the engine of growth, and its growth rate determines the pace of growth of the economy. In the recent past and up till now, we have experienced depressed producer prices for our agricultural commodities due to declining world market prices. At the same time input prices have gone up drastically while investment in the agricultural sector remains dismally low. Many of my colleagues have addressed this issue, and I don't need to go into detail.

My major concern at this stage is the reduced quantum of funds which are available for investment in the food and agriculture sector and the slow rate at which it is being effectively utilized.

This, I believe, should also be the concern of others who are genuinely interested in the eradication of poverty and malnutrition in our developing world. I am of the strong opinion that our structural adjustment policies have yet to address the issues of mobilization of financial resources and how to attract private capital in the agricultural sector. The question is how much investment do we need to boost up agricultural output to the level where agricultural surplus could be used to finance investments in other sectors.

This can only be done by using the Marshall Plan approach, which all of us know, with emphasis on the agricultural sector and ensuring that private entrepreneurs play an important role in this plan. The political will to mobilize financial resources must be demonstrated at both the multilateral and bilateral levels.

This means that while we are struggling to restructure our economies and to reform our institutions there must be deliberate efforts to provide adequate financial resources to multilateral agricultural institutions such as the FAO, World Food Programme, the World Food Council, IFAD and other institutions which are geared towards improving agricultural productivity in developing countries.

Side by side with this approach, there should be a sharper focus by our bilateral development partners on technological improvements to remove production bottlenecks and to reduce the flow of resources from the poorer and underdeveloped south to the richer and more developed north.

I am very much disappointed by the declining trend in the allocation of financial resources to international organizations such as the FAO.

Is this a sign of loss of hope in our struggle to fight against poverty and malnutrition? Is it that we have spent all our funds on arms and ammunitions in readiness to destroy life and to clean the face of the world? Or have we really exhausted our generosity towards our fellow beings who are dying of starvation and hunger? Have the donors lost confidence in these institutions? Are these institutions fulfilling the objectives for which they were created? I think this is the time that we must resolve once and for all to eradicate hunger and malnutrition from the face of this earth. We must together fight this evil, and I have no doubt whatsoever that we can do it together.

With the present climate prevailing in all member countries, whereby structural adjustment programmes are being implemented, in the same vein all international agencies and organizations should also be restructured and their roles be more properly defined, their administrative cost reduced and the savings invested in rural development projects.

We are fortunate that a review of FAO's aims and operations has just been completed and the report is tabled before us for discussion and decision. While we support the major findings and recommendations of the review, we would want to further elaborate on the following points to ensure that the organization is strengthened so that it can perform its task better. We are very much concerned about the role of FAO in structural adjustment programmes in developing countries, and we therefore feel that FAO's policy advice capability must be strengthened, particularly at the country level.

The country offices must be adequately staffed so that they can provide the necessary advice to governments which are involved in structural adjustment programmes. Such policy advice must be made available during negotiations with the World Bank and the IMF.

FAO must play a vital role in this important exercise, and therefore, it would need to collaborate very closely with other UN Agencies at the country level.

We also believe very strongly that in order to do a good job in its field operations, FAO would need to formulate medium term plans and establish targets and priorities in accordance with its objectives and strategies. We hope that this approach will bring about more clarity in the work of the FAO and will also go a long way in making the organization more effective.

However, I would hasten to say that all these measures would require FAO to be adequately funded. The present financial situation of the Organization must not be allowed to continue; otherwise, FAO's effectiveness and efficiency may not be realized.

I must make mention of the good work the World Food Programme is doing in developing countries, particularly in The Gambia, in the area of food aid to alleviate the problems of poverty. As all of you are no doubt aware, WFP has developed into a vital international instrument for development and

humanitarian assistance. It is one of the very few agencies which has actually reached the most vulnerable groups in our countries, paying particular attention to increasing agricultural production, enhancing human resource development and promoting rural development and welfare. Some of the projects which are being supported by the WFP include the Swamp Rice Development, Rangeland Development for livestock development and the establishment of forest parks, school feeding programme, in collaboration with FAO, UNSO, UNDP and other agencies. In view of WFP's good work and the high hopes we have in it, the government of The Gambia fully endorses the target of US\$ 1.5 billion for the regular resources of WFP for 1990-91.

We also believe that in view of its complex and expanded scope of work, WFP must have administrative and financial autonomy, similar to those comparable UN programmes and agencies in the same vein, the headquarters agreement for WFP which has to be signed by the FAO must be finalized before the programme is called upon to pay rent, the amount of which I am informed will go up to US\$ 3 million, which amount could be better utilized to finance rural development programmes in our developing countries.

May I also pronounce on two cases of concern to the government of The Gambia. These are the issues of women in development and environment and sustainable development. On the question of women in development, I need to inform the Conference that we in The Gambia have gone ahead in line with FAO's thinking to take a comprehensive approach to women in development by formulating a women's development project.

This project will include agricultural development, skills development, safe motherhood, information, communication, education and community mobilization and institutional strengthening of the women's bureau. I therefore wish to appeal to all my colleagues to endorse the plan of action for the integration of women into agricultural and rural development.

With regard to environmental matters, my government is of the strong opinion that our agricultural development effort must be carried out in consonance with sound environmental management. It is therefore important that this conference endorses the document on sustainable development and natural resources management. We must also collectively be mindful of those who are constantly destroying our environment by dumping nuclear wastes in our waters, and dumping industrial waste on our land. This is a matter of deep concern, because it is these very countries which are emphasizing the need for environmental development and, I believe, have the means and resources to prevent this waste from leaving their own sources.

I am following with great interest current developments in the Eastern World, vis-à-vis relations with agricultural development. I believe that in the future we should gain from these developments that are now happening, but one thing does alarm me: a few months ago everyone thought that there was a recession and that there was a lack of money in the world system for contributions to alleviate the suffering of farmers in developing countries. However, in the last few weeks we have seen large amounts of money -millions of dollars - being pumped into East Germany: US\$ 1.6 billion has already been pumped in, US\$ 558 million has been written off their debts to the West and 401.4 billion has been promised during the next few months. We have seen injections into the economies of Hungary and Poland, and other countries. I would like to ask: What is the criteria? Through advice from the World Bank and IMF, we have restructured our economies in the hope of alleviating the suffering of our farmers, but such a magnitude of funds has never been injected into our economies.



Our economies have been structured in line with Western economies, therefore what is the criteria for the introduction of huge amounts of funds because cosmetic approaches have been made by Communists towards the West.

Today we are witnessing more people dying from hunger, more people dying from malnutrition, more people dying from starvation, more people dying from lack of medical care, more people dying from conflicts engineered by both political and religious means which are unprecedented in the history of mankind.

What is the cause of this? I appeal - not to the political will of those developed countries who can stop all these evils, because they have the will and they have proved in the last few weeks that they have the means - I appeal to their moral consciences for support, for assistance, to mankind in developing countries.

A.M. Al Kaoud, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair

A.M. Al Kaoud, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia A.M. Al Kaoud, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

**CHAIRMAN:** I now give the floor to Dr Nasser Abdullah Al-Aulaqi, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries in the Arabic Republic of Yemen, who will speak on behalf of the Arab Republic of Yemen and the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen.

**Nasser Abdullah AL-AULAQI (Arab Republic of Yemen) (original language Arabic):** In the name of God, the Compassionate and Merciful. I would like to begin in the name of the two Yemens, by congratulating you Mr Chairman on your unanimous election to preside over the current session of the FAO Conference and on the confidence placed in you personally. Similarly, I would like to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen, and wish you all every success in your endeavours. It is also a pleasure for me to convey to this Conference our Governments' greetings and best wishes for successful deliberations and results in the interests of increased agricultural production in general, and food production in particular.

It is opportune that this Conference is being held at a time when the world is witnessing an atmosphere of international détente, which creates circumstances appropriate to the orientation of peoples towards a process of development. It also augurs well that all the distinguished participants have come to this Conference from all over the world with minds and hearts which are nurturing real hopes in the possibility of achieving practical solutions for the problems of the numerous countries included in the agenda of this Conference. This optimism is justifiable. Suffice it to mention the prevailing trend to bolster prospects of cooperation between all countries, and the common understanding that it is the right of Man, whoever he is and wherever he comes from, to live in peace and free of any worries, particularly those related to food security. However, success in achieving these objectives depends mainly on translating sound ideas and human dimensions into concrete action.

Amongst the astonishing discrepancies and paradoxes witnessed by this age is that we find on the one hand astounding achievements in all walks of life, and on the other hand there are men, women and children starving to death every day, while others are condemned to live an unending nightmare of hunger, poverty and malnutrition. These people suffer the dearth of food supplies and the bare minimum of necessities.

As we stand on the threshold of the 21st Century, it is alarming to see that the world food problem is further deteriorating, and yet due attention is still not being paid by the international community to this grave situation. Today more than ever, we are called upon to cooperate in saving 53 countries from annihilation. We must always remember that over 513 million people are suffering from acute food shortage. The alarming food and agricultural situation and its impact on world food security, together with the inherent dangers which threaten poor and vulnerable people in developing countries are recently recurring phenomena. The decline in the world production of commodities, the fall in world stocks, the growing cereals crises in international markets, and concomitant financial problems faced by the food-deficit and low-income countries, as well as the declining volume of food itself - all this represents an important link in the series of factors which interact with the current international economy, the scarcity of foreign exchange, the negative aspects of structural adjustment - a series of factors which are all conducive to the slowing down of the rate of food production in most of the developing countries. This vicious circle can be broken, not only by furthering the efforts of the developing countries to increased production, but also through international efforts to implement the necessary reforms within the framework of a new international economic order.

This entails the improvement of international terms of trade, the flow of development resources into the developing countries after resolving their debt problems, and the acceleration of technical support by international organizations, especially FAO. It is only through the achievement of such objectives that the world food and agricultural situation can steadily improve. The current international détente, the progress achieved in the GATT multi-lateral trade negotiations, and the preliminary indications of a resolution of the debt problems, could be a sound foundation for a new era of international cooperation aimed towards the betterment of the world food and agricultural situation. We hope that these conditions would enhance the role of international organizations - namely, FAO, the WFP, and IFAD - and would consolidate resources in order to foster development of the developing countries.

We deeply appreciate the comprehensive statement by the Director-General of FAO, Dr Edouard Saouma. That statement has clearly identified the fundamental and broad items to be considered by this Conference, as well as the major trends of FAO's activities in both the past and future. We share his concern at the current world food and agricultural situation and that of world food security. We are also deeply concerned over the shrinking and limited resources available to FAO to enable it to promote its contribution to the developing countries' efforts to provide the bare necessities for their people, particularly under current critical economic conditions.

The delegation of the two Yemens has considered with great interest the documents which have been prepared for this Session. We would like to express our deep appreciation for the great administrative and technical efforts deployed by the FAO Secretariat to produce such excellent documentation, in terms of both quality and content. We note with pleasure

the experts' report on the Review of Some Aspects of FAO, Objectives, Strategies and Operations. This seems to us a certificate of good health of the organization's vitality and effectiveness, and its important role in facing the requirements of the developing countries for food production and rural development.

We support the recommendations relating to the major fields of FAO's activities, particularly those concerned with technical assistance, research and technological policies. We also support FAO's activities in the field of TCDC as a basis for project formulation, and that the medium-term plan should cover a period of three biennia, with an indication of resources of each programme. We believe that the report has rightly concluded, after lengthy consultation and debate, that the criteria used by the FAO for the priority activities were sound and adequate.

We support the recommendations concerning the consolidation of FAO's country officers in member countries within the confines of the regulations in force. We also endorse the recommendation on fostering consultation and good relations between FAO and the relevant agencies, the former being a leading and coordinating agency in reviewing different sectors in its respective fields of competence.

We also support the proposals relating to FAO's participation in the UNDP round tables and the World Bank consultancies.

The delegation of the two Yemens realizes the size of the obligations which could be consequent upon implementation of the recommendations comprised in this report, and we believe that they cannot be provided for except in the long term. We therefore agree on their gradual implementation over the course of a number of years, in accordance with available resources. In this context we call upon the donor countries to expend additional funds towards this end, in addition to any internal resources which could be saved without prejudice to the role of the Organization.

We are pleased to note the great accomplishments of the WFP, as contained in the 14th Annual Report submitted to us by Mr Ingram the WFP Executive Director. We note that the volume of assistance extended by the Programme over the relevant period has reached a record level. We would like to commend the efforts of the WFP under the leadership of its Executive Director, and we are appreciative of the role played by this assistance in the developing countries, including the two Yemens, in cases of emergency and in boosting development projects. Therefore, we call upon donor countries to support the Programme, in order that it can fulfil its responsibilities during the period to come, with the payment of their contribution and the increase in their donations to the level set out in the Report, namely US\$ 1.5 billion for the biennium 1991/92. It is interesting to note the reference to further coordination and cooperation between FAO and WFP administration in the case of the recipient countries, especially in the area of promoting the role of food aid to the least developed countries. We note with satisfaction the initiative of the FAO Director-General in working out a long-term strategy for the 1990s and after, provided that it is a general framework for the contribution of the Organization to the UN Fourth Development Strategy, in a way that would lead to activating economic growth, eradicating poverty and malnutrition and the continuing protection of the environment and development.

We are of the view that the outlines of this strategy constitute a new and appropriate framework of the subsequent full report. At this juncture, we commend the efforts deployed within the framework of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, together with recommendations and the unique global system adopted by the Organization in this field.

We are also of the opinion that the Commission's activities should include animal genetic resources, given the paramount importance of the commission and its role in the future of plant and animal production. My delegation urges countries in a position to assist to provide adequate financing for the implementation of the Organization's important prospective action.

We join previous speakers in endorsing the main thrust of the PWB and the detailed and extensive analysis contained therein which merits the unanimous approval of Conference despite the expectation expressed by the majority of the developing countries for an appropriate increase in the budget level which will enable the Organization to respond adequately to the ever increasing requests for services and assistance.

We strongly call upon member countries to pay their financial obligations to the Organization in time so as to improve its financial position.

The agricultural sector in our countries is characterized by the scarcity of natural resources, recurring spells of drought alternating with serious torrential floods, which drained our energies in a bid to protect man and land, in addition to the continual rehabilitation efforts. The torrential rains which hit southern Yemen this Spring are a link in the chain of such evils. Emergency operations and rehabilitation endeavours cost huge funds and efforts. We should like to express our thanks and appreciation to the sisterly and friendly countries and organizations for their valuable assistance and aid to our effort to remedy these damages. We are currently considering the possibilities of embarking on new engineering operations to rehabilitate other stricken areas and to arrest torrents in order to prevent a recurrence of such damage in the future. We are hopeful to receive the support and assistance of international organizations and sisterly and friendly countries in the pursuit of our efforts.

Against all odds and constraints, over the recent years the two Yemens have witnessed marked developments in various fields, particularly in the area of agricultural development where achievements have materialized in the form of completion of rural development projects, the provision of extension and credit services together with preventative measures, the promotion of marketing and other relevant activities which have reflected positively on the increase of agricultural output and an improvement of the living conditions of the rural inhabitants.

The agricultural sector still enjoys priority attention in the two Yemens, given the support accorded by the political leadership in the two countries which pursue actively dialogue for the realization of eventual unity which is our great cherished objective. In this respect we hope to mobilize the necessary resources and possibilities, together with the maximum utilization of international support and cooperation in the field of food production.

Before concluding, allow me to wish our Conference success, with positive decisions which would contribute effectively to the solution of food problems and would bridge the gap separating the peoples of the world for the good of humanity and the service of its cherished advance.

Allow me to express our sincere thanks to all those who took part in the preparation of this Conference, for a job well done. I thank you for your attention.

**Sharavyn GUNGAADORJ (Mongolia) (original language Mongolian):** First of all I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your unanimous election to this highly important post. I am sure that under your guidance and that of your deputies the present Session of the FAO Conference will successfully conclude its work.

I am very pleased to participate in the biennial Session of the FAO Conference, an important forum for assessing the state of food and agriculture as well as for coordinating the policies of States and determining further measures to meet related challenges of the day.

The positive tendency in the world political climate has had a good effect on the relations between States with differing political and economic paths of development, and opens up additional possibilities for strengthening economic cooperation between nations. Quite understandably the role and authority of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, and first and foremost those of the FAO, are growing steadily.

We express our confidence that FAO will make a worthy contribution to intensify agricultural development, to improve food supply towards the goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition the world over, to introduce modern technology into the developing world, to train local staff and last, but not least, to protect our environment.

In pointing out our satisfaction with the fact that during the last few years our cooperation with FAO has expanded fruitfully, I would like, on behalf of my Government, to thank Dr Saouma, the Director-General of the FAO, for his admirable personal involvement. My delegation also offers its unswerving support to the principles embodied in the Director-General's report for implementing the Programme of Agriculture Towards 2000.

Today we are discussing and summing up the work done in the last two years. The period under discussion was full of events of great importance to my country.

The Government of Mongolia, taking into account the special historical background of the country, has undertaken, and continues to undertake, important steps to make effective use of its material, financial and labour resources, to rapidly mobilize the country's internal resources, to improve the quality of work and services and to raise efficiency of social production in all spheres of the national economy.

Decisions are being taken and implemented to improve, among others, the methods of economic management of agricultural and food industry, to ensure self-sufficiency of the industry, economic organizations and working collectives and to enhance the rights of branch, local and other economic bodies.

Agriculture' and above all animal husbandry, is and will definitely be the primary sector in the country's national economy. The animal husbandry of Mongolia depends very much upon climatic conditions, since grazing on natural pastures is the predominant form of production.

In this respect, I venture to state the obvious fact that countries producing agricultural output under hard climate conditions with drought and severe winters suffer more and do not have the possibility of easily increasing the national welfare. Being a representative of a country where the agricultural development is pursued in such difficult climatic conditions, I wish to support the statement of some delegations, including those of Bangladesh and Chad, who dwelt on this subject in the general debate. I would like to emphasize that much attention should be paid to disaster-prone countries and that the technical assistance of the FAO be directed to the development of natural disaster prevention services in those countries.

The Government always attaches great importance to the development of agriculture and takes all possible steps to strengthen its material basis. As a result we are now self-sufficient in the main agricultural products such as meat, wheat, potatoes and vegetables. But progress in this field as a whole is still inadequate to meet the every-day requirements of the population. During the last ten years, the average population growth rate was about 3 percent, while the agricultural production growth reached 2.2 percent. This brought us to the conclusion that livestock development was, and to some extent still is, in a state of stagnation.

Besides that, the characteristics of the country's territory and its natural resources have not been adequately studied. In addition, insufficient development of roads and motor transport is a constraint on the improvement of the water supply for the rural population and animal husbandry, on the rational use of pastures and on the development of irrigation especially in the Gobi region.

To overcome these difficulties we are contemplating and actually starting to implement measures to provide grazing livestock with a reliable fodder basis, steadily raise the number of animals, process and use agricultural products as completely as possible in rural areas.

Until recently, efforts have been made to meet the demands of the population in foodstuffs by building large food enterprises in cities and provincial towns which under our conditions proved to be not so effective. For example, it resulted in the over-expenditure of means and efforts to drive herds long distances to the huge slaughtering plants in the cities. The blood and other by-products of hundreds of thousands of animals slaughtered in the traditional way are not being utilized at all. Therefore we are planning to establish, in the rural areas, small capacity agricultural processing enterprises equipped with modern technology. In this field we are interested in further developing cooperation with other countries.

We face acute problems of developing livestock breeding and improving living and cultural standards of the rural people, mainly those of the herdsmen. A lot of measures are being taken by the Government. These measures include, inter alia, providing herdsmen with electricity, improving their labour conditions by introducing mechanization and modern technology, making rural living as attractive as possible to young people and protecting nature and the environment of the countryside.

Apart from mobilizing our internal resources to overcome these difficulties, we are keen to develop cooperation with other countries in order to introduce and gradually apply modern technology in a creative way which fits our conditions.

Furthermore, as a developing country, the Mongolian People's Republic is trying to strengthen our ties with international organizations and striving to expand our cooperation with other states in the framework of these organizations. We are studying the possibility of becoming a member of a number of other international, economic and financial institutions, so as to profit from their assistance in developing our national economy.

On behalf of the Government of my country, we would like to assure you that we will do our utmost to participate actively in the multilateral endeavour of the FAO in the fulfillment of the decisions to be undertaken by the current session of the FAO Conference to accelerate the world agricultural progress, improve the food supply of the population and protect the environment.

**Fernando Faustino MUTEKA (Angola) (langue originale Portugais):** Monsieur le Président, illustres délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs. Avant tout, Monsieur le Président, je profite de cette occasion pour vous féliciter ainsi que le reste des membres du bureau de cette assemblée pour votre élection à la tête de nos travaux.

Nous sommes certains qu'avec la collaboration de tous et grâce aux orientations que vous saurez donner à cette conférence afin d'aider à résoudre les problèmes les plus importants que l'Organisation doit affronter, il sera possible de rendre plus efficace l'aide que celle-ci fournit à nos pays. Permettez-moi de profiter de cette occasion pour féliciter vivement M. le Directeur général et l'assurer aussi de la collaboration de mon pays dans l'exercice d'une mission très difficile mais honorable, et exprimer le souhait que l'aide que la FAO concède à la République populaire d'Angola soit intensifiée de façon polyvalente à la hauteur de ses capacités et des possibilités de cette institution du système des Nations Unies. En dépit des attaques que ne cesse de mener l'UNITA qui sème la mort et le deuil dans différentes zones du territoire national, en perturbant la tranquillité des paysans pacifiques et en détruisant la moisson et les infrastructures agricoles et d'élevage, c'est avec une satisfaction particulière que devant cette tribune je peux aujourd'hui affirmer que notre situation agricole et alimentaire évolue progressivement, depuis la dernière Assemblée générale jusqu'à maintenant.

La campagne agricole vient de débiter avec les difficultés propres d'un pays en développement, dévasté par la guerre. Toutefois, c'est avec optimisme que nous voulons envisager notre avenir dans le cadre des principes définis par notre gouvernement dans les domaines de l'agriculture. Ceux-ci sont appliqués selon nos possibilités et renforcés par l'assistance multilatérale et bilatérale.

Par rapport à l'année agricole 1988/1989, malgré les efforts qui ne cessent d'être déployés par les paysans, grâce aux structures mises en place par le gouvernement de la République populaire d'Angola qui appuie les paysans en leur fournissant des intrants agricoles (semences, engrais, pesticides et autres moyens de production), la campagne agricole a été mauvaise car la sécheresse prolongée qui a affecté le pays dans le premier trimestre de cette année a porté un préjudice particulièrement important à notre programme céréalier.

Après la sécheresse, se sont succédé les pluies diluviennes. Les cultures qui se trouvaient aux bords de certaines rivières ont été affectées par les inondations, couvrant ainsi des zones de production maraîchère, horticole et des productions de fruits, causant des préjudices aux agriculteurs. Concernant les changements opérés dans les systèmes agraires pour la lutte contre l'appauvrissement rural, le gouvernement de mon pays est en train de créer un réseau d'entrepreneurs capables de mettre à la disposition des paysans des moyens de production, une assistance technique qui sera dynamisée par le programme national de vulgarisation rural. Ce programme est au stade de l'expérience pilote dans une des provinces du Sud du pays. Nous sommes en train de mettre en place des groupes d'entrepreneurs pour la distribution de moyens mobiles de production, complétés par la mécanisation agricole et avec le développement de la traction animale dans des zones d'élevage traditionnel. En vue de rendre plus attrayante l'activité agricole et stimuler les productions agricoles et d'élevage, des mesures importantes ont été prises par notre gouvernement dans le domaine des prix. Celles-ci visent à donner aux producteurs des conditions plus favorables pour le développement d'une économie de marché compétitif pour valoriser leurs productions.

Dans ce contexte, de nouveaux régimes de prix ont été mis en place: le régime de prix garantis et le régime de prix libéralisés. Dans le cadre du régime de prix garantis, à l'avenir l'Etat aura à annoncer au début de chaque campagne agricole des prix minimums et, dans certains cas, le maximum sera garanti aux producteurs par la production d'un certain nombre de produits.

Dans le cadre du régime de prix libéralisés, le producteur aura l'occasion de placer ses produits sur le marché durant toute l'année dans des conditions concurrentielles en tenant compte des lois du marché, de l'offre et de la demande.

A ce titre les prix de cinquante-deux produits horticoles ont été libéralisés. En ce moment, nous prévoyons la constitution dans un bref délai de l'UNACA, "Union nationale des paysans angolais", organisation populaire qui permettra de donner des orientations aux paysans en matière de politique et de questions socio-économiques, et de transformer progressivement les relations de production dans le secteur agricole au profit des paysans eux-mêmes.

Le peuple angolais a consenti d'énormes sacrifices au nom de la Communauté internationale pour créer des conditions qui ont permis le début de la mise en oeuvre de la résolution 453/78 des Nations Unies et éviter une confrontation militaire dans le sud-ouest de l'Afrique, un des foyers les plus délicats de tension internationale qui a fait l'objet d'un accord signé à New York le 22 décembre 1988, accord tripartite entre l'Angola, Cuba et l'Afrique du Sud, en vue d'un règlement de la question du sud-ouest de l'Afrique. Un autre accord, bilatéral celui-là, est intervenu entre la République populaire d'Angola et celle de Cuba avec le retrait total mais progressif des troupes internationalistes cubaines de l'Angola. Avec la signature de ces accords à New York que les parties s'étaient engagées à respecter, il y avait un composant externe du problème angolais permettant ainsi au gouvernement de la République populaire d'Angola de s'inspirer des enseignements et des expériences des autres pays africains qui se sont trouvés dans des situations semblables, cherchant des voies et des moyens pour résoudre le conflit interne.



C'est dans ce cadre que s'est tenu à Luanda un sommet de huit chefs d'Etat africains qui a analysé et approuvé le plan de paix présenté par le gouvernement de la République populaire d'Angola.

Par la suite, après le sommet des huit, s'est tenu le 22 juin à Gbadolite, République du Zaïre, un sommet qui a réuni 20 pays africains, au cours duquel Jonas Savimbi a accepté les principes contenus dans le plan que je viens de citer. C'est du fait de l'acceptation par Jonas Savimbi du plan de paix de notre gouvernement que le camarade José Eduardo dos Santos lui a serré la main. Les autres chefs d'Etat l'ont félicité de ce symbole de fraternité et de réconciliation entre fils d'une même patrie.

Les accords de Gbadolite ont été approuvés par la suite par l'Organisation de l'unité africaine et par l'Organisation des pays non alignés. Plus tard, après le sommet de Gbadolite, Jonas Savimbi a trahi les efforts de paix et de réconciliation du gouvernement de la République populaire d'Angola.

D'autre part, les ingérences dans les affaires internes de la République populaire d'Angola se poursuivent de la part des forces étrangères, allant à l'encontre des accords de New York.

Ainsi la communauté internationale sait que l'UNITA a été du côté de l'apartheid, a combattu la SWAPO en Namibie et doit reconnaître, par ce fait, la magnanimité et l'effort de notre gouvernement et de tous les bons patriotes qui ont offert une grande ouverture politique à Gbadolite pour trouver la paix et la réconciliation nationale dans l'esprit de la sagesse et des traditions africaines.

C'est pour cela que Son Excellence José Eduardo dos Santos, Président de la République populaire d'Angola, en s'adressant aux chefs d'Etat de pays africains de langue officielle portugaise - Palop - réunis au onzième sommet extraordinaire tenu à Luanda en vue de présenter le véritable visage du déroulement du processus de paix en Angola, a affirmé ce qui suit: "Dans ce processus il est important de reconnaître le rôle joué par le gouvernement de la République populaire d'Angola. Nous n'acceptons pas de confondre l'Etat angolais avec le MPLA/Parti du travail, pour justifier une prétendue égalité entre ce dernier et l'UNITA".

Malgré les difficultés qui ont surgi dans la matérialisation des accords de Gbadolite, le gouvernement angolais continue à déployer des efforts en vue de l'instauration de la paix en Angola, condition indispensable à son développement économique et social et au redressement de sa situation économique et alimentaire.

Dans ce contexte, nous assistons dans mon pays à de grands changements dans la vie économique. Nous avons mis en vigueur, depuis 1988, un ensemble de mesures insérées dans un cadre d'assainissement économique et financier. Par ces mesures, nous cherchons à redynamiser l'économie, à garantir la reprise du pouvoir d'achat des travailleurs, à rétablir l'équilibre interne entre l'offre et la demande dans une situation stable, de progrès et dans une situation saine. Nous voulons que les paysans soient les principaux bénéficiaires de ces mesures. Pour ce qui est de la mise en oeuvre de la paix, le gouvernement de la République populaire d'Angola aura besoin de l'appui de la FAO, des gouvernements et des différentes organisations non gouvernementales pour faire face à toutes les dépenses et pour l'intégration des paysans dans leurs zones de production tant pour ceux qui viendront des zones rurales que pour ceux qui se sont réfugiés dans des zones urbaines en cherchant la protection et la survie chez nous.

Depuis l'accession de la République populaire d'Angola à l'indépendance, le PAM a toujours joué un rôle particulièrement important dans la résolution de nos problèmes alimentaires. A cet égard, nous profitons de la tenue de cette auguste assemblée pour remercier le PAM et son Directeur exécutif de l'aide précieuse qu'il ne cesse de nous octroyer.

Concernant maintenant l'ordre du jour de la présente Conférence, je ne veux pas laisser passer sous silence certains aspects que je considère particulièrement importants.

En premier lieu, il est évident que c'est avec préoccupation que nous prenons note de la situation financière de l'Organisation, compte tenu du non-versement des contributions par certains contribuables et du fait du retard avec lequel les contributions sont versées. En maintenant cette situation, la liquidité et la solvabilité de l'Organisation vont courir des risques et cela peut affecter dans une grande mesure la viabilité et l'exécution de son programme de travail.

C'est dans ce contexte que nous considérons ce budget comme passif et loin de ce que nous souhaiterions. Nous voudrions un budget qui puisse appuyer de façon importante l'essor agricole des pays en développement, notamment ceux qui, pour des raisons d'ordre naturel ou autres, se trouvent dans les situations les plus graves.

C'est aussi dans ce contexte que nous appuyons dans l'ensemble le budget qui nous est proposé, conscients du fait que la situation actuelle n'offre pas d'autres alternatives.

Lors de la 24ème session de la Conférence générale de la FAO, il avait été inclus dans le Programme de travail et budget pour l'exercice 1988/89 qu'une étude devrait être réalisée sur les effets négatifs de l'apartheid en Afrique du Sud, sur la situation alimentaire et le développement agricole en Afrique australe. Cette étude n'a pas été réalisée pour des questions d'ordre financier.

Pour nous cette étude est d'importance capitale; pour cette raison, nous suggérons que la FAO consulte une étude publiée en octobre de cette année par la Commission économique pour l'Afrique, la CEA, étude intitulée "La déstabilisation sud-africaine; les coûts économiques de la résistance des pays de la première ligne contre l'apartheid", et que la FAO essaie de voir dans quelle mesure elle peut nous aider dans cette conjoncture particulière en matière de production alimentaire.

Pour ce qui est de l'étude effectuée au cours de ces deux dernières années, c'est avec une grande satisfaction que nous prenons note des conclusions des deux Comités et des groupes d'experts selon lesquelles la FAO semble être une institution solide et dynamique. C'est pourquoi nous appuyons ces conclusions et recommandations. Nous appuyons également la proposition d'organiser avec l'Organisation mondiale de la santé une conférence internationale sur la nutrition et de parrainer cette conférence.

En ce qui concerne le programme de coopération technique, nous regrettons que les fonds affectés à ce PCT soient réduits de 1 % par rapport au biennium précédent. Toutefois, nous n'ignorons pas l'efficacité de ce programme; c'est pourquoi nous insistons pour qu'à l'avenir il soit renforcé.

La formation des vulgarisateurs ruraux joue un rôle fondamental du fait qu'une grande partie de notre politique agricole se fonde sur l'augmentation de la productivité de la terre. La vulgarisation comme forme d'enseignement officieux et la formation de paysans évolués constituent une composante indispensable à la réussite de notre objectif.

D'autre part, l'organisation des paysans dans les associations constitue un aspect inséparable de la modernisation progressive de l'agriculture. La formation des cadres dans plusieurs domaines constitue un aspect fondamental en vue de garantir à ces associations une vie propre et des possibilités valables de consolidation et de développement.

Sur ce point nous voudrions signaler la nécessité pour la FAO de prêter une attention particulière aux pays africains d'expression portugaise en organisant des cours et séminaires dans les domaines essentiels pour ces pays afin de permettre leur participation particulièrement élevée. Quant au développement durable, les pays développés doivent prêter leur assistance aux pays en développement afin de les aider à surmonter leurs difficultés, à trouver des voies de solutions aux problèmes particulièrement critiques.

Pour cela, les pays développés doivent tenir compte des effets de leurs investissements sur l'environnement des pays en développement, la coopération internationale devra fournir des ressources supplémentaires en ce domaine.

Enfin, pour ce qui est de l'intégration de la femme dans le développement, celle-ci a toujours joué un rôle très important dans nos sociétés.

Nous appuyons les lignes maîtresses du Plan d'action de la FAO et nous encourageons l'Organisation à continuer son aide afin de renforcer les capacités techniques des Etats Membres.

The meeting rose at 18.15 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.15 horas

## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

**C 89/PV/9**

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Twenty-fifth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-cinquième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

25<sup>a</sup> período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

NINTH PLENARY MEETING  
NEUVIÈME SEANCE PLÉNIÈRE  
NOVENA SESION PLENARIA

16 November 1989

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.30 hours  
John Charles Kerin, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 30  
sous la présidence de John Charles Kerin, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la Novena Sesión Plenaria a las 9.30 horas  
bajo la presidencia de John Charles Kerin, Presidente de la Conferencia

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)

**Anastase NTEZILLYALO (Rwanda):** L'alimentation de la population mondiale n'a jamais donné autant de préoccupations que maintenant et mobilisé tant l'opinion et toutes les énergies dans la perspective de pouvoir offrir à tous une alimentation convenable en qualité et en quantité.

Malgré tous ces efforts, certes louables, nous sommes encore loin de fournir à tout le monde les vivres dont ils ont besoin, d'une part à cause d'une production insuffisante dans certaines régions de la terre et d'autre part suite à une mauvaise répartition des surplus d'autres régions. Nous continuons à assister à une forte production agricole dans les pays développés pendant que celle des pays en développement reste stagnante avec un rythme de croissance nettement inférieur à celui de la population. Les principales causes qui entravent l'essor de la production vivrière dans les pays en voie de développement restent:

- l'utilisation insuffisante des intrants agricoles
- des systèmes d'exploitation et d'encadrement inadéquats
- une faiblesse des investissements en agriculture.

Si dans l'ensemble la production agricole mondiale reste élevée, c'est grâce à la performance et à la compétitivité des agriculteurs des pays développés.

Il convient de souligner encore l'inégale répartition des disponibilités alimentaires où d'un côté les pays développés disposent de surplus énormes au-dessus de leurs besoins pendant que le tiers monde reste confronté à un déficit alimentaire chronique. Par rapport à l'année 1988, la production alimentaire par tête d'habitant a diminué dans les pays en voie de développement en 1989, particulièrement en Afrique où elle n'arrive pas à suivre le rythme de la croissance démographique.

Le Rwanda, mon pays, que j'ai l'honneur de représenter à cette tribune déploie des efforts énormes pour accroître la production agricole.

L'agriculture rwandaise se caractérise principalement par:

- des exploitations agricoles très exiguës à cause de la pression démographique très forte sur un petit territoire; la superficie moyenne par exploitation agricole est de 1 ha tandis que la densité de la population est de 300 hab./km<sup>2</sup>,
- une utilisation insuffisante des intrants,
- de faibles investissements agricoles dus à la pauvreté du pays et de la population.

Toutefois, grâce à la politique d'autosuffisance alimentaire menée depuis plusieurs années, le gouvernement et la population ont déployé des efforts énormes qui, lorsque le climat est clément, nous ont conduits à une situation alimentaire plus ou moins satisfaisante, mais malheureusement fort instable.

Suite à la faible performance de notre agriculture et aux aléas climatiques, la production vivrière de 1989 a été faible et inférieure à celle de 1988, qui elle-même n'était pas satisfaisante. Nous avons observé une baisse de productions vivrières, particulièrement le haricot qui est de loin notre principale source protéinique du pays. Ceci est d'autant plus grave que notre production antérieure, généralement faible et précaire, ne nous a pas laissé d'excédents conservables. C'est ainsi que nos entrepôts de stockage sont aujourd'hui vides. Cette situation a entraîné une disette dans le pays alors que celui-ci se trouve en pleine crise économique aggravée par la chute de la production et des cours du café.

Pour faire face aux exigences alimentaires de la population et aux besoins de l'agro-industrie, le Rwanda s'est engagé dans un vaste programme d'autosuffisance alimentaire et compte sur un appui massif de la Communauté internationale. Pour y arriver nous entendons développer les mesures ci-après:

- accroître l'utilisation de fertilisants et de produits phytosanitaires
- vulgariser l'emploi des semences améliorées
- promouvoir des cultures de soudure (manioc, patate douce, pomme de terre)
- promouvoir le crédit agricole pour accroître l'investissement dans ce secteur
- soutenir les prix des produits agricoles afin que le producteur soit incité à produire plus
- instaurer des stocks de sécurité
- récupérer les dernières terres disponibles dans les marais
- soutenir les organisations paysannes.

S'agissant particulièrement des organisations paysannes, le gouvernement s'est engagé à promouvoir l'auto-organisation du monde rural et en a même fait un thème national de mobilisation pour l'année 1989. Il s'agit d'entreprendre des activités d'encouragement des groupements existants ou de les initier de façon que progressivement les agriculteurs puissent prendre en charge eux-mêmes leur développement. Parmi les actions prévues à cet égard et qui concernent la production agricole, il convient de mentionner:

- l'appui à la création et au renforcement des groupements de producteurs agricoles pour la production de semences sélectionnées, la commercialisation groupements et les associations des paysans prendront progressivement le gérer. Grâce à un réseau dense de ces groupements l'agriculteur aura désormais à sa portée les semences, les fertilisants, les produits phytosanitaires, les outils agricoles dont il a besoin, mais plus intéressant encore, il participera aux décisions concernant son propre développement, contrairement à la pratique courante qui en faisait un simple spectateur;
- la formation des agriculteurs sera facilitée par la constitution de ces groupements;

- la promotion des groupements d'éleveurs en vue de leur faciliter l'acquisition du bétail amélioré, des intrants zootechniques et vétérinaires;
- l'organisation du monde rural incite les agriculteurs-éleveurs à défendre valablement leurs intérêts eux-mêmes.

Ainsi par la force de l'union, les agriculteurs deviendront des interlocuteurs valables des commerçants, des industriels et de l'Etat. L'auto-promotion du monde rural renforce l'autonomie de la commune. Elle favorise aussi les agriculteurs à se connaître davantage et à prendre conscience de leurs problèmes et solutions.

L'organisation du monde rural suppose aussi une pleine intégration de la femme dans le processus de la production. Au Rwanda la femme est pleinement intégrée dans les activités agricoles. Afin d'harmoniser sa contribution dans ce secteur, un accent particulier a été mis sur la formation de cadres agricoles féminins pour les amener à jouer un rôle plus important dans l'encadrement et la prise de décisions. De même en milieu rural, les groupements féminins sont encouragés par les différentes instances et institutions du pays.

Conjugée à la politique générale d'autosuffisance alimentaire, aux politiques sectorielles y relatives, aux interventions ponctuelles de l'Etat et d'autres intervenants, l'auto-organisation paysanne consacre tous ces efforts et appelle l'agriculteur à prendre conscience qu'il doit jouer une part active dans son développement et dans la croissance de la production agricole.

Dans sa déclaration à la 25ème session de la Conférence, le lundi 13 novembre 1989, le Directeur général de la FAO, Monsieur Edouard SAOUMA, a expliqué en des termes très clairs comment les pays pauvres sont en train de se vider de leur sang. Il faisait alors allusion au flux de capitaux qui est devenu négatif en faveur des pays en développement, situation créée elle-même par le cours de matières premières dont dépendent nos économies qui sont tombées à des niveaux si bas que parfois le prix de vente ne couvre même plus les coûts de production.

Cette situation, commune à beaucoup de pays du tiers monde, est particulièrement ressentie au Rwanda où le café fournit 80 pour cent des devises dont notre pays a besoin. En effet la baisse exceptionnelle de cours du café fait que le gouvernement rwandais est soumis à un dilemme grave: ou subventionner les agriculteurs pour 60 millions de dollars, ce qui représente le quart du budget ordinaire annuel, ou alors voir toutes les plantations de café arrachées par la population.

C'est dans ce cadre que le gouvernement rwandais apprécie l'aide que la FAO, les organismes et pays amis lui accordent, surtout sous forme d'aide alimentaire et d'intrants agricoles dont nos agriculteurs ont besoin et que nos faibles ressources en devises ne nous permettent pas d'importer commercialement.

**Khalil MAKKAWI (Liban) (langue originale Arabe):** Monsieur le Président, j'ai le plaisir de vous adresser, au nom de la délégation de mon pays, nos plus sincères félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection à la Présidence de cette 25ème Session, Je saisis cette occasion pour rappeler les liens étroits d'amitié qui unissent nos deux pays, notamment en raison des milliers de citoyens australiens qui ont leurs racines au Liban. Nous sommes tout à fait certains que l'ampleur de vos connaissances, votre vaste culture et votre patience nous permettront de diriger nos travaux avec succès.

Nous félicitons également les Vice-Présidents et les distingués membres du Bureau qui vous seront sans aucun doute d'un précieux secours dans l'accomplissement de votre mission.

Notre Conférence se tient alors que prévaut une situation économique complexe dont les principales caractéristiques sont: l'augmentation des dettes du monde en développement, la baisse des prix et des produits alimentaires de ces mêmes pays, les grands changements auxquels font face les pays du bloc de l'Est et l'importante diminution des stocks de céréales dans le monde, ceci à la suite de la sécheresse qui a frappé les Etats-Unis cette année.

Ajoutons à cela les problèmes de l'agriculture et de l'environnement que nous rencontrons tels que la désertification, les criquets et la pollution, problèmes qui s'accroissent sans trouver de solutions en dépit des efforts de l'Organisation et des pays membres, visant à limiter leur impact sur les catégories les plus démunies de la Communauté internationale.

Les responsabilités qui incombent à cette organisation augmentent constamment, et ceci en raison de la croissance des besoins des Etats Membres et de la multiplicité des difficultés que rencontre la production agricole de ces pays. Ces derniers ne parviennent pas à trouver de solutions rapides et adéquates à leurs problèmes structurels tels que la croissance démographique, la diminution des superficies cultivées et la faible productivité agricole.

Bien que cette réalité simple apparaisse très clairement à travers la lecture du rapport qui résume la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1989, cette Organisation éprouve des difficultés à faire face aux résultats découlant de cette réalité car, d'une part, il existe une prise de conscience réelle des difficultés des pays en développement dans les domaines de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation et de la nécessité de les aider à dépasser ces difficultés et, d'autre part, nous constatons une grande prudence lorsqu'il s'agit d'adopter des mesures financières susceptibles de rendre les programmes de l'Organisation conformes aux attentes de ces pays.

Le Programme de travail de l'Organisation est objectif et réaliste et reflète des exigences politiques et économiques qu'on ne saurait ignorer. Ce Programme continue cependant de subir l'effet du slogan de la croissance zéro que l'Organisation a été obligée d'adopter depuis quelques années.

En réalité, il est difficile pour un observateur extérieur de comprendre la logique d'une organisation qui se contredit quasiment chaque fois qu'elle passe en revue ses activités, car l'Organisation analyse avec une grande précision l'augmentation des besoins de ses membres dans un premier temps et adopte par la suite un Programme de travail qui limite de façon radicale le champ de ses activités et fait même de l'absence de croissance un principe permanent.



Au cours des dernières années, l'Organisation a vécu une situation qui a rendu inévitable le principe de la croissance zéro, ce qui a contraint le Directeur général à proposer un budget tenant compte de cette réalité. Cependant la délégation de mon pays, comme la majorité écrasante des pays participant à cette Conférence, considère qu'il est temps de remettre en question ce principe et de dépasser la contradiction quotidienne qu'il fait vivre à la FAO. Le maintien de ce principe met en danger la crédibilité de cette Organisation et sa capacité à remplir sa mission.

A ce stade nous mettons en doute le discours selon lequel le maintien de ce principe va conduire l'Organisation à plus d'austérité et de productivité. Le Directeur général a déjà réduit autant que faire se peut les dépenses administratives, et la poursuite de cette diminution ainsi que la politique visant à réduire la croissance de l'Organisation mettent en danger les programmes dont bénéficient les catégories les plus démunies du monde, et cela nous ne pouvons l'accepter.

C'est pour cette raison que la délégation de mon pays appuie totalement le Programme de travail et budget pour le Biennium 1990/91 tel que proposé par le Directeur général, mais nous espérons qu'à l'avenir les budgets de l'Organisation seront conformes à la réalité agricole mondiale et qu'ils vont croître conformément aux besoins des Etats Membres.

Nul n'ignore le fait que le Directeur général a été contraint de proposer un budget prudent et limité, comme celui qui nous est soumis, et ceci à cause du retard de certains Etats Membres dans le paiement de leur cotisation. Ce retard est dû la plupart du temps à des problèmes financiers internes auxquels sont confrontés les pays en voie de développement.

Il existe cependant une autre catégorie d'Etats Membres qui utilisent l'argument du paiement comme un moyen de pression qui lui sert à dicter ses souhaits à la plupart des pays membres de l'Organisation ou à son administration. Il est tout à fait étrange que certains délégués brandissent la possibilité de lier le versement de leur contribution à certaines propositions ou à certains points du Rapport d'experts, ou à d'autres facteurs encore. La délégation du Liban, à l'instar des autres délégations, voudrait rappeler à ces pays que le paiement fait partie des devoirs contractuels des membres, résultant de leur appartenance à cette Organisation, du respect de sa Constitution et de leur foi en ses objectifs.

La transformation de ce paiement en une arme de pression ou en un moyen d'obtenir des dispositions spéciales que rejette la majorité des délégations aura de graves conséquences pour l'Organisation et pour tous les pays qui en bénéficient.

Le Liban appelle une fois de plus à séparer la question du paiement des contributions de celle du travail de l'Organisation, tout en sachant qu'il est possible de parvenir à un accord sur la plupart des questions, par un dialogue rationnel et par la discussion, et ce sans recourir aux pressions financières.

La délégation de mon pays espère que l'examen de ce problème, qui a débuté en novembre 1987, va prendre fin et que l'exécution des recommandations qui en découlent marquera le début d'une ère de coopération renouvelée entre tous les Etats Membres de l'Organisation.

Il est nécessaire de souligner ici que les résultats auxquels sont parvenus les experts sont extrêmement encourageants. En effet, ces experts ont affirmé une fois de plus que l'Organisation constitue une unité dynamique et efficace et que sa gestion n'est point entachée par les erreurs dont certains affirment l'existence. Le Rapport d'experts ayant obtenu l'unanimité, ceci devrait nous encourager à poursuivre cette méthode constructive et à nous mettre d'accord par la négociation sur des mesures concrètes pour l'application des recommandations figurant au Rapport, ceci dans le cadre des règles de travail en vigueur dans cette Organisation.

Mon pays appelle au dépassement rapide de cette étape, grâce à l'esprit de coopération. C'est pour cela que nous ne souhaitons pas introduire de nouvelles questions ou débattre de propositions que le Comité financier et le Comité du programme ont déjà rejetées. Quant à la proposition visant à former de nouvelles commissions pour contrôler la mise en oeuvre de ces recommandations et autres suggestions, nous pensons qu'elle n'est pas pratique; de plus, elle n'est ni constructive, ni justifiée car l'administration de l'Organisation va mettre en oeuvre tout ce qui aura été adopté au cours de cette Conférence; il n'est nul besoin donc de nouvelles complications qui auront pour effet d'exacerber les tensions dont a souffert l'Organisation au cours des années précédentes.

Je voudrais affirmer ici un principe posé par nombre de délégations par le passé, en vertu duquel la réforme est un moyen et non une fin. L'objectif doit consister à appuyer l'Organisation, à améliorer sa performance et à augmenter sa productivité. A cet égard, le Rapport des deux Comités permet de faire de la réforme le moyen de réaliser le progrès escompté.

Si l'exécution des recommandations se fait dans un climat de coopération, de réalisme et de confiance, nous aurons su utiliser les tensions afin d'améliorer la qualité de cette Organisation, conformément aux souhaits de tous les membres. Mais si certains maintiennent la méthode de la confrontation, des pressions et du manque de confiance, le processus de réforme souhaité sera un facteur de faiblesse et de division. C'est pour cela que le Liban appelle tous les membres à oeuvrer afin de dépasser cette étape et de faire du Rapport des deux Commissions une base solide pour une nouvelle phase de coopération et non un nouveau moyen d'attiser les conflits secondaires qui ont des effets négatifs sur tous les Etats Membres.

Je ne souhaite pas entrer dans les détails des travaux que va entreprendre notre Conférence au cours des prochains jours, et ce de manière approfondie et précise. Je voudrais cependant aborder brièvement certaines questions qui figurent au Rapport des deux Comités et auxquelles mon pays attache une grande importance.

La première de ces questions est celle du rôle de l'Organisation dans le domaine de l'assistance technique aux pays en voie de développement par le biais du Programme de coopération technique, le PCT. Mon pays refuse toute tentative qui vise à affaiblir ce rôle. Nous devons au contraire appuyer l'Organisation afin de lui permettre d'assumer ce rôle de manière active et efficace. Nous pensons par conséquent que toute réduction du budget de l'Organisation ou toute limitation de sa croissance ne devrait pas affecter ce secteur vital de son activité.

Tout en soulignant la nécessité d'adopter des critères stricts concernant le choix et la définition des projets, ainsi que l'engagement de l'Organisation à appuyer certains de ces projets, nous réaffirmons la nécessité de faire de l'Organisation un facteur efficace dans ce domaine.

La deuxième observation est relative au système d'information et d'alerte rapide qui a prouvé, année après année, son utilité en matière de prévision concernant la situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. Ce système a également prouvé son utilité par l'adoption en temps utile de mesures adéquates pour faire face à toute situation négative, et ceci avant l'aggravation des dangers.

Pour cette raison, nous demandons que soit poursuivi l'appui à ce système, ainsi que son amélioration, conformément au rôle important qu'il doit jouer.

La troisième question qui occupe une place importante dans cette Organisation, et que nous considérons comme une des grandes difficultés que nous rencontrons, est celle de l'environnement et de la pollution. Comme vous le savez, mon pays a souffert de ce problème et a failli être, au cours de ces dernières années, le théâtre d'une opération de stockage illégal de déchets toxiques. Nous avons pu alors, en coopération avec le gouvernement ami de l'Italie, faire face à ce problème et le résoudre. Mais il nous est apparu clairement que la seule solution au problème de la pollution et de l'environnement résidait dans les efforts conjugués déployés au sein des organisations internationales. Nous rendons hommage au rôle important que joue l'Organisation dans ce domaine et nous souhaitons que se poursuive cette orientation et que le développement agricole dans le monde tienne compte de l'environnement.

Nous voudrions souligner ici l'importance du Code international de conduite sur la production et l'utilisation de pesticides, ainsi que l'application des recommandations qui y figurent. Cette Organisation a traversé des années difficiles et nous n'allons pas revenir ici sur le détail de ce qui les a causées. La situation actuelle montre cependant des signes positifs qui nous font espérer le début de nouvelles étapes de coopération et de croissance.

L'examen du travail de l'Organisation s'est terminé avec succès et réaffirme l'utilité du travail de l'Organisation et la justesse de ses orientations en général. Cet examen a également ouvert la voie à un certain nombre de changements positifs sur lesquels nous sommes unanimes. Cette Conférence pourrait donc constituer pour nous un retour aux origines, à savoir aux principales responsabilités qui incombent à l'Organisation et à nos pays. Nous espérons que les consultations en cours pendant cette Conférence confirmeront cet esprit nouveau.

Avant de conclure, je voudrais dire que mon pays accueille favorablement les développements en cours dans les pays du bloc de l'Est qui laissent espérer un renforcement de la coopération internationale par l'intermédiaire des organisations internationales.

L'adhésion à l'Organisation d'un grand pays comme l'Union soviétique ne peut que recueillir l'assentiment de tous en raison des immenses possibilités dont jouit ce pays.

Nous exprimons également notre entière satisfaction à l'égard de la coopération étroite et efficace entre la FAO et les autres institutions internationales telles que la Banque Mondiale, le Fonds International, le GATT et d'autres encore. Nous appelons à la poursuite et à la consolidation de cette coopération dans l'intérêt de la Communauté internationale tout entière.

Mon dernier mot sera un mot de remerciement adressé à la FAO pour l'aide fournie à mon pays, notamment dans les circonstances douloureuses qui y ont prévalu tout au long de ces dernières années. Je vous remercie.

**Mats HELLSTROM (Sweden):** The imbalance in food production and food consumption between developing and developed countries is a continuous concern to Sweden. Although progress has been made in a number of developing countries, food insecurity and malnutrition seem to increase in some parts of the developing world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

Successful solutions to these problems can only be found in a broader context. The patterns of world agricultural production and trade must be changed in favour of developing countries. A successful outcome of the GATT negotiations to liberalize trade in agricultural products is of fundamental importance for economic progress and agricultural development in developing countries.

In this context FAO has a valuable role to play. By analysing the problems and providing technical assistance the FAO will promote and facilitate the negotiations. By increasing the emphasis on policy aspects of agricultural adjustment and a harmonious development of trade FAO will provide the base of support for reform broader, all for the benefit of both developing and developed countries.

I note with satisfaction that the concept of sustainable development is one of the priority areas which are proposed to receive increased attention in FAO's programme. In my view sustainable development should be understood as a priority concept which would penetrate a wide range of FAO's programmes. The main aim should in fact be to integrate environmental considerations as a basic concern in all of FAO's main activities and programmes. The concept of sustainable development as defined by the Brundtland Commission has to be accepted as an overall objective. It is well in line with FAO's original charter and objectives.

Forests play a significant role in economic development. Sweden has experienced the tremendous impact of increasing forest production on the standard of living of the people. The forests provide innumerable products of vital use to man. Forest products are widely used in most societies. And we may not forget the ecological usefulness of forests.

In the industrialized part of the world we are faced with the problems of forest death, caused by air pollution, among other things. Desertification and deforestation in developing countries and the rapid regression of the tropical forests are environmental problems of particular concern. Eleven million hectares or more of tropical forests disappear every year mainly as a consequence of poverty and unsustainable use of forest resources. The survival of the tropical rain forest is a matter of increasing global awareness. I believe, however, that it is not realistic to ban the utilization of all tropical timber in the hope that such a ban would rescue the tropical forests. Our own experience is the opposite. If we will give the forests a commercial value, this will be a prerequisite for a sustained future management of the forests.

I have now been talking about global problems which are of serious concern to both developed and developing countries. These problems demand global solutions and the combined efforts of all partners in development. This is a gigantic task where FAO has an important role to play as a source of information and as the leading agency of forestry cooperation. There are many ongoing activities as to forestry, both nationally and regionally, throughout the world. Much knowledge is assembled, which should be more generally known and more widely disseminated. FAO is in a unique position to organize and transfer existing international experiences on rational and long-term utilization of forest resources based on the concept of sustained and increased production. By strengthening its policy-advice function the basic role of FAO in this matter should be to encourage, support and recommend activities rather than to implement them.

In this context I would like to underline FAO's activities in Europe. The Swedish Government fully supports increased cooperation between FAO's European Office and the Joint FAO/ECE Agriculture and Timber Division. Such cooperation is of benefit not only to countries of the European region. The results of this close cooperation could to a greater extent be shared with the developing countries. We welcome a further enhancement of the cooperation between FAO and ECE.

In recent years further attention has been given to the Programme of Work as to forestry. However, as we have stated previously, it seems that forestry has not yet been given its proper place within the FAO total budget. It is quite evident to us that increased resources within the budget frame must be reallocated to forestry activities.

The resources of the sea are of great importance to many nations, both developed and developing ones, and efforts should be directed towards their conservation.

There are today new fishing technologies related to gear selection that give cause for great concern. High seas driftnet fishing has recently expanded significantly. It is a fishing technique that definitely is not in line with a sustainable utilization of living marine resources. It is an intolerable waste and a threat to different species; it is an unselective fishing method, using nets up to 60 km long and about 15 m wide, and often described as "walls of death." It has a dangerous impact on living marine resources. Besides the targeted species of fish, a large number of non-targeted marine mammals, sea turtles and sea birds are killed annually in the driftnets. High seas driftnet fishing is found in many places, especially in the Pacific, but also in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea where, inter alia, marine mammals such as seals, whales and dolphins are endangered. It is not regulated by any international fisheries management body and national regulations seem to be insufficient. Sweden is sponsoring together with other like-minded nations a resolution in the United Nations General Assembly on high seas driftnet fishing.

There is a significant amount of scientific data available that illustrates the ecologically damaging nature of large-scale use of high seas driftnets. However, there is a need for an evaluation of all data available. FAO, as the only international agency that possesses technical expertise in the field of global fisheries, should assemble existing scientific data on driftnet fishing and carry out such an evaluation. On the basis of such an evaluation FAO should promote and recommend international actions to ban high seas driftnet fishing. To this end FAO should elaborate international

undertakings, preferably on a regional basis, aimed at banning high seas driftnet fishing. A draft proposal for an undertaking should be put forward by the Secretariat for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee on Fisheries.

In recent decades a more and more homogeneous material of plant species has come to be used in the developing countries as well as in the industrial countries. This development has forced the old regional country species out of their original habitats. As a result of environmental deterioration and land reclamation the wild genuses of cultivated plants have become threatened, and in some areas extinct, causing a further genetic impoverishment with consequences for the future that are difficult to foresee, but that might be dangerous.

The genetic impoverishment is a most severe future problem, which can be said to be one of our least debated but grave environmental problems. Within the framework of international cooperation efforts are made to save the more important plant genetic resources for the future. These efforts are of utmost importance to successful plant breeding and a prerequisite for agricultural development. The FAO and the CGIAR system are both working towards this end.

However, the measures taken so far are insufficient. More comprehensive measures must be taken on an international scale. It is of great importance that developing countries will be in a position to develop their own genuine seeds and plants through plant breeding that does not rely heavily on the commercial import of seeds mainly developed for other habitats, other climates, etc. and that requires unnecessary strong use of pesticides. Such domestic programmes provide an important basis for stable food security.

In my opinion FAO, in cooperation with IBPGR, should propose in more detail and lay down the broad outlines for intergovernmental cooperation in order, in the first instance, to ensure increased assistance to developing countries in establishing, preferably regional, gene-banks for their national plant breeding programmes and strengthening their national seed production capabilities and research competence, which is a necessary prerequisite for well functioning regional cooperation. The FAO Secretariat, in close cooperation with IBPGR, should present a draft proposal on this matter at the next meeting of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for further consideration.

An international network of cooperating national or regional gene-banks based on a long-term commitment of nations seems to be the solution most likely to guarantee a long-term preservation of genetic resources of the world.

No organization has unlimited resources and also FAO will continue to find that potential demands from Member States and proposals for possible action dwarf its available resources: FAO cannot do everything for everyone, Difficult choices are being made. The task of the Member States is to clearly indicate in what direction FAO should develop, where the main emphasis should be, and how it should be readjusted in a longer perspective. The Delegation of Sweden will always be open to working with other members in this direction.

Addressing this organization in the same manner as other UN specialized agencies, Sweden wants the FAO, within the means put at its disposal, to concentrate on those activities and sectors in which it has a clear mandate and an advantage - in terms of knowledge and experience - over other international organizations. Doing the right things better does not require more resources, but certainly can attract such resources. In order to effectively translate priorities into all the Organization's activities, and to suggest necessary readjustments in the formulation of its programmes, medium-term planning should be used in FAO, as is done in other specialized agencies.

The group of experts have rightly indicated FAO's main areas of competence: first, collection, analysis and dissemination of data, a unique service invaluable to all Member States; secondly, formulation of food and agricultural policies, and if so asked, the provision of policy advice, particularly to developing countries; thirdly, technical assistance within the framework of coordinated United Nations activities.

FAO's comparative advantage, in Sweden's view, lies with the first two of the broadly defined functions. By acting catalytically, by making things happen rather than trying always to execute them by itself, FAO could really foster change in vital areas of food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

**Czesław JANICKI (Poland):** Each subsequent FAO Conference is an occasion to reconsider the condition of world agriculture and to set forth programmes for its further development. These are also the most important issues of the current Conference. According to the data available in the Conference's documents, agriculture in some regions is developing too slowly to meet even the basic physical needs of the people. This is particularly the cases with the poorest countries of the developing world, in which the food situation is most difficult. This tendency has been continuing for some time and is the reason why the ambitious programme for eradicating the most acute effects of famine and malnutrition in the world by the year 1985, which was proposed a number of years ago at the World Food Conference, has not been realized. The available information indicates that even by the year 2000 this programme will not have been realized. If such a pessimistic prospect comes true it will represent a failure of the entire world community.

The statements of the delegation chairmen at the plenary sessions of this FAO Conference mainly discuss the problems of the world's food economy. However, because of the extraordinary recent events in my country, I would like to talk briefly about Poland.

In Poland we have been changing the political and economic system. Today, Poland is a place of great experiment. The political system and the basic structures of the state have been changing in a parliamentary direction. The democratization of public life is taking place in an atmosphere of a peaceful and full respect for law. Our system of values - the lifeblood of our society - is becoming renewed. The implications of these political changes reach beyond Poland's own borders.

Economically this has meant abandoning the command distribution system which had dominated the Polish economy for the past 40 years. We are moving with determination towards a market economy, while retaining, however, limited intervention by the state in those areas in which it is necessary for

safeguarding the interests of society. Our economic system has a multiplicity of sectors in which all forms of economic organization have equal rights, whether they be state or private, cooperative or corporate, domestically financed, or drawing on foreign investment.

In agriculture the new policy has brought about fundamental changes. Our ultimate aim is to attain a market economy with full liberalization of prices. The government has already abandoned its predecessors, determination of prices for both agricultural products and the means of agricultural production itself, and we are allowing free play to the working of market laws. Simultaneously, our government has discontinued the direct and indirect subsidizing of agriculture and food prices. The exceptions are a few basic food items and those investments in production which should stimulate accelerated progress in agriculture. This has initiated a process of deep changes and adjustments both in individual farms and in agriculture as a whole. Thus, the principles of economic calculation and the conditions for profitability of production have greatly changed. Although a market economy was introduced but three months ago, we can already see promising changes which, we hope, will make Polish agriculture more effective. These deep changes of the system have not been introduced painlessly.

The whole of the Polish economy, including the service sector for agriculture, had previously been highly monopolized. The existing structures were not competitive. The change in the situation is difficult because it concerns material interests of different groups of people. However, we have begun the process of demonopolization of the infrastructure, because only then can the necessary elements of competition be introduced, and only under such conditions can the market function normally. Our moving towards a market economy under pre-existent conditions of high monopolization of the economy has induced inflationary process. But this is the price that must be paid for stabilization of our economy. We expect to have full control over inflation in the near future. This will add momentum to agriculture. Another goal is restructuring of our economy to reinvigorate agriculture.

Agriculture has long had priorities in Polish economic policy, but these policies could not be realized effectively because the infrastructure of agriculture, particularly those industries which produce the means of production, were inadequately adjusted to agriculture's needs. Although this situation still exists, the government has undertaken concrete steps to adapt the agricultural infrastructure to agriculture's real needs. This will be especially possible if we can utilize new technologies and capital from highly developed countries. We realize this is a long process and that successes will come slowly.

The changes of our economic system which I have discussed have certain features which are both specific and universal. These changes involve a rapid conversion of a hardly effective system of economy upon command and distribution into a modern system of market economy in which the food economy will be one of the most important sectors. Our experience, both positive and negative, may prove of interest for other countries which decide to introduce radical economic and political reforms. Poland is willing to share her experience with those interested, and we think that FAO can play an important role in this. A critical analysis of the transformation of the Polish system could be an important contribution to the FAO's expertise in economic and agricultural policy. A similar role could be played by



organizational and advisory bodies of the FAO. It is very likely that the results of such cooperation could be reflected elsewhere around the globe, as for example, in the preparatory studies for the Fourth Decade of Development.

To accomplish true restructuring, Poland needs foreign capital and new technologies. Numerous highly developed countries have offered different types of help to our country, which we accept with gratitude. However, we realize that what we need more than immediate help is access to modern technologies and capital within a framework of regular economic cooperation which would prove beneficial to both sides.

Poland has enough resources to feed her nation, it has diligent farmers whose production, however, is expensive, since they are using outdated technologies. Poland is intensively looking for access to the newest technologies, and appreciates the possibilities offered by cooperation with the FAO. We are actively involved in numerous information exchange networks initiated by the FAO. At the same time, we offer to the international community our research potential, intellectual primarily, in certain areas, as for example in our research on triticale and rapeseed, we have had significant achievement. We offer the world community all we have attained and at the same time we would like to benefit from the world achievements in science and technology.

Relationships with international markets are an important factor in the development of food economies. These ties offer possibilities for sale, but at the same time they definitely eliminate inefficient undertakings. Unfortunately, for many years international markets for food and agricultural products have not fulfilled those functions in a proper way because of a general application of subsidies for agricultural exports and of protective barriers.

GATT has been trying to change this. Poland is an active member of the Uruguay Round and hopes that the various interests of GATT's members will result in a reasonable compromise that will be useful for the entire world community, and especially for developing countries.

I trust that with progress in all the issues I have mentioned, and with the help of the FAO and other countries, we will be able to speed up the process of full parliamentary democratization in my country and achieving a high economic level.

**Saad ABDALLAH (Syria) (original language Arabic):** On behalf of the Syrian Arab Republic I would like to congratulate you, Chairman, on your election. I am sure that with your well-known expertise and that of your assistants, this Session will certainly be extremely successful. The Syrian Delegation will do its best to cooperate with you in order to achieve this objective of success.

We very much appreciate all the efforts which have been deployed in preparing this Conference and we would like to thank Mr Saouma, Director-General of FAO, and members of the Secretariat, whose skill we recognize.

Like other countries in the world, our country does have close links with international organizations. Our country is very sensitive to what is happening on the world scene, and we have noted that there are signs of detente in various areas of the world. These are very welcome, and we hope this will mean that the countries of the world will be able to look forward to a better and brighter future. Nevertheless, we see that arms expenditure still occupies an important place, eating up enormous amounts of money which could have been used for the benefit and welfare of mankind in fighting against poverty, hunger and oppression.

In our time, the majority of people in this world are still living in poverty and deprivation, and the difference between the rich and the poor is enormous. This is a very black spot in our book. We would like here to welcome the capital provided by FAO, and all the efforts which it makes to help the poorer countries and peoples of the world. We know very well how useful field studies are, and indeed all the efforts made by this Organization. It never fails to sound the alarm when necessary, drawing the attention of the world community to the serious economic situation of developing countries and the consequences of this for humanity. We appreciate the international will to use this Conference in order to help alleviate the sufferings of the people of the world.

We are convinced that the eradication of hunger will not be brought about unless we can give those who suffer hunger something to eat, if we can provide aid in times of disaster. But that will only be possible if we can achieve true international cooperation. Thanks to this international cooperation it will be possible to pay fair prices for commodities; there too, long-term development plans must be developed and financed. A fair solution must be found for problems of the Third World debt and we must also set up a new international economic order based on fair and equal relations between peoples.

We respect the principle of dialogue between the rich and poor countries, but we would warn you that if poverty is not eradicated where it exists at the moment, it might spread to the rich countries. A fair balance between distribution of world wealth, which exists at the moment, cannot go on ad infinitum. Here we would welcome international cooperation in the work that we are now doing, in order to achieve our very noble objectives - that is, to eliminate hunger and need in the world.

The Syrian Republic is doing everything it can in order to implement integrated programmes according to the principles and objectives of FAO. We have given agriculture absolute priority in the framework of our efforts to bring about our economic and social development. We have given priority to integrated development programmes, which are implemented for the small producers and small farmers to help them to participate fully in the planning and operation of these programmes.

We are at the moment trying to increase the role of women in development. There is a growing number of recycling centres for rural areas, and women are contributing fully to the setting up of these centres. Syrian women are participating in all development sectors, and here we would like to thank the Organization for the excellent report on the integration of Women Development.

The long road towards economic development means also that the Syrian population of the Golan Heights, which were redistributed after 1967, have had to be resettled. We are at the moment carrying out agricultural projects which are the only source of income for these people. Here we would like to underscore the deterioration of the economic and social situation of those Syrian inhabitants in the Golan Heights which are at the moment occupied, and most particularly the cause of the problem of land confiscation, the control of water resources, and the application of laws and directives of a restrictive nature which inhibit agricultural development.

We would urge FAO to invite the Syrian inhabitants of the occupied Golan Heights to carry out independent economic development, so that they may use their national resources to serve their development and self-sufficiency. Here, we have introduced a separate memorandum which we hope will be considered as a part of this statement. We urge the application of the United Nations Resolution which was adopted on 20 November 1988, concerning coordination of economic and social aid programmes for the Palestinian people who are suffering pillage and destruction of their economic resources.

Efforts made by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, most particularly those deployed by the Ministry of Agriculture and by professional organizations in the framework of the implementation of the 1986/1990 Five-Year Plan, have helped us to beat all records, particularly in 1988 when we had a favourable climate. Unfortunately, my country and others in the area have suffered many periods of drought in the 1980s which have therefore increased our food deficit. Eighty-five percent of our crops are dependent upon the rains, as well as irrigated areas. We have extended our irrigated lands in an attempt to reduce the damage done by climatic factors. Our Government has called for feasibility studies to be carried out on irrigation projects, because we have seen that these areas produce three or four times more than that produced by non-irrigated areas. However, the material resources to implement these projects are lacking.

A large number of our natural resources in land and water have not been exploited, especially in developing countries. That is certainly true for Syria where water resources available at the moment are estimated at 21 billion cubic metres; however, at present, we are only using about 40 percent of this capacity. We could have used more of those resources if we did not have certain requirements concerning our defence and survival, as our country is a prey to criminal attack. We have large amounts of arable, fertile land which need irrigation. Therefore, we say that we are prepared to enter into balanced cooperation with all countries of the world and with all organizations in order to be able to use these resources, and in the framework of development programmes which will provide food not only for our country, but for all those who need food in the world.

Our government is at the moment working on the seventh Five-Year Plan for 1991-1995 for economic and social development, taking into account our food problem, which objectively estimates our country's potential. We are basing ourselves on the directives of our President, Hafez El Asad, who has turned to the electorate on many occasions saying that we must do everything in our power to develop our agriculture; we must draw up and implement programmes very seriously, earnestly, and with great zeal. In preparing the new plans, this is vital, because Syria's potential is very great and we must use that potential.

With these directives in mind, we have been preparing an agricultural development plan based upon the following points:

Firstly, we have stressed the role of productive individuals as an important element in development, encouraging them to participate in agricultural development.

Secondly, we must do everything possible to use land water resources, and to consider alternative crops.

Thirdly, give priority to increasing productivity by using modern agricultural technology. We have in fact taken many steps towards this goal, and are beginning to see the fruits of our efforts in crops and animal breeding.

Fourthly, given our grazing possibilities, we are now relaunching certain areas from an economic point of view and are reforestation in order to help protect the environment.

Fifthly, we wish to carry out a balanced implementation of plans to increase productivity and industrialization of our country and to market our products.

We have listened with great attention to the statements made by previous delegates, which we support. We ask them to support the FAO. Our delegation pays tribute to the Director-General for his tireless efforts, and we would give support to his proposals.

We would stress the following points:

Firstly, we welcome the Review of FAO Activities. We believe that it is vital that we maintain financial resources which will enable FAO to undertake its responsibilities. It is also vital that rich countries should pay their debts. These debts are increasing, and should be paid as soon as possible.

Secondly, as far as activities to fight against pollution and to protect the environment through studies carried out by experts in this Organization, or studies which are carried out with the help of other specialized organizations, are concerned, these should be supported. This could also be done by holding international high-level meetings, which would be able to implement Resolutions which are tabled.

I would underscore the importance of what was said by the Italian Minister for the Environment, who made important proposals for cooperation in the field of environmental protection. We must also ensure that technical aid to developing countries is increased, because this enables our countries to overcome their difficulties and to provide the necessary know-how for their development. We believe in an exchange of experience between developing countries themselves.

We must help to intensify cooperation between members of the Organization and exchange experiences so that we can have a transfer of technology in order to benefit from everything learned in the agricultural field throughout our countries. We must also strengthen cooperation dialogue between FAO and other international organizations and make an appeal to all countries to bring about detente and peace which will provide cooperation towards a new world economic order guaranteeing food security for the peoples of the world.

The meeting rose at 10.45 hours

La séance est levée à 10 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 10.45 horas

**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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**C 89/PV/10**

Twenty-fifth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-cinquième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

25º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

TENTH PLENARY MEETING  
DIXIÈME SEANCE PLENIERE  
DECIMA SESION PLENARIA

16 November 1989

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours  
John Charles Kerin, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45  
sous la présidence de John Charles Kerin, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la Décima Sesión Plenaria a las 14.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia de John Charles Kerin, Presidente de la Conferencia

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)

**Antonio CABRALES (El Salvador):** Señores Ministros de Agricultura, señoras, señores: Agradezco la invitación a la 25ª Reunión de FAO, en su Aniversario de Plata. Es realmente un gran honor estar aquí en convivio con todos mis colegas Ministros de Agricultura del mundo y con los máximos dirigentes de FAO, como agricultor y ganadero que soy, también quiero agradecer en nombre de millones de agricultores y ganaderos latinoamericanos el apoyo que siempre hemos tenido de la FAO a través de su transferencia de tecnología. Me pregunto ¿cuánto más subdesarrollado sería el sector agrícola en Latinoamérica sin la ayuda constante de FAO en los últimos 40 años? Como hombre de campo que soy es un sueño hecho realidad, pues nunca pensé poder asistir a una reunión de Ministros de Agricultura del mundo y en especial estar aquí en la Meca de la transferencia tecnológica del mundo como es FAO. He tenido la suerte de capacitarme por muchos años a través de libros y folletos publicados por FAO sobre temas agropecuarios, tanto como estudiante en la universidad como en el trabajo diario como agricultor.

Quiero además, expresar ante esta comunidad internacional y sus dignos representantes, las muestras del más profundo agradecimiento de mi pueblo y del Señor Presidente Constitucional, Alfredo Félix Cristiani, por las cálidas atenciones y hospitalidad de que fuera objeto en su reciente visita a este país y particularmente a la Sede de este organismo.

También de igual forma, considero oportuna esta ocasión para reiterar nuestras más francas demostraciones de gratitud y reconocimiento a los exitosos esfuerzos de esta Organización, por contribuir en la solución de los problemas del sector agropecuario de mi país, ya que de una forma sostenida ha orientado su asistencia para apoyar nuestros programas de trabajo, tal es el caso que puedo dar fe como Ministro de la prontitud con que la FAO ha respondido a nuestros requerimientos de especialistas o expertos para asesorarnos en la solución de problemas emergentes que hemos afrontado en los últimos 150 días, acción y ayuda que califico de sorprendente, por lo inmediato en que dicha cooperación ha sido proporcionada, típico de un sector privado agresivo pero no de burocracias. Me refiero a una solicitud que hice al representante en El Salvador, Don Enrique González Regueira; ante una preocupante plaga de langosta voladora que amenazaba la destrucción de gran parte de la cosecha de maíz en junio de este año. En cosa de 30 días, después de mi petición teníamos en El Salvador al mejor experto mundial de esta plaga, Dr. Skaff.

Iniciaré por hacer un pequeño análisis de la situación política-agrícola en el mundo y en especial Latinoamérica. Trataré de ser muy breve. Preocupa que los consumidores crecen a un ritmo explosivo, como dijo nuestro Director General Sr. Saouma, que en los últimos dos años la población mundial entre el 10 de noviembre 1987 al 10 de noviembre 1989 ha crecido en 178 millones de habitantes. De éstos, 160 millones de habitantes corresponden a los países subdesarrollados con necesidades alimentarias que nuestra agricultura no podrá satisfacer pues en los países subdesarrollados

el agro vive en crisis. ¿Cuál es el escenario en Latinoamérica donde el agricultor se desenvuelve? Primero, grandes cambios históricos en la vida política ocurren y estos cambios producen inestabilidad, incertidumbre y provocan desconfianza.

Como ejemplo en Centroamérica, Estados Unidos de Norteamérica nos exportó muchos bienes materiales en los últimos 50 años pero su democracia sólo la exportó hace apenas 10 años, es así El Salvador, Guatemala y Honduras, inician experimentos en procesos democráticos apenas en 1980 y esto crea grandes tensiones de toda índole. Se nos exige evolucionar en 10 años lo que le tomó a países europeos varios siglos. Hoy el marxismo y las guerrillas no dan tiempo de evolución sino revolución y los problemas sociales y la descomposición social en Latinoamérica son una justificación oportuna. Esta situación de inestabilidad política afecta enormemente a la producción del agro. Sin embargo, se observan síntomas alentadores en el sentido que la democracia está ganando la batalla pues vemos un movimiento como es perestroika, y hoy hemos visto cómo el muro de Berlín cae. Estos síntomas para un agricultor latinoamericano dan confianza en el futuro, pues las guerras de guerrillas se iniciaron en los años 1950 y han sido factor desestabilizador grande.

Agro política económica mundial. En el campo económico, la agricultura mundial sufre quizás la peor crisis de su historia tanto en Latinoamérica y en gran parte del mundo desarrollado, unos países por su baja productividad y otros países por su enorme productividad, sin embargo es curioso pues mucha de la crisis económica se debe a su crisis agrícola. En Latinoamérica la poca producción y productividad provoca problemas sociales y se reduce la capacidad exportadora generadora de divisas. En los países desarrollados la enorme producción y productividad crea enormes presiones al fisco a través de los subsidios para mantener los precios. En Estados Unidos de Norteamérica sólo el subsidio para la producción de leche llega casi a los 4 billones de dólares. Por otro lado, la Unión Soviética en 1988, gastó 115 billones de dólares para subsidios agrícolas y esto representa 90% de déficit presupuestario y aun así deben importar alimentos y racionarlos. O sea la crisis agrícola es general. Además todos los países desarrollados y subdesarrollados tienen problemas en su balance comercial, déficit fiscal enormes, grandes deudas externas, inflaciones incontenibles, recesión, etc. Unos casos más dramáticos que otros. Ahora bien, porque yo diría que el problema de Latinoamérica en el campo económico ha sido el no haber podido aprovechar su enorme potencial agrícola. Sencillamente, el no haber podido desarrollar su agricultura y en gran medida se debe a las equivocaciones políticas económicas. Culpamos nuestra cultura española; nuestra religión católica, el clima, falta de educación, etc. La verdad es que si tomamos en cuenta las revoluciones políticas constantes, guerras de guerrilla, problemas de narcotraficantes, secuestros, asesinatos, terremotos, sequías, inundaciones, plagas, reformas agrarias, etc. Yo pregunto, ¿cuántos países desarrollados en el mundo podrían aguantar tanto? Que agricultores en el mundo pueden soportar tanta inseguridad, incertidumbre y aun así seguir produciendo. Es realmente sorprendente, aún existe producción agrícola. Esto demuestra que si tenemos capacidad tanto empresarial como de recursos extraordinarios para haber sobrevivido estas realidades. El problema, vuelvo a repetir, ha sido las erróneas políticas económicas. Como ganadero que soy, antes la profesión veterinaria era la más importante para mí, pues en sus manos estaba la vida de mis vacas, pero hoy respeto y estimo, la profesión de economista como la profesión más importante, pues tiene la vida de nuestros países en sus manos. Prueba de lo que digo es el caso del pueblo chileno, a quien admiro muchísimo y he visitado varias veces en los últimos años para aprender de su lección al mundo latinoamericano. Pasó por la peor



crisis que sólo los chilenos pueden relatar. Más de 1 200% de inflación, filas de hambre, caos total de incertidumbre y desconfianza. Aplicaron políticas económicas adecuadas y hay un crecimiento del 5-6%, la inflación controlada en un 15% promedio, están cancelando su deuda externa, una actividad exportadora increíble. Existe gran confianza del sector productivo los cuales reinvierten en su país. Habrá elecciones en diciembre y entiendo gane quien gane el programa económico se mantiene. Le felicito al pueblo chileno e invito a todos que vayan a observar el por qué de ese 'milagro'. Mi análisis es que Chile ha demostrado no sólo es el resultado de un buen programa de estabilización económica y política monetaria responsable. No, es más profundo. Es una revolución de un mercado libre global. Esto es muy distinto a libre empresa acostumbrado a estar junto al Estado buscando prebendas. Mejora la empresa pero empeora el Estado. Es un modelo de libre empresa en libre mercado. Las ganancias se hacen legítimas, no se necesita una revolución socialista, la prueba es Chile.

Historia. Hoy haré un poco de historia de la crítica situación agrícola que hemos vivido en El Salvador, y mi experiencia como agricultor. Fuimos uno de los países con más tradición cafetalera en América Latina, donde se lograban los más altos índices de productividad del mundo, así como en la producción de algodón. También se exportaba un 50% del excedente de la producción de azúcar. Fue en base a estos tres productos de exportación que se generó las divisas necesarias para encaminar el proceso de industrialización durante los años del 50. El crecimiento económico llegó a 6% anual en estos años. De 1980 en adelante cambia la situación y tenemos los siguientes resultados: las exportaciones bajaron de \$1 132 millones de dólares en 1979 a \$600 millones de dólares en 1988. El algodón bajó en un 100%. El café en 53% y el azúcar en 39%. La exportación de los productos no tradicionales en el mercado común centroamericano bajó en un 47%. La balanza de pagos cada día más negativa. En 1979 se exportó \$1 132 millones de dólares y se importaban \$1 040 millones dólares a un saldo positivo de \$92 millones de dólares. Sin embargo en 1988 se exportó \$600 millones y se importó \$1 050 millones de dólares. Saldo negativo de \$448 millones de dólares además se acrecentaba un gran déficit fiscal de aproximadamente \$500 millones de dólares. Producción general del agro baja en 46%, producción de alimentos bajó en 12% e importaciones de alimentos se incrementaron en 42%. Los precios al agricultor bajaron en 60%. Existía un gran desajuste económico. La crisis se debía en parte a la intervención del Estado pues para 1988 un 70% de la economía estaba en manos del Estado, la banca nacionalizada, el comercio del café y azúcar era monopolio del Estado y la mejor tierra del país en manos del Estado como resultado de la reforma agraria. Por otro lado, la industria local en gran desventaja competitiva en calidad y costos con los países industrializados. En resumen el modelo económico se había agotado. Existía una gran desconfianza. La economía llena de subsidios cruzados y los precios totalmente distorsionados. La situación reflejaba un desgaste con un gran déficit fiscal que se seguía acumulando rápidamente. Desempleo abierto de 50%, crecimiento negativo en 1983. Modelo económico de sustitución de importaciones agotado. Urgente modificar modelo. ¿Cómo? Iniciamos a estudiar el problema, fue así y puedo afirmar, pues comprendí que nunca ha existido en la historia de El Salvador una política agrícola. El éxito alcanzado en los años anteriores apenas han sido programas agrícolas y se han confundido con política agrícola y que tuvieron algún éxito porque en los años 50-60-70 la economía mundial era estable y los precios del café, algodón y azúcar incentivaban su producción. Lo que sí existió en estas décadas pasadas era una política definida en cuanto al modelo económico adoptado que era el de un proceso de industrialización hacia adentro vía la sustitución de importaciones para un mercado común centroamericano, un mercado cautivo, con toda una macroeconomía a su favor. Una política que le concedía prosperidad

a la industria basada en las siguientes políticas. Estas eran las políticas de aranceles altos para proteger la industria local contra la competencia de la industria de afuera. Un tipo de cambio bajo para la importación de materias primas industriales a bajo costo. El sector agrícola necesita totalmente lo contrario, como es aranceles bajos para la importación de fertilizantes, insecticidas y maquinaria agrícola y tipo de cambio alto para estimular y fomentar la exportación de café, algodón y azúcar. Como se puede notar una política macroeconómica totalmente anti-agraria. Fue así que por 30 años se movilizaron enormes recursos del sector agrícola hacia otros sectores de la economía y se descapitalizó el agro. Durante estos 30 años la protección efectiva fue negativa en 26%. Esta situación pone de claro manifiesto lo importante que es la política macroeconómica para la agricultura. Esta es la clave del éxito para el agro. Una sana política agrícola no puede estar divorciada de la macroeconomía. Este ha sido el factor de pobreza en América Latina. No somos pobres sino nos hemos empobrecido por erradas políticas económicas. El Señor Presidente de Argentina, Carlos Menen en un reciente discurso en forma elocuente dice "la desprotección del campo argentino ha sido de las más feroces del planeta". Durante estos largos años de incertidumbre y frustración el productor agrícola salvadoreño buscaba desesperadamente alguna solución, se solicitaba subsidios pero para nuestros gobiernos pobres era difícil. Sin embargo las presiones hacían que se emitieran algunas leyes de fomento que concedían exenciones fiscales y sólo se distorsionaba más la economía. Muchos agricultores creíamos el problema era la mala semilla de maíz, poca capacidad genética en el ganado. Fue así algunos importaban de los Estados Unidos ganado pura sangre a precios bien altos, otros instalaban sistemas de riego sofisticados como son sistemas de aspersión o sistemas por goteo. Pero nada aliviaba la carga financiera, sino más bien la situación económica se hacía más difícil cada día. El problema era "estar nadando contra corriente", no había avance porque la política macroeconómica no ayudaba, sino iba en contra. Esto lo aprendí hasta hace apenas unos pocos años.

Otras lecciones han sido duras, también como es en 1980 cuando la economía mundial se deterioraba rápidamente y nuestro modelo económico estaba agotado y las consecuencias repercutían fuertemente desafortunadamente en nuestro país vino la señal de Estados Unidos y se inició un proceso de reformas estructurales, como fueron la reforma agraria, nacionalización de la banca, nacionalización del comercio interno y externo, en la cual se le concedió el monopolio de la exportación del café y azúcar al Estado. Además para agravar la situación de mi país se inicia también una guerra impuesta por el marxismo internacional. Toda esta triste historia ha hecho que El Salvador regrese a los niveles de producción agrícola de hace 30 años. Después de sembrar 150 000 hectáreas de algodón y hoy en día únicamente 12 000 hectáreas. Teníamos 60 000 hectáreas de caña de azúcar y hoy sólo 38 000 hectáreas, y en café se mantiene aproximadamente la misma área, pero de una producción de 4 500 000 de quintales, el año pasado la producción de la cosecha 88-89 fue apenas 1 700 000 quintales. El ingreso per cápita se ha reducido de \$600 a \$300 y existe un subempleo del 50%. Las exportaciones agrícolas en general se han reducido en un 50% y el déficit fiscal se ha aumentado enormemente causando un proceso inflacionario, pues en 1986 el Gobierno se vio obligado a realizar una devaluación del 100%, la primera en 40 años y luego allí terminó el ajuste económico sin realizar ninguna otra medida, obviamente por razones políticas. Fue así esta devaluación como medida económica aislada nos enseñó que fue inminentemente inflacionaria. Nuestra crisis es obviamente debido a equivocadas políticas tanto macroeconómicas como de tipo populista que buscan distribuir la riqueza y sólo se distribuye pobreza.

Todo este escenario de problemas lo he vivido como agricultor y realmente uno se pregunta, cuál es entonces la solución. Ante esta situación de problemas económicos y sociales como funcionario público y agricultor uno llega a la conclusión que la única alternativa es de emprender un ajuste económico, y que favorezca la agricultura pues ésta es nuestra riqueza en Latinoamérica. Aquí está nuestra ventaja comparativa real. Podemos darle de comer al mundo si existe macroeconomía para una verdadera política agrícola. Este es mi mensaje principal.

Ahora bien, ustedes comprenderán que realizar un "ajuste económico" en tiempos de paz es una tarea muy difícil ante los problemas de gran pobreza y descomposición social lo cual hace que las medidas sean antipopulares así como muy arriesgada pues siempre castiga mayormente a las clases más desafortunadas. Es así, mi gran admiración a nuestro Presidente Cristiani que ante una situación de guerra ha tenido la entereza moral de implantar un ajuste económico, pues es la única solución para la reactivación económica del país. La otra alternativa es no hacer nada, pero es una forma irresponsable de gobernar, de postergar decisiones que tarde o temprano se tendrán que realizar y que serán mucho más dolorosas. En este contexto puedo informarles que en los primeros 30 días de gobierno se eliminó el "control de precios", política existente en los últimos 20 años y que ha perjudicado enormemente a la producción de alimentos y empobrecido a mucho campesino pues en manos de ellos esta producción de granos básicos en El Salvador. Hoy para esta temporada de cosecha de granos básicos por primera vez en 20 años los productores de maíz, frijol y arroz tendrán precios de mercado y no precios distorsionados. Igualmente se reorientará la política del Instituto Regulador de Abastecimientos (IRA) y convertirlo en una institución de almacenamiento de granos en vez de intervenir en la fijación de precios y su comercialización. También, durante los primeros 60 días de gobierno se decidió flotar nuestra moneda, pues el tipo de cambio sobrevalorado estaba castigado fuertemente a todo el esfuerzo exportador del país y en especial los productos tradicionales agrícolas de exportación, como es el café, algodón y azúcar. Igualmente se han incrementado las tasas de intereses subsidiadas a tasa de interés positivas para estimular el ahorro interno, cuya virtud se había perdido y es la única forma de lograr obtener los recursos suficientes para incrementar la inversión. No se puede continuar impulsando el desarrollo económico en latinoamérica a través de préstamos internacionales.

También se ha declarado inconstitucional el monopolio o estatización de la industria del café y el azúcar. Volverá a manos privadas y el cafetalero y productor de caña de azúcar podrá vender y esperar precios de mercado y no arbitrarios. Esto ha traído mucha confianza, también se ha elevado los precios del transporte público, la energía eléctrica y el agua. Pronto se bajarán los aranceles a una tasa uniforme del 50%. Se rebajará la tasa del impuesto de la renta de un máximo del 60% a un 40%. Está también ante el congreso la derogación de más de 25 leyes de fomento que establecían franquicias o exenciones de impuestos. Todas estas medidas están dentro de un nuevo modelo económico. Es parte de una estrategia global muy simple, que es la implantación de una economía de mercado en donde la libertad individual, la propiedad privada y la competencia utiliza el libre juego de la oferta y la demanda para una asignación eficiente de los escasos recursos del país, ya no habrá más estatizaciones, confiscaciones. Somos de la opinión que el mejor gobierno es el que gobierna menos e interfiere menos. Una economía próspera es una economía basada en la libertad económica, en

donde se suelta el ingenio del ser humano. Donde el estado ya no es el rey de la economía sino el consumidor. Donde el consumidor impone su decisión de comprar lo más económico y de mejor calidad. Estamos seguros de que este tipo de economía favorecerá mucho a la agricultura salvadoreña.

Es así que por primera vez en el sector agropecuario se han puesto en marcha las políticas macroeconómicas necesarias para su reactivación y para retornar la confianza totalmente perdida por los productores agrícolas especialmente después de violar el principio más sagrado en cualquier país democrático que es el derecho a la propiedad privada pues como les mencioné en 1980 se violentó este principio mediante la implantación del proceso de reforma agraria, nacionalización de la banca, industria cafetalera y azucarera. Puedo informarles que en los primeros 150 días de gobierno la confianza del sector agropecuario se recupera en forma impresionante, la cual pensamos iba a regresar muy lentamente a través de muchos años, pero ésto nos enseña lo importante que es el mantenimiento de la ley y el orden, así como señales claras y precisas que el sector agropecuario necesita para invertir y aceptar el reto de producir. Prueba de ello es el hecho de que en el mes de junio del presente año, se vendió más fertilizantes que en cualquier mes de junio de los últimos diez años. Igualmente ha ocurrido en el mes de noviembre, en lo que respecta a la reactivación del cultivo de la caña de azúcar, sembrándose 10 4990 hectáreas adicionales. Increíble pero, el factor limitante ha sido la falta de tractores. .

Sin embargo, ante un ajuste económico me preocupa la situación del productor de alimentos para el consumo interno, como son los granos básicos pues el no tendrá este gran incentivo en cuanto al tipo de cambio, sino más bien estará en su contra pues los insumos como fertilizantes e insecticidas etc., será más alto su costo. Por otro lado se le sube la tasa de intereses como parte de la política de ya no conceder tasas de intereses subsidiadas. Este es un tema importante y le solicito a la FAO debe enfocar este problema porque aquí está la producción de alimentos en el mundo. Este caso será típico de muchos otros ajustes económicos por realizarse. Pienso que los primeros años de un ajuste se le debe conceder una tasa de interés diferenciada al productor de maíz, frijol, etc. de lo contrario podemos crear problemas alimentarios graves. No comulgo con la solución de muchos organismos financieros internacionales que resuelven el problema con sugerir las importaciones de granos básicos al señalar que si los campesinos no son eficientes para producir frijol y maíz que se pasen a sembrar piñas, pepinos para la exportación y será mejor para el país importar maíz de los países productores más eficientes. La siembra de maíz y frijol en latinoamérica es una cultura. El libro de los mayas "El Populvol" dice que Dios pensó varios días de que hacer al hombre y al final decidió hacerlo de maíz y este fue perfecto.

Ahora bien, para contrarrestar la contracción de un ajuste económico en una situación tan precaria, tanto en lo político como lo social, el gobierno está implementando un programa social de emergencia que tiene dos objetivos primordiales que son tratar de minimizar el impacto del ajuste sobre el sector de la extrema pobreza a través de incentivar la ayuda en bienes esenciales como alimentos, medicinas y la creación de puestos de trabajo. Este programa social de emergencia es para 18 meses y será implementado por varios organismos públicos, como es la municipalidad y la propia comunidad, así como grupos no gubernamentales y todo bajo la responsabilidad del Ministerio de Planificación a través de un comité social recientemente constituido con elementos del sector privado. Las decisiones serán

descentralizadas tanto en el diseño de las estrategias como en su implementación, las comunidades mismas serán las que decidan que infraestructuras son necesarias. Las comunidades están realizando cabildos abiertos para involucrar a todos los miembros de la comunidad.

Las cuatro áreas de importancia son: el desarrollo de un plan de emergencia de la comunidad, construcción de la infraestructura que requiere mano de obra intensiva, un programa de alimentación popular y un programa de vivienda popular, el costo total del programa es de 100 millones de colones, se espera poder servir a unas 200 comunidades marginales en todo el país y que se beneficien aproximadamente 200 000 personas. Los niños lactando y las mujeres embarazadas tendrán prioridad y pagarán un aporte de tipo simbólico para recibir alimentos. El programa también espera construir unas 6 000 casitas de vivienda mínima, cuyo costo no será más de \$5 000 cada una. En la actualidad el Gobierno trabaja intensamente en diseñar mecanismos para definir los criterios para seleccionar a los beneficiarios, así como la metodología para la distribución efectiva de los alimentos, medicinas y otros servicios. También se está diseñando un sistema de auditoría. Los objetivos de la política social de mediano plazo para los años 1989-1994, en términos generales, son la de reducir la pobreza y acelerar la formación de capital humano. El programa social de emergencia, antes mencionado, será una parte integral de este programa. Los principios morales más importantes para el diseño de esta política es la de que el desarrollo económico debe aminorar las desigualdades y no agrandarlas. Además se reconoce que el desarrollo económico sostenido no será posible, si la situación de extrema pobreza persiste. También se reconoce que aunque el gobierno será el que asume el liderazgo de la lucha contra la pobreza, no es únicamente responsabilidad del gobierno. La eliminación de la pobreza, ha dicho el Presidente Cristiani, es responsabilidad de todos los salvadoreños inclusive de aquellos afectados por la misma.

En este contexto el gobierno en forma activa promoverá la participación del sector privado en los servicios de salud y educación. El gobierno reconoce que su responsabilidad primordial es la de ayudar aquellas personas a romper el círculo vicioso de la pobreza. Es así que en su discurso inaugural al ser elegido, el Presidente Cristiani manifestó que los únicos que el gobierno va a subsidiar en este nuevo modelo económico serán los de la extrema pobreza. Todo subsidio de tipo generalizado será totalmente eliminado. Aquí deseo en forma enfática solicitarle al PMA su continuada ayuda a los desplazados y repatriados, pues mucho del éxito del programa de ajuste dependerá de esta ayuda alimentaria. También sugiero a la FAO debe establecer políticas de apoyo a los países que entren a un ajuste y me alegro saber que el Director General, Sr Saouma mencionó los están discutiendo con el FMI es importante que los ajustes no perjudicaran la producción de alimentos.

En lo que respecta a la reforma agraria, contrario a lo que los sectores detractores del gobierno han manifestado, se ha dado un paso agigantado, poniendo en manos de los campesinos pertenecientes a ese sector más de 11 000 títulos de propiedad, cual se hizo realidad a sólo 50 días de mandato presidencial contrario a los resultados obtenidos durante los últimos cinco años, en cuyo período se otorgaron 25 000 títulos. Ello pone en evidencia que el espíritu de la política en cuanto al sector reformado, no pretende retroceder, sino que lograr que la reforma cumpla con sus verdaderos propósitos, lo cual es de establecer una democracia económica, volviendo al campesino propietario real de la tierra y no a través de cooperativas de propiedad colectiva, donde la tierra es de todos y de nadie. Que ha sido el modelo de los últimos años.

Nuestro Gobierno considera la reforma agraria irreversible. No habrá marcha atrás en dicho proceso, si habrá cambio de política, la que estará orientada a sacar del fracaso económico y social a la primera etapa del proceso de reforma agraria. Se debe lograr la eficiencia, pues la reforma agraria no puede ni debe continuar siendo una carga para toda la sociedad salvadoreña. Se debe terminar con el paternalismo. Se le debe dar a las cooperativas la autogestión, contraria a la congestión que ha sido la política aplicada en los últimos nueve años.

La nueva política es de concederle al campesino de la primera fase de la reforma agraria, el derecho de su libertad total, para que él, mejor que nadie, pueda decidir su futuro, ya sea continuar en cooperativas autogestionarias, o si prefiere la parcela individual. No se le impondrá ningún esquema, sino será el campesino el que elija. Lo que se desea es, ya no politizar este proceso, pues esto sólo causa más confrontación y enemistad, y suficientes enemigos tiene el campesino con las plagas y sequías. Estimamos que el proceso democrático iniciado aún se queda corto, pues consideramos que para gozar de plena democracia, debe existir democracia económica, como es la libertad que el campesino elija su propio destino y el de su familia.

. El proceso de reforma agraria se profundizará a través de la compra venta voluntaria de la tierra y que será realizada por medio del banco de tierras cuyo proyecto ya fue terminado recientemente. Existe ya más de 150 000 hectáreas ofrecidas en venta al banco de tierras por lo que solo hace falta los recursos económicos para compra venta voluntaria. Ya no habrá más confiscaciones de tierra pues no hay necesidad de crear más desconfianza

Igualmente otro error fue el nunca haber enfocado el problema ecológico y todo lo referente a la conservación de suelos. Es preocupante conocer que en El Salvador, ya sólo existe un 3% de la foresta original, producto en gran parte por la alta densidad poblacional que afrontamos, dado que según las estadísticas, El Salvador es el país más densamente poblado en América Latina. Resulta lamentable mencionar que, a pesar de existir una legislación forestal, no se ha aplicado dicho régimen legal, para garantizar la protección de los sistemas biológicos y la conservación de nuestros recursos naturales. También hemos carecido por completo en los últimos 30 años de campañas culturales y apoyo ante la conservación y fortalecimiento de nuestras condiciones ecológicas, cayendo en un degradamiento casi total de los recursos naturales. Gracias a FAO ya hemos emprendido programas agroforestales con mucho éxito. Esperamos pronto emitir algunas leyes con incentivos fiscales para promover la reforestación.

No quiero dejar inadvertido nuestro agradecimiento sincero por el apoyo que la FAO ha proporcionado a mi país a través de los proyectos que paso a mencionar: Control de Langosta Voladora; que ha contribuido eficaz y oportunamente a combatir la plaga que azota a nuestro país. Apoyo Agroforestal a Comunidades Rurales de Escasos Recursos, cuyo impacto ha sido ampliamente positivo en las áreas geográficas donde se ha llevado a cabo. Cogestión y Desarrollo del Modelo Empresarial de la Terminal Pesquera Artesanal de La Herradura, iniciado en agosto de 1988, y que ha constituido un proyecto exitoso y de mucho impacto en el sector pesquero.

Creo además oportuno mencionar, que el Señor Presidente Alfredo Cristiani está sumamente complacido y agradecido por el enorme interés puesto por este organismo, en las actividades agroforestales, habiendo enviado recientemente a nuestro país, a un experto para que con sus valiosos conocimientos se

hiciese la reformulación de la política forestal y preparación del plan nacional de reforestación, documento que ya se encuentra felizmente en esta Sede, en espera de ser suscrito y aprobado por el Señor Saouma y este servidor, lo cual confieso me daría mucha satisfacción si pudiese retornar a mi país, con la buena nueva de su beneplácito, a efecto de ser operativizado al más breve plazo.

En este mismo orden, agradecemos también el respaldo de la FAO para la implementación a partir de enero de 1990, del proyecto de mejoramiento de los sistemas de manejo, capacitación e infraestructura para la conservación de alimentos poscosecha, del cual soy portador para su revisión y análisis en esta Sede.

De igual forma, nos satisface sobremanera también la acogida que ha tenido la solicitud del Licenciado Cristiani ante esta misma Sede, sobre "La incorporación de la mujer campesina al desarrollo" área que se califica como prioritaria en nuestro plan de trabajo, y de la cual recién acaba de finalizar un proyecto en la zona oriente de El Salvador, y que tan gentil y eficientemente está evaluando la consultora Elvia Caro, para efectos de su ampliación en otro proyecto similar. Oportunidad que deseo hacer propicia para dar nuestro voto de apoyo a los proyectos de cooperación técnica (TCP), que tanto beneficio proporciona al país por su agilidad y oportunidad en su ejecución.

También deseo manifestar que estimo que el mejor examen de la FAO somos sus clientes y El Salvador apoya el programa del Director General, Sr. Saouma. Estamos de acuerdo con el aumento que él solicita. También es importante señalar que ante la grave situación que atraviesan los países no desarrollados, hablar de crecimiento cero es abandonar la ayuda tecnológica. Hoy más que nunca en períodos de ajuste necesitamos de transferencia tecnológica. Si contamos con este apoyo y la solidaridad de todas las naciones desarrolladas estoy optimista que tendremos éxito. Es así, es imperativo que todos los países pongan al día sus pagos con la FAO. De no ser así no cabe la palabra solidaridad en nuestros discursos.

Otra petición al Señor Presidente, Sr. Kerin, al Señor Vicepresidente, Abdel Majid al Kaoud y al Sr. Director General en su apoyo y cabildeo ante los países consumidores de café y la OIC que no se debe romper el convenio del café, solo este hecho puede dar al fracaso toda la buena voluntad de FAO y la ayuda de países amigos y todo lo que cada país hace por ajustar su economía pues la crisis de café no es como muchos piensan que es un precio bajo momentáneo. Si se rompe el convenio según estudio del Banco Mundial los precios a niveles actuales de \$65-68 bajaron aún más a niveles de \$50 dólares y estarán allí por 4-5 años y se recuperan lentamente para llegar a niveles de \$100 dentro de 7-8-9 años. O sea es una crisis seria de grandes proporciones. Por favor su gestión a favor de sus países miembros.

Finalmente, permítanme agradecer nuevamente esta valiosísima oportunidad que me han otorgado para enviar de parte de todo El Salvador, un caluroso saludo y un voto de solidaridad para todas las naciones aquí representadas y de parte de nuestro Gobierno, ratificar nuestra indoblegable lucha por alcanzar la paz en nuestro país, y pedir a esta noble asistencia un voto de confianza para nuestro pueblo y nuestro Gobierno, y a Dios, cordura y fuerza para confortar nuestras mentes y corazones de esta deplorable guerra que hoy nos agobia pero que confiamos en el Creador, vamos a terminar pronto para volver a ser El Salvador de antes: trabajador y progresista.

**S.M. WAZIRÁ (Tanzania):** I would like first of all on my own behalf and indeed on behalf of the Tanzania delegation to take this opportunity to congratulate you for having been elected Chairman of this Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference. We hope that your long experience and good leadership you have already shown since we started meeting here will lead this Conference to a record of success. We wish you all the best.

In Tanzania the agricultural sector continues to be the mainstay of the economy. The sector showed very encouraging signs of recovery during the past three seasons. The food situation improved substantially with a big increase in production of maize, paddy and root crops. At the same time, the production of cotton increased by two-fold during the initial 2 years. Other cash crops are beginning to show improvement also. Overall, the agricultural sector registered an annual growth rate of 5.7% in 1986, 4.4% in 1987, and 4.8% in 1988, compared to annual growth rates of less than 3% during the 1981-85 period. The encouraging performance of the agricultural sector was mainly due to favourable weather conditions, and increased incentive to small farmers.

The performance of the livestock sector has been stagnant because of the acute shortage of inputs such as veterinary drugs, poor infrastructure and the occurrence of major diseases. To address these issues my Government has prepared the Livestock Sector Development Programme with the twin objectives of increasing the production of livestock products and attaining sustainable utilization of rangelands. We are appealing to the international donor community to cooperate with us in this important sector.

In spite of these encouraging signs of recovery, the agricultural sector in Tanzania is still faced with serious problems of low level of farming technology, inadequate and delayed distribution of inputs, high post-harvest losses, inadequate extension and research services, as well as inadequate marketing infrastructure, particularly transportation, storage and processing. Measures initiated to solve some of the above problems include the two rehabilitation projects for research and extension intended to enhance delivery of services to farmers and increase research and extension linkage. We have also embarked on increasing storage capacities in order to reduce post-harvest losses.

My delegation would like to bring the attention of the Conference to some adverse effects of the structural adjustment programme to the agricultural sector, in particular to small farmers. As we all know the programmes are usually accompanied by massive devaluation of local currencies and insistence on the removal of subsidies, including subsidies to production inputs. As we import most of our inputs the cost of these has skyrocketed beyond the means of our farmers. We are now witnessing farmers withdrawing from use of inputs. The expected is now happening: a fall in production. For example, this year cotton production in Tanzania has dropped by about 50% below the last two years' average because farmers could not afford fertilizers and pesticides.

The increase in production costs is happening when the prices of agricultural commodities are declining, in some cases such as coffee, precipitously. These trends are not only changing unfavourably the terms of trade to farmers but actually the prices farmers receive are below production costs. It is against this background that we appeal to FAO to carry out studies related to structural adjustment and provide advice so that the agricultural sector is not adversely affected by such programmes. We



are also anxious to see conclusions on the GATT Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations which we hope will not only give access to market in the developed countries for our agricultural commodities but also at better terms than is the case now.

Another aspect I would like to turn to is the problem of negative flow of financial resources from developing to developed countries. As has been indicated by many reports including the address of the Director-General of FAO to this Conference, more financial resources are flowing out of least-developed countries than are flowing in. Tanzania for example is using over 30% of our export earning just to service our loans, and Tanzania is not the most indebted country in the world. The international community need to reverse this trend, short of that, the efforts we are making toward agricultural production will be drastically jeopardized.

Apart from developing the crop and livestock sector, my government attaches great importance on the protection of the environment in order to ensure that present and future generations have a safer and enjoyable environment to live in. We continue to protect a substantial part of our country as wildlife and forest reserve. We have also embarked on the education of all our farmers and livestock keepers that good farming means avoiding environmental pollution and overexploitation of renewable resources including forests and rangelands. It is on the basis of this that we support the measures aimed at safe use of pesticides and other inputs that may pollute the environment. We therefore support the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution of and use of Pesticides.

One area of our concern has been the rapid exploitation of our forest stock. This, as we all know, is mainly caused by the level of underdevelopment which makes firewood the main source of energy for the majority of our people. In line with the FAO Tropical Forest Action Plan an integrated National Forest Action Plan has been developed in order to guide and coordinate all activities related to the production, use and preservation of forest resources. The programme to be implemented in the next decade will require not only our local resources but also the participation of the international community.

With regard to the tenth anniversary of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development we can say that substantial progress has been made in my country in areas of delivery of basic needs, promotion of grassroot participation as well as integrating women in development activities. The policy of Tanzania on rural development is well-known: we are committed to the development of rural areas and the poor. Currently, the rural people have greater access to education, health and safe water than a decade ago. By 1988, about 70% of the rural population lived less than 5 kms from the nearest health institution. Dispensaries have increased from 1 847 in 1976 to 2 840 in 1988, rural health centres from 162 to 274 and rural medical staff from 1 819 to 13 558 during the same period. Supply of safe water to the rural areas increased from 2.4 million people (17%) in 1974 to 8.2 million people (45%) 1988. Universal primary education was achieved in 1978 and latest estimates (1986) give the rate of illiteracy at 10%. To date women enrolment accounts for about 50%, 40% and 17% of total enrolment in primary, secondary and university (undergraduate) education respectively. It is hoped that very soon the enrolment of women in higher learning institutions will reach the 50% level as it has done in primary schools.

However, this requires the budget to expand to provide the basic services. We are finding it difficult to sustain these services, given our weak economy. As our economy depends on agriculture, only sustainable agricultural development can ensure continued delivery of basic needs.

The Third Government Consultation on World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development which took place last month in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, continues to provide a very useful forum for exchange of country experiences as well as formulation of new policies and strategies for future action. My delegation will therefore strongly request the FAO to continue to support these consultations.

Mr Chairman, my delegation is pleased to note that the review on certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations has been completed in time and within the budget set. My delegation endorses the conclusions and recommendations that the goals of FAO are still relevant to the development of world food and agriculture and that the operations of the Organization are in line with the set goals and objectives. We endorse the three roles of FAO of assembling information, promoting action on agriculture and provision of Technical Assistance, including TCP. We support the views of the Director-General when setting priorities and the necessity to meet the needs of different member countries.

Finally on this issue, my delegation endorses the strategy set by the Director-General concerning the Programme of Work and Budget and that the increase in the budget is needed to carry out the important tasks entrusted to the Organization in the next biennium.

My delegation would like to express my Government's appreciation to the Director-General and the Organization for the continued support to Tanzania in the field of agriculture and rural development. FAO has been, and indeed still is, involved in several projects deemed essential to our development. Similarly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the international donor community as a whole which, through FAO or direct bilateral programmes, continues to assist us in our endeavour to increase agricultural production and improve the welfare of the rural people. We believe that with the necessary concerted political will we can make real progress in dealing with the problem of the rural people.

We believe that with the necessary considered political will we can make real progress in dealing with the problem.

Finally, we would like to bring to the attention of this Conference one of the most significant events of the continent of Africa and the world at large: the successful conclusion of elections in Namibia in which SWAPO has come out victorious by winning the majority of the votes. Allow me to salute SWAPO for the victory as we look forward to welcoming Namibia as a full member of FAO.

**Ignaz KIECHLE (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German):** When we look back on the two years that have elapsed since the last Conference, we can state this: great achievements have been made again by the farmers all over the world. Due to the hard work, often also full of privations, of the farmers and their families in all parts of the world more people can be fed than ever before.

Nevertheless, the food situation in many regions of the world is far from being such that we can lean back satisfactorily. For many people, almost half a billion, the daily bread is by no means ensured. Hunger and chronic malnutrition continue to claim many victims, above all among the children.

The challenge we all are faced with thus persists to fight world hunger more effectively. Only concerted efforts of the international community will make it possible that the situation will be improved in a sustained way.

With great concern we notice two developments which are closely related to hunger in the world and also require our special attention.

There is a danger of a growing overexploitation of the natural resources. In order to be able to feed more and more people, increasingly more intensive farming will be inevitable.

Overexploitation, however, is not a problem of agriculture alone. The other sectors, too, and we all in the industrialized and in the Third World countries add through our behaviour to pressures on nature and environment.

If we use nature to a greater extent than it endures, its resources will be exhausted some day, as might happen with a well which supplies no more water. We can build new, deeper wells. These wells, too, will be exhausted if more water is taken from them than they can receive.

Progress in agricultural production can mean no longer "to produce at any price". The implications for the environment and nature have also to be taken into consideration.

In agriculture, we have to see to it above all that the fertility of the soil is maintained on a permanent and durable basis.

Generally speaking, the idea that we are accountable also to future generations for how we are using our environment today must determine our actions to a greater extent than so far.

An awareness of the problems involved begins to develop worldwide. One of the contributing factors has been the fear of large-scale climate changes which add to the difficulties to live in certain parts of the earth or could even make it impossible to live there.

We can meet the threat to our natural living bases - soil, water and air - with success at intercontinental level only. In this respect, too, we all have to join forces, however, in the right direction.

Apart from hunger and environmental problems we are also concerned about the enormous population growth. Between 1950 to today alone the population increased twice. Experts expect that by the year 2 000 to the present number of about 5.2 billion people another billion will probably be added.

At present, the world population is increasing by 220 000 people every day. Every man has a right to an adequate diet in qualitative and quantitative terms. Only then will a normal physical and intellectual development be possible. We are faced with the difficult task to guarantee this right to intellectual and physical development without contributing to an even greater pressure on the natural resources.

Scientists have no sound solution to it either. However, one thing is undisputed: Without economic and social developments there is no guarantee anywhere for a dignified life.

The present world economic environment, however, presents a mixed picture. On the one hand, the understanding is growing of what has to be done economically and socially in the different country groups and regions in the world. This understanding is reflected in international agreements and negotiations which aim at raising the economic and social standards throughout the world.

On the other hand, it is not so easy to eliminate the imbalances which exist in the world trade between the so-called developed industrialized countries and those countries which still have much of their economic development ahead of them. There are manifold reasons for that. Difficult climatic conditions, limited natural resources, a high degree of indebtedness and a continuous increase in population often develop into a vicious circle from which one can only escape by making great efforts.

The efforts to improve the world trade relations, also in the agricultural sector, are presently concentrated on the so-called GATT Uruguay Round. We attach great importance to the GATT negotiations. There is no doubt that the conditions of competition on the agricultural world markets have still to be improved.

The EC has declared itself for an adequate reduction of its agricultural support. We have been practising this approach within the Community for some years already. I hope we will come to results in the further GATT negotiations which will meet the different economic and social interests of the negotiating partners.

Parallel to the GATT negotiations the European Community is presently also engaged in negotiations on a continuation of its economic and development policy cooperation with the ACP countries. It has not yet been possible to bring the negotiations on Lomé IV to a conclusion. The common aim of all concerned, however, is to give ACP countries easier access for certain products to the EC markets.

As far as my country is concerned concretely, I can refer to the traditionally high imports of the Federal Republic of Germany from the developing countries. Last year the developing countries had a surplus of DM 9 billion in the agricultural trade with the Federal Republic of Germany. My country thus remains in relation to the number of consumers the biggest food importer in the world.

Also with regard to the cancellation of redemption payments and interest rates for certain countries the Federal Government played worldwide a prominent role in the last few years.

As regards the direct development policy cooperation the Federal Government and the non-governmental organizations engaged in development work are increasingly guided by the aim of aid for self-help. In 1988, the Federal Government provided a total of about DM 10 billion for economic cooperation at national level, within the European Community and through international organizations.

The 24th Session of the Conference had decided in the light of changing responsibilities to review the working method of FAO. Today, every major company cannot help but subject goals and activities from time to time to a critical assessment.

This especially applies to such a big organization with worldwide activities like FAO. For it, too, success control is a natural and on-going process which makes it possible to use its own forces and resources continuously more effectively.

The results of the review are a report and a number of proposals submitted to us for taking a decision. Let me thank all those who helped carry out the review, the experts, the Secretariat and above all the Director-General and the members of the Programme and Finance Committees for their hard and difficult work. It is now up to us to draw the necessary conclusions for optimum structures and working conditions of FAO without forgetting the professionally highly qualified work already done by FAO in the past.

In this respect we should not shrink from examining critically our own participation in the work of FAO. We should, however, take care not to see the process of reorganization, which we are discussing, solely or mainly under the aspect of increasing the financial resources. Quality instead of quantity should be our motto.

In view of the fact that the funds available will continue to be limited, we have no other choice but to set priorities. That this is not easy I know from the annual budget deliberations of the Federal Government of my country. It is not possible to finance all desirable projects.

Similar is the situation for the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 of FAO. Here, too, we cannot help but practise the greatest possible efficiency and economy in order to ensure that the individual activities will be of durable success. The key to success does not lie in the fragmentation, but in the concentration of forces.

Many topics on the agenda of this year's FAO Conference Session reflect the problems of our times. Our descendants will judge on how we coped with these problems, whether we only discussed them or whether action was also taken by us.

It is regrettable that we have to state this again and again. We cannot do all we wish and want.

My conclusion therefore is: we should at least desire to do what we can.

Let me conclude by wishing this year's Conference every success.

**CHAIRMAN:** Now that we have a full forum, the Secretary-General and I, would like to make some announcements.

The Director-General of IFAD has requested that the text of a statement be incorporated in the verbatim record, and that will be done.

Third Report of the General Committee

Troisième Rapport du Bureau

Tercer informe del Comité General

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** The General Committee met this morning. I shall now read their report of this meeting.

The General Committee was apprised of requests from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the International Cooperative Alliance, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, the International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers, the World Confederation of Labour, and the World Confederation of Trade Unions, all international non-governmental organizations in consultative status with FAO, to address the Plenary meeting of this Conference.

Having examined this request, the General Committee, in accordance with Rule X.2 (g) of the General Rules of the Organization, is now reporting to the Conference, and recommends that the Conference grant speaking time in Plenary to the above-mentioned organizations, on the understanding that a maximum time limit of 10 minutes will be observed, and that in no case will such organizations be given priority in speaking over delegates of Member Nations.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Is there any discussion on this recommendation?

None. The Plenary accepts that recommendation.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** The General Committee heard a report from the Director-General on the status of his discussions with representatives of those Member Nations which had no vote in Conference because of arrears in payment of their contributions. It was informed that some would make payments shortly or in the course of next week.

The General Committee requested the Director-General to continue his discussions and report back to it next week.

That ends the report of the General Committee meeting.

**CHAIRMAN:** Is there any discussion on that recommendation? There is no recommendation, it is an advice from the General Committee.

**Julián AREVALO ARIAS (España):** La delegación española formula sus votos por que los debates de esta Asamblea sirvan para llevar a buen término la resolución de los importantes términos aquí planteados.

No dudamos que, de ser así, habremos dado un muy importante paso en la lucha emprendida para erradicar de la humanidad el hambre, la pobreza y la malnutrición, lo que constituye la razón de ser de esta Organización, cuyos principios, en los que se basa su Constitución, continúan hoy día tanto o más vigentes, si cabe, que en los años fundacionales.

El examen de las estadísticas y tendencias de la producción agraria mundial nos indica que su moderado progreso, considerado globalmente, podría ser suficiente a la hora de alimentar a los más de mil millones de personas en que para el año 2 000 se habrá incrementado la actual población mundial.

Desgraciadamente, con gran probabilidad, amplias áreas de la tierra van a quedar fuera del reparto vital de los alimentos, porque persisten muchas circunstancias, en muchos casos desgraciadamente conocidas, que frenan el desarrollo de las poblaciones rurales, y los efectos negativos de algunas de ellas están creciendo de manera alarmante durante los últimos tiempos.

Este 25º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO nos brinda la oportunidad de llevar a cabo una seria reflexión colectiva sobre algunos de los problemas apremiantes con que se encuentra la comunidad internacional en relación con la agricultura y la alimentación. La problemática a considerar es muy variada, como se ha ido poniendo de manifiesto en las intervenciones que me han precedido y, dentro de la misma, la delegación española quisiera incidir en esta ocasión, y de manera especial, sobre lo que ese año ha constituido el tema central del Día Mundial de la Alimentación: la relación que existe entre la alimentación y el medio ambiente.

Desde los informes del Club de Roma, a principios de los años 70, hasta el Informe "Nuestro futuro común", elaborado por la Comisión Mundial de Medio Ambiente y del Desarrollo, la preocupación social y política por la problemática medioambiental no ha hecho si no crecer y extenderse.

La propia FAO, en su informe sobre "La agricultura mundial hacia el año 2 000", llamaba la atención sobre el hecho de que el aumento del 60 por ciento de la producción agrícola en los países en desarrollo y del 20 por ciento en los países desarrollados, previsto para los próximos quince años, supondría una demanda mucho mayor de recursos naturales que ya escasean. Y añadía textualmente: la FAO estima que el desarrollo agrícola puede proseguir con arreglo a las previsiones, sin ocasionar graves daños a los recursos naturales del mundo, pero con una condición: hay que conceder más importancia a las cuestiones ambientales en las políticas y los gastos de desarrollo.

Lo que en un principio interesaba sólo a científicos y minorías culturales y sociales se ha convertido hoy en motivo de debates, estudios y, más aún, en programas de actuación de los gobiernos y los organismos internacionales. Sin embargo no quisiera dejar la ocasión sin llamar la atención sobre que la

problemática medio ambiente-agricultura no afecta por igual a los países desarrollados y en desarrollo, ni siquiera a los países pertenecientes a una misma área geográfica y un mismo proyecto económico y político, como puede ser el caso de la Comunidad Económica Europea.

Para los países más altamente desarrollados, los problemas se centran en la contaminación del aire mediante el fenómeno de las lluvias acidas, el del agua por plaguicidas y nitratos, contaminación de los alimentos por pesticidas y antibióticos, el agotamiento de los recursos naturales con fenómenos como la erosión de los suelos, la salinización de las aguas y el agotamiento de los acuíferos, mientras que para los países en vía de desarrollo los problemas críticos son, entre otros, la deforestación, la desertización y la degradación de las tierras cultivadas.

No cabe, pues, mantener una posición unívoca sobre los daños que ocasiona la agricultura al medio ambiente. Lo que en unos casos se produce como consecuencia de modelos y técnicas de producción aplicadas en exceso, en otros casos no es sino reflejo de la pobreza, una inadecuada distribución y uso de recursos escasos como la tierra y el aprovechamiento hasta el agotamiento de materias primas como la madera, utilizada como inevitable fuente inmediata de recursos materiales y financieros en ausencia de otra fuente de las mismas.

Por lo que a la agricultura se refiere, ha sido sin duda la adopción generalizada de las técnicas de la llamada revolución verde la que ha provocado que este medio tradicional de producción y la ganadería, tradicionales protectoras y aliadas del medio ambiente, se hayan incorporado al grupo de actividades que más pueden dañar, sin un estricto control científico y político, a las actividades medioambientales.

En realidad el paquete tecnológico de la revolución verde, como es hoy bien sabido, presenta un balance contradictorio. Por una parte, los indudables incrementos de productividad alcanzados han permitido unos volúmenes de producción suficientes en términos estrictamente matemáticos o aritméticos para abastecer de alimentos a la población mundial, pero, por otra parte, no han acabado con la desnutrición porque no suplen los problemas de equidad en la distribución de los recursos, al tiempo que, como ya he indicado, pueden dañar seriamente al medio ambiente, y en una medida, no bien conocida, pero bastante evidente, a la propia salud humana.

Desde una perspectiva europea y mediterránea, como la de España, en un proceso avanzado de transformación agrícola industrial, la problemática de la alimentación y del medio ambiente presenta sin embargo algunas connotaciones singulares, que, en cierto modo, son más propias de un país en vías de desarrollo, por sus características ecológicas y climáticas que de un país desarrollado. Por ello, creemos que un comentario sobre las mismas tal vez pueda ser de utilidad para los numerosos países con quienes mantenemos vínculos solidarios y de cooperación y, muy singularmente, con la cuenca sur del Mediterráneo e Iberoamérica.

Nuestras experiencias nos ofrecen las siguientes reflexiones: a) Es necesario adaptar convenientemente las nuevas técnicas productivas a la realidad de cada país. La adopción exclusiva de determinados modelos productivos, como puede ser el de la ganadería intensiva, puede conllevar a medio plazo distorsiones importantes en forma de excedentes productivos y de degradación medioambiental.



b) Los progresos en la transformación agrario convencional, mecanización, irrigación o cambio de cultivos no aseguran por si mismos la superación de la pobreza rural en cualquiera de sus manifestaciones, si no se ven simultaneados por verdaderos progresos y cambios en la distribución de los recursos en la reforma y en el desarrollo agrario,

c) Prestar una atención especial para la conservación de la cubierta vegetal. La desertización, la erosión, la deforestación indiscriminada son fenómenos que atentan contra un valor de importancia crucial constituido por los bosques como factor capital de renta y empleo y soporte para la conservación de los recursos naturales y de la vida silvestre.

En coherencia con las reflexiones precedentes, durante la presidencia de España de la Comunidad Económica Europea se ha impulsado la adopción de una estrategia para el sector forestal que ha instaurado un conjunto de medidas que tienen por objeto conservar y poner en valor los bosques de la Comunidad. Asimismo, se ha presentado bajo nuestra presidencia un memorandum sobre la cubierta vegetal, con propuestas para fomentar técnicas blandas de producción, el fomento de actividades agrícolas y ganaderas de carácter extensivo, actuaciones concretas de lucha contra la erosión y el cambio hacia orientaciones productivas beneficiosas para la recuperación de los nutrientes del suelo y planes de desarrollo en zonas rurales que han de contemplar siempre como acciones conservacionistas.

Estas reflexiones y estos ejemplos cobran, creemos, especial significación hoy cuando se anuncia la adopción de un nuevo paquete tecnológico basado en la biotecnología, aplicado a un proceso productivo que abre nuevas posibilidades para la mejora de las plantas y la especialización del ganado, pero, respecto al cual no hay que albergar pretensiones exageradas.

Más que nunca, los países en desarrollo en materia tecnológica y, lo somos la mayoría por no decir todos, van a necesitar realizar una adaptación muy medida de las nuevas técnicas, al tiempo que se toma especial cuidado en reducir las consecuencias medioambientales negativas de la agricultura. Y en este contexto, no es de extrañar que empiece a abrirse camino entre los investigadores y los responsables de las políticas agrarias conceptos como el de agricultura alternativa para señalar un conjunto de técnicas y prácticas que tratan de favorecer, en lugar de suplantarlo, los procesos naturales que reducen el empleo de insumos ajenos en la explotación y mejoran los costos y elevan el nivel de producción y de la salud.

En este marco aparece como especialmente relevante el papel que pueda jugar la FAO. Es preciso exigir a esta Organización una acción especial de promoción de los procesos de adaptación de las técnicas más acordes con la preservación y recuperación de recursos como el suelo, el agua y los bosques y con el logro de la seguridad alimentaria a nivel mundial.

Observamos con satisfacción que varias de las cuestiones que se debatirán dentro de esta Conferencia van a tener una fuerte repercusión medioambiental.

La conservación y fomento de los recursos fitogenéticos constituyen una parte importantísima de uno de los requisitos fundamentales para la conservación de los recursos naturales, cual es la salvaguarda de la diversidad genética. Hemos colaborado en reformar y en reforzar el sistema de la FAO en materia.

El Compromiso Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos ha contado de siempre con el firme apoyo de España en el seno de la Comisión Intergubernamental -dedicados a este tema específico-, además de nuestra contribución al Fondo Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos.

Por otra parte, hemos trabajado también en pro del desarrollo y mejora del Código de conducta para la distribución y el uso de plaguicidas, participando activamente en su elaboración.

Nos preocupan asimismo ciertas plagas que constituyen verdaderos desequilibrios ambientales, amenazando las ya castigadas producciones agrícolas y ganaderas, de extensas regiones de nuestro vecino continente, África. En este sentido creemos que está siendo ejemplar la eficacia y la coordinación con que en el África Subsahariana y en otras regiones del continente se está luchando contra la langosta del desierto, y deseo resaltar la coordinación de esfuerzos con Marruecos y los aportes de España para esta lucha, aunque en este sector seguimos preocupados por el desarrollo de nuevas plagas a las que se deben oponer todos los medios de que disponen las modernas técnicas de lucha.

La FAO es un magnífico foro de debate sobre las consecuencias y los sacrificios que se derivan para la agricultura en zonas desfavorecidas y sobre los efectos de la aplicación de determinadas medidas para el desarrollo de los países en vías de desarrollo -permítaseme la redundancia-y para paliar el déficit alimentario en los países pobres. Para que una organización como la FAO pueda utilizar sus propios recursos necesita contar con estructuras eficientes y un sistema de actuación claro y transparente con un conjunto total de requisitos. Necesita, y así finalizo nuestra intervención, contar, en primer lugar, con una situación económica estable que únicamente se puede lograr con el pago puntual por parte de todos sus miembros de las cuotas que les corresponden. Y en este contexto entendemos también que ha sido oportuna la realización del estudio, cuyas propuestas van a ser presentadas a esta Asamblea y de cuya discusión debe surgir una FAO más fuerte y más eficiente.

**Issa KALANTARI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** Mr Chairman, on behalf of myself and the delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to extend my cordial congratulations to you for presiding over the Conference. There is no doubt that with your knowledge of agricultural issues the Conference will benefit and come to a remarkable achievement. It is my earnest desire that this Organization makes itself responsible for assisting the promotion of foodstuff production and its just distribution, in order to gain success and prosperity. I am hopeful that under the genuine guidance of H.E. Mr Saouma the Director-General of FAO, this Organization will be able to accomplish its predetermined goals and objectives.

There is no doubt that to date, remarkable achievements have been gained in promoting the production of foodstuffs. Despite this fact and due to the considerable technical aids of FAO, we are still witnessing the calamity of hunger and famine in some countries. This most tragic enigma reveals that food and medical aids being dispatched from all over the world cannot be assumed as even a temporary solution. The ever-increasing growth of world population and the unfavourable fluctuations in climate cause great worry

and fear of confrontation with the harsh problem of hunger and its aftermath. This critical situation needs drastic effort by countries in order to achieve both economic independence and provision of food as their prior objectives.

Under these circumstances, in order to safeguard their political independence, freedom and non-aligned policies on a global scale, developing countries should attain self-sufficiency through reliance on national resources. Fortunately, in recent years a large number of Asian countries have taken hopeful measures toward the enhancement of agriculture and the promotion of food production. In this regard, the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicates the great attention paid to the principles of food security and economic independence in the light of cooperation between the developing countries.

Independence and self-sufficiency are among the main objectives of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. In order to achieve these goals, State, private and cooperative sectors do their utmost harmoniously to pave the way for the fulfilment of economic, social and political independence and self-sufficiency.

Inspired by this policy, the agricultural sector is trying to boost the level of employment and income of those who are involved. In this regard we are determined to work for the best utilization of water, soil and other natural resources, and the employment of appropriate technology to improve production output to its maximum.

In order to achieve a suitable boost in agricultural production, attention is focused on land consolidation and infrastructural activities which in turn need government technical, financial and social investment. This makes use of the required background for more employment in rural areas when amenities are transferred to villages from towns. Such measures will also meet another objective, that is, the prevention of uncontrolled migration to the city centres, and as a consequence, the transmission of urban attractions to the rural areas.

Regarding land ownership, Government policy supports those who work on the land, either alone or with the cooperation of their families. Concerning private ownership, those who are unable to participate directly in production activities due to physical disabilities or financial shortcomings, the Government respects their legal rights providing this does not spoil land integrity.

In the sphere of utilization of natural resources, unity and harmony among development projects in soil and water are badly needed. In this regard enhancement of water efficiency through mobilization, the renovation of farms situated near reservoirs and prevention of losses due to erosion of soil are under consideration. A call for the close cooperation of the people on the one hand and presentation of bank facilities on the other hand has proved successful.

Forests as one of the natural resources play a vital role in the preservation of the environment and ecosystem in our country. However, revival of these invaluable resources cannot be put into practice unless close collaboration between the State organizations and the people is created. This has been done by the employment of mass media in order to familiarize people with the drastic outcome of improper utilization of forests and pastures.

Since fisheries and related industries have a significant role in the provision of a high proportion of animal protein, this section is given a priority equivalent to agriculture.

With regard to the production of agricultural commodities, prime priority has been conceded to staple items. Close vigilance is carried out to increase the productivity of both the unit areas and the areas under the cultivation of strategic agriculture food products simultaneously. Following the accomplishment of these strategies with the main concentration on the enhancement of domestic products, we are hopeful that the nutrition rate will show a relatively satisfactory benefit.

In order to achieve this goal, it is crystal clear to everyone that research and extension play a very vital role when they are practised simultaneously.

There is no doubt that extension of research and technology in the agricultural industry will pave the way for the enhancement of national technology, manufacturing the necessary machinery and bring about the consequent relative achievement of self-sufficiency and relief from dependency. In this regard development of research and educational centres with particular attention toward farming, animal husbandry, fisheries and forestry are considered as our main targets. Mechanization in agriculture is also a subject which merits close attention.

We do believe that the promotion of this sector, and its harmonization with the improved technology of developed countries, which is providing this change, will match the social and economic situation governing the country. It is obvious that in all these aspects the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based upon non-alliance, emphasis on the promotion of domestic agricultural products, and the reduction of imports.

In conclusion, I would like to pinpoint the outlines of targets of our first five-year development plan. We are very hopeful and optimistic about its outcome. These are: fundamental change in traditional agriculture to a modern and profitable industrial agriculture, through institutionalization of the rural communities; the extension and development of rural, tribal and fishery cooperatives; non-interference of government in the provision of agricultural products unless in essential cases where direct interference is advised; firm organization of a healthy market for agricultural products and the adoption of supporting policies; imposition of security for losses due to unpredicted mishaps, together with exercising insurance, price fixation and safeguarding the purchase of agricultural products; expansion of public services, training and extension in rural areas; relatively satisfactory promotion of nutrition rates through reliance on domestic products; promotion of the level of employment and income in the agriculture sector; the best utilization of water, soil and other natural resources; and land consolidation and support of those who with the cooperation of their families work on land.

The main goal of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the first five-year development plan is focused on self-sufficiency (especially in some of the strategic products), preservation and promotion of natural resources, and a reduction in the rate of importation of foodstuffs. No doubt in the coming periods the trend of development and production will switch to harmonization between requirements and national output. This will be followed by boosting the rate of export in agricultural commodities.

Finally allow me, Mr Chairman, to emphasize on this mere point that without confidence and actual deeds we shall not achieve success for our future. Since FAO and its Member States bear a unique responsibility in this regard, I wish them the unity and close collaboration which will no doubt lead to their final success. This success will eventually be beneficial to small producers and other deprived categories.

**Ahmed Ali GINAIF (Sudan) (original language Arabic):** It is a great pleasure for me to address this august body on behalf of the Government and people of Sudan. I would like to make a brief statement on the agricultural situation in Sudan and to highlight our relationship with FAO.

First of all, Mr Chairman, allow me to congratulate you on your election to the Chair for this Session of the General Conference. We also appreciate very much the able manner in which you are guiding our deliberations. I wish to commend Mr Edouard Saouma and his dedicated staff for their wise leadership of the Organization in this difficult time, known to all of us.

The agricultural sector in Sudan is the mainstay and backbone of our economy. It has a distinguished position amongst the other sectors of the economy. Agriculture constitutes around 40% of our GNP and 95% of our exports; it provides employment for 80% of the population. Therefore, it plays the major role in achieving food security and overall economic and social development.

In order to adapt our resources, we have adopted various production systems represented by irrigation, the modern rain-fed system and other such traditional sectors as well as the animal resources sector and forestry. Each sector has developed on its own - that is to say, in isolation from what is going on in the other sectors. This has had a negative impact on the performance of the agricultural sector as a whole. Therefore, it failed to adapt to the socio-economic changes. This has coincided with the complete absence of a comprehensive agricultural policy capable of encompassing all the sectors and strengthening each of them through programmes with a view to adapting them to the different changes at the right time in order to achieve the expected development.

The result of all this has been a decrease in production and general activity, a general deterioration and a massive migration from the rural areas to the urban centres. Given this situation, it is only logical that the deterioration in the performance of this sector has been followed by an absence of food security and a decline in exports, leading to a general deterioration in the standard of living of the people. Therefore, the situation calls for rapid change in order to put an end to this general deterioration and in order to better utilize the available and natural human resources for the well-being and stability of the country.

On 30 June this year the National Salvation Revolution took place in order to effect this radical change and to achieve security and development. In order to achieve the expected overall development it was necessary to bring just and lasting peace. The Government started immediately to work toward this end, and it adopted the Sudanese global orientation, taking into account the ethnic and religious differences, as well as the different

levels of development during the national dialogue conference attended by all the segments of the population, The Conference recommended specific recommendations and adopted the federal system within the framework of a united Sudan.

Within the framework of its developmental efforts the Government of the National Salvation Revolution cast its attention and efforts on the agricultural sector as the leading sector for salvation, reform and development. It formulated a global agricultural policy capable of adapting to the changes that had a negative impact on the performance of the agricultural sector, and it adopted a new approach in order to better utilize the agricultural potential of Sudan. It set up the appropriate structures that will enable the sector to take off and achieve food security, export diversification, global and balanced rural development, conservation and renewal of the natural resources and rehabilitation of the agricultural environment in its wider sense.

First, to achieve these objectives a unified agricultural policy and strategy was formulated taking into account the philosophy of development and its relation to the reality of Sudan, and taking into account all of the differences in the levels of development in Sudan.

Second, conservation of the natural resources that belong to all the generations. We must strive to renew these resources and to link the different modes of production to this methodology.

Third, to benefit from Sudan's comparative advantage by producing different plant crops and livestock and increasing production and productivity.

Fourth, to reduce the role of the public sector in the field of agricultural investment and encouraging the private sector to enable it to handle some of the production burden.

Fifth, focusing on the small farmers by raising their financial capabilities.

Sixth, giving incentives to farmers through remunerative prices and provision of inputs, and improvement of marketing channels and pricing policies.

Seventh, upgrading the scientific research capabilities and its orientation by linking it closely to extension.

Eighth, improving planning, monitoring and follow-up mechanisms.

We have reviewed and diagnosed objectively the obstacles hindering the agricultural sector development. We have overcome many difficulties, but like our brothers in the Third World countries, and Africa in particular, we are suffering from the heavy debts and debt servicing, as well as the drought that occurred in sub-Saharan Africa transforming in some cases our grazing lands into deserts. In addition, we suffered during the last two years from the desert locust invasion, and we are being threatened by the screwworm fly that invaded North Africa.

It is well known that a country, whatever its potential or resources, cannot control this phenomenon on its own. This calls for combining the efforts of the countries and organizations having to do with agriculture and food. Hence, the importance of FAO.

In this context I would like to express our gratitude and satisfaction to FAO which provided us with advice and information and implemented different technical programmes and projects.

I would also like sincerely to thank the donor countries that respond to our appeals and help us through the programmes of FAO or bilaterally.

Allow me now to express the point of view of my country on what is going on in this Organization during this critical time. We read the Programme of Work and Budget and would like to commend the efforts made in preparing it. We think that the proposals and the priorities contained in the Programme of Work and Budget are in line with the orientations and the development requirements of my country. We expected an increase in the budget in a way that would alleviate the suffering of the Third World countries and would measure up to their hopes and aspirations, but we note that the increase is very slight, only 0.4 per cent. We appreciate and understand that this slight increase was due to the difficult financial situation of the Organization. We sincerely hope that the situation will soon improve and that the Organization will pull ahead in order to achieve its objectives.

We regret the cuts made to the Technical Cooperation Programme because we think it is one of the most important and efficient programmes of the Organization, and we in Sudan have benefited a lot from the revival and rehabilitation of many projects. It opened new horizons for investment in agriculture and animal production.

The Review of the activities of FAO has confirmed our trust and conviction that FAO is sound and efficient. We hope that the proposals made by the experts, as well as the Programme and Finance Committees, regarding the Review will be accepted and supported by all in order to enhance the Organization's capabilities.

I would like to say that we endorse the strengthening of the country and regional offices in view of the useful role they play in facilitating the timely response by the Organization to our requests and the formulation of regional programmes thereby promoting south-south technical cooperation.

Once again I would like to commend the TCP and call for increasing its resources in the hope that countries in a position to provide more funding necessary for the implementation of the constructive proposals contained in the experts report will be forthcoming with their support so as to enhance and strengthen our Organization.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that we will be able to maintain the consensus that characterizes the ongoing dialogue in this important forum, and that the issues under discussion will be resolved in the spirit of consensus.

**D.R. PHORORO (Lesotho):** Mr Chairman, the Lesotho delegation wishes to record, as have other previous speakers, our appreciation to the FAO Director-General and his administration, as well as to the host country, Italy, for all the excellent arrangements, which will certainly facilitate the success of the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference. We are confident that under the guidance of our most distinguished Chairman and other able office-bearers the Conference will achieve expected results.

Our remarks will be devoted to two general topics of the agenda: first, major trends and policies in food and agriculture, and second, activities and programmes of the Organization,

The Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference is convened on the eve of preparations for an international development strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade, and my delegation endorses FAO's well-thought-out contribution to this strategy. It was only two years ago that we were faced with global food surpluses and overflowing stocks. Many previously importing developing countries were exporting, and there were pressures from many directions to reduce expenditure on agricultural research and agricultural development generally. The advocacy of zero growth in budgetary allocations for international assistance to agriculture typifies this thinking, and my delegation holds strong reservations on this approach.

In the present and future context of a new era of the 1990s, we wish to emphasize the central role of food agriculture in a strategy of development that produces high rates of growth and broad participation in that growth. It is the implementation of steady agricultural development policies in the face of fluctuating global supply-demand balances that stimulates, directly or indirectly, rapid growth in effective demand for food on the part of low-income people. Effective pursuit of such policies typically results in demand for food increasing more rapidly than even an excellent record in food production, thereby creating growth in food markets for the surplus food-producing countries, as well.

If growth is seen as largely the product of technological development that raises factor productivity, which in turn is the product of growth of human capital and the institutions that mobilize that human capital for productive purposes, demand is driven much more by domestic forces than by foreign imports. Thus, the underlying basis for growth is more developed as we enter the 1990s than it was in the previous decades. Even in Africa human capital and institutional structures have been improving. However, for that growth to be driven by domestic demand and for capital resources to be spread thinly over a large growing labour force requires, far more than in the past, a technologically advancing, cost-reducing development in the agricultural sector.

Because the problem of poverty is so massive and the poor are concentrated in the rural areas of low-income countries, it is difficult to envision eliminating the bulk of hunger through redistribution alone. Such redistribution would have to be substantially international and would have to grow enormously over time as the number of poor in the very poor, slow-growth countries continued to increase rapidly, as has been the case in the past.

Reduction of poverty can be achieved in the rural areas that are highly responsive to production-increasing agricultural technology for which the employment multipliers are substantial both within agriculture and in the rural non-agricultural sector. The technology for such growth is dynamic, requiring continuous effort; it is location specific requiring a large, dispersed effort; and it is complex, requiring effort on a wide front from research to input supply.



It is however worth noting that we now know what to do to rapidly eliminate hunger in the high potential areas. That reducing hunger, and thereby the pressures of poverty, in the urban areas - where more than a quarter of the poor reside - depends on vigorous growth in high potential rural areas; and that the historical answer to problems of low-potential areas has always contained a major element of migration, which, in turn, depends on good performance in the high-potential areas and their urban enclaves. Of course, it is also desirable to do research focused on breakthroughs that will raise productivity of low-potential areas. Such research will give relatively more emphasis to low-input innovation. However, because these are long-term, relatively high-risk investments, it is appropriate that foreign aid and international programmes pay for a disproportionate share.

Improved rural infrastructure that allows technology to spread to all farmers and permits employment multipliers to make adequate jobs for the poor is another crucial element in poverty reduction. Infrastructure investment also provides a vital link between the long-term, self-reliant removal of poverty, and short-term amelioration. Rural public works schemes to build infrastructure create immediate increases in employment and are clearly the most proven means of targeting food and income to the poor. Improved infrastructure, in conjunction with improved technology can provide employment multipliers, that sustain income increases and access to food over the long term. It is this challenge that coordinated WFP and FAO resources can provide us with a breakthrough in the fight against poverty and malnutrition. As development becomes increasingly driven by growth in the domestic demand of developing countries, trade becomes extremely important to the development process. Most obviously we know that once countries accelerate their growth substantially, even their best efforts in their agricultural sector cannot keep up with the domestic growth in demand for food. Thus, trade is needed to facilitate the imports of capital-intensive goods and services, basic food staples, including cereals and vegetable oils. Agriculture itself can play an important role in meeting export needs. The opportunities are particularly great in labour-intensive agricultural commodities like fruit, vegetables and certain types of livestock commodities. The message for research is clear. While we are striving for new breakthroughs in the basic food staple, new efforts must be added in the labour-intensive agricultural commodities for which demand is still growing in developing countries. It is in this area that women can play an integrative role in development.

Poor countries however face special financing problems that can limit imports in response to domestic shortages. This problem can effectively be dealt with through the IMF cereal facility. That facility should be strengthened, rather than gradually weakened and virtually eliminated as at present. It is also important that the developed countries, as they try to restrain excessive growth in their production, keep in mind the growing need for food in developing countries during this intermediate period when agricultural development is accelerating with technological change, but demand for food is growing even more rapidly. They should at least consider minimal-level stocking policy in order to stabilize their own prices and consumption and to provide some basis for stability in international markets.

Our preceding remarks on major trends and policies in food and agriculture endorse and bring into fresh focus FAO's important contribution reflected in their study: "African Agriculture - toward year 2000". The analysis and the recommendations will be as relevant in the 1990s as they were four years ago

when they were positively deliberated upon by African Ministers of Agriculture in Yamasokrou, Côte d'Ivoire. The four I's, namely infrastructure, institutions, inputs and incentive were identified as sine qua non of African agricultural development.

The solutions to hunger, malnutrition and poverty are very much at the core of the solution to the environmental assault occurring in developing countries. Of course, environmental degradation occurs in both developing and developed countries. But a broad distinction can be made. In developed countries, environmental destruction is primarily a product of wealth, while in very poor countries like Lesotho it is primarily a product of poverty. The most serious environmental destruction occurs as population pressure expands against limited land resource base and pushes cultivation out into more fragile resources, thereby rapidly destroying forests and grasslands. Increased production on fragile land reduces agricultural productivity as farmers are forced, by population pressure and lack of yield-increasing technology to clear and crop the hill-side, thus exacerbating problems of soil erosion.

In our view there are two solutions to these environmental problems. First, increase the agricultural capacity of the less fragile land to help relieve the pressure in the more fragile areas. This will produce a synergism between environmental preservation and a major attack on poverty in the more responsive areas. Second, conduct research and provide infrastructure in the more fragile areas. The former to help find less destructive systems of farming, and the latter to relieve the environmental stress from hunger in years of poor production and lack of non-farm jobs. Again, there is a synergism between hunger abatement through growth and environmental protection.

Permit me now, Mr Chairman, to briefly address myself to the items appearing in Part II of the Agenda - that is, activities and programmes of the Organization. My delegation is satisfied that both the Regular and the Field Programmes 1988-89 were successfully delivered within the constraints reduce budgetary allocations. However, the impact and the effectiveness of these programmes would have been greater had all member countries honoured their financial obligations in making the necessary contributions and replenishments. As Regular and Field Programmes are interdependent and mutually supportive, curtailment of resources on one adversely and negatively impacts on the other, and hence the overall quality of 1988-89 programme delivery left much to be desired. For most of the developing countries, especially Africa, the current biennium was a particularly difficult one, during which debt crisis, domestic-resource demanding structural adjustment programmes and localized unfavourable climatic conditions and pest epidemics overstrained the capacities of these countries to improve agricultural performance. Exceptionally fluctuating weather conditions in Lesotho during 1988/89 cropping seasons led the Government to declare a food emergency with an appeal to donors to provide seeds and grain to supplement supplies from commercial sources. Though FAO is commended for the role it has played in arresting the situation from getting in most African countries, the lack of financial support to the Organization from member countries that are capable of providing resources must be deplored.

Turning to the Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 and Medium-Term Objectives, my delegation endorses and supports the prioritization of nine activities over which the continued policy to direct increased resources to FAO's technical and economic programmes is emphasized. However, Mr Chairman, the overhanging cloud of relatively minor real increases and inter-programme

budgetary transfers make us wonder how effectively the goals and mid-term objectives can be realized. We need, therefore, to translate budgetary provisions into well defined, coordinated activities, and this is imperative. We fully agree with the Programme Committee's call on FAO to support the trend toward increased direct government involvement in field projects. Nonetheless, we must not ignore the manpower and recurrent cost constraints that characterize staff and budgetary resources of these governments. Similarly, we agree with the Committee that FFHC unit should shift from information sharing and exchange toward providing assistance and training to developing countries from NGOs based in developed countries. This, in essence, would strengthen the role of women in development. Related to this issue is the recommendation to seek extra budgetary resources to expand and evaluate an assessment related to energy technology development. We support this recommendation as well as urging a strong link between the International Agricultural Centres and national ones in a way that will enhance the capabilities of the latter.

In our remarks on major trend, and policies in food and agriculture, we highlighted the fragility of the poor majority who are usually represented by small farmers, and are predominantly women. Their fragility is expressed in economic terms when they become victims of unrealistic structural adjustment programmes and are expected to increase production in a hostile economic environment of low commodity prices, preferential trade barriers and high input costs. Furthermore, their fragility is worsened by their farming activities in a similarly fragile environment of depleted soils, overgrazed pastures and deforested woodlands. We therefore endorse the emphasis given to the important role of farm management and production economics in the analyses and development of stable farming systems including better utilization of feed resources for increased animal production. In this regard, allocation of increased resources for forestry and fisheries development is welcome. Afforestation programmes which include agroforestry activities, especially when supported by WFP resources, involve active and direct participation of rural communities, and can have considerable impact in environmental protection and hunger abatement. Substantial increases in allocations for inland fisheries and aquaculture are encouraging as it is through this programme that women's role in fisheries development can be highlighted. Furthermore, Lesotho wishes to urge that specific provisions be made to meet the needs of landlocked states. The reasons for this plea are obvious, as such states are usually least developed with precarious food security situations.

Mr Chairman, my delegation also records its appreciation for continuing resource allocation to the Technical Cooperation Programme. The high demand for TCP assistance and the Programmes swift response to urgent needs, emergencies and technical requirements of member countries justifies strengthening of the Programme. The Government of Lesotho is very appreciative of the TCP assistance it has received in critical areas of institutional strengthening, emergency inputs, agroforestry and fisheries: and follow-up donor interest has already been forthcoming. We would, however, observe that in cases of emergencies which are usually funded by TCP and executed through OSRO, administrative delays, usually unavoidable, invalidate the emergency status of such projects with embarrassing consequences for recipient countries and beneficiaries. We therefore urge that FAO should devise a more expedient mechanism to overcome purchasing and implementation bottlenecks. Delegation of authority to FAO and UNDP in country offices with specified controls and necessary cross-checks is one way of dealing with the situation and ensuring that the assistance is still delivered within the rules and regulations of the Organization.

Finally, my delegation wishes to note the historic nature of this session of the FAO Conference especially as it comes at a time when conclusions and recommendations of the review process, initiated at the last Conference in 1987. FAO's relevance in this changing world, its dynamism and efficiency has yet been demonstrated in the findings of those whom resolution 6/87 entrusted this difficult and arduous task to. We say to the Director-General, the group of experts and the Programme and Finance Committees; congratulations for a job well done. Let us now strive to think how best this completed exercise can be implemented. Obviously it could be difficult for us to accept that the cost for implementing these recommendations should be covered by the regular budget. We hope, therefore, that extra-budgetary resources will be made available by the developed industrialized countries as against any suggestions for further programme cuts or adjustments. We sincerely share the notion that the main objective of the review process was to strengthen the FAO so as to increase its capacity and effectiveness. At this stage, however, we could not see any justification for the future to waste FAO resources in engaging the services of private agencies on tasks that could easily be fulfilled in the most qualified manner by the relevant FAO's organs and bodies.

In conclusion, we believe that success in meeting the complex challenges and opportunities confronting us in the 1990s can ensure a shared and widespread prosperity between developed and developing countries well beyond the next decade. Such effort will greatly facilitate accelerated growth and poverty alleviation in the 1990s and bring benefits to that decade that a more self-centred approach would postpone for several further decades. FAO's role and contribution in meeting the challenges of the 1990s are immense.

**Lalith ATHULATH-MUDALI (Sri Lanka):** I think, while I have to congratulate you on your election on behalf of the delegation of Sri Lanka, I think, judging by the admirable way in which you have conducted the affairs of this Conference up to now, we should congratulate not only you but all delegations for having elected you to this high office of Chairman of this Conference.

Permit me to table my statement which I hope will be part of the record of this Conference. I only intend to illustrate a few matters which demand emphasis at this time.

First, the Director-General, Mr Saouma, in his multilingual preface, in his statement outlined the impending and important relationship between population, agriculture and environment.

Having come from a population conference last week in Amsterdam, I can only say that if we do not link these three things together, most, if not all, of what we have achieved in agriculture and food will be largely negative. The Holy Father this morning underlined the importance of the link between the environment and agriculture, and this is something which we should all bear in mind.

We in Sri Lanka have had some success in agriculture - not only traditional agriculture, but modern plantation agriculture. For example, when we received Independence in 1948, with a population of six million, we were only 33 percent self-sufficient in our main staple, which is rice. Today,

with a population of sixteen million, we are about 90 percent self-sufficient in rice. We have also achieved a high degree of productivity, in excess of the well-known exporters of rice. However, by and large our cost of product is higher than exporting countries.

Almost 45 years ago FAO came into existence as one of the first of the new generation of international organizations. The unusual juxtaposition of malnutrition and food surpluses, poverty and plenty has been a main concern of FAO throughout its history.

Food shortages and famine throughout the world have continued to be a major challenge to FAO and in developing countries such as Sri Lanka, the impact of its contribution is indeed valuable. Policy formulation and implementation, surveys and research in all areas related to food and agriculture have benefited the entire world but they have been of special value in those regions where hunger and poverty lurk.

In the global context of increasing population pressure and consequent problems the role of FAO will no doubt be of even greater significance in the years to come.

#### Some concepts on agricultural development

Background; There are similarities as well as diversities in the problems faced by agriculture-based economies. In some countries resources are inadequate to maintain growth rates to meet the demand of increasing populations. Some countries have problems of land availability for future generations. Others who have the land resources find inadequate capital and entrepreneurship to develop the land. Agricultural commodities fluctuate in world markets and the perishable nature of the commodities and the competition between producer countries, offer an advantage to importing countries to purchase the commodities at cheap rates.

It is seen that problems are so interwoven and interlinked that it is idle to conceive of an agricultural policy independent of a package of complementary policies. A country which does not focus on population control would be increasing production, only to be consumed by the increased population. Similarly, if we do not support agriculture, the efforts of millions of individual farmers can be frustrated.

Some problems are unique to individual countries. Policy planners should share these experiences and adopt them to suit their own countries. Agricultural planners will not do justice to the agricultural communities unless they conceive the problems of agriculture in global/regional and micro contents.

Sri Lankan situation - historical background: Sri Lanka has recorded an impressive growth in respect of agricultural development since Independence. During the British rule, immediately prior to Independence, there was a heavy focus on the plantation industry. But it is incorrect to say that the domestic agricultural sector, dominated by paddy cultivation was totally neglected during this period. There were British rulers and Civil Servants who worked with dedication for the upliftment of the rural masses engaged in domestic food production. It should be noted that initial repairs of many large reservoirs commenced during the period immediately prior to Independence.

During the Second World War, people suffered from worries of food shortages and after Independence, the stage was set for a widespread food production drive. The first Prime Minister of the country, Rt. Hon, D.S. Senanayake, saw two advantages in the food production drive. It was a symbol of national resurgence. It was possible to relieve the densely-populated wet zone by transferring a section of the population to the underdeveloped dry zone in the country. There were no constraints of land availability as large extents in the dry zone were available for development. The main constraint for him was to find the men to develop these lands. The policies developed during this period by successive governments were naturally influenced by this basic factor. A number of large Settlement Schemes were developed during the years that ensued and they made a substantial contribution to the production process during the subsequent years.

The year 1958 can be considered as a milestone in the institutional development of the agricultural sector. The tenants of paddy lands who had hitherto no legal protection were offered such protection under the Paddy Lands Act. Furthermore, the landowners share was also prescribed by law. The security of tenure offered to the tenants was expected to give a boost to production. It is certainly difficult to see the impact of an institutional change on production within a short time span. However, whether it had a positive or negative impact on production is still being debated.

The major thrust for higher productivity came in the 1960s with the "Green Revolution". High-yielding varieties of paddy, better management practices resulted in a breakthrough in paddy production during the 1965 to the 1970 period. The farmers proved their capacity to adopt new techniques in agricultural production during this period. Farmers rejected traditional varieties they had inherited from generations in favour of hybrids that yielded better incomes. Today, 96 percent of the paddy area is cultivated with the high-yielding varieties.

The 1970-77 period showed a stagnant growth in paddy production primarily due to the closed economy which prevented the free inflow of inputs and services. However, owing to restrictions on imports, local crops such as chillies, onions, cowpea, potatoes, maize, sorghum, yams and tubers fetched good prices.

Another landmark in agricultural production is the post-1977 period. The Government opened up the economy leading to a free inflow of inputs and services and at the same time offered a package of services such as better research and extension, better management systems, improved varieties of seed and better institutional backup for farmers, who readily responded to the Government's offer. Unfortunately, it was not possible to maintain the steady growth that was recorded from 1977 to 1983 as the country faced problems of both natural and manmade calamities.

The New Era: In 1989, a new Ministry was formed encompassing a large spectrum of activities ranging from domestic agriculture, food stocking and distribution, cooperative development and livestock development. The present agricultural policies can be considered a major deviation from the policies followed hitherto. Policies and strategies followed during the post-independence period were very appropriate for that period when there was an abundance of land for development. Due to the efforts of the successive Governments since Independence, most of the lands that could be brought under major irrigation schemes have been already developed and the possibilities of expanding irrigated agriculture is presently very limited. Although some impressive advances have been made in the field of

agricultural development over the years, it would be difficult to sustain the development effort with the same package of policies and strategies, as population is increasing and the land-man ratio is becoming increasingly unfavourable.

Agricultural policies which concentrate heavily on self-sufficiency have to pay a price. Although cost of production has increased over the years, the local purchasing power has not increased substantially to offer a reasonable price to the producer. This has pushed the farmer not only toward subsistence agriculture, but to a subsistence mind. This conditioning of mind saps the farming community of entrepreneurial skills.

Whilst lots of effort went into the field through extension system to promote agricultural activity, the macro policies of the Government were at times impeding its growth. The relatively little savings generated in the agricultural sector were being mobilized by the Banking System to support import/export trade. Urban centres were growing at the cost of agricultural communities.

Although meek protests were made by farmers against this situation, their voices were not heard as the politico-administrative leadership could not argue the case of its client effectively.

This situation warrants brave new thinking. Although the Agricultural Operations can be decentralized for better management, a conceptual frame for Agricultural Policy needs to be carved out centrally in order to offer the required guidelines to implementors. In Sri Lanka's context where the farming community is scattered in micro-holdings, through the length and breadth of the country, with hardly any inter-links between themselves, a binding policy framework should be developed encompassing the total agricultural scenario.

We also need to remove cultural hangovers which inhibit production. For instance it required a lot of effort to wean the farmer away from the paddy mono-crop obsession. Paddy crop should have pride of place for purposes of food security, but for the development of the farmer, paddy could give only a little input. The cost of production studies undertaken by the Department of Agriculture in the recent years show that in many parts of the wet zone, paddy gives a negative return on investment. The contradiction was that the Agrarian Services Act required farmers to cultivate these lands only with paddy and the farmers were required to go through cumbersome procedures to use the paddy fields for any other purpose. This situation has now been remedied.

The concept of diversification is fast taking root among farming households. This diversification is not only confined to subsidiary food crops, livestock and fisheries. The new concept encompasses a total diversification, including industry, agro-based or otherwise. The integration with livestock/fisheries offers many advantages. These activities can complement each other and also offer an insurance to farmers against seasonal losses as he can fall back on one of these activities for his income.

Off-farm income is absolutely vital for development of agriculture as studies have proved that income from the land can hardly sustain the family at a decent level of living. Increased income of the farming family will be the focus of the future. A criticism of the "Green Revolution" of 1960s was that the planners in their eagerness for high national growth rates, concentrated on "high-yielding varieties" and more "progressive" farmers. A

country like Sri Lanka cannot afford this policy, as there is a danger of the living standards of a larger section of the population deteriorating further. Agricultural policy of the country should be held enough to recommend the weaning away of large sections of agricultural communities from agricultural operations if higher incomes can be assured elsewhere.

Land could offer a good resource, particularly in a tropical country like Sri Lanka if properly used, with a vision for the future. The diversified agroclimatic characteristics of Sri Lanka offers a great advantage in that a variety of food crops such as horticultural crops, flowers etc. could be grown in most parts of the country. But, all these need capital investment and entrepreneurship. The local demand cannot sustain intensive agriculture with its heavy investment. Hence, export outlets will have to be found. This would require very demanding quality standards, continuous research, both on production as well as on processing, packaging and marketing. Floriculture for seed production requires large numbers of units of labour in limited land areas. Whereas the focus hitherto was on increased production, the present focus is on increased productivity per unit area.

All this would require a major change of policy in the agricultural sector. Whilst safeguarding the interests of the smallholders, one need not be biased against development of medium- and large-scale agricultural enterprise. It will be an obligation of the Government to ensure that these policies would not lead to the exploitation of the smallholding sector and its disintegration, with the development of large units. The smallholdings can integrate beautifully with the medium- and large-scale holdings as it happens in the case of sugar. These lands could generate a surplus which could be reploughed for the growth of agriculture as well as the industry. It would be possible to make the two sectors complementary without allowing one to exploit the other.

Many studies have been conducted in the field of rural credit in different countries. However, only a few have shown any co-relation between the rural credit released and the production during a given period. There is no debate that the farming sector needs capital from institutional sources, lest they will be compelled to borrow from outside sources at usurious rates of interest. Few countries have conducted experiments where many worthwhile successes had been shown. All these achievements were due to a "credit culture" that had been developed over the years. The "Grameen Bank" experiment of Bangladesh and the "Thrift and Credit Societies" of Sri Lanka are good examples of above experiences.

A lot of innovations are required in the field of credit. Banking institutions have shown reluctance in the issue of credit to the Rural Sector in view of the risk factor. Recovery of credit in most developing countries is influenced by political parties to interfere with the recovery of loans. Even in the matter of interest rates, complete flexibility should be given to the banks to determine such interest rates that would enable them to sustain credit programmes over long periods of time.

Much of the success of the agricultural development programmes is dependent upon the ability for adaptation to the farmers' needs. It is absolutely essential to build up a strong farmer organization network which could voice farmers' needs. Farmers should have their own associations to market their produce and also to organize their farming activities. Strong links have to



be developed between farmers and the cooperative movement. In Sri Lanka, cooperative movement is highly consumer-oriented. In the future, they will be called upon to play a more dynamic role and to have an involvement in the production aspects too.

In the development of agriculture, each country needs to develop a technology, appropriate both toward its own environs as well as to the traditional culture of the people. A technology has to look forward to future developments too. Its adaptation will depend on the appropriateness of implementation approach. It has been observed that, other than in total subsistence economies, farmers respond to higher incomes. They are prepared to adopt new technologies to the extent better living standards are assured.

A farm mechanization policy has to be developed keeping in mind the dangers of displacement of farm labour. On the other hand, a desirable output in agriculture cannot be achieved by a system which depends entirely on human labour.

No agricultural country can afford to ignore the new bio-technology and the gene-technology developments taking place today. Sri Lanka has a very sophisticated gene bank which could stock the plant germplasm for the benefit of not only Sri Lanka but of the region.

At the same time, the importance of simple innovations in technology such as lift irrigation, sprinkler irrigation, pot irrigation (burying an earthen pot filled with water close to the plant), polythene lining of channels etc. should not be underestimated in a technology development policy. Even in the field of food technology, a combination of modern processing techniques and traditional techniques would be desirable.

In regard to marketing, the new concept is very clear. Farmers are told in advance to select their crops based on the availability of marketing outlets. The macro-planners will develop cropping patterns to suit export markets. The foreign and local market possibilities of different agricultural products will be made known to the farmers well in advance. The middlemen who purchase the produce from the farmers and sell to urban centres are very often maligned as exploiters. The role they play is seldom appreciated. Many Governments who attempted to intervene directly in the agricultural marketing process have failed to achieve anything worthwhile. The Governments will play an important role, in servicing not only the farmers, but these middlemen by carrying out research on storage, packing and transportation, etc.

Farmers' selection of crops is based on cropping patterns developed by Department of Agriculture to suit different agro-climatic zones. Once different crops are prescribed for different regions, the Government will start servicing those crops that are recommended and this would form the first step toward regional specialization.

In high income-yielding export crops sector new innovations such as contract farming are being tried out. This will give an opportunity for the land owners, who have the capital, but lack skills, to develop the lands in a short period.

It is well known that in agrarian societies, farmers are slow to accept change. They are very suspicious when Government agencies advise them on new technologies. The basic reason for this is their failure to withstand a single season crop failure. However, they respond well when they see the results in the field and when they see their brother farmers adopting them.

Based on this principle, a number of "Centres of Excellence" have been started where all these experiments will be tried out in the farmers' fields. These Centres will give an opportunity to the Government to test all their experiences, etc. in the field. It also gives an opportunity to get a good feedback from the beneficiaries on their attitudes and reactions. This concept has been tried earlier in export agriculture with success.

In these concepts, as well as in many others, the guidance and assistance of FAO has been noteworthy, especially to us in the developing countries. In those regions where expanding populations and diminishing resources are felt most keenly, the policies of FAO are of utmost value. On two vital issues, those of environmental protection and the importance of the human dimension as applied to food and agriculture, I can do no better than quote from two FAO documents.

One is from the first Conference on FAO and relates to the conservation of resources. Whether this thin layer of soil is to be a wasting asset or one maintained in perpetuity and made more fruitful for mankind will depend on how it is used and managed. Nothing more deeply concerns the well-being of man and nations. FAO is dedicated to furthering good use and good management, in all ways and by all people, of this most basic of man's resources.

The other is from the 1948 Conference - "It is highly important to inculcate the will to produce. The key to the success of any production programme is the key which opens the door to the farmer's mind".

**Roque CANADAS (Ecuador):** Me complace vivamente su elección, y al desearle el mejor de los éxitos al conducir los debates de esta importante Conferencia, mi delegación le ofrece su decidida cooperación.

En el tiempo que ha pasado desde el anterior período de sesiones de la FAO, han ocurrido importantes acontecimientos para la Paz y la armonía internacional. Me refiero especialmente a la evolución política que se desarrolla en algunos países de Europa Oriental. Como consecuencia de esos acontecimientos, la vida internacional cobra nuevos desafíos. Sin duda, las organizaciones internacionales, entre ellas la FAO, serán escenarios de más amplia cooperación internacional.

Así como hay fundamento para esperar un papel importante en el futuro de la FAO en cuanto al aporte que podrá ofrecer para la reorientación de las políticas agrícolas que quieran adoptar los nuevos gobiernos de los países de Europa Oriental, así también mi país mira con interés los crecientes vínculos que se desarrollan entre la FAO y la Unión Soviética, vínculos que pueden constituir antecedentes para el ingreso de ese importante país a la Organización como miembro de pleno derecho.

Durante los dos últimos años, nuestra Organización ha sido sometida a un examen, en cumplimiento del mandato específico de la Conferencia anterior. Este ha sido un trabajo cuidadoso y profesional. Todos convinimos en él para explorar integralmente el funcionamiento de la FAO, la medida en que cumple sus finalidades. Ahora que esta Conferencia tiene a su disposición el informe, comienza nuestro esfuerzo para utilizar toda la potencialidad de este documento.

Se puede reconocer con satisfacción que el informe consigna en la parte substantiva el eficaz desempeño de la FAO. La FAO es una institución sólida y dinámica. Sus actividades están bien orientadas hacia el cumplimiento de sus finalidades y al respeto a los mandatos que ha recibido. Las conclusiones que trae el documento son conclusiones positivas, hay necesidad de apoyar y robustecer nuestra Organización. Pero al mismo tiempo, cree mi delegación que hay que tomar cuidadosa atención del conjunto de recomendaciones que también trae el documento.

En lo que concierne a la situación general de la alimentación y la agricultura en el mundo, en estos dos últimos años hay una diversidad de elementos que dificultan una apreciación general. En 70 países crece más la población que la producción de alimentos. La desnutrición de la niñez campesina sobrepasa el 50% en algunos países; 35 000 niños mueren cada año de hambre y malnutrición. Persiste en amplios segmentos de la humanidad el hambre, la desnutrición. No son suficientes los esfuerzos que realizan los gobiernos para subsanar estos graves males, ni es tampoco suficiente la labor de la FAO por asistirlos. Los avances logrados hasta ahora y el largo camino que queda por recorrer reclaman una más estrecha acción de la solidaridad internacional.

Si bien las causas que limitan la solución de estos problemas son muchas y complejas, una de ellas preocupa particularmente a mi delegación. Me refiero a los problemas de la agricultura y la insuficiencia de la producción alimentaria en los países en desarrollo ocasionados, en buena medida, por efectos de políticas proteccionistas en los países desarrollados mediante el uso de subsidios, técnicas exclusivas y medidas restrictivas del comercio. Esto causa enormes desbalances, encarece la producción de alimentos e impide el normal desenvolvimiento general de las políticas agrícolas en los países en desarrollo.

En esta ocasión, al mencionar este tema, mi delegación desea llamar la atención a quienes tienen a su cargo la posibilidad de revisar esas políticas en el contexto más amplio de los intereses permanentes de la comunidad internacional. Un buen número de países en desarrollo aumentan la producción de alimentos a tasas de crecimiento satisfactorias, pero, al menos en lo que concierne a mi país, ese aumento se concentra forzosamente en pocos productos tropicales tradicionales que tienen mercado. La potencialidad que existe de diversificar la producción, de producir más alimentos está severamente limitada por causa de esos factores externos, causas que no se pueden modificar sin la más abierta cooperación internacional. En ese sentido, mi país ve un papel cada vez más importante de la FAO en coordinación con el GATT.

Las experiencias de dos décadas en el Ecuador de establecer políticas macroeconómicas de desarrollo fundadas en la industria petrolera, señalan que es necesario volver a poner a la actividad agrícola en primer plano de nuestro desarrollo. Por más que la actividad de la industria petrolera sigue

siendo la vértebra de la economía en mi país, por más que sus rendimientos permiten sostener otros programas de desarrollo indispensables, persiste inalterable la vocación agrícola del país como fuente de recursos alimentarios, fuente de trabajo y de ingresos para el 40% de la población.

El programa agrícola de mi gobierno se dirige hacia la autosuficiencia de la producción agrícola. La capacidad potencial del país tiene un margen aún no explotado que permite ser optimistas. Desea mi gobierno aumentar la producción y la productividad agrícola, desea dar acceso razonable y barato de alimentos nacionales a la población ecuatoriana.

La economía de mi país es pequeña y libre; mientras ella no pueda alcanzar su aspiración de autosuficiencia, agradece muy sinceramente la ayuda que le presta la comunidad internacional, especialmente a la FAO, FIDA y al PMA, así como a los países contribuyentes que dan su asistencia técnica y financiera.

Los problemas inmediatos en el Ecuador indican que hay que potenciar la agro-industria y el comercio de productos agrícolas. La rápida solución de estos problemas requiere sin duda la cooperación internacional, de la FAO en especial.

Esta es la línea de política que ha señalado el nuevo gobierno ecuatoriano, inaugurado hace un año. Hay la conciencia de que la reforma agraria en el Ecuador, después de 25 años, no ha transformado como debía la situación del campesino, no ha introducido suficientemente la técnica disponible en el cultivo agrícola ni ha perfeccionado substancialmente el cuadro porcentual de tenencia de la tierra. Mientras han aparecido empresas agrícolas modernas y ricas, una gran mayoría de campesinos sigue en condiciones deplorables. Esta polarización evidente es necesario transformar. El compromiso de elevar el nivel de vida del campesino ecuatoriano requiere un proceso acelerado de capacitación del ser humano, de la mujer campesina, en lo agrícola, en lo sanitario, en lo social. A una tasa elevada de crecimiento demográfico, 2.8%, el Ecuador tiene un enorme compromiso por delante.

A más de aquello que dije antes de la situación restrictiva impuesta por las políticas proteccionistas de algunos países desarrollados, es el peso de la deuda externa el que impide a mi gobierno disponer de recursos suficientes para la inversión, para establecer suficientes programas de crédito agrícola, para completar los trabajos de control de aguas y de irrigación, para llevar la energía eléctrica disponible al alcance de la agricultura, de modo que pueda industrializarse. ¿Cómo se puede financiar un programa de esta clase, de evidente necesidad, si el servicio de la deuda externa ecuatoriana absorbe el 30% de los ingresos del Estado, si periódicamente tenemos que acudir a nuestros acreedores para pedirles la transformación de intereses vencidos en capital para lograr la necesaria postergación del pago?

Hay necesidad de reformular el cuadro de obligaciones derivadas de la deuda externa, introduciendo factores nuevos de tiempo y condiciones razonables de pago, adecuadas a la realidad económica del deudor, librando posibilidades de liquidez financiera que permitan disponer de fondos para ejecutar los proyectos impostergables de desarrollo, al menos, aquellos proyectos relacionados con las necesidades primordiales del hombre. A largo plazo, los réditos de una nueva política de manejo de la deuda externa serán más fructíferos para toda la comunidad internacional que la simple salud contable de los bancos acreedores.

Una creciente preocupación internacional por el cuidado del medio ambiente se manifiesta en la comunidad internacional. Los análisis promueven con urgencia una acción mancomunada para salvar el estado natural de nuestro planeta. En este gran esfuerzo, mi país quiere participar con decisión, tiene su selva amazónica, su inmenso mar territorial y el archipiélago de las Galápagos, que es el laboratorio natural más singular del mundo. Pero, sobre todo, tiene la conciencia de que es posible aprovechar los recursos naturales en beneficio de la población necesitada, sin dañar la naturaleza. Para eso, requiere mayor financiamiento y acceso a técnicas adecuadas. Hemos suscrito un compromiso los países de la Hoya Amazónica para coordinar nuestra acción de conservación de la naturaleza y, al mismo tiempo, permitir la explotación de los recursos naturales. Este proceso está abierto a la cooperación internacional.

En mi país, la imagen de la FAO es la imagen de quien porta cooperación técnica, de quien hace labores de campo. Si bien mi país no alcanza todavía a hacer pleno uso de las fuentes de información disponibles en la FAO, sabe que tiene acceso a ellas, sabe que puede lograr consejo y guía para sus problemas agrícolas y alimentarios. La FAO ha influido positivamente en el diseño de políticas agrícolas y en programas de alimentación. Pero claro que hay otros campos en que la FAO puede aumentar sus actividades. Está muy bien el plan de incorporación de la mujer al desarrollo, el codex alimentario, el programa fito-sanitario, como todos los otros programas, pero espera el Ecuador que en el futuro, la orientación de la FAO se acentúe aún más en los problemas demográficos, relacionándolos directamente con su competencia principal. Sería muy positivo en este sentido que establezca contactos más estrechos con las organizaciones internacionales que se ocupan de los problemas de población y que utilice más directamente sus recomendaciones.

Preocupa al Ecuador la situación financiera de la Organización. Este es el problema del momento. Es urgente tomar medidas para dotar de los recursos indispensables que requiere la Organización. Esta Conferencia tiene la oportunidad de dar soluciones adecuadas dentro de un ambiente de armonía y solidaridad. Así como mi país se compromete a hacer los mayores esfuerzos para realizar pagos puntuales de sus contribuciones, espera que los demás Estados miembros también hagan un esfuerzo en ese sentido, en especial, los mayores contribuyentes. Sin singularizar a ninguno, piensa mi delegación que recae sobre ellos una responsabilidad especial que va más allá de su compromiso formal.

Comprende mi país la necesidad que hay de limitar los gastos de la FAO a lo indispensable y encuentra legítima la preocupación por el uso adecuado de los recursos, pero no puede convenir en la reducción de sus programas; eso significaría la denegación gradual de sus finalidades. La idea del crecimiento cero contraviene el proceso de crecimiento ineludible de servicios esenciales de la FAO. Mientras crecen las necesidades de los Estados miembros, mientras crece la población mundial - se afirma que el planeta tendrá mil millones de habitantes más para el año 2000 -, no se puede sostener razonablemente un crecimiento cero del presupuesto.

Tengo como un privilegio la oportunidad de haberme dirigido a esta Conferencia. Antes de terminar, quiero agradecer al Director General, por la magnífica presentación que ha hecho de la situación mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, del estado de la FAO y de sus necesidades, así como de los programas y presupuesto para el próximo bienio. Mi delegación le agradece los esfuerzos que ha hecho para continuar la importante tarea de la FAO, administrando prudentemente los recursos a su disposición. Deplora que la gestión en algunas partes haya sido limitada por

la falta de recursos. Esta situación no puede continuar. Mi delegación apoyará, dentro de esta Conferencia, la posibilidad de encontrar un consenso que permita a la FAO tener en el futuro los recursos necesarios para el programa presentado para el próximo bienio.

**Mawafak AL-HADITHI (Iraq) (original language Arabic):** At the outset, Mr Chairman, allow me to congratulate you on the confidence and trust placed in you by the Conference. We are fully convinced that this session will reach positive conclusions and decisions in the service of the noble objectives for which this Organization was established in 1945.

It was 44 years ago when Iraq, together with other countries, established this participation, entrusting it with huge tasks and responsibilities concerning the effective participation in augmenting agricultural and food production in the various regions of the world. It is no exaggeration to claim that the FAO has truly emerged as the lead specialist agency in the field of food and agriculture in today's world, thanks to the prudence and tireless efforts of the Director-General and his collaborators.

Notwithstanding the significant advances and changes witnessed today, the issues of agricultural development and, in particular, those of food supplies to meet the needs of the ever-increasing population of our planet still constitute a challenge which requires further efforts and more funds at international, regional and national levels. Given the complementarity and mutual interaction of agricultural development to economic social development, the issues of agricultural development should be viewed in a global perspective, recognizing the close linkages existing among the various components and requirements of overall development at international, regional and national levels. The political and economic developments witnessed by the world over the past few years have reflected this point directly and indirectly on agricultural output leading to the persistently low rate of performance and widening food gap in various countries.

The huge burden of indebtedness suffered by many developing countries is still a major constraint undermining those countries' efforts for economic and agricultural development. In addition, the escalating funds in world trade and the difficulties of establishing a new international economic order capable of addressing current problems further exacerbates the problems encountered in the drive for economic and agricultural development in developing countries.

I shall not attempt to dwell on the current food problem since its roots and repercussions are well known to all of us. However, I would like to record the alarming prospect of declining world food stocks. The production of staple food has declined well below aggregate consumption, given the population increase in developing countries in particular, in addition to the maldistribution of production where there is excess abundance in some regions and a marked deficit in others.

This state of affairs will add further to the burden on developing food-importing countries, particularly low-income, food-deficit countries. Undoubtedly, such existing problems, together with other emerging ones, will impose on the Organization, notwithstanding its present financial difficulties, further tasks and responsibilities in our areas in the effort under way for increasing food production in our developing countries.

However, we are confident that such challenges and problems encountered by FAO will not limit its interest in taking part in the improvement of the state of food and agriculture in the world. We do not doubt its capability in effectively meeting the challenges and pursuing its humanitarian mission, for which it was established. This cannot be achieved by the mere expression of hopes and good wishes, but through effective support by all member countries, and adequate response to the programmes, activities and endeavours of the Organization for the enhancement of world food security.

Some may still recall the great strides taken by FAO to resolve the problems of food and hunger in the world, the introduction of measures for the realization of world food security, the establishment of international schemes for the supply of fertilizers, the undertaking of most of the preparatory technical work of the World Food Conference held under the auspices of the United Nations, in addition to other significant efforts, notably the World Conference on Agricultural Reform and Rural Development. Although it is our view that the Programme of Work and Budget represents the minimum acceptable level, on behalf of the Government of Iraq, I give our support to the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, given the financial difficulties encountered by FAO.

Our Organization requires the continuing support of member countries in order to be capable of undertaking its tasks and addressing its responsibilities. It has proved its efficiency in fulfilling its mandate enshrined in the Constitution and the objectives contained therein, which are still relevant today. FAO responds to the requirements imposed by current trends and conditions in the sphere of food and agriculture. The roles assumed by the Organization are still valid, they are complementary in nature and we commend in particular the role of the Organization in the technical assistance field. Therefore, we are duty bound to endorse programmes which will provide the necessary finance for the relevant conclusions and recommendations. In this respect, we do not endorse any programme cuts. The necessary funds should be obtained from extra-budgetary sources if we wish to strengthen the work of the Organization.

Despite the war conditions we have been through over the past years, with the attendant prohibitive cost in political leadership, Iraq did not neglect the agricultural sector as it provided a sector for development and improvement throughout that period. Agriculture was accorded marked priority in addition to land reclamation which, since the beginning of the revolution in July 1968, has reached tens of thousands of hectares. There have also been a number of agricultural inputs enabling farmers to exploit their land through the application of modern scientific techniques. In order to augment improved farm output, both plant and animal production, the Government adopted a number of regulations within the framework of its current agricultural policy serving massive investment in agriculture, the use by investors of modern technology and the provision of expanded credit facilities with a view to raising the output per area unit, and improving productivity in farm animals to provide adequate supplies. The Government established more water dams and reservoirs in order to increase the arable area and generate electricity for different purposes. Mention should be made of the erection of two huge dams on the Rivers Tigris and Euphrates. Work is under way on the erection of two other dams on the tributaries of the Euphrates and the Tigris. A number of irrigation projects were executed with a view to changing the farming pattern from a rain-fed system to an irrigated one. The outcome of such achievements will be to augment agriculture and food production in order to attain a higher degree of self-sufficiency.

In Iraq we are fully convinced of the need and significance of cooperation between countries and regions and also at international level, so as to create a world community where peace, stability and food security reign supreme; a world community where all potential resources are pooled for the common good and in order to combat the spectre of wars and famine. The establishment of the Arabic Council, consisting of Yemen, Jordan, and Syria in addition to Iraq, is well equipped for the provision of cooperation in the advance of national economies, including the improvement and development of their agricultural sectors in order to increase food production and improve the living standards of farming communities particularly, and the entire population in general.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I thank you for your attention, and wish our Conference success in the realization of human aspirations for a world governed by peace and prosperity.

**Albert DJIGMA (Burkina Faso):** C'est avec plaisir que je voudrais, au nom de la délégation burkinabé, présenter mes vives félicitations à Son Excellence, Monsieur John Charles Kerin, pour sa brillante élection à la présidence de la 25ème session de la Conférence générale de notre Organisation.

J'adresse également mes félicitations et encouragements au Docteur Edouard Saouma et à toute son équipe pour les efforts inlassables qu'il déploie avec coeur et talent dans la recherche des meilleurs voies et moyens susceptibles de répondre à l'attente de millions de paysans, éleveurs et pêcheurs dans le monde entier.

La 25ème session de la Conférence générale est l'occasion, à l'instar des précédentes, de faire le point sur la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde, d'apprécier les politiques et programmes des Etats, de mesurer la contribution de notre Organisation, sa capacité et son efficacité dans la résolution des problèmes les plus actuels et des défis de l'avenir.

La diversité de situations particulières qui pourraient être décrites ici par les délégations est à l'image de la variabilité enrichissante des conditions physiques et socio-économiques qui prévalent dans nos pays.

Cependant, notre monde de cette fin du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle vit un certain nombre de problèmes qui sont plus ou moins uniformément distribués, et sur lesquels le Burkina Faso souhaite donner ses appréciations en guise de contribution aux débats en cours et exposer les actions qu'il mène en la matière.

Parmi les contraintes à l'amélioration qualitative et quantitative de la production agricole dans le monde, nous plaçons en tête celles qui sont liées à la dégradation des écosystèmes, dégradation provoquée soit par les agressions climatiques, soit par les actions de l'homme, et le plus souvent par les deux à la fois.

C'est pourquoi nous nous félicitons que la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, placée cette année sous le thème "Alimentation et environnement", ait donné l'occasion à chacun de réfléchir sur les moyens à mettre en oeuvre pour préserver et améliorer les ressources naturelles disponibles afin d'assurer le bien-être des générations futures.



Au Burkina Faso, pays sahélien, les caprices pluviométriques observés depuis une vingtaine d'années, conjugués avec l'essor démographique et des pratiques culturelles inadaptées ont engendré la désertification sur une grande partie du territoire.

Ce phénomène, qui perturbe les cycles agricoles et martyrise les populations en annihilant leurs efforts, est un handicap majeur à l'essor de notre agriculture. Les effets se feront sentir cette année encore sur nos récoltes, malgré le travail acharné fourni par les paysans au cours de la saison pluvieuse.

C'est pourquoi notre peuple, depuis l'avènement de la Révolution démocratique et populaire, dont l'un des objectifs fondamentaux est la recherche de l'autosuffisance alimentaire, a décidé de mettre un accent particulier sur la défense, la préservation et la restauration du patrimoine foncier et forestier.

Cette option se traduit par un ensemble de mesures et de programmes parmi lesquels nous pouvons citer:

- l'élaboration d'un plan national de lutte contre la désertification;
- la promulgation des textes réglementaires de la réforme agraire et foncière;
- la réalisation de petits et grands aménagements hydro-agricoles;
- l'organisation des communautés rurales de base, leurs sensibilisation et responsabilisation par rapport aux problèmes de dégradation de l'écosystème.

Ceci a permis notamment l'intensification de la lutte antiérosive, la lutte contre la divagation des animaux, la coupe abusive de bois, la lutte contre les feux de brousse et la mise en route d'un programme de gestion des terroirs villageois.

Toujours dans le domaine de la préservation des ressources naturelles, des efforts louables sont faits par nos institutions pour collecter et évaluer les ressources génétiques locales des plantes annuelles et pérennes, qu'elles soient cultivées ou forestières. Malheureusement, l'inexistence de moyens adaptés de conservation à moyen et long terme risque de compromettre cet effort national.

Dans beaucoup de pays en développement et particulièrement au Burkina Faso, les problèmes d'organisation, de formation et d'approvisionnement du monde rural sont essentiels dans la lutte pour l'autosuffisance et la sécurité alimentaire.

Le Front populaire, instance dirigeante de mon pays, a décidé de mettre un accent particulier sur l'organisation du monde rural, en s'appuyant sur le mouvement coopératif. A cet effet, un ministère de l'action coopérative paysanne a été créé, qui devra oeuvrer à faire évoluer les quelque 5 000 organisations précoopératives que sont les groupements villageois en véritables coopératives.

C'est aussi dans le cadre de la résolution des problèmes organisationnels indispensables à une efficacité de l'action qu'il faut retenir la mise en place de l'Union nationale des paysans du Burkina, de l'Union nationale des jeunes du Burkina, de l'Union nationale des femmes du Burkina et de l'Union nationale des anciens du Burkina.

Le rôle de chaque Union dans l'amélioration de la production agricole du côté de l'UNPB sera déterminant compte tenu de leur forte composante rurale.

Nous saluons l'heureuse initiative du Directeur général de la FAO de soumettre à la présente Conférence un plan d'action pour l'intégration de la femme dans le développement.

Au Burkina Faso, la volonté politique d'intégrer la femme dans le développement s'est traduite par:

- la création de l'UFB;
- la prise en compte de la situation de la femme dans la réorganisation agraire et foncière;
- l'amélioration du statut de la femme dans le nouveau Code des personnes et de la famille;
- la prise en compte de la situation de la femme dans le projet de développement.

Pour assurer la formation technique des producteurs, le Burkina Faso s'est doté d'un système national de vulgarisation, avec l'appui de la FAO et de la Banque mondiale.

En vue de résoudre les problèmes d'approvisionnement et d'équipement des producteurs, un Centre national d'équipement agricole fabrique sur place le matériel adapté pour une mécanisation intermédiaire et un Office national d'approvisionnement et de distribution d'intrants zootechniques et vétérinaires a été créé pour les besoins spécifiques de l'élevage. Une opération spéciale visant à fabriquer et placer 30 000 charrues d'ici la fin de l'année 1990 vient de démarrer.

En dépit des efforts fournis par notre peuple et sa direction politique, ainsi qu'en témoignent les politiques et programmes que nous avons décrits, le niveau de production agricole de la campagne en cours sera inférieur à celui de la saison 1988/89, en raison de l'installation tardive des pluies et de l'attaque de sauteriaux dans la partie septentrionale de notre pays sur près d'un million d'hectares.

La lutte contre ce fléau a été menée à la fois avec des moyens aériens et par les populations préalablement formées à cet effet.

L'ampleur de l'attaque est essentiellement liée à l'absence de moyens d'intervention rapide. C'est le lieu pour nous d'attirer l'attention de nos partenaires dans la lutte antiacridienne sur la nécessité de nous maintenir et renforcer leur assistance dans la lutte contre ce fléau devenu finalement endémique.

Dans son plan quinquennal de développement 1986-1990, le Burkina Faso consacre plus de 20% des investissements au secteur agricole.

Cet effort a permis de maintenir un taux de croissance annuel de 5,4% durant les quatre dernières années.

Malheureusement, la persistance d'un environnement économique mondial dépressif, la dégradation des cours des matières premières et le poids de la dette extérieure annihilent ce résultat.

C'est dire combien la Coopération internationale bilatérale et multilatérale est indispensable pour venir à bout des obstacles à l'accroissement de la production agricole et à l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire mondiale; le rôle de la FAO dans ces domaines est incontesté et encore irremplaçable et il me plaît ici d'exprimer toute la satisfaction et la gratitude de mon gouvernement pour l'assistance fournie par la FAO à la mise en oeuvre de nos programmes et projets.

L'amélioration de l'efficacité de notre Organisation ainsi que le renforcement de ses capacités d'intervention dépendent des moyens que nous voulons bien mettre à sa disposition; c'est pourquoi nous restons préoccupés par les difficultés financières qu'elle rencontre présentement, suite au non-paiement des contributions et exhortons l'esprit de solidarité de tous les Etats Membres afin de renverser rapidement cette tendance et de redresser la situation. Ma délégation apporte son appui au Programme de travail et budget 1990-1991 présenté par le Secrétariat et invite ce dernier à tout mettre en oeuvre pour trouver des fonds extra-budgétaires pour augmenter les ressources du PCT, instrument précieux de crédibilité et de force de notre organisation aux yeux de nombreux acteurs du développement rural.

Pays carrefour dans la sous-région ouest-africaine, le Burkina Faso a une vocation naturelle pour la coopération régionale; aussi nous encourageons tous les programmes FAO, destinés à favoriser rapidement l'intégration économique régionale, et souhaitons en conséquence la dynamisation des bureaux régionaux de la FAO.

Beaucoup a été dit sur la FAO, son rôle, ses priorités, ses objectifs et stratégies; pour s'en convaincre il suffit de se reporter au volumineux dossier de l'"examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO" dont l'élaboration a duré deux ans et a coûté beaucoup d'argent. Nous relèverons simplement que chaque Etat peut trouver dans la FAO le soutien dont il a besoin et il n'est nul besoin que d'aucuns veuillent imposer certaines façons de concevoir un développement uniforme et en fixer en conséquence les priorités d'actions. Il est plutôt temps que nous nous engagions ensemble dans la bataille de terrain contre les fléaux inacceptables que constituent, à l'orée de l'an 2000, la pauvreté, la faim et la malnutrition.

**Pule LAMEKO (Samoa):** First of all I wish to extend to you, Mr Chairman, my congratulations on your unanimous election to chair this important Conference.

I am privileged and honoured to have this opportunity to address this FAO Conference. My being here reconfirms our common faith in the brotherhood of FAO members, irrespective of size and economic strength.

Samoa attaches great importance to the work of FAO. Our association with FAO goes back some 26 years. My country wishes to record its appreciation for FAO's role in helping developing member countries.

While we can all take pride in work done well, we must at the same time reflect on what remains to be done. As time goes on more and more issues have come to the fore that require the concerted effort of all concerned in order to find a timely solution.

It is noted that high on the Agenda for discussion at this Conference is the global world food and agricultural situation. The unfavourable economic conditions worldwide with regard to fluctuating world commodity prices, lack of marketing outlets, high costs of agricultural inputs and the resultant decline in agricultural production are some of the issues which must be urgently addressed at these forums.

Samoa, similar to our neighbouring island countries in the South Pacific, is dependent on a narrow range of agricultural products having little influence on the terms of world trade. Most of our countries also have balance-of-trade difficulties due to problems of exports and increasing imports, especially in food and fuel.

Most of us are dependent on aid from foreign institutions to finance our developments in agriculture, forests and fisheries. Skills available in some areas are limited, resulting in a high dependence on expatriates for technical and managerial support. Because of these problems and our smallness we are more vulnerable and do not have the strength to rally forth and effect the needed recovery programmes without support from our friends from outside.

I reiterate my country's support of FAO programmes. We have seen over the last several years substantial progress being made in our efforts to move ahead with the development of fisheries, forestry and agricultural sectors. We give credit to FAO and also to our many friends who have willingly contributed to the development of our natural resources. In my own country food self-sufficiency is high in our development priorities. As such, we have attained self-sufficiency in our staple food with surplus being exported. Our main cash crops, namely cocoa, coconut and taro, have been affected in one way or another due to the fluctuating world prices and unfavourable weather conditions. Other crops, such as banana and passion fruit, have likewise been affected due to high costs of inputs and lack of market outlets. Being small and isolated with limited resources has rendered us more vulnerable to external economic forces which are outside our control.

Development and progress, as we wish it, can only happen in a conducive environment, an environment in which political and social stability prevails. This we have enjoyed over 27 years of our independence. However, economically much remains to be done. The road to economic stability is hard and full of hurdles, which on our own we cannot easily achieve.

My country, no doubt like many other small states, needs the help of organizations like FAO. Our being a member of FAO is valued much more than just to have our voice heard and our vote counted in the global programmes of action aimed at increasing world food production. The declaration of principles and programme of action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, provision of agricultural credit, development of forestry and fisheries resources, plus many others, have my government's full support.

On 16 October this year World Food Day was commemorated worldwide. My own government gave full support to this effort by FAO, and our National World Food Day Committee had many activities organized to commemorate this day.

Before I conclude I would like to bring forward some proposals for consideration by this Conference:

First of all, there is a Plant Protection Commission based in Thailand for the Asia and Pacific Region. Despite our willingness to attend regular meetings of the Commission, financial constraints prohibit us from participating, and I am sure my other South Pacific colleagues would agree with me on this. It is therefore suggested that a South Pacific Protection Commission be set up in the South Pacific, where it would be more accessible to all South Pacific countries, and would address the needs of these countries applicable to their own unique situation.

Secondly, there is a Regional Conference at ministerial level held every two years for the Asia and Pacific Region. Again, participation by South Pacific island countries is irregular due to financial constraints. Besides, the problems of Asia and Pacific are not quite the same.

I, therefore, strongly recommend for consideration by this Conference the setting up of a separate South Pacific Regional Office or at least a much more strengthened Apia, Samoa Office with substantial resources to address problems unique to the South Pacific Region. It would be so much better to have technical expertise on fisheries, forestry, agronomy and plant protection on hand to deal with problems than having to look for help outside every time a problem arises.

Thirdly, in view of the increased membership of the South Pacific countries over the last few years, it is suggested that the number of seats for the South Pacific Region be increased from one to two in the FAO Council. In suggesting this, Mr Chairman, I am well aware of the importance and the progress being made in the field of agriculture in both Australia and New Zealand and I therefore suggest, that one seat be set aside for them while the other rotates among the rest of the South Pacific region in the FAO Council.

Fourthly, participation at FAO Biennial Conference is very prohibitive, particularly for us - countries from the opposite side of the globe. To come to Rome is to sacrifice on other priorities. It is therefore suggested that FAO build up some sort of fund for travel support to countries who cannot afford the cost of participation.

Fifthly, we ask that FAO give some more support to the use of national expertise, wherever possible within the Pacific Region, as the opportunity for improved manpower development can only be enhanced by practical participation in the decision-making process.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to bring to the attention of this Conference the issue that now confronts the coconut industry. The issue is the anti-campaign against the use of coconut oil in the formulation of food items. Some people claim that coconut oil is not suitable for human consumption because it poses a health hazard. Such accusations are unfounded and not true since we have been living on coconuts all our lives and we feel much healthier than ever before.

Coconut being a tree of life for many millions of small Samoan holder farmers in providing them with food as well as cash incomes, would no longer be a tree of life, but a tree of poverty and destruction if this anti-campaign is allowed to go ahead unchallenged. I therefore suggest that FAO be asked to carry out a study to see whether, in fact, coconut oil poses health hazards as some people have argued it to be.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate my Government's support to FAO Programmes especially the Director-General's proposal on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-1991.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Minister. I thank the Minister of Fiji who has asked for his speech to be incorporated in the record and also refers to the coconut problem.

**Csaba HUTTER (Hungary) (original language Hungarian):** On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Hungary, I offer greetings to you at this important world forum and offer my congratulations to the recently elected officers of the FAO Conference.

In the two years since the last Conference, there have been major changes in the world which have not left my country untouched. The structural and institutional changes in the world economy have become accelerated and seem to be lasting. Hungary, too, has recognized this new type of challenge and has reacted by taking decisive steps and continues to take decisive steps to accelerate the socio-economic reform process and to achieve the transfer to a market economy. As a result of the more advantageous environment in world politics and because of our internal efforts at reform, the political and economic outlook of Hungary has been changed basically, and in connection with this, our agricultural policy is also changing.

Without wishing to take up too much of your time or vertax your patience, I would like to draw your attention to some of our changes in agricultural policy which are worthy of mention in this forum. The Hungarian Government has been working for the past year-and-a-half on the mid-term strategy of development of the agricultural economy which is a basic element of our agricultural policy. The most important goal is to achieve economic and competitive production which takes account of local situations and at the same time serves the needs of a balanced domestic supply, export expansion, and a village development in line with the FAO terminology. Within the framework of our economic reform we are also looking at the transformation of agricultural ownership systems and the organizational and institutional structures for the development of ownership systems. We assume that we would like to maintain the multisectoral approach. We feel, however, that the role of large holdings will be decisive but not exclusive. Farmers will be able to choose the forms of production ownership and organization and the size of holdings which best meet their needs. No form of ownership will have priority over any other kind of ownership. This will be guaranteed by State regulations. The reform of large ownership and land use is also something that we are looking at. Our goal is to ensure that citizens and commercial or producing organizations have the same chance, the same opportunities for use of land. The only principle that we want to maintain is the principle of economic management of the land. The October meeting of the Hungarian Parliament has already dealt with this matter, and in that session I promised that we would present a bill on this topic to the January meeting of Parliament.

We have also studied with interest the FAO document on the long-term strategy for agricultural and food supply in connection with our efforts at agricultural reform. Without wishing to anticipate discussion under the relevant agenda item, might I say that this document does provide us with

useful information. It is also noteworthy that in the developed countries there is now the beginning of a reassessment of the concept of agricultural policy and the effort toward liberalization toward trade has received a new impetus in an international organization which deals in matters of world trade. Hungary, as a Member of the Cairnes Group, is participating actively in the dismantling of artificial barriers to trade and agricultural products, and this includes the removal of state subsidies which make trade more difficult. In a supplement to the document, might I stress the fact that FAO should work together with GATT in negotiations under the Uruguay Round as an expert adviser in a phase where the topic of trade and agricultural policy will play a very important role. Our country is very interested in ensuring that world trade in agricultural products becomes more liberalized and that there is less protectionism on the part of some countries. We feel that it is important to have free payment for comparative advantage at the world level as a means to promote welfare and well-being. We feel, moreover, that in furtherance of this goal we should move toward a greater balance in our foreign economic strategy. In practice, this means that in addition to our steps toward reform, we would also like to have greater links with the European Community and the EFTA countries, and we would like to adapt ourselves to extra-European markets. Like many countries, we would also like to pay greater attention to the events which will follow the single European market of 1993. We feel that it will be a great challenge to adapt to this new market, particularly for those of us in the agricultural sector. We are very optimistic, however, that the readiness of the developed countries to help us in general reforms in the Hungarian economy will also be met with further offers to help us here. Our optimism seems to be justified by the statement made by the delegate of the EEC, but what he has said with respect to future successful cooperation offers us great hope. As a country of the European region, we see more and more that FAO is paying ever greater attention to the matters which we raise as matters of interest. We note that the Organization uses its means basically to support the agriculture of less developed countries, but we feel it is also important that European and FAO cooperation should have a place in the work of the Organization which corresponds to its importance and size.

We therefore place great value on the activities which are coordinated by the European Office of FAO, the cooperation of research institutes, and the study of village development which takes into account the special aspects of our region. We are particularly happy to see that the topic of European agriculture and agricultural policy was dealt with only very recently in NIEBOROW in Poland. Our experts await with great expectation the continuation of the work that has been commenced, and we would like to continue to participate in this work with our own best experts.

The Republic of Hungary attaches great value to the coordination of scientific activities within the framework of FAO. In view of this, in October of this year we organized a meeting of experts, in coordination with plant genetic resources in Hungary. Might I say here that we would also be prepared to host such FAO meetings in the future?

I am betraying no secrets when I tell you that at present we are carrying out negotiations regarding the organization of similar meetings in the field of remote detection. This will be of interest, not only to our neighbouring countries in the European region, but also to the developing countries in neighbouring parts of the world.

The cooperation of FAO within Europe can also be of direct or indirect use to developing countries. As an example of this, may I mention that under the overall responsibility of FAO and with the financial cooperation of the Agfund and my country, we held a very successful series of courses on inland fisheries in developing countries in Asia and Africa.

The activities of FAO are of interest to my own Government, and are also looked upon in a very friendly manner by the Hungarian population. We welcome the very effective activity which FAO carries out under its priorities and also the efforts which have been undertaken to dismantle bureaucracy. We hope that the achievement of the goals will be accompanied by financial stabilization.

**Bile Raffle GULED (Somalia) (original language Arabic):** In the name of God, the Merciful and Compassionate: Mr Chairman, I have the honour and pleasure to extend to you and to your deputies the warmest greetings and appreciation on behalf of the Somali delegation. I would also like to congratulate you upon your election to chair this Session: I am confident that thanks to your wisdom and experience, together with your wise leadership, the results of this important world gathering will further enhance our unity and our determination to combat poverty and hunger. It will also reinforce our country's cooperation in the field of food and agriculture, and consequently cement our trust in this important organization of the UN.

Allow me to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to the Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, and his staff for their dedication and relentless efforts in the field of increasing agricultural production in developing countries in general, and in the African counties in particular.

I would also like to pay tribute to the Organization's close cooperation with Somalia which goes way back and which has seen the implementation of a large number of projects and the framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme, and also collaboration with other relevant international organizations.

A few weeks ago, on 16 October, Somalia like other countries of the world celebrated World Food Day. Since 1979 that day has become a yearly reminder of the spectre of hunger and malnutrition all over the world. It is also an opportunity for highlighting the issue in order to urge nations, governments, and international organizations to continue their efforts for the provision of adequate food supplies and the attainment of a decent life for all. Like other countries, in observing World Food Day Somalia highlighted the need for giving due attention to food and the environment, giving clear manifestations of strong pressures suffered by our planet's lands, waters and air due to the activities of man. The Day was also an opportunity to display support to small farmers and goods' producers in general through the organization of an annual farmers conference, confirming their effective role in the service of society, and also assisting them to improve various methods of production with a view to attaining a huge increase in the rate of food production. Observing World Food Day in Somalia has become an integral part of the country's persistent efforts in sensitizing all strata of the population to the importance of food and agriculture. It also offers an opportunity to review the country's policies and strategies for development in this vital sector. This celebration is also an opportunity to renew the commitment by Somalia to the programme adopted by WCAARD, and to the food security compact adopted by FAO.



The development of this sector of agriculture and food production in general looms large in the economic policy of my country, given the fact that this sector is one of the most important economic sectors in Somalia, it is responsible for the provision of work opportunities for more than 80% of the population, and its exports represent about 90% of the total export earnings. The Somali Government therefore gives full attention to the achievement of an overall agricultural renaissance capable of providing basic needs for the citizens of Somalia. To this end, specific economic development plans have been formulated since the 1970s, which give absolute priority to the development and enhancement of the agricultural sector, both plant and animal production, given the fact that this sector constitutes the focal point of the driving force for other sectors such as industry and trade.

The broad national objectives contained in these successive development plans are raising the living standards of the population, providing work opportunities and creating a society based on social justice. In addition, the Government seeks, through development plans, to achieve the following: acceleration of production to raise per capita incomes, bridging the gap between rural and urban areas, incomes and social services, in order to restore balance and put an end to rural immigration; the protection of the environment, preventing the deterioration of forest and grazing lands and increasing their production so as to combat desertification and drought. In this respect the Government pays extra attention to the rationalization of these plans, and also concentrates on supporting fast-yielding projects and investment in other new projects which can lend support to other economic activities.

We in Somalia are well aware of the importance of rural and agricultural development in achieving global and comprehensive social and economic developments in our country. Nevertheless, despite intensified practical measures in food production, the achievement of Somalia in this respect, like that of many developing countries, remains short of the aspired objectives due to technical problems, scarcity of foreign investment, and the recurrence of natural catastrophes.

In order to solve this package of problems, we chose an economic policy based on encouraging national free investment and welcoming foreign capital to invest in various economic sectors, especially the agricultural sector. Moreover, we laid down a sound basis of cooperation with international and regional organizations in order to obtain necessary assistance and expertise to develop our natural agricultural wealth, and laid down sectoral strategies in the fields of fisheries, scientific research, animal husbandry, forest protection, grazing land, etc.

The developing world today is going through a continued economic crisis. Those countries, especially the least-developed, are expected to go on facing an ever-increasing number of economic difficulties for many years to come. Frozen agricultural production, coupled with an accelerated population growth for most of the developing countries, the need to improve the nutritional intake of millions of malnourished people, and accumulated heavy debt, add more stumbling blocks to efforts deployed toward economic growth. Such efforts are directed toward a host of emergency situations, which leave them no opportunity to concentrate on building their economies or to steer their countries away from economic crisis.

I should like to refer to a very important matter, namely that we would like donor countries to be more flexible in their assistance to developing countries and to make their assistance free of political colour or conditions. We all know that such assistance is targeted mainly toward the poorer rural populations of developing countries which are in dire need of such assistance.

I should like to present my country's comments on several items on the Agenda of this Twenty-fifth Session of our Organization. My delegation fully supports the Programme and Finance Committees' report, with regard to reviewing some aspects relating to the Organization's objectives, aimed at reinforcing the Organization's capacities to continue shouldering the responsibilities placed on it. Such responsibilities include the protection of forests, animal husbandry, fisheries etc. and the continued shouldering of the important challenge of helping the populations of developing countries who suffer from malnutrition. It is important for the world to have such a strong Food and Agriculture Organization and countries must pay enough to this Organization in order that it can implement its role properly.

A bright light on the horizon is that the Organization will be able to participate in setting up a new economic order by supporting activities related to the economic cooperation of developing countries. We also welcome remarks to the effect that the Organization should give positive support to developing countries in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and to try to put an end to protectionist measures taken against such countries.

As far as concerns the environment, I should like to say that the environmental problem is deteriorating and is becoming very serious thus damaging both developed and developing countries. Such a situation leaves one choice, namely that we should all plan and cooperate properly in order to put an end to such damage and restore the world's balance. It is very important that the Organization play an active and important role in this respect by cooperating with all countries and organizations.

My country will participate in any international effort for the protection of the environment and to prevent the pollution of our planet. With regard to the Work and Budget Programme for 1990-91, I add my voice to those who have spoken before and express our satisfaction for the immense efforts deployed by the Organization, headed by Dr Saouma, with regard to preparing the Programme of Work and Budget for the period 1990-91. This shows that the Organization is facing a difficult financial situation at this time, as there are a large amount of arrears or unpaid contributions. However, we hope that our Organization will be able to steer itself out of this financial crisis and be able to implement its programme for the next two years. We should like to encourage the Organization to implement the priorities set, and the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees with regard to the ways of implementing the Programme of Work and Budget.

On behalf of my delegation I should like to give our full support for the Programme of Work and Budget.

With regard to the Plan for Integration of Women in Rural and Agricultural Development, my country has played a very important role from the beginning of the 1970s in reviving the role of women and highlighting its importance with regard to all development activities in our society. Therefore, we

fully support all the efforts targeted at giving high priority to supporting rural development programmes based on reviving the role of women, knowing that this is targeted in particular to alleviate poverty in rural areas of developing countries.

It is also considered a method by which the Organization is accelerating the implementation of the World Conference on Rural Development and Agricultural Reforms.

In conclusion, I support strongly the return of the Near East Regional Office to Cairo where it used to be. We have heard confirmation by the delegate of the Republic of Egypt when she said very clearly that her country had prepared all the facilities necessary to rehouse the regional office once again in Cairo and this has made us very hopeful.

Before concluding, I should like to extend our thanks and appreciation for the World Food Programme, the World Food Council and IFAD for all the technical and financial assistance that has been presented to Somalia. This has certainly helped the farmers and rural population in my country. I should also like to extend my thanks to your Excellencies and the Director-General for giving me this opportunity to speak and I thank the Distinguished Delegates for their attention.

**Steve G. OBIMPEH (Ghana):** On behalf of the Ghana delegation, I would like to extend my congratulations to you on your election as Chairman of this important Conference.

I also wish to join my colleagues in congratulating the entire FAO Secretariat for the excellent arrangements made for this conference, and the Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, for his demonstrated resilience as the head of the FAO and for initiating and pushing through cost-effective programmes to the benefit of the entire developing world.

Two years ago Conference confronted the crisis engulfing FAO by deciding to establish a Committee to review certain aspects of the work of the Organization. This Review Committee had assiduously tackled the assignment and it is particularly heartening to my delegation that after nearly 24 months of hard work and an expenditure of some two million dollars, the Committee, representing all regions and all shades of opinion within the FAO, had been able to reach a consensus on what was needed to be done to enhance the all-round performance of our Organization.

In our view the Review Committee's recommendations are generally sound and, if implemented, would make FAO a more effective instrument for attaining the objectives for which it was founded.

We congratulate the Review Committee, and we are happy at the positive response of the Director-General to the recommendations, and now appeal that the resources should be made available for their implementation. The time has come to move ahead!

Speaking of the availability of resources, let me note that FAO is still bedevilled by the arrears in contributions by some Member States and by the refusal of some of the most endowed to meet their obligations in this regard. We hope that the recommendations of the Review Committee would lead them to a positive course.

This Conference is taking place against the backdrop of a deteriorating world economic environment which, despite the rhetoric in some quarters here and elsewhere, and the seemingly genuine concern of the international community to reverse the tide, has not yet made a significant forward thrust for improvement since we met here two years ago. Some progress has, however, been made in certain key areas such as donor assistance to structural reform programmes, but the task ahead is far more stupendous than that accomplished so far.

For the purpose of re-focusing attention on the plight of developing countries in general, and Africa in particular, my delegation wishes to emphasize the fact that the four interrelated issues of debt, commodity prices, resource flows and environmental degradation are still the most pressing problems facing the developing world which depends mainly on agriculture for survival.

There is the pressing need, both on the individual state and at multilateral levels, to tackle these problems in a systematic and sustained manner. Therefore, although the developing countries must exercise initiative in reassessing their own situation and policy options with a view to taking appropriate measures for purposeful national development, organizations such as the FAO and other UN agencies have an important supporting role in this regard.

The issue of the growing debt burden of African countries is indeed central to the solution of the problems of resource flows, of poverty alleviation and of environmental degradation.

During the past biennium, there has been a steady decline in concessional finance, particularly from bilateral and private sources. Even more disturbing is the fact that Africa has become a net exporter of financial resources to the International Financial Institutions. It is pertinent to note here that though more relief is anticipated from the World Bank Programme of Assistance, the IMF Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility, and the tripling of the authorized capital of the African Development Bank, these measures are inadequate to provide a solution to the problem.

In the context of Agriculture, a lasting solution could be sought through effective coordination between the UN Secretary-General's Expert Group on African Commodity Problems, UNCTAD, and such international financing institutions as the World Bank, IMF, ADB and IFAD. Such coordination is urgently needed to address, not only the basic problem of commodity prices, but also debts and resource flows - their adequacy, timeliness and the disbursement procedures used.

Let me here register again, in this forum, Ghana's gratitude to all those countries who have in recent times decided to cancel our debts, to convert them into grants, and to those who continue to offer significant grants in support of our recovery efforts. It is particularly noteworthy that some of these countries are now providing us with essential inputs such as fertilizers, implements, etc. as aid-in-kind. Ghana is also appreciative of similar gestures directed at other sister countries.

In the current situation in Ghana improved agricultural output has become an economic imperative with donor-assisted projects such as Global 2000 Sasakawa, Ghana/CIDA Grains Project, the USAID-supported Agricultural Productivity Promotion Programme (APPP), KFW, ADB and the World Bank financed Agricultural Services Rehabilitation Project contributing

significantly. Paradoxically, the need to obtain more from the land and the forest has led to rapid degradation of both. The high demand for wood products (domestically and abroad), and the national dependence on firewood are depleting the nation's forest resources at an alarming rate and serious efforts to balance harvesting and planting are yet to make significant impact.

It is this that underlines Ghana's strong support of the call by the World Commission on Environment and Development for the integration of environmental policies and developmental strategies by which sustainable development and sustainable environment will become the integrated focus for directing our development policies.

Many of the opinions expressed in this forum and elsewhere argue that agricultural production in sub-Saharan Africa has been greatly constrained by external environmental factors and by poor incentive systems and that the answer to these problems lies in developing appropriate technologies and providing farmers with incentives to adopt them. However, what is technologically effective and how policy incentives are interpreted by producers depends on how much production and marketing are vertically coordinated.

It is the view of my delegation, therefore, that donor assistance in improving storage and marketing, including their various dimensions, and financing, is as important as providing assistance for increased production.

It is therefore urgent that the FAO and donor organizations re-direct their efforts in emphasizing post-harvest technological transfer with encouragement given to the private and public sectors to develop facilities for storing, processing, transportation, preservation and distribution.

I wish to reiterate my country's support for the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme, much as I did in this very forum two years ago; and I must stress, at the onset, the need to augment the resource level in the Regular Budget appreciably for this purpose. Needless to say, sub-Saharan Africa requires development assistance at high levels but often the time consumed and the high cost involved in mounting programming, identification, preparation, pre-appraisal and appraisal missions seriously erode the short-and long-term benefits from these projects.

We however suggest that attempts be made to minimize the administrative costs of servicing the technical assistance personnel by using our local experts. There is nothing so sad as seeing some of our own very competent experts confined and frustrated by our limited resources, when foreign experts who sometimes, if I may be very frank, know no more and often even less than our own personnel, are provided with every facility, even to the point of luxury. If additional training in FAO methodology and systems are wanting in our personnel then I would urge FAO to provide for this, since the issue is becoming a public one in Ghana as in other developing countries.

The economies of most sub-Saharan African countries depend heavily upon tree crop production as important foreign exchange earners. My delegation therefore endorses the Secretariat's observation that these perennial crops have a short- and long-term scale for supply adjustment programmes and urges

a prompt resolution of the difficulties facing the International Agreements for cocoa and coffee, or else the euphoria that accompanied structural adjustments will soon give way to a sense of disillusionment for African countries adopting them.

The FAO can play a significant role by reactivating the FAO Inter-Governmental Group on Cocoa to be able appropriately and in a timely manner, to provide guidance toward the resolution of the problems constraining the reaching of an equitable cocoa agreement.

A most significant call was made recently by United States Secretary for Agriculture, Clayton K. Yeutter, at the World Food Day ceremonies in New York. In noting that the agricultural policies of the United States, the European Economic Community and Japan are costing the developing world US\$26 billion a year in lost income, he stated, and I quote: "Now, I ask you all, the developed countries of the world, which would be better? To help the developing countries with US\$26 billion in aid or to help the developing countries with US\$26 billion in trade corrections".

As Ghana and other sister African countries attempt to diversify their exports and adopt market-oriented development and trading practices, the developed countries should carry out corresponding market-oriented trading adjustments which will remove distortions through progressive and substantial reductions in agricultural support and protection, and thereby strengthen GATT Rules and discipline which prescribe the reduction of agricultural trade barriers in a multilateral context.

Ghana is aware and most concerned that since most of the economies of the developing world are rural based, the adjustment process may have serious consequences on the poor, especially women and rural youth. We thus expect the FAO to initiate action to stimulate discussion on the social cost of adjustment and to undertake further research on the design and implementation of policies at both national and international levels that would address this problem. My delegation, therefore, expresses its support to the Report of the 57th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems which articulated these concerns, and believes that FAO's input in this direction would be most timely and appropriate.

My delegation has taken note of the Director-General's increased allocation of resources to the programme of integrating women into agricultural and rural development and wholeheartedly supports it; for indeed, it complements our attempts in Ghana to integrate women into the economic, social and decision-making spheres through continuing governmental support of the activities of the Ghana National Council for Women and Development and of the 31st December Women's Movement, a voluntary organization committed to the complete integration of the Ghanaian woman into all spheres of life, social, political and economic.

Ghana has made notable progress in food production and distribution under its economic recovery programme, achieving a growth rate of 6% per annum during the last biennium. In order to maintain the momentum generated within the agricultural sector in a systematic, efficient and cost-effective manner, the Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with the World Bank, has initiated the preparation of a rolling 5-10 years Medium-Term Agricultural Development Plan, among other things, to define medium-term agricultural development priorities, identify key policy and institutional reforms and to prepare a medium-term expenditure programme.

It is our hope that the MTADP will provide the long-awaited framework for coordinating donor assistance within the agricultural sector in Ghana and give the domestic resource mobilization for agriculture the needed support. Meanwhile, progressive privatization of agricultural inputs and State-owned enterprises is taking place and economic subsidies on fertilizer will be completely eliminated by the year 1991.

Finally, after many years of mismanagement and unsound economic policies resulting in an annual decline of 1.7% in per capita gross domestic product between 1965-1983, the Government has taken up the challenge to pursue far-reaching reforms designed to renew private sector initiatives. Since 1983, we have recorded impressive and consistent gains in production, and I believe we have shown our ability to make effective use of any assistance.

It is the intention of the Government that all sectors of the economy participate effectively in the recovery programme and that the benefits of adjustment be equitably distributed. The task ahead is a difficult one and Ghana still needs assistance in order to break the barrier to sustainable food self-sufficiency.

The political instability which was the hallmark of our national economic decline over the years has been checked. Our people have again taken their destiny into their hands, and with faith, determination and hope are embarked on fundamental reforms aimed at establishing a democratic and relevant political system, and a just social order backed by a sound economic system capable of ensuring prosperity. It is a long road to our destination, but we know we shall overcome. We trust that FAO and all nations of goodwill will march with us in support to the last post.

**Idriss JAZAIRY (President, IFAD):** Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Distinguished Delegates. I congratulate you most warmly, Excellency, on your election as Chairman of the Conference.

The Conference will have noted with some satisfaction the fact that cereal production in developing countries has shown significant growth, of about 4.7 percent, between 1986/87 and 1988/89. Yet, over the same period, their cereal imports have risen at nearly twice that rate, placing a growing burden on their balance of payments. This is a cause for concern especially in the light of the continued steep decline in global cereal stocks and higher world price levels.

In fact, for the countries most in need - the low-income, food-deficit countries - the food situation is now more difficult than ever. Their imports of cereals have continued to rise for the fourth straight year, while their volume of food aid has dropped sharply. This is in the context when external aid to agriculture has stagnated. As a result of the negotiations under the Uruguay Round, agricultural subsidies in the industrialized countries which have an enormous cost may be reduced. Let us hope that part of the resources so released can be directed to redressing the problems of agricultural development of developing countries, especially food-deficit countries. Otherwise, the main impact of the elimination of subsidies may just lead to an increase in their imports bill which has already doubled in recent years.

Trade and food aid have an important role in food security, but the real solution lies in mobilizing the productive potential of the smallholders in increasing food production.

This perception has been IFAD's guiding principle for 12 years. I am pleased to report that in 1989 the Fund will commit about US\$275 million in 24 projects specifically designed to alleviate poverty and increase the food production of the smallholder sector. This brings IFAD's total 12-year commitment to almost US\$3 billion for 267 projects in 92 developing countries.

IFAD's capacity to pursue its objectives depends, of course, on the assurance of an appropriate volume of core resources. In that context I am pleased to be able to inform the Conference about the successful completion of the Third Replenishment of IFAD's Resources at a level of about US\$566 million.

This success was built on the strong support IFAD received from all three categories of Member States. In spite of adverse circumstances, most of the traditional developing country contributors from Category II maintained the same levels of contributions as in 1986. Furthermore, an overwhelming majority of other developing countries from Category III made significant contributions in convertible currency in a spirit of solidarity. The industrialized countries for their part demonstrated a positive attitude by accepting to match the latter contributions on the basis of a high multiplier.

With these resources we intend to build and expand on the new strategies initiatives we have been undertaking in recent years. One of these is on the backdrop of adjustment efforts of our recipient countries, to shield the rural poor from the possible harsh consequences of these measures. But we do not put emphasis so much on demand-side or welfare consideration associated with the Human Face argument. Rather we put emphasis on supply-side measures enhancing the productivity of the rural poor and their ability to respond to reforms and favourable market signals.

For the landless and near landless, the Fund has been giving increased attention to the development of agro-based micro-enterprises and other income-generating activities. Through such employment opportunities they will gain access to food and other necessities. If IFAD's Special Programme for African Countries Affected by Drought and Desertification were to be extended with further voluntary contributions of donor countries, then additional resources could be devoted to promoting micro-enterprises. This would be in the same spirit in which particular focus was given to small-scale irrigation and the rehabilitation of agricultural production capacity under what would then have been the first phase of the Special Programme.

Poor smallholders are also very much on the frontline in the-world's defence against environmental degradation. Rural poverty and environmental deterioration are caught in a vicious cycle. Subsistence farmers, struggling for survival in marginal areas, concentrate on their immediate food needs through practices that sometimes further degrade the environment. In turn this accentuates their poverty in a mutually reinforcing and cumulative process.



I recognize that environmental considerations should be a part of the core of any good poverty alleviation project. But there are some aspects of environmental investment whose benefits cannot be readily incorporated in conventional cost benefit analysis. These relate to the difficulties of measurement and quantification of such benefits and the presence of important externalities, whether from the project area to the region, or the region to the country as a whole.

Furthermore, smallholders may need special incentives and subsidies to make it attractive for them to spare their labour or resources for environmental investment. At the same time, governments of developing countries, face severe budgetary and debt problems. They are understandably reluctant to undertake long-term environmental investments or provide the necessary subsidies using funds borrowed on the normal terms and conditions of international financial institutions.

We must act in time to help them.

To deal with the global environmental challenge the World Bank has set up a Special Facility. If the mutually reinforcing relationship between poverty and environmental degradation is recognized then increased support to those environmental investments having high externalities need ad hoc financing measures.

What is required is a possible new source of additional voluntary financing on particularly favourable or grant terms to permit institutions like IFAD to expand its efforts to combat poverty through environmental enhancement. Such resources will enable IFAD to make available its growing experience in breaking the poverty-environment cycle to more and more developing countries.

Mr Chairman, before I conclude, may I stress IFAD's appreciation for the continued close collaboration among all the food agencies here in Rome and especially with FAO.

The FAO Investment Centre has continued to be a mainstay for IFAD's project identification, monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the Fund has actively participated in the deliberations of a number of FAO committees and working groups. The Fund also wishes to support FAO in the matter of control of desert locusts and screwworms which pose a serious risk to IFAD's target groups.

The suggestion has been made by the distinguished Director-General of FAO to give a more formal institutional basis for cooperation among the Rome agencies. I welcome this Inter-Secretariat suggestion at the Heads of Agency level as a means of establishing closer cooperation between the food agencies in Rome. While this is a useful administrative measure, we need to project our joint determination to work hand in hand, to the outside world. This leads me to endorse the view that such an initiative should be complemented by two other outward-looking measures. One would be to establish a tradition whereby the Head of each Agency will address the annual or biennial meeting of the principal Governing Bodies of other agencies on the Opening Day. The second would be for our institutions to sponsor jointly, at FAO, the celebration of the World Food Day.

In ending let me renew my invitation to the distinguished Director-General of FAO to honour us by addressing IFAD's Thirteenth Governing Council Session next January.<sup>1</sup>

**Viliame GONELEVU (Fiji):** Mr Chairman, Director-General, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. On behalf of my delegation, I would like to congratulate you Mr Chairman for your recent election and I cannot amply express how proud we are to have a representative from our region presiding at this august Assembly. I am indeed greatly honoured to be here and be given this opportunity to address this Conference and share with many of my colleagues the many common problems that we face in the effort to provide our people a reasonable standard of living.

I would like very briefly to outline to you some special features of the problems and issues many of the island states like ours experience and will continue to face for sometime. This is not to say that these features are not present in landlocked countries but merely to indicate that some problems are definitely unique to us.

To list them:

- (i) Our small sizes and the scattered location of our many islands in the Group.
- (ii) We are surrounded by a vast expanse of ocean which makes any travel amongst these islands doubly hard.
- (iii) Small scattered population burdens government servicing these islands which creates additional costs.
- (iv) Per capita income in bulk is rural based.
- (v) Fluctuation of world commodity prices continues to plague our development as these two are directly related.

The list is inexhaustible but I am sure that many small island states can identify some of these as being characteristic of our surroundings.

Now let me touch on some global issues which I feel are also common to the Pacific region.

Our Pacific region whilst it is of some distance away from your Headquarters here in Rome is indeed fortunate to be served by your Regional and Country Offices in Bangkok and Apia respectively.

On some specific statistics on Fiji. We have a population of 715 400 and we occupy a total area of 1 837 800 ha or an average of 2.6 ha per head. However, only 298 300 ha of the 1 837 800 ha is agriculturally potential. With a rural population of approximately 439 000 the distribution therefore on a per head basis is 0.7 ha. In household numbers the area available to each household is 15.0 ha. Of the total active population 47 percent is engaged in agricultural related activities which include fisheries and forestry. They contribute about 24 percent of our GDP.

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<sup>1</sup> Statement inserted in verbatim record on request.

In outlining these statistics, Fiji has been reassessing its policies with regard to its activities in the rural sector of agriculture, fisheries and forestry. What I intend to do is very briefly outline the policy areas and strategies for these three sectors and relate them to how we have been able to tackle the global issues concerning Fiji within the last two years.

Over the near two decades from our Independence we have managed to build ourselves some infrastructures to facilitate production of the many commodities that we handle. There is still room for improvement particularly in the area of marketing which we regard as quite critical to many of the exportable commodities including sugar, our largest export earner for some time now.

In this regard our major policy thrust is not so much growth but the consolidation of the existing activities within projects and programmes we have. We had suddenly realized that most of our resources have been spread very thinly over a large number of commodities without the proper monitoring and evaluation that usually accompany these. Similarly, a diversification away from our base export commodity in sugar has also been encouraged. This policy on diversification is a deliberate strategy by government to cushion the fluctuation in commodity prices and Fiji like many small developing nations unfortunately remains a price taker. Thus we see a thrust in Fiji's policy toward the promotion of other export commodities whilst continuing to provide stable supplies to our domestic demand and import-substitute commodities. However, in passing let me turn to a commodity which has been part and parcel of our development over the years. The coconut industry has provided an important means of livelihood for many of our people. My government will continue to see its promotion as it is seen in some of the islands as the only economic means of livelihood. We express concern at efforts by some parties to discredit its nutritional value as there is no basis for such an allegation.

On the question of sustainable development of natural resource management, Fiji like most island nations is much more aware of this critical area than most large countries because suitable agricultural lands are becoming scattered in location and scarcer. This is further exacerbated by the continued growth of population and the spread of urban areas onto good agricultural lands. Increasingly marginal areas are being used to the detriment of the environment. In this regard the government has decided to formulate appropriate policies to ensure proper land-use planning is enforced, otherwise very little will be left for our future generation.

Government is faced with the task of ensuring a balanced development where over-exploitation of resources without the necessary planning can result in total loss of non-renewable resources. The task is not only challenging but also critical as we attempt to rationalize the effective use of our limited resources whilst fully aware of the need to protect and conserve some of these non-renewable resources for our future generation.

Government therefore as a keeper and a caretaker of resources of the country must provide the right environment. Incentives in the form of subsidies are needed, however close control and monitoring are essential elements to safeguard over-exploitation. Recommendations by the lending institutions such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and IMF to remove subsidies totally because of their inherent inefficiencies must be carried out with caution as it can completely have a negative effect on production and productivity. Some form of subsidies are still very much needed.

The price incentive very much dictates to a large degree the equilibrium at which supply and demand of a resource meet. Most developing countries find the value of their dollar tied to their commodity prices which continue to drop, and this trend is likely to continue for some time since most of these countries are still heavily reliant on agriculture.

Fiji believes in free trade and to this end we have joined the Cairns Group whose aims are basically to promote the freeing up of protective measures which have distorted world trade and subsequently hindered the development process in developing countries. Whilst we will support the spirit in which the Uruguay Round of the Multilateral Negotiations of GATT has been set and negotiated, we are hopeful that the special needs of developing countries will be taken into account.

The developed nations must provide the environment in which free trade can foster. After all it is trade and not aid which we would like promoted. This engine of development will assist developing nations rise out of their debt burden. Thus the onus in ensuring that commodities are traded fairly at market prices rests very much on the shoulders of the developed nations. Bilateral and multilateral assistance are therefore essential supporting and complementing elements to this exercise. FAO's role to disseminate information and assist provide technical know-how in this direction will help developing nations immensely.

Another equally important issue that has direct relevance to FAO's responsibility is the involvement of women in development (WID). We in Fiji have a Ministry of Women and Culture whose primary role is to advance the causes in which women can be better represented. Women's contribution to development cannot be ignored. Thus where planning of projects and programmes are done the involvement of women in such activities has become crucial. We are mindful however that such an involvement by women does not in any way interfere with their traditional and cultural role.

Similarly, the recognition given to non-government organizations (NGOs) is crucial to good working relationships between the government and the people that are serviced through these NGOs.

The problem of malnutrition is not new, however its continued growth has left government to reorientate its approach in a more constructive manner. The Food and Nutrition Committee (FNC), the Ministry of Health and my Ministry have corroborated at ways and means of fighting this health hazard especially amongst the schools and youth through the Ministries of Education and Youth and Sport.

The issues I have just outlined are common to both the fisheries and forestry subsectors. However again I must stress that whilst some of the problems are common to many countries there are some which are only unique to the small island nations. Let me just highlight two areas in fisheries.

The question of drift-netting or gill-netting has become a regional problem of the Pacific and urgent attention to address this issue is therefore warranted from the International Community at large. Current initiatives spearheaded by the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency and the South Pacific Commission on behalf of the many small island nations of the Pacific need supporting. In this regard we are grateful to note the attention accorded this important issue by the United Nations General Assembly. A complete ban of such a non-selective fishing method is urgently required and for the future, an effective management regime ought to be put in place as

soon as practicable. We are also grateful to our neighbours New Zealand and Australia in taking further initiatives on this issue in our part of the world. We request this concern be registered in this Conference particularly if FAO is going to be involved.

Fiji welcomes the move by FAO through the Committee on Fisheries in promoting small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. We are mindful of our finite resources as we progress to the next decade and we wish that more attention be focused on the simple processing techniques to maximize value added and further as an alternative to capture fisheries, promote aquaculture where possible, in all these areas the significant role that resource assessment plays as a management tool is of paramount importance given the stage of development of our island economy.

On forestry Fiji's indigenous forests are slowly being depleted with progress of development. Recently FAO undertook a comprehensive study of the sector and whilst some of the recommendations have been implemented many are still being considered by Government and will need further analysis. We in Fiji continue to plant pines Pinus caribea not only in the marginal areas where they have been found to be good substitutes for most crops but in areas where they provided a decent cover for the easily erodible soils. To date we have progressed further and have set up processing plants from which the wood chips and other forest products are made and exported. The environmental aspect of pine development is being closely monitored to ensure minimal damage to soils and to other environmental factors such as the effects on climate from the complete removal of tree cover.

To conclude, we will continue to support the work of FAO. It has the expertise and knowledge to carry out technical assistance required by many countries however it must be given the resources to undertake this task. On the other hand, FAO must continue to strive for efficiency and be cost-effective if the financial support it needs is to be given particularly by large donors.

In concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely all the countries which have contributed greatly through aid-funds, expertise, joint ventures, partnerships and marketing opportunities in assisting develop our agricultural, fisheries and forestry resources for the betterment of our people in Fiji.

May God continue to bless all of us richly<sup>2</sup>.

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas.

<sup>2</sup>

Statement inserted in verbatim 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 89/PV/11**

Twenty-fifth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-cinquième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

25<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING  
ONZIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE  
11<sup>a</sup> SESION PLENARIA

17 November 1989

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours  
John Charles Kerin, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45  
sous la présidence de John Charles Kerin. Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 11<sup>a</sup> Sesión Plenaria a las 9.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia de John Charles Kerin. Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

**Abdel Magid ALGAOUD (Libya):** In the name of God most merciful and compassionate.

Mr Chairman, on behalf of my country's delegation I would like to congratulate you on your election to the chair of the Conference, and I would also like to congratulate my colleagues, the Vice-Chairmen, wishing you all the best in the conduct of the proceedings.

My country is following very closely with great interest the important and effective work being done by FAO to help solve international problems that have to be dealt with in connection with agricultural and economic development. We value very highly the efforts FAO is making, especially in connection with food security. In spite of expected improvements in international production of food, still we have not reached a level which the international community thinks or knows is needed and is essential. This is why we need to make further efforts to increase agricultural production globally and to provide more food through improved technology, reduction of post-harvest losses and adoption of development policies which may ensure the continued growth in the production of food.

We share the views that have been expressed already regarding world food security in developing countries and the efforts that need to be made to improve the situation, especially since those countries are having to use more and more hard-earned foreign currency for food imports. These countries find themselves in a position where they have not been able to carry out adequate development programmes to absorb enough technology transfer and to be able to go into intensive production of the food they need at reasonable prices.

My country would also stress the importance and fundamental role of FAO in trying to reduce as much as possible the impact of structural adjustment policies and in helping to avoid any political destabilization in countries because of the inadequacies of these programmes in the light of social and economic conditions prevailing in those countries.

We urge that FAO should cooperate to the utmost with the international funding and financial agencies in order to facilitate technical and technological assistance to neutralize the negative impact of such structural adjustment programmes on the economies of the developing countries carrying them out and to multiply the possible effects, because most of the economies of these countries are based on agriculture. The agricultural sector is the basis of their economies.

My country is devoting great attention to food security and food production, especially through development plans which we have begun over the last 20 years. The vast numbers of investments that have gone into the agricultural sector in our country amount to something like US\$ 14 billion, which is 17 percent of all investments in economic and social development in the country. This sector has absorbed most of the direct and indirect investment in order to achieve three main fundamental goals: firstly, to ensure that both plant and animal production reach maximum levels; secondly, proper utilization of natural resources while conserving forests and the natural environment by establishing the necessary criteria to avoid damaging the environment; thirdly, the establishment of large-scale farms made available to farmers for them to run so as to involve as many people as possible in production decision-making at the grassroots level.

At the present time we have undertaken a gigantic project for the creation of a large artificial river. As you know, my country has no natural rivers or bodies of water. Because the geographical distribution of our population is concentrated along the coast, we have had to pump tremendous amounts of fresh water that had been lying in the sub-soil of our desert for over 40 thousand years. We have done this at the rate of 5.3 million cubic metres of water daily, which is distributed through a network covering 1 900 kilometres. The first stage of this project was completed when we were celebrating the 20th anniversary of our revolution. We now expect to be able to pump 2 million cubic metres of water daily. We have now been working on the second stage, which will make it possible to pump 2.3 million cubic metres per day within the next two or two and a half months. The combination of these two stages will establish the total system, which will pump a total mass of water from the desert to where it is needed amounting, as I have said before, to 5.3 million cubic metres per day. We have completed all of the necessary financial investment and all preparations have been made with the cooperation of all of our citizens, and it is hoped that this project will be completed on schedule.

However, in spite of all these considerable efforts, my country still has to cope with obstacles limiting our proper use of land that is suitable for agriculture, such as the sequel of colonialism, which occupied our country for 40 years. There are mines, for instance, remaining from the Second World War, and this makes areas of the country dangerous for people to move around, the precise areas that would be very suitable for agriculture. However, we do not have the maps and the necessary information from those who placed those mines in the first instance, so it is very difficult to remove them, and it is a very slow and dangerous job. Therefore, we would like to have the necessary support and assistance to find a solution to this very serious problem that is hampering our efforts to ensure the best possible development of our agriculture and to ensure food security. This is a problem that other countries also have to face.

The efforts we are making to rebuild our economy, especially in the agricultural sector, mean that in spite of tremendous efforts we are making it is still not enough. But at the same time we have not forgotten our commitments and our duties in the international community, that is to say, our proper participation in international and regional institutions and organizations, and our cooperation by means of bilateral programmes with many friendly countries.



I should now like to refer very briefly to some of the main issues before our Conference. In addition, my country will be making its views known in detail when these items are discussed in the meetings of the appropriate Commissions,

Two years ago we took a decision on the review of some of FAO's goals and activities. There is a large report prepared by a group of outside experts, and agreed upon by the Programme and Finance Committees meeting separately and together. This has simply shown that there is no doubt that this Organization has excellent capacity, and the experts and committees have confirmed that we are fully justified in placing our trust in the Organization. Now is the time to strengthen our support for FAO's activities in order to give the Organization the opportunity to play its proper role in the international community for the benefit of developing countries.

The Organization has been dealing with some very serious challenges in recent years due to the cash flow crisis primarily brought about through the lack of contributions, arrears in contributions, which has caused cutbacks in the technical assistance which the Organization can provide for developing countries. Of course, this has hampered its ability to respond quickly to the needs of countries, needs that are very often urgent. The Organization does get urgent requests for help, and it has been more difficult to give that help because of this situation. Nevertheless, the Director-General has made considerable efforts to meet the challenge without having recourse to the power to borrow from outside sources as vested in him by the last Session of the Conference.

We think that the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium is an adequate reflection of the needs and aspirations of the vast majority of Member Nations, and we note that there has already been quite a reduction to the minimum necessary. Therefore, we hope that this can be accepted by consensus so that the countries can be helped.

In addition, we would like to stress the important role being played by FAO in the area of desert locust control, particularly in Africa. FAO's action in this respect has been very effective in recent months and years in helping countries to cope with the most recent outbreaks, which have been very damaging to agriculture in Africa. We stress that this role must be strengthened and continued.

I should also like to mention another important pest that Africa has to deal with, and I refer to the screw worm fly that threatens animals and even human life in many African countries. We would like to call on all international organizations and the international community, as well as the International Fund for Agricultural Development, to cooperate with FAO to help in solving this problem.

I would like to thank FAO for responding in a very timely fashion and adequate manner to our request for help in this specific connection. We must also thank these experts who have worked in my country hand in hand with our own people to deal with this emergency. We have found that they are highly dedicated and extremely qualified people.

My country is also very concerned at the cutback in funding for the Technical Cooperation Programme because this is a programme essentially tailored to help developing countries, and we feel that this not good. We also feel that the research programme should be strengthened in relation to agricultural development in general and in sustainable development in

particular in developing countries. Therefore, we feel that whatever is done in any country helps all other countries too, but obviously we need everyone to pull together and to help one another. Here FAO can play a very important role.

With specific regard to my own region, that is to say, North Africa and the Near East, I would note that there has been considerable deterioration in soil conditions throughout the area, the 17 percent of the land in particular that is suitable for agriculture. There is also a lot of marginal land that we must bring under cultivation adequately. There again the help of FAO experts will be vital to ensure that marginal lands can be made to bear fruit in order that we may have food not only for today but for future generations.

My country is very concerned at the pollution in the Mediterranean Sea. The Mediterranean has become a very polluted area, and there is also a lot of tension between the main military blocs. Therefore, we do hope that the Mediterranean basin can be neutralized and will again become a sea at peace, which will help all the countries around it to develop their agriculture and exercise trade in an unhampered and peaceful manner.

We should like to thank FAO and the Director-General for the tremendous efforts made over the last 20 years in providing technical assistance and advice in connection with the many plans, programmes and projects which have been implemented in my country.

We are all responsible for helping in eradicating poverty and hunger from the face of the earth, so the decisions we adopt at this Conference should be adopted bearing in mind these problems and this commitment in the hope that tomorrow will be more peaceful and more prosperous than today for the whole of humankind.

**Pali Yao TCHALLA (Togo):** Je voudrais avant toute chose vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de notre Conférence et féliciter l'ensemble du Bureau pour la manière efficace avec laquelle vous dirigez les débats de cette auguste assemblée.

Je voudrais aussi adresser tous mes compliments au Directeur général de la FAO et à ses collaborateurs pour la qualité des divers documents qui nous sont soumis.

La vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence de notre Organisation se situe à une période particulièrement critique pour nos pays.

A la crise économique endémique marquée par le poids de la dette se sont ajoutés un effondrement sans précédent des cours de nos matières premières, surtout agricoles, et une diminution continue de l'aide au développement.

Les efforts de développement déployés depuis plus d'un quart de siècle par nos pays au prix de mille sacrifices se révèlent vains: les cours du café, du cacao, du coton, de l'arachide, de l'huile de palme, etc. ne couvrent plus les coûts de production. Pendant le même temps les flux financiers se sont inversés en faveur des pays industrialisés par le jeu du remboursement de la dette et du renchérissement des produits manufacturés. Ainsi, paradoxalement, ce sont les pays en développement qui déversent leurs maigres ressources dans les coffres des pays nantis.

Il est vrai que notre époque est celle des contradictions. L'intelligence humaine donne aujourd'hui des capacités immenses au monde et toutes les branches d'activités ont bénéficié des apports conjugués de la science et de la technologie. La production agricole et la production industrielle globales atteignent des niveaux impressionnants. Bref, le monde n'a jamais été aussi riche et la planète regorge de surplus agricoles (céréales, lait, beurre, viandes, fruits et légumes, etc...).

Malheureusement, un système économique injuste réserve toute cette abondance à une petite minorité alors que la grande majorité de l'humanité voit ses conditions de vie se dégrader continuellement.

Les remèdes proposés ont démontré leur inefficacité et leurs effets pervers ont tendance à accentuer la crise et donc à appauvrir davantage nos pays.

Ce bref rappel situe le contexte particulièrement difficile dans lequel les pays du tiers monde, et plus particulièrement d'Afrique, doivent assurer le développement et le bien-être de leurs populations.

Pour le Togo, mon pays, ce bien-être passe d'abord et avant tout par la réalisation de l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

L'agriculture occupe plus de 70 pour cent de la population togolaise et représente 30 pour cent du produit national brut.

On comprend dès lors l'intérêt particulier que le Gouvernement togolais accorde à ce secteur déclaré priorité des priorités. La Révolution verte lancée en mars 1977 a pour objectif d'amener les populations à produire en quantité et en qualité les biens alimentaires dont elles ont besoin; elle vise en outre la constitution de réserves pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire et la production d'excédents pour l'exportation.

A cet effet, de vigoureuses mesures ont été prises en faveur de la production agricole: campagnes de sensibilisation et de mobilisation permanentes à travers tout le pays, exonération des paysans de la taxe civique, subvention des moyens de production, notamment les engrais et les insecticides, diffusion des méthodes culturales améliorées, accroissement substantiel des financements dans le secteur agricole, augmentation des prix des produits agricoles, amélioration des conditions de vie en milieu rural grâce à la construction de pistes rurales et d'infrastructures socio-économiques et à l'hydraulique villageoise.

Les structures d'encadrement du pays ont été renforcées et de nombreux projets de développement rural intégré ont vu le jour. L'effet conjugué de ces mesures a permis d'augmenter substantiellement la production vivrière et les produits de rente, et cela malgré les aléas climatiques (sécheresse, inondations, mauvaise répartition des pluies) qui ont marqué les deux dernières décennies.

La production céréalière avec un rythme de croissance de 6 pour cent par an est passée de 265 000 tonnes en 1978 à plus de 500 000 tonnes en 1988; la production de coton-graine passait dans le même temps de 9 000 tonnes à près de 85 000 tonnes. Depuis 1984, notre pays est autosuffisant et commence à dégager quelques excédents pour les céréales et les tubercules. Une action vigoureuse est également menée pour le développement des productions animales. Dans ce domaine, l'effort porte essentiellement sur la pisciculture et l'élevage des espèces à cycle court. Plusieurs projets de

développement des petits ruminants et de l'aviculture sont en cours d'exécution et nous avons entrepris l'empoissonnement systématique des barrages et retenues d'eau et la promotion de la pisciculture villageoise dans les zones propices à cette activité.

S'agissant des produits de rente, en dehors de la culture cotonnière dont les résultats sont très encourageants, un vaste programme de rénovation de la cacaoyère et de la caféière est en cours d'exécution et on note déjà de bonnes perspectives, notamment pour le café.

Le gouvernement se préoccupe de la protection de la nature et de la lutte contre la désertification. Pour ce faire, il a institué depuis 1977 la Journée de l'arbre, qui aujourd'hui connaît un grand succès. Les forêts classées, réserves de faune et parcs nationaux, couvrent 630 000 hectares soit 11 pour cent du territoire national. La lutte contre les feux de brousse se poursuit inlassablement et un Code de l'environnement a été promulgué en 1988.

Depuis 1985, le gouvernement a mis en oeuvre une nouvelle stratégie de développement rural qui donne à l'homme, c'est-à-dire au paysan, sa vraie place dans le processus du développement. Il s'agit concrètement d'aider le paysan à assurer son autopromotion. Le paysan, qui est sujet et objet du développement, se voit responsabilisé davantage.

La Nouvelle stratégie de développement rural s'est traduite par une profonde restructuration des services de vulgarisation, une approche nouvelle dans la conception et la diffusion des thèmes techniques et la priorité accordée à l'organisation du milieu et à la formation des paysans. La mise en place de groupements organisés et bien gérés doit permettre aux paysans de prendre en charge à terme la plupart des actions menées en milieu rural.

Cette Nouvelle stratégie prône en outre l'utilisation rationnelle des ressources humaines, matérielles et financières pour éviter les gaspillages et améliorer le ratio coût-efficacité des actions de développement rural.

Une attention particulière est accordée aux jeunes agriculteurs dont l'installation fait l'objet d'un projet spécifique.

Des programmes spéciaux sont consacrés à la promotion des femmes en milieu rural. Ces programmes visent la participation réelle de la femme à la vie sociale, économique et politique du pays. Les principaux axes de développement retenus sont:

- l'exécution d'un programme de protection et de promotion de la femme,
- l'encadrement et la formation des femmes rurales
- l'intégration systématique d'un volet féminin dans les projets de développement
- l'allégement des travaux domestiques par des fourneaux améliorés, l'installation de moulins et la conservation des légumes, etc,
- l'alphabétisation au sein des groupements et l'organisation de séminaires et d'émissions éducatives à l'intention des femmes et des jeunes filles,

- l'accès des femmes aux moyens de production dans tous les secteurs d'activités, afin d'accroître leur contribution dans la production nationale,
- l'autopromotion des femmes pour une meilleure prise en charge sur le plan économique
- la formation permanente des cadres intervenant dans le domaine de l'intégration des femmes au développement.

L'agriculture togolaise franchit progressivement l'étape d'agriculture d'autosubsistance pour accroître sa part dans la formation de la richesse nationale et contribuer à l'amélioration de la balance des paiements. Il nous faudra pour l'avenir:

- consolider et pérenniser l'autosuffisance alimentaire par une augmentation sensible des productions vivrières et l'amélioration de leur qualité en vue de l'exportation des excédents
- améliorer les cultures de rente pour accroître les recettes de l'Etat,
- relever le niveau de vie des populations rurales par l'amélioration du milieu et l'augmentation des revenus des paysans,
- réduire l'exode rural en offrant aux jeunes gens et jeunes filles des conditions de vie décentes en milieu rural.

La conduite d'une politique aussi vaste et diversifiée nécessite d'importants moyens financiers et humains. A cet effet le Togo se félicite de la contribution des pays amis et des institutions internationales de coopération et d'aide au développement. Je saisis l'occasion pour adresser à leurs représentants ici présents les remerciements du gouvernement et du peuple togolais.

L'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture prend une part importante dans nos programmes de développement rural et son action multiforme intéresse plusieurs domaines, à savoir: les études, la planification et la programmation, la production agricole, l'élevage et la pêche, le crédit rural, la formation, le reboisement et l'agroforesterie. Je voudrais vous en remercier, Monsieur le Directeur général, et féliciter vos collaborateurs et vos experts pour la qualité et l'efficacité de l'apport de la FAO à nos efforts de développement.

Je souhaite que la coopération entre la FAO et mon pays se renforce en particulier dans le cadre du programme de coopération technique.

La vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence de la FAO nous donne l'occasion de débattre des problèmes de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans le monde, d'examiner les activités et programmes de la FAO, et de doter notre Organisation des ressources nécessaires à la poursuite de son action.

L'Afrique, principale bénéficiaire des programmes de la FAO, apprécie l'évolution observée dans l'exécution des projets, notamment le recours de plus en plus fréquent à des cadres de nos pays.

La dégradation permanente des termes de l'échange, l'inflation et le poids de la dette publique ne laissent à nos pays que de maigres possibilités de dégager des ressources en vue du développement, notamment du secteur rural. C'est donc dans ce secteur que le besoin d'aide et de coopération est le plus ressenti car 70 à 90 pour cent de nos populations vivent et produisent en milieu rural et l'essentiel de nos ressources en provient.

Le rôle des organisations internationales telles que la FAO est de susciter et de canaliser cette coopération et de faire en sorte qu'elle se réalise à travers des structures simples, rapides et pratiques qui prennent en considération nos propres réalités, nos besoins et nos priorités. Je formule le vœu que cet aspect de la mission de la FAO se développe et que de nouveaux bailleurs de fonds viennent soutenir et accroître les programmes de terrain de notre Organisation.

Il est également important que les efforts de nos pays pour augmenter la production agricole en vue d'assurer l'autosuffisance et la sécurité alimentaire aux niveaux national et régional reçoivent l'appui de nos partenaires du développement, à travers l'aide alimentaire, par le recours en priorité aux opérations triangulaires qui permettent d'utiliser les excédents disponibles au niveau de certains pays dans la même région.

Là aussi, la FAO a un rôle à jouer dans la sensibilisation des bailleurs de fonds et l'organisation des opérations.

Je voudrais conclure en souhaitant que nos travaux contribuent à renforcer le rôle de la FAO dans sa noble mission de la lutte contre la faim dans le monde.

**Sheik Hamad B.J. B.J. AL-THANI (Qatar) (original language Arabic):** It is a pleasure for me to address, today, the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO General Conference to discuss issues related to food supply and agricultural development, to exchange views and information and to seek possible solutions to the common problems faced by our countries in this vital field, for the purpose of increasing food production, ensuring the means to promote agricultural development everywhere and strengthening international cooperation in order to eradicate hunger threatening millions of human beings.

The State of Qatar joined FAO in 1971, the year of its independence, and contributed positively and effectively to the programmes of the Organization and provided it with all the support possible. This was motivated by the Government's firm belief in the objectives of FAO as an international independent UN agency seeking international cooperation in food and agriculture and in view of my Government's endorsement of the Food Security Compact adopted by the General Conference in 1984.

Qatar took part in various conferences and meetings held by the Organization and was involved in various activities to overcome agricultural and environmental problems afflicting our region due to drought and desertification. Only a few days before the opening of this Conference, we hosted a meeting of the "Desert Locust Control Commission for the Near East" since we are still threatened by an invasion of desert locusts.

We are firmly convinced that the exchange of expertise, consultation and vital cooperation still constitute a sound basis to assist developing countries in overcoming agricultural problems which are the main cause of economic and social development problems in general. In this context, we fully support FAO as a framework for cooperation among States in view of its capacities and potential. We warmly thank the Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, for his successful efforts and initiatives.

The State of Qatar formulated a modern flexible agricultural policy aimed at strengthening and developing the agricultural sector, achieving food security, overcoming food production shortages and tackling severe fluctuations in world prices of agricultural commodities.

Our policy is essentially based on a strategy which attempts to diversify sources of income in order to ensure the supporting capacity of land for the future of our nationals in spite of the relatively low profitability of the agricultural sector. The Government of Qatar led by His Majesty Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani and His Majesty Crown Prince Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, is convinced that food self-sufficiency is vital and essential to lay the foundations of a sound development and political independence.

The Government and farming institutions made several efforts within a short period of time which resulted in concrete achievements and encouraging progress in the implementation of various agricultural programmes designed to increase cultivated land which reached 35 000 hectares which reached 5 400 hectares for crops and 3 400 for vegetables, and to supply water for irrigation purposes either through groundwater use, desalination of sea water, or water reuse. Measures for promoting the fisheries sector were also taken which resulted in achieving self-sufficiency in recent years, and met the needs of the local poor.

At the beginning of 1989, we adopted a new agricultural policy based on agricultural investment. It consists of providing incentives for the setting up of private farms for 7 000 hectares of cultivable land or drawing up joint farming, fisheries and livestock projects. For example, the National Arab Company for Vegetable Production was set up in cooperation with the Arab Investment and Agricultural Development Centre as well as the Arab National Company for Poultry and Arab National Company for Dairy Products. We are now in the process of setting up a national company for agriculture and fisheries jointly with nationals.

However, in spite of the efforts that are being made by Qatar to promote the agricultural sector and achieve food security, we are still in need of international support and solidarity at all levels and in all fields either through the exchange of technical expertise or through the assistance given by FAO in the form of training, information, and programmes and studies.

We have in mind areas where water and cultivable land are scarce. We are forced to dedicate our limited groundwater supply to irrigation and to depend on desalinated sea water for drinking purposes. In the light of harsh environmental conditions, we had to resort to modern technologies to overcome them which led to an increase in the cost of our agricultural produce. We, therefore, welcome any assistance or advice that may help us develop our projects and reach the objectives we seek in the food and agriculture sectors.

On our part, we are ready to work in solidarity and cooperation with the international community to solve present problems. We regret to read in a report of the Overseas Development Board that 780 million human beings are threatened by hunger and poverty and that 280 million of the poorest and hungry live in regions with high agricultural potential.

These astonishing figures constitute a heavy burden and a great challenge calling for enormous efforts and sacrifices to rectify the imbalances, which may have catastrophic consequences.

A question arises: What efforts are being made to restore the balance? Are relief programmes enough to put an end to hunger? Can modern humanity remain a mere spectator expressing its regret and concern towards the bitter reality of millions of people?

Developed countries are, therefore, called upon to take concrete action against this serious situation by confronting the basic problem, the problem of the environment and vital agricultural resources, which is a task for which FAO is the appropriate framework.

The 25th Session of the General Conference is requested to consider the ways and means to strengthen FAO's capacity to implement its programmes. We would like to stress the importance of the role of industrialized countries in supplying modern technologies at low cost to meet food needs, develop agricultural resources and assist developing countries in achieving sustainable development.

I take this opportunity to wish this Conference success in fulfilling its objectives.

**Alvaro Roque Pinho BARRETO (Portugal) (original language Portuguese):** I would like to start by congratulating you, Mr Chairman, and your Vice-Chairman, on your election to the posts you occupy. We are sure we will do very well under your enlightened guidance.

These are very hopeful days for the future of the international community. We can even go as far as to say that never, during FAO's 40 years of life, has a Conference met in an atmosphere so free of international tensions and so marked by a spirit of solidarity between peoples.

In fact, relations between nations and groups of nations have been developing in hopeful and already fruitful dialogue, whereby it has been possible to create a detente throughout the world and eliminate many of the causes of tension which were affecting world peace. The march of events goes on giving us well-founded hopes that we are very rapidly and surely processing towards an era of international peace, without which it will be impossible to resolve, in depth, many of the grave problems that beset humanity.

This easing of tension clearly has positive repercussions on relations between peoples. It increases their feeling of solidarity, releases resources for developing the productive sectors not only of the countries which traditionally have few resources, but also of those which, in order to defend themselves against aggression, had been investing in weapons, in armaments; fabulous amounts of money that can now be made available for better use of resources and increased production.

We all know the importance of agriculture on a world scale, as the primary source of foodstuffs, and the enormous importance that the agricultural population still has in those countries which are developing at a slower pace.



That is why, we are sure, that better international relations will be reflected very strongly in the rural community and have a marked influence, it is to be hoped, on the progress of this "depressed sector" of the international community.

For this reason, too, as an international organization specialized in food and agriculture, FAO will have to assume an increasingly important role and, surely, in this new spirit of hope in which the world lives, the Organization will not be denied the resources which will allow it in this epoch to live up to its responsibilities and the urgent needs of thousands of human beings.

The world population has been growing at a fast rate in some of the countries with the fewest resources, and in those countries food production has not always increased sufficiently to ensure the sustenance of their peoples. It is not by imposing a reduction in the birth rate that we shall be able to strike at the roots of food shortage problems. No, it will be by an increase and better distribution of food at a world level, since that which exists now would be more than enough to feed all human beings.

Some countries are still a very long way from achieving self-sufficiency in food and this, in some cases, is a matter of concern, requiring that the richer countries must give assistance in the form of material and human means, when requested to do so by the countries concerned, in order to bring about a significant increase in production. This is the course to be followed in solving this problem, since it has been proved that it is not simply with the surpluses of the big producer countries that we can overcome the problems and meet the needs of the more slowly developing countries.

Increased food production, for resolving basic problems of survival, and an increase in exports, without which there is neither foreign currency nor the corresponding equipment goods which are vital for the modernization of the productive structures - this is what is needed, and this will oblige those poorer countries to make an extra effort that they can hardly be expected to undertake by themselves.

The international community must therefore considerably increase its aid in capital, fertilizers, pesticides and equipment, and maintain and reinforce, as and when required, help in the form of foodstuffs, without which many human beings would starve to death.

But many other forms of assistance also need to be mobilized and coordinated. Among these I would like to stress those that are directly connected with the human factor. The support of technicians who are fully acquainted with the tropical environment in which they are going to work, and professional training of the technical personnel of those countries are, in my opinion, among the most interesting fields in which assistance can be provided.

My country, as everyone knows, has a vast and important fund of information of the tropical regions where most of the countries in those conditions are located. We have a number of technicians specializing in this area, some of them with long periods of work carried out in the tropics, and others with qualifications resulting from the specialized tropical training that Portugal has kept up and has been reinforcing in recent years. My country once again offers to FAO, and to the international community, its resources,

in order that they can be put to the service of development, whether by integration in FAO, through bilateral cooperation with other interested countries, or by other forms of cooperation, including trilateral agreements in which FAO and Portugal might be partners.

My country is aware (and pleased to note) that in the last few years there has been a very significant increase in the number of Portuguese technicians that FAO has engaged as consultants. However, even taking into account those that our country uses in its bilateral cooperation projects with over a hundred countries (although giving priority to the Portuguese-speaking African countries) our resources are still far from being fully utilized.

Also taking account of the influence of the prices of agricultural products on development, especially in the case of the African countries, which cannot maintain large compensation funds, my country supports the international negotiations, namely, the Uruguay Round, which is aimed at stabilizing prices and preventing spectacular falls in prices of agricultural products, a situation that has greatly aggravated galloping foreign debts and which is of such concern to the debtors and some of the creditors.

It is true that some countries with large resources - and even some with modest resources - have been writing-off part of the debt contracted by some of these Third World countries.

This is a step that we welcome, and would like to see it more generalized for the economic revitalization of the international community, but we all know that such debts would be incurred again quickly if their causes are not eliminated.

Portugal, as a contributor to FAO, stands in 39th place among its 158 member countries. We cannot forget the support we received between 1975 and 1982 in launching certain projects, the results of which were considered satisfactory.

However, since that time we have not been eligible for such support, but we maintain an active and interested collaboration with FAO's activities, especially those coordinated or operated by the European Regional Office.

Portuguese technicians take part in all the "networks" of Escorena, in the activities linked to renewable energy for the rural environment and in activities for promotion of women in the country and for providing thrust to agriculture through help given to young farmers. We are members of the executive committees of the European Commission on Agriculture and fight against foot-and-mouth disease and we will possibly be organizing the Mediterranean Forestry Conference in 1991.

At the present time we are candidates for a place on the Council of FAO. Having respected the principles of rotation and equitable regional representation, my country hopes to obtain the unanimous support of all member countries in one standing for election at the FAO Conference.

I should like to call the attention of this Conference to the desire, which has been expressed here several times, for Portuguese to be admitted as a working language of FAO as it is used by 7 member countries of this Organization and two territories administered by Portugal, besides many communities from such countries scattered throughout the world.

There are 200 million people on this earth for whom Portuguese is the official language, or their mother tongue, and who claim the right to express themselves in their own language.

If I return to this question, which, in fact, has already been brought up by other countries who also speak the same language, we cannot but feel that our appeal has been reinforced in view of the position recently adopted in UNESCO, where Portuguese became a working language a few days ago.

It is with great interest and great impact on the public that every year in Portugal we organize a World Food Day, in close liaison with the FAO secretariat, whose invaluable support I would like to highlight at this stage.

Last year we were honoured by the presence of the President of the Portuguese Republic who, as guest of the Director-General of FAO, made the principal address for the World Food Day, on 16th October, in this hall. The President of the Republic, interpreting the feelings of all Portuguese people, announced that Portugal was preparing in Lisbon the establishment of a North-South dialogue centre, and asked the wealthier contributors to increase their material aid to FAO in order to reinforce its action and efficiency; he also offered the collaboration of Portuguese technicians and information available in Portugal on the tropical regions, for the benefit of the international community.

World Food Day this year had as its theme agriculture and the environment. The theme embraces a wealth of concepts and a world of problems and concerns so that its study cannot be confined to a single day.

In my country, World Food Day is understood as the last step in a year of arousing interest in and consideration of the theme proposed. It is at the same time a reason why studies should continue.

The need to improve the food supply to more than half of the growing world population, the conviction that situations of chronic hunger cannot fundamentally be resolved simply by using the surpluses of the more developed countries, means that increased food production in the needy countries, (when technically possible) must be one of the main goals in coming years. It is essential to put an end to the shocking situation, where in a world of progress in science and technology, there are hundreds of millions of people starving. However, because an increase in production can only be achieved with difficulty by increasing agricultural area or unit production, because of the conditioning factors in some of the countries concerned, the fund of fertility contained in forests is naturally coveted and sought after.

The systematic destruction of the forest that results and that we are witnessing in some places at the rate of 40 hectares a minute, for installing an agriculture which rapidly depletes the soil, cannot fail to gravely affect the ecological balance and may have far-reaching repercussions on the life of our planet.

It is not in my mind to condemn such situations, because I understand them. But it is to be hoped that measures will be taken to protect a heritage that it behooves everyone to exploit rationally, and the countries with greater technical and material resources cannot, therefore stand idly by and leave to the countries that have those resources the responsibility for protecting

something of interest and relevance to the whole world community. Increased production is becoming imperative and urgent in some countries, but this must be compatible with proper protection of the natural resources if we are not to bequeath to our children a legacy of difficulties and uncertainty.

In his homily given at the time of the 40th anniversary of FAO, Pope John Paul II reminded his audience that "The final judgement of history will be given on the way in which the peoples have concretely fulfilled their duty of contributing to the well-being of their brothers, in proportion to their own wealth and in an international co-responsibility based on justice."

The objectives defined in the Constitution of FAO are integrated in this spirit. Preoccupation has been expressed over the years and it is hoped that by maintaining these principles the efficacy of the help may increase more and more owing to the participation of all peoples, from those who are less developed to those who are in greater economy difficulties, for all are called to a common effort.

I will close with the same words of hope with which I began. The atmosphere of peace towards which we are heading, built up of dialogue, constitutes a very powerful help in the struggle against hunger and underdevelopment. I trust sincerely that in two years' time, when we meet again in this general assembly hall of FAO, we may be able to recognize that today's hopes have been transformed into certainties, and that the world will then have entered on an epoch of greater prosperity and justice, based on better understanding amongst whole mankind.

**Krishna Charan SHRESTHA (Nepal):** It is indeed a matter of great privilege for me to have the opportunity to address this august body and to share with you my delegation's views on some of the important issues facing us in the fields of concern to our Organization. The agenda agreed by us covers a wide range of topics which are pertinent to us. I will be touching upon only some of the issues that my delegation considers to be of direct relevance to the context of Nepal.

We have, under the dynamic leadership of our beloved sovereign, His Majesty the King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, embarked upon the challenging task of meeting the basic needs related to food, clothing, shelter, education, health and security. This programme of fulfilling the basic needs envisages inter alia to ensure access to food items such that by the turn of the century everybody would be able to afford the minimum estimated daily requirements of 2 250 calories per capita. This basic needs programme package also stipulates that every individual's income will be raised to a level that can ensure access to the prescribed levels of goods and services included in the basic needs basket. This commitment of ours is fully consistent with the principle and programme of action agreed by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD).

Our economy is basically agrarian. Over a half of the national income, and more than 90 percent of employment, is accountable to the agricultural sector. Yet, the productivity level is still very low. On the other hand, we have technologies which offer opportunities for substantial improvement in agricultural productivity. This reality when considered in conjunction with our basic needs commitment naturally means a high priority to the development of agriculture and rural areas. Consequently, our effort in the years ahead will continue to be guided by this priority need.

In operational terms also our programmes envisage a quantum jump on agricultural production by the year 2000. We plan to achieve this through significant productivity gains in agriculture. Such gains are expected to materialize mainly through the generation and adoption of technological packages which contribute to this goal. Obviously, biotechnology becomes part and parcel of our effort for a breakthrough in production. In view of this, my delegation notes with appreciation the inclusion of biotechnology a priority item in the Organization's Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. As correctly pointed out by the Director-General, many agencies engaged in biotechnological innovations come from the private sector. While this is a welcome development in complementing public sector effort in the area of biotechnology, it also raises the possibility whereby the inherent commercial intent may lead to unauthorized and exploitative use of indigenous genetic resources. My delegation in supporting the proposal to develop a code of conduct for biotechnology urges the Director-General to ensure that when countries like ours provide these base resources, adequate provisions are made to provide a fair share of benefits to the resource exporting countries. Furthermore, we would like to suggest that concrete actions need to be taken to ensure that appropriately chosen biotechnological innovations are made easily accessible to the majority of small farmers if our productivity goals are to be attained.

Nepal is endowed with a wide range of indigenous genetic materials much of which is yet to be explored and evaluated. The desperation to increase production may lead to an irreplaceable loss of these resources. In order to prevent such a disaster from happening, we have attempted on our part to adopt measures to preserve these genetic resources. Given the competing demand on our meagre financial and human resources, we find it difficult to meet the requirements of such preservations solely from internal resources. We feel that we as a community of nations have collective responsibility to ensure that these hitherto untapped resources do not disappear forever from our midst. I mentioned above the need to increase productivity and to harness resources, including new technologies, in order to meet our basic needs commitment. Given the fragile ecosystem of our country, the challenge before us is how to increase food and other agricultural production and yet maintain environmental soundness in the long run. This is an area where my delegation feels the need for a sound and sustainable international cooperation; for any deforestation in our hills and mountains would mean perpetual hardship not only to our own people but also to millions elsewhere. My delegation therefore fully supports the Director-General's emphasis on sustainable development. I would further urge the Director-General to initiate measures and mobilize additional resources to adequately meet the requirements of countries like ours facing particular difficulties in maintaining a balance between minimum survival needs and the capacity of the natural environment to provide such needs.

More specifically, our immediate needs relate to the assessment of the carrying capacity of our land systems in various agroecological regions and proper land use which could meet not only the sustainability criteria but also the production and income flows embodied in our basic need programme, from both immediate and long-term considerations. This would mean exploration of new plant- and animal-based enterprises and improvement in

the existing farming systems. Efforts also need to be directed towards developing appropriate technologies for environmentally fragile uplands where irrigation potentials are severely limited and rainfed farming is most common.

We have recently put into effect the master plan for the forestry sector which is in keeping with the Tropical Forestry Action Plan emphasized by the Director-General. We seek continuous support from FAO and other cooperating agencies in materializing its objectives.

The underlying characteristic feature of our Basic Needs Programme which I have already mentioned is to focus on the disadvantaged sections of the society. This includes women and rural youth. The programme envisages greater participation and sharing of benefits of development through the mechanism of decentralized planning and decision-making. In addition to the regular agricultural and rural development programme. His Majesty's Government of Nepal has launched for the past several years such specific target group-oriented programmes as small farmers development, and production credit for rural women. Besides, programmes like intensive banking promote the involvement of rural youth and people below the poverty line in activities providing gainful employment in the rural area.

During the course of implementation of the above-mentioned and other agricultural and rural development programmes, it has become evident that post-harvest operations and the so-called second generation problems have become major bottlenecks in our drive to expand production. On the other hand, there is tremendous scope for improvement in the existing post-harvest operations such as processing, preservation, storage and marketing. We feel that we need to launch specific projects aiming at the improvement and expansion of on-farm as well as off-farm processing and preservation capacity for such crops as ginger, cardamom, and certain types of fruits and vegetables that are commonly grown by small farmers and involve a high degree of participation by rural women. Any assistance FAO can provide in this respect will be highly appreciated.

Mr Chairman, you may be aware that Nepal started her development efforts in the 1950s with almost no physical infrastructure and trained manpower. Over the years since then however, we have accumulated some experience in various aspects of agricultural and rural development, thanks to our association with the international community, bilateral and multilateral. As a result, we have been able to share some of this experience with other countries. Let me reiterate that Nepal is willing to further expand such sharing.

Finally, I would like to register my delegation's endorsement of the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization for the biennium 1990-91. I would urge the Member Nations, particularly those with developed economies, to be more generous in their financial contribution to the Organization.

**Habib Ahmed KASSIM A. (Bahrain) (original language Arabic):** In the name of God, the most gracious and merciful, it is a pleasure for me at the outset to express to the Chairman of the Conference our sincere congratulations on his election. It is a positive choice which reflects his capacity and efficiency in managing the work of the Twenty-fifth Session. We would like to wish him success in his task at a time when decisions will be taken on the food problems which face the world.

It pleases me to meet with you in this international forum to consider and review the achievements of the past two years, and to study together food issues in an objective, frank and pragmatic manner in the light of the economic fluctuations in the world economy. At the outset, I wish to express to the Director-General of FAO my gratitude for his constructive role and his wisdom in implementing ambitious programmes despite limited resources. I would also like to express my gratitude for his experience and know-how. I take this opportunity to commend the efforts of Mr Lassaad Ben Osman as Independent Chairman of the Council. We appreciate his dedication in his task, which is a difficult one.

The world today is nearing the 'nineties. It is still suffering the food problems of the 'eighties. Despite the various economic changes, the situation in general is still not encouraging, especially for developing countries which are still threatened by thorny problems and heavy burdens. The world has witnessed great progress in food supply. However, climatic conditions, natural catastrophes and the adverse effects of the economic crisis have led to a deterioration in the situation during the past two years, despite indications of improvement. This situation has led to an increase in the number of developing countries witnessing a per capita shortage of food production. In fact, food production does not correspond to the increase in population in more than 70 countries, due to the low production of grains in the major producing countries. This will affect the level of food security especially due to the increase in grain prices on world markets. In turn, this will lead to great difficulties in low-income countries which need to export their production. The developing countries face increasing difficulties in their development plans due to the decrease in external assistance granted, among others, by commercial banks.

Prospects show that food aid has decreased by 3.3 million tons. The external debt crisis remains an obstacle in the face of appropriate economic development in developing countries, despite the fact that certain countries have benefitted from the rescheduling of external debt by the Club of Paris, the IMF and the World Bank. Despite the fact that the seven most industrialized countries have agreed to alleviate the debt burden of the developing countries, these countries are still suffering from the burden of their debt. The debt problem will be an increasing threat if it is not effectively tackled.

We agree that the only possible solution is to ensure a cash flow from the developed to the developing countries. However, there are no indications of any improvement in the light of recent developments, especially the increase in interest rates in developed countries.

Natural catastrophes and climatic conditions have had an effect on the level of food production in certain regions of the world. Drought in some regions and floods in others have harmed the agricultural sectors in those countries. The African continent has also suffered a desert locust invasion. This danger still threatens, and is still present despite indications of

some improvement. I would like to commend the role of the Organization and its contribution in taking anti-desert locust measures. I urge FAO to continue its efforts to eradicate the desert locust and to take initiatives in this area. This activity should be given high priority in order to eliminate this serious threat.

I now refer to sustainable development and the fact that it has an important role in preserving natural resources. This is an important issue for developing countries, especially those which have limited natural resources. FAO may play an important role in this field through the formulation of policies and programmes in the spheres of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in order to achieve sustainable development. This is linked with the need to conciliate between an increase in food production and the protection of the environment. Any environmental deterioration affects us all. However, the rural poor are the most affected. This requires the setting up of a programme taking into account all factors and elements so that costs do not increase and so that food production may not increase at the expense of environmental protection and the preservation of natural resources.

The preservation of the environment and the conservation of natural resources ensures continued production and ensures a future for the coming generation. The Organization did well when it chose the environment and nutrition as a slogan for the celebration of the Ninth World Food Day.

I would like to refer to an important issue linked to environment. The Gulf countries in recent years faced a dangerous threat that may threaten marine resources. Some countries have tried to dispose of toxic residues in the Gulf Sea. Marine resources are the main source of income for our countries. This is why I would like to urge all states to preserve and protect the environment taking into account that this earth is one single planet and that the preservation of the environment should apply to all countries and not just to some countries.

One of the items of our agenda is the re-establishment of the regional Near East office in Cairo. A decision was taken in the past upon request of the countries of the region to establish this office in Rome. The office carried out its task effectively and with great competence. I take this opportunity to thank Mr Salah Jum'a, the Near East Representative, for his efforts in continuing his services to our region. However, despite all of that the position of the present office is a transitional one. Therefore, it has become logical for the office to be re-established in Cairo, that is, within the region. I urge Member States to approve this proposal and to take the necessary measures so that our regional office may be re-established in Cairo in order to promote its capacity as a liaison between the countries of the region and FAO.

While reading the reports on the Regular Programme and the Field Programme we have noted the Director-General's wisdom in directing the programmes of this Organization to achieve its objectives. However, we regret to see that the financial crisis has had a severe effect on one field, which is training. We firmly believe that man is a natural resource and that this human resource should be developed and should be given its deserved priority. Despite the efforts made by the Director-General to implement ambitious programmes, the financial crisis has led to various changes and amendments in the programme of work of the Organization affecting priorities. In fact, this affects and threatens the Organization's role in improving food production and development in the agricultural sector.



That is why I would like to join the Director-General and previous speakers in urging all of those countries that have arrears to quickly pay their contributions in order to enable the Organization to continue its services and to implement its programmes. On the other hand, I would like to commend the Director-General's realism in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91. I hope that we will all cooperate to implement this programme for the benefit of Member States so as to improve living conditions in poor countries.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your attention. I would also like to thank the Director-General, his colleagues and the FAO staff, as well as all of those who have contributed to the preparation of this Conference. I hope that this Conference will be crowned with practical decisions.

**C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India):** On behalf of the Government of India and my Delegation I extend to you, Mr Chairman, our congratulations on your unanimous election as the Chairman of the Twenty-fifth Session of FAO Conference. I also offer my felicitations to the Vice-Chairmen of this Conference.

Mr Chairman, the food security of the world continues to be threatened even though the global production, supplies and utilization of cereals in the current year are likely to register an increase. While the overall world food production may continue to meet the effective demand, the problems of inadequate food production and undernutrition in the developing countries and amongst their poorer populations remain. According to the 5th World Food Survey conducted by the FAO, there were at least 495 million critically undernourished persons in the world during 1979-81. Their number might be even larger today as the problem of food continues to defy a satisfactory solution.

In 1988, the production of staple foods fell below aggregate consumption level for the second year in succession. The per capita production of staple food was only 1 percent more in 1988 than it was at the beginning of the decade. World carry-over stocks of cereals are expected to be drawn down during 1988-89 by the largest recorded amount in any year. The prices of cereals have risen significantly in the international market, creating problems for the low income food-deficit countries in financing their food imports. High cereal prices together with the problems of debt-servicing have jeopardized the access to food for the vulnerable groups of their population.

While the food security problems in the developing countries have increased, the volume of food aid has fallen to its lowest level in the past six years. The worsening of the food situation in the developing countries is a matter of serious concern to all of us. The depleted cereal stocks need to be made up in the shortest possible time, and the situation requires intensification of efforts for increasing the production of food items in the developing as well as developed countries.

India has made a noteworthy contribution to the recovery in global output of cereals. In 1988-89 the production of foodgrains in the country increased by 34 million tonnes and reached an all-time high of about 172 million tonnes. Record production was also achieved in the case of oilseeds and sugar cane. It is also significant that the growth in agriculture in India in recent

years has been primarily due to increased productivity rather than increase in cultivated area. The yield levels of rice, wheat and other foodgrains reached an all-time high in 1988-89. India has managed to keep the rate of growth of foodgrains production ahead of the rate of its population growth. The per capita net availability of foodgrains, which was 395 grams per day in 1951, has increased to about 500 grams per day in 1989.

It is quite well known that agriculture in India is practised under rain-fed conditions over large parts of the country. Drought in one part of the country or another is a recurring feature. Despite the drought conditions over large parts of the country the average foodgrains production in India during 1985-86 to 1987-88, the first three years of the country's Seventh Five-Year Plan, was 144 million tonnes. This was higher than the average annual foodgrains production of 138.2 million tonnes during the Sixth Plan period (1980-85) with a peak production of 152.4 million tonnes in 1983-84.

In 1987-88, India faced one of the worst droughts of the century. This affected 21 out of the 35 meteorological sub-divisions in the country. Prompt and effective measures were taken for mitigating its impact. An "Action Plan" which included water budgeting, contingency agriculture planning and energy supply management for agriculture was formulated and implemented. Initiatives for reaching relief and assistance to the affected population were mounted to preserve the quality of life in the drought-hit areas. Despite this drought, the foodgrains production during the year 1987-88 was 138.4 million tonnes, which was only 3.5 percent less than the production during the preceding year. The country emerged from the drought year 1987-88 with minimal setback to its economic development, which underlines the effectiveness of the drought-proofing measures and the overall drought management strategy.

At the advent of planning in India the total area under irrigation was 22.6 million hectares. The acreage of irrigated area in the country has now increased nearly threefold, imparting a greater degree of stability to agricultural production. The focus is now on optimizing water use efficiency and conjunctive use of surface and ground-water resources for improving agricultural production.

These developments, besides highlighting the resilience of Indian agriculture, augur well for the future and give us the confidence to aim at higher levels of production in the coming decade. We are determined to accord the highest priority to agriculture and accelerate the rate of agricultural growth in the country's Eighth Five-Year Plan which commences from April, 1990.

It is common knowledge that the green revolution in India was triggered off by introduction of new agricultural production technologies and widespread application of new packages of practices. As the green revolution spread, agriculture in India has undergone a significant transformation. The use of modern inputs and technology in the country has significantly increased productivity and the agricultural production. The high-yielding varieties of cereals that were introduced in mid-60s now cover about 63 million hectares of cultivable land. The consumption of chemical fertilizers has increased from 5.5 million tonnes in 1980-81 to 11 million tonnes in 1988-89. The availability of credit to farmers has also registered a substantial increase. During 1988-89 the total agricultural credit disbursement by various institutional agencies was projected at Rs. 117.5 billion as against Rs. 34 billion in 1980-81.

The high-yielding varieties are more susceptible to pests and diseases necessitating special plant protection measures. Our emphasis has therefore shifted to integrated pest management and surveillance measures to guard against pest and disease attack. India is a party to the International Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides, which was adopted by the FAO Conference in 1985. In order to safeguard human beings, animals and the environment, it is essential that the Code should include a Prior Informed Consent clause stipulating clearly that no pesticide banned or severely restricted in the country of its origin be exported except with the express consent of the importing country. The developed countries, being better equipped to take relevant export control actions, should ensure that exports do not occur contrary to the decisions of the participating importing countries.

The Government has been consciously following a price policy aimed at assuring remunerative prices to the farmers. This serves to motivate them to adopt improved technology to step up production. This pricing policy has significantly contributed to the growth in agriculture. While fixing procurement/minimum support prices, it has ensured that the prices cover cost of production and provide a reasonable margin of profit to the growers. The procurement/minimum support prices of important commodities like paddy, wheat, pulses, cotton, oilseeds have been substantially raised in recent years. The minimum support prices fixed by the Government are in the nature of a guarantee: they are meant to give the producer the assurance that the prices will not be allowed to fall below the support level. In the agricultural package recently announced by our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the method of cost computation has been further refined to allow for greater returns to growers.

The Indian agricultural planning in the future will be based on regional potentials and characteristics. It will be undertaken on the basis of 15 agroclimatic zones identified in terms of soil type, rainfall, temperature and water resources. These agroclimatic zones are further divided into sub-zones and sub-regions (hill, dry and island regions, etc.). These sub-regions vary considerably in their potential for agricultural development. The strategy of agroclimatic regional planning aims at assessing these potentialities, zone by zone, and integrating them into a national perspective. Through this approach, the farmers will be provided an appropriate package of practices and technologies to improve their productivity.

India is blessed with livestock resources of considerable genetic diversity with fair traits of adaptability to withstand environmental stress and low levels of nutrition and management. As per the 1982 livestock census, there are 193 million cattle i.e., 20 percent of the world cattle population, and 70 million buffaloes, i.e., 50 percent of the world buffalo population, 95 million goats, 49 million sheep, 10 million pigs, 3 million pack animals and 20 million poultry birds in India. The production of eggs has increased from 10 billion in 1980-81 to 18 billion in the last decade. Efforts have been made to improve the livestock productivity by providing basic infrastructure and adopting improved technology. India is now the third largest producer of milk in the world. The production of milk is expected to increase to 49 million tonnes in the year 1988-89 from 31.60 million tonnes over the last decade.

The dairy sector in India is being developed as an additional rural employment and income-generating activity for millions of landless farmers and landless labourers having one or two milk cattle. They are motivated to organize themselves into cooperatives. This programme, popularly known as Operation Flood, has now become the main instrument of growth and a model for other initiatives in the rural sector. A Technology Mission on Dairy Development has been set up to accelerate the application and adoption of modern technology to improve productivity, reduce costs and ensure better availability of milk and milk products.

In the case of fisheries, our objective is not only to increase the production of fish but also to improve the socio-economic condition of fishermen. Fish production in 1988 increased to 3.15 million tonnes against 2.96 million tonnes in the previous years.

I have briefly touched upon some aspects of our progress in the field of agriculture and allied sectors in recent years. I take this opportunity to reiterate India's willingness to share its development experience in these fields with other developing countries interested in our experience.

Allow me to commend the Director-General for proposing biotechnology as one of the priority areas in the FAO's Programme of Work in the next biennium. Our own experience in India is that scientific and technological development supported by an effective extension system and a comprehensive development programme is essential for achieving higher and diversified production. India has made heavy investment in creating an extensive infrastructure comprising 46 research organizations and 27 agricultural universities. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is the apex agency for coordinating agricultural research and education in the country.

India's current research priorities focus on new emerging areas like biotechnology, genetic engineering, tissue culture, bio-insecticides, etc. Research in biotechnology is progressing at a faster pace in the industrialized world and is increasingly dominated by private industry. FAO will have to play a vital role in evolving a mechanism that would validate the claims of the various advances in biotechnology and testify about the safeness of their use. Further, we feel that FAO has to play an active role in ensuring that the benefits of biotechnology would not get monopolized by the developed countries and would not bypass the developing countries. We feel that developing countries need to put more thrust in the area of research and development on the use of isotopes, radiation and other related techniques to improve agricultural production and preserve agricultural products. There is also a need to establish a regional network and to formulate a regional project on biotechnology for crop production and protection under the direct supervision of the FAO.

We firmly believe that it is not enough to produce more food; it is equally necessary to ensure that people, particularly those belonging to the poor and the vulnerable groups, have access to it. India has evolved a comprehensive system of food management to achieve this purpose. The principal components of this system include fixation of support prices, procurement of foodgrains by public sector agencies and operating a regular system of public distribution to ensure stability of supplies and prices, particularly for those belonging to the poor and the vulnerable groups. About 15-20 million tonnes of cereals are being procured annually, and nearly the same quantity is made available to the poor and the needy at

fixed prices through a vast network of about 300 000 fair price or ration shops. This system of food management has worked well in the past and helped in a big way to ensure the availability of food to the people who need it, particularly in years of drought and other natural calamities.

Keeping in view the magnitude of the problem of poverty in the country, specific poverty alleviation programmes aimed at mounting a direct attack on poverty have also been taken up. It is estimated that between 1960 and 1980 about 50 percent of the people in the country were below the poverty line. An Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) was accordingly launched in 1978-79 to mount a direct attack on rural poverty and raise the income level of the people below poverty line. About 13.4 million families have so far been assisted under the programme. A major programme to tackle the problem of rural unemployment has been launched with the introduction of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana during the current year. We hope that by March, 1990, the percentage of population below the poverty line will be reduced from an estimated 36.9 percent in 1984-85 to less than 30 percent.

We, in India, are alive to the importance of including women as beneficiaries of development strategies and involving them in the process of decision-making. Special measures for integration of women in the development process have been taken up in several states. Specific guidelines have been incorporated in some of the major development programmes to ensure the flow of benefits to women. For example, the IRDP clearly stipulates that 30 percent of the beneficiaries assisted under the programme should be women. A separate scheme for the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas has been designed as part of IRDP, exclusively to benefit the rural women. Programmes of training for women in agricultural operations have been intensified. Care is also taken to ensure that women are the main beneficiaries of the nutrition, education and training activities undertaken by the Government. We are confident that improvement in the skills of rural women will greatly help in expediting the pace of growth in the years to come.

We fully support the views of the FAO for special efforts to integrate women into the development process. I am very glad to mention here that the Government of India has recently prepared a National Perspective Plan for Women 1988-2000, which is more or less similar to the one prepared by the FAO in the areas of agriculture, food and rural development. We have also set up a "Women's Cell" in the Ministry of Agriculture for overseeing the programmes for women in development.

The world is now talking of environmental protection and sustainable development as never before. "Food and environment" was the theme of the World Food Day celebrations this year to provide a common focus in the global campaign against hunger. FAO has showed concern for the problems of sustainable growth and identified the important components of the strategies of sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the discussion paper on Item No. 13. India's concern for preservation of the environment is reflected in our advocacy of a Planet Protection Fund.

We firmly believe that growth cannot be true development if it is not sustainable or if it entails environmental degradation. In the last few decades, the earth's environment - its land, water and air - has shown clear signs of the severe strain. Indiscriminate cutting down of trees has exposed the soil to erosion and increased the risk and intensity of floods. Equally worrying is the threat to the global climate emanating from the "greenhouse effect". A change in climate accompanied by global warming can be a threat

to food security since it may involve changes in monsoon patterns and the distribution of rainfall, changes in water and soil regimes and a geographical shifting of plant species. Developing countries which have primarily agricultural economies stand to be affected to a great degree by these changes. It is, therefore, imperative that we enter an era of enhanced international cooperation to combat these threats. FAO should strengthen its role in environment and sustainable development within its own areas of competence. FAO should also assume and discharge its responsibilities to articulate and build up awareness of the need to mobilize external assistance to offset the additional costs of integrating environmental concerns in development projects in the developing countries.

In India environmental education and creation of awareness at all levels is now an integral part of national development plans. We have taken care to ensure that the development activities are designed in such a manner which do not lead to adverse environmental effects. The Revised National Forest Policy adopted by us lays emphasis on maintenance of environmental stability, restoration of ecological balance and preservation of national forests. A series of measures has been taken for control of pollution. Projects on a very large scale such as the Ganga Action Plan and the Watershed Development Plan have been taken up for preservation and regeneration of environmental balance. A massive forestation effort and development of wastelands with an emphasis on fuelwood and fodder has, been announced through a Technology Mission. Environmental research, formal and non-formal education, and dissemination of information on environmental considerations have been intensified.

India is a treasurehouse of plant variety. We have taken up systematic programmes for the survey and conservation of our flora and fauna. I am glad to say that our scientists are working hard to ensure that this heritage is conserved and used for improvement of human welfare and environment.

India supports the general thrust for liberalization of trade in agricultural products. We note that the aim of the MTN on Agriculture of the Uruguay Round is to create more effective GATT Rules, improve conditions of international competition through better market access, reduce subsidies and reduce adverse trade effects of sanitary and phyto-sanitary regulations. The liberalization by industrialized countries should cover both domestic support programmes and export subsidies. However, for the developing countries like India who have large segments of their population dependent on agriculture and where agriculture contributes substantially in the GDP, it is imperative to take into account the development dimensions of economic policies. As development of agriculture is fundamental to their economic growth, subsidies and price support measures are an integral part of policies to develop the agricultural sector in these countries. The domestic production policies of such developing countries should therefore be generally exempt from such international disciplines.

I am glad that the Director-General has identified crop/weather monitoring and agriculture data development as priority items in the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. The FAO, since its inception, has been engaged in the collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of agricultural information. The FAO has proposed to develop a consistent corporate data system called the World Agricultural Information Centre. India has developed a comprehensive management information system for agriculture. We have evolved an efficient method of crop forecasting and an early warning system. At present, area and production estimates, based on a nearly

complete enumeration and analysis of crop cutting experiments, are issued for 43 crops. An early warning system has been evolved on the basis of rainfall information collected from observations all over the country. We have been sharing information with various international organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization. I assure you our fullest cooperation in building up the World Agricultural Information System.

We realize that a lasting solution to a country's food problem has to be found by strengthening national efforts for the attainment of food self-sufficiency. The developing countries are, no doubt, making sincere efforts for increasing their agricultural production. However, if these countries are to limit their efforts to their own resources and experience, the progress on this front is likely to be slow. International technical and economic cooperation is therefore the only way to facilitate accelerated growth of agriculture in the developing countries. We are glad that the FAO has been quite active in promoting technical cooperation amongst the Member Nations. We have been making our scientists and experts available to FAO and other countries to assist them in their developmental activities. Research institutions and facilities in India are also accessible to scientists from developing countries for research and training. Let me assure you that we will continue to extend our fullest cooperation to the FAO and share our experience with other countries who may wish to benefit from them.

It is a matter of gratification that the outcome of the FAO Review process launched in November 1987 is before this Twenty-fifth Session. India notes that the Review has testified that the FAO continues to be a "solid" and "dynamic" organization and that the activities and the objectives it pursues are in conformity with its mandate. India feels that Member Nations of the FAO should make every effort to implement the results of the Review so that the FAO can become yet more effective and efficient in addressing the needs of developing countries. During the last two years, since the review process took a lot of time other vital functions and programmes did suffer to some extent. Further, during the last 3 years, due to delays in the payment of assessed contributions by Member Nations, FAO had to impose cuts to the tune of US\$ 68 million Dollars in its approved programmes. This also worked to the disadvantage of the developing countries. While urging that all Member Nations should spare no effort to honour their commitments and pay their assessed contributions in time, we would urge that all Member Nations should assist the FAO in bringing this review process to an end with this Conference so that from 1990 onwards FAO can devote all its energies and efforts to serve the Member Nations to the best of its capacities.

Mr Chairman and friends, let me in the end express my sincere thanks for your patient hearing. I hope the deliberations of this Conference will assist in generating solutions to some of the problems which have been haunting us for a long time and pave the way for sustained growth of global agriculture.

**Cheikh Abdoul Khadre CISSOKHO (Sénégal):** Permettez-moi tout d'abord de sacrifier à la tradition en vous félicitant, Monsieur le Président, ainsi que les membres du Bureau pour votre brillante élection.

Ma délégation est persuadée qu'avec vos compétences affirmées et la sagesse qui vous caractérise, nos travaux seront menés à leur fin avec le succès escompté.

Le Sénégal, pays essentiellement agricole et sahélien, compte plus de 75 pour cent de sa population qui vit de la terre.

Les aléas climatiques des vingt dernières années qui ont prévalu dans le Sahel ont éprouvé son système agricole et rendu erratiques ses niveaux de production.

L'environnement international particulièrement défavorable, en raison de la baisse des prix des produits de base, de la pression drastique de la dette et du flux négatif des transferts des capitaux, ont fait stagner les performances du secteur agricole.

Le gouvernement du Sénégal, face à une situation dépressive prolongée, a initié une nouvelle politique agricole de sortie de crise en 1984.

L'idée fondamentale de cette politique est de faire prendre en main au paysan son véritable destin, grâce à sa responsabilisation pour le promouvoir en véritable entrepreneur agricole.

Cette option implique un paysan mieux formé pour gérer sa terre, capable de prendre des décisions pertinentes pour une gestion économique de son exploitation et bénéficiant d'un crédit adapté pour accéder aux intrants agricoles.

Pareille option implique un désengagement progressif de l'Etat des activités de production et de commercialisation.

Cependant, les déséquilibres prolongés de la balance commerciale des grands agrégats macro-économiques ont amené le Sénégal à s'engager dans un plan de stabilisation puis d'ajustement structurel à moyen terme et à long terme.

L'exécution de cette politique d'ajustement structurel, à n'en pas douter, a certes aidé à la restauration de certains grands équilibres, mais a eu pour conséquence de freiner les importations sans pour autant accroître la production agricole dans des proportions significatives.

Devant un tel constat, le Sénégal s'est engagé à la conclusion d'un prêt d'ajustement structurel agricole.

Auparavant, avec l'aide de la FAO, nous avons tenu à évaluer l'impact de l'ajustement structurel sur le secteur, pour entreprendre des actions de nature à favoriser les investissements pour un accroissement des revenus agricoles.

En effet, les couches sociales les plus touchées par les effets de l'ajustement sont sans aucun doute les petits exploitants agricoles, les femmes rurales et les travailleurs à faible revenu qui constituent la majorité du secteur rural.

Nous nous engageons à faire du programme d'ajustement structurel agricole un cadre d'incitation pour les investissements dans le secteur rural, grâce à un plan directeur cohérent, conçu à partir d'une approche par filières autonomes, fonctionnant en équilibre et qui procurent un revenu décent aux producteurs.



L'assistance de la FAO est requise pour nous aider dans cette tâche.

La situation présente de l'agriculture sénégalaise, au sortir de ces deux campagnes, est caractérisée par des productions et un bilan céréalier relativement satisfaisant, ceci en raison des conditions pluviométriques favorables de ces dernières années.

Pour sortir d'une production agricole aléatoire en raison des conditions climatiques erratiques, le Sénégal a entrepris résolument une politique de développement agricole intégrée, basée sur une gestion rationnelle des ressources naturelles afin de tirer le meilleur parti de leurs potentialités.

Les actions entreprises pour franchir de nouvelles étapes portent sur:

- la lutte contre la désertification et la gestion des ressources forestières
- la mise en valeur des ressources en eau pour une agriculture irriguée,
- la valorisation du cheptel et l'intégration de l'animal dans l'exploitation agricole,
- l'objectif d'une autosuffisance alimentaire à hauteur de 80 pour cent à partir des productions locales en l'an 2000,
- la lutte contre les déprédateurs des cultures.

C'est le lieu, Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, de saluer tous vos efforts personnels et ceux de l'Organisation pour appuyer la réalisation de notre politique de développement agricole.

Au titre de l'année 1989, la FAO exécute au Sénégal vingt projets de développement.

La flexibilité des PCT a permis d'intervenir de manière différenciée et urgente dans des opérations dont les résultats conditionnent la mise en oeuvre de grands projets de développement.

La FAO s'engagera également très bientôt à nos côtés pour le projet de recensement agricole qui rendra plus fiables nos informations agricoles pour une meilleure planification.

Dans le domaine de la pêche, notons le rôle positif que continue de jouer le Comité des pêches de l'Atlantique centre-est dont le siège est à Dakar.

En vue de renforcer le rôle du sous-comité sur le commerce du poisson, nous réitérons le voeu de voir l'Organisation rendre ce sous-comité éligible au Fonds commun des produits de base.

Dans le secteur des forêts, la FAO a toujours apporté son soutien au Sénégal à travers le financement et l'exécution de nombreux programmes et projets de restauration du couvert végétal et de la mise sur pied d'une méthodologie d'intervention en milieu rural.

Au titre du programme 1988/89, l'intervention de la FAO a permis la réalisation de nombreux projets de foresterie rurale, axés sur la lutte contre la désertification, la mise en défens et l'approvisionnement en combustible ligneux des populations.

Des actions non moins déterminantes de la FAO ont porté, ces dernières années, sur la lutte contre le péril acridien, notamment le criquet pèlerin.

Les actions de coordination menées par notre Organisation, en relation avec les organisations sous-régionales de lutte antiacridienne, ont été le gage des succès remportés contre les ennemis des cultures. Cependant, la FAO doit renforcer son appui aux structures nationales et les aider à être plus autonomes afin de disposer d'un potentiel d'intervention leur permettant de lutter contre les oiseaux granivores et les sauteriaux.

Pour toutes ces raisons, et consciente des difficultés de financement que traverse la FAO, ma délégation appuie les recommandations de la quatre-vingt-seizième session du Conseil portant sur:

- le programme de travail pour 1990/91,
- le montant du budget,
- le financement des opérations de réforme de la FAO par des mesures extrabudgétaires
- le règlement des arriérés de contribution pour procurer les ressources adéquates à l'Organisation

A côté de la FAO et en relation étroite avec les gouvernements, le Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) apporte une aide appréciable aux populations cibles, notamment du Sénégal, que sont les petits exploitants, les femmes et les enfants pour améliorer leur productivité en leur épargnant la malnutrition.

Le rôle du PAM a évolué pour passer de la simple coordination des aides alimentaires à la promotion de la production, de la commercialisation et de la consommation des céréales locales.

C'est pourquoi ma délégation se joint aux autres Etats Membres pour soutenir l'appel du Directeur exécutif du PAM afin que les donateurs augmentent leurs contributions aux ressources du PAM pour le biennium 1990/1991.

L'agriculture des pays en voie de développement traverse une crise prolongée, due dans certains cas à une structuration déficiente, dans d'autres à des conditions climatiques défavorables. Cependant, une cause non moins déterminante est la situation défavorable des cours mondiaux des produits agricoles liée aux taux de change fluctuant et au poids de la dette.

L'agriculture se trouve ainsi privée de ressources propres à recycler dans le cadre des investissements nécessaires à son développement.

Face à nos productions domestiques, des produits fortement subventionnés et bénéficiant d'une technologie avancée n'autorisent pas une concurrence loyale.

C'est pourquoi l'agriculture des pays pauvres devrait bénéficier de mesures propres à engendrer sa relance, notamment une politique de soutien à l'engrais initiée par la FAO en vue de réhabiliter et de fertiliser les sols dégradés dans les régions tropicales. Une telle politique pourrait déboucher sur une banque de l'engrais auprès de laquelle les pays les moins nantis bénéficieraient à des taux bonifiés du financement d'un programme d'engrais pluriannuel. La rareté et la cherté du crédit, les transferts négatifs en

direction des pays sous-développés devraient inciter à l'étude de mécanismes financiers novateurs pour financer le soutien aux agriculteurs des pays pauvres afin de leur permettre de mieux se comporter face aux dures réalités du marché.

Le Sénégal, conscient de l'interdépendance de nos actions et de la nécessaire solidarité entre nantis et pauvres pour faire de notre planète un havre de paix, demeure un militant de la coopération internationale pour imaginer des solutions de sortie de crise sans grand dommage pour nos populations rurales.

Pour cela, nous devons, avec la FAO, mettre au point des mécanismes souples de concertation entre les ministres de l'agriculture des pays grands producteurs et ceux des pays en développement, en vue d'examiner des points d'actualité comme par exemple l'harmonisation de nos politiques agricoles pour des échanges plus justes et plus fructueux.

C'est pourquoi avant de terminer, je voudrais saluer ici l'intervention brillante et parfaitement engagée de l'honorable Ministre de l'agriculture de la France, M. Henri Nallet, pour sortir l'agriculture des pays en développement d'une stagnation obligée en dehors de toute contingence naturelle. Je soutiens les propositions concrètes qu'il a formulées, notamment celles relatives à la concertation des pays grands producteurs pour élaborer des mesures concrètes d'aide au développement et à l'amélioration de l'accès à leurs marchés des produits agricoles des pays en développement.

Nous avons convenu que l'environnement n'a plus de frontières et que le développement durable exige des changements de comportement dans la concertation et la compréhension mutuelle. Nous devons également dans le même élan accepter que l'agriculture n'ait pas de frontières, car les échanges de produits agricoles doivent s'intensifier dans un esprit de complémentarité juste et équilibrée!

Le vent de liberté qui souffle actuellement sur notre planète est porteur, j'en suis certain, d'un espoir ultime pour sortir l'humanité entière, à la veille du troisième millénaire, de la faim, de la malnutrition et de l'ignorance. Nous y parviendrons en soutenant davantage les organismes habilités du système des Nations Unies tels que la FAO en leur faisant plus confiance, en clarifiant leur mission et en rendant leurs interventions plus souples, mieux coordonnées et plus dynamiques.

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais vous remercier infiniment, ainsi que l'Organisation pour la tenue parfaite de nos assises; vous remercier également de votre bienveillante attention.

**Frédéric AGENOR (Haïti):** Je m'adresserai in limine à Monsieur le Président de la Conférence pour lui transmettre les félicitations de la délégation haïtienne pour son élection, ainsi que mes remerciements propres pour m'avoir autorisé à prendre la parole au sein de cette honorable assemblée. La délégation haïtienne souhaite contribuer au plein succès de cette vingt-cinquième session qu'auront déjà marquée un dynamisme renouvelé et une foi inébranlable dans l'heureux destin du monde agricole. Le Directeur général de la FAO - Monsieur Edouard Saouma - en est le garant et porte l'espoir de la réalisation de ces vœux.

Permettez, Monsieur le Président, que je transmette, avec les pleins pouvoirs qui m'ont été accordés par Son Excellence le Président du gouvernement militaire d'Haïti .- le Général Prosper Avril -, les remerciements du gouvernement de la République d'Haïti à celui de la République italienne pour l'accueil chaleureux et fraternel qui a été réservé à la délégation d'Haïti.

Le gouvernement de la République d'Haïti profite de l'occasion pour adresser ses vœux de bonheur à Son Excellence le Président de la République italienne, le Docteur Francesco Cossiga, ainsi qu'au peuple d'Italie, tout en les assurant de sa volonté de promouvoir les vertus démocratiques dans son pays.

Depuis plusieurs années déjà Haïti reçoit l'aide internationale et l'assistance bilatérale sans que la situation de sa production agricole connaisse ce changement définitif auquel aspirent son peuple et son gouvernement.

Héritière mal dotée par ses anciennes métropoles, pays victime d'ostracisme pendant des décennies, Haïti n'a jamais connu de répit dans sa lutte contre les forces naturelles et les calamités.

Quand s'est manifestée dans les années 50-60 l'aide agricole de la FAO, on a cru que l'ère des actions consolidées était enfin arrivée. Mais quelques années après, le bilan dressé se révélait négatif avec la disparition même physique des traces des projets exécutés, le peu de retombées qu'ils ont laissées sur les conditions socio-économiques de la nation.

Lors de la conception et de la mise en place des projets, certaines réalités locales n'ont pas été retenues et les prévisions pour aborder les changements techniques annoncés, pour assurer le suivi et la survie des opérations entreprises, n'ont pas été établies.

Il manquait alors l'idée dominante de la préparation de la transition et de la relève. Les structures implantées n'étaient pas pourvues de la plasticité requise pour s'adapter aux nouvelles conditions nées de la marche aveugle de la technicité moderne.

Entre temps des remous sociaux sont apparus. Dans certaines régions du pays des agriculteurs disent "non", qu'ils ne travailleront plus la terre au profit des citadins; ils ne veulent plus être traités d'habitants par ces derniers. Les socio-économistes ont fait une étude de ces réactions sociales qui vient tout juste d'être publiée par l'Institut interaméricain de coopération agricole; il s'en est dégagé une formule lapidaire: le paysan haïtien réclame, puis bientôt exigera, l'égalité avec les gens des villes.

Face à cette situation sociale explosive, à ce phénomène qui s'intensifie depuis peu sous le ciel d'Haïti, les responsables se sont fait à l'idée de compter d'abord sur les ressources de la nation - pour l'implantation de projets plutôt de petite envergure et conçus pour une région, pour un but déterminé.

Nous ne recourons plus à l'aide étrangère de façon systématique. Nous utilisons toutes les technologies à notre portée et concevons les projets avec une marge pour un accueil possible de techniques nouvelles pour cette décennie ou l'autre. L'aide multilatérale ou bilatérale dans ces cas d'espèce prend la forme d'un appui précis, d'une sorte de tuteurage, en attendant que les activités atteignent leur vitesse de croisière.

Les résultats ne se sont pas fait attendre. Je citerai l'exemple de la production du maïs indispensable à la consommation aussi bien humaine qu'animale. Avec des rendements dérisoires de 0,75 à 1 tonne l'hectare, la nation n'avait d'autre alternative que l'importation pour compléter la production locale.

En renforçant les dispositifs de production dans les zones irriguées ou à pluviométrie suffisante: semences sélectionnées, application d'engrais, utilisation de pesticides, séchage adéquat, la production unitaire, encore limitée à certaines parcelles, a atteint 6 tonnes, non loin du record de 7 tonnes détenu par les USA. Depuis, Haïti a cessé d'importer du maïs et se prépare à en exporter dès l'année prochaine grâce à un marché offert par un pays ami.

Le pays importe le blé; il importe le lait et les produits laitiers, la viande bovine et porcine, les oeufs à couver, sans compter d'autres produits agricoles à l'état naturel ou en conserve.

Pour aborder le problème des denrées alimentaires d'origine animale le gouvernement a créé l'Office national de développement de la production animale (ONDPA) en mars dernier. L'objectif principal fixé à l'Office est la création d'un centre d'enseignement chargé de former cadres et exploitants dans la reproduction des volailles, la mise en place d'une industrie laitière, l'application de technologies nouvelles pour la préparation et la distribution de la viande.

Le projet a été soumis à la FAO sous la forme d'une demande d'appui. L'Organisation a répondu favorablement et apportera son concours pour la formulation définitive du projet de création de l'Office, l'initiation du personnel de terrain à la mise en place des structures relatives à l'exploitation des divers animaux. Des passerelles seront aménagées d'un commun accord aux fins de préparer les éléments d'application des technologies nouvelles éventuellement.

La carence des matières azotées reste une réalité aussi cruciale pour l'homme que pour l'animal. Le pays ne produit pas de soja; il est obligé d'importer le tourteau pour l'alimentation animale.

En attendant les résultats des essais en cours avec les semences de pois ailé, soja asiatique, fournies par la FAO à titre d'amorce, l'attention a été attirée sur la production d'algues, notamment les spirulines pour l'apport de matières azotées dans l'alimentation animale.

Dans les deux cas, il s'agit d'appui à des projets conduits par les services techniques locaux avec leurs investissements propres. L'assistance de la FAO dans ces deux cas a été aussi spontanée.

Le pays connaît une insuffisance d'établissements secondaires pour jeunes filles. Une fois terminé leur cycle scolaire, la plupart de ces dernières se retrouvent sans profession, parfois désemparées. Le gouvernement de la République, soucieux de la bonne organisation sociale des familles, dans les villes comme dans les campagnes, a procédé à la relance de l'aménagement de Centres d'économie familiale (CEF) et a requis l'appui de la FAO pour la formation de monitrices - au nombre de 50 - appelées à gérer les Centres où seront dispensées les notions d'agriculture, de couture, d'art culinaire, de gestion familiale, d'animation rurale et autres.

L'Organisation a accepté de bien vouloir assurer la formation de ces monitrices et devrait bientôt mettre en place les structures y afférentes.

Un problème non moins grave auquel se trouve confrontée la République d'Haïti se rapporte à la diminution de la capacité des eaux souterraines. A part la disparition pure et simple de rivières bien connues en surface, on enregistre une baisse de niveau des nappes qui, par forage, permettaient d'irriguer de nombreux hectares dans les plaines. Il a été décidé de procéder à des aménagements pour le réapprovisionnement de ces nappes. Un projet a été exécuté.

L'appui qu'a décidé d'apporter la FAO à la construction de cet ensemble de lacs collinaires aura une portée inestimable. L'assistance pour le choix des sites où seront implantés ces lacs sera déterminante dans la poursuite et le succès de l'opération.

Le gouvernement de la République d'Haïti se propose de multiplier ces initiatives et de les étendre à d'autres domaines comme une approche ayant son originalité propre et susceptible de relever la production agricole et de la porter à son plus haut niveau.

En s'engageant dans cette voie, le gouvernement de la République d'Haïti pense à la situation de ceux de ses nationaux qui sont la proie de la malnutrition et de carences diverses. La santé pour tous, le bien-être généralisé ne sont pas pour lui des slogans politiques mais des buts qu'il compte poursuivre sans relâche.

Il pense également à ses futurs engagements vis-à-vis de ses frères de la Caraïbe. Il voudrait également être en mesure de faire face à ses obligations dans le cadre de la prochaine convention de Lomé IV.

Pour y parvenir, il se prépare à prendre des mesures conséquentes à tous les échelons et à mobiliser toutes les forces qu'il pourra réunir.

**HUSSEIN JUMAINE (Burundi):** Au nom de la délégation burundaise que j'ai l'honneur et le plaisir de conduire à cette 25ème Session de la Conférence de la FAO, qu'il me soit d'abord permis d'exprimer mes chaleureuses félicitations à S. E. John Charles Kerin pour sa brillante élection comme Président de la présente Conférence. Ses hautes qualités humaines, son expérience et sa compétence ont guidé notre choix et sont pour nous une garantie certaine pour la bonne conduite et le succès de nos travaux.

Je tiens également à adresser mes sincères félicitations au Docteur Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de notre Organisation pour l'immense travail accompli avec toute son équipe du Secrétariat depuis la dernière Conférence ainsi que pour la qualité remarquable de sa déclaration à la présente session. Avec beaucoup de franchise et d'intelligence, de lucidité, de force et de cœur, il a su mieux que quiconque situer les préoccupations de notre Organisation dans le contexte actuel de la crise économique mondiale.

Il peut toujours compter sur le soutien du Burundi toutes les fois qu'il militera pour l'amélioration des conditions de vie de nos populations, surtout celles les plus démunies parmi lesquelles compte mon pays.

Un certain nombre de problèmes constitue une préoccupation majeure pour le développement agricole de nos pays. Il s'agit du fardeau de la dette extérieure, de la chute vertigineuse des prix des denrées alimentaires et des matières premières destinées à l'exportation; la baisse de livraison d'aide alimentaire, la situation inflationniste connue dans beaucoup de nos pays. Ce sont des problèmes déjà évoqués d'une façon ou d'une autre par les orateurs précédents. Il faut les épinglez, les stigmatiser davantage et les mettre à nu pour que tout le monde en prenne conscience et en mesure suffisamment la gravité. Ils fragilisent nos économies déjà trop faibles et se dressent au-dessus de nous comme l'épée de Damoclès.

La situation alimentaire mondiale s'insère dans cette mouvance de la crise économique générale et devient plus problématique pour nombre de pays à l'heure actuelle lorsqu'elle s'accompagne d'autres problèmes non moins épineux portant sur l'érosion des sols, la désertification, l'appauvrissement des terres sous la pression démographique, les perturbations climatiques et les intempéries souvent incontrôlables dont nos pays sont périodiquement victimes.

Dans certaines régions, on a connu d'autres situations plus graves encore comme les criquets pèlerins qui ravagent les récoltes sur pied comme il en a été le cas ces dernières années sur une partie du continent africain. Au cours de cette année, le Burundi a été précisément confronté aux inondations dues à des pluies anormalement abondantes suivies à d'autres périodes de l'année par des mois de sécheresse ou de pluies insuffisantes au moment où les cultures en avaient tant besoin. Cette situation a entraîné de sérieuses inquiétudes pour notre gouvernement qui a dû demander une aide alimentaire d'urgence pour prévenir une situation qui devenait de plus en plus inquiétante. Même si la production a sensiblement baissé par rapport aux années antérieures, nous avons pu malgré tout éviter le pire, quoique de façon relative.

L'agriculture est considérée pour le Burundi et la plupart d'autres pays ici présents comme la priorité des priorités. Elle restera pour longtemps la pierre angulaire de notre développement d'autant plus qu'elle mobilise plus de 90 pour cent de nos populations. Les investissements qui seront consacrés à ce secteur au cours du 5ème Plan quinquennal (1988-92) représentent 31 pour cent du total des investissements prévus. Ces données montrent clairement que le domaine agricole se taille la part du lion au niveau du programme de développement de mon pays. Nous accordons une attention particulière aux cultures vivrières et d'exportation, à l'élevage, à la sylviculture, à la pêche, au développement intégré, à la sauvegarde du patrimoine foncier, avec comme objectif l'autosuffisance alimentaire de nos populations dont le taux de croissance avoisine 3 pour cent avec une densité démographique de 187 habitants au km<sup>2</sup>.

La Journée mondiale de l'alimentation est devenue cette année une véritable fête populaire des agriculteurs. Elle a été organisée à travers toutes les provinces du pays avec le concours des autorités et des techniciens agricoles locaux pour sensibiliser et mobiliser la population sur l'augmentation de la production vivrière.

Par ailleurs, dans le cadre de la protection des sols, nous accordons une attention particulière au problème de reboisement pour couvrir la grande partie de nos collines qui sont actuellement dénudées suite à l'érosion due à l'action de l'homme qui, sous la poussée démographique, a dévasté dangereusement les forêts.

C'est ainsi qu'une Journée nationale de l'arbre a été instituée depuis quelques années.

Malgré tous ces efforts, nous nous trouvons confrontés à des problèmes financiers graves consécutifs à la chute vertigineuse du prix du café, principale ressource de nos devises.

Les mesures de redressement économique prises depuis 1986 dans le cadre du programme d'ajustement structurel ont contribué à maîtriser le taux d'inflation à 5 pour cent et à assurer un taux de croissance de 4 pour cent. Les efforts déployés par le gouvernement en collaboration avec la Banque mondiale et le FMI risquent d'être ainsi annihilés si la situation du marché international et des produits de base ne venait pas à être redressée.

Les questions relatives au développement ne peuvent être résolues que dans un pays où régissent la paix, l'unité et la stabilité.

A l'heure actuelle, un climat politique sain précisément favorable à l'effort de développement a été instauré au Burundi depuis la proclamation de la 3ème République le 3 septembre 1987 sous la conduite de S.E. le Président-Bayoya. Celui-ci a pris l'engagement solennel de résoudre définitivement la question de l'unité nationale dans notre pays et de le conduire dans la voie de la démocratie.

Dans sa déclaration du 11 novembre, le Directeur général de la FAO a soumis un certain nombre de propositions à la Conférence pour lesquelles ma délégation voudrait apporter tout son appui. Il s'agit notamment de celles relatives à l'organisation d'une conférence internationale sur la nutrition compte tenu de son importance primordiale pour la survie et le bien-être de nos populations respectives.

Elle soutient également le plan d'action d'intégration de la femme dans le développement. En effet, dans la plupart des pays du tiers monde, en particulier le Burundi, la femme joue un rôle de premier plan dans la production alimentaire en milieu rural, tout comme la jeunesse rurale non soumise à la délinquance ou à l'exode rural. Une action doit être menée pour la formation de la femme à une meilleure intégration dans les circuits de production du monde rural dont elle est le principal artisan.

Par ailleurs, le Burundi soutient fermement toute mesure visant à renforcer la coopération et l'assistance technique particulièrement en direction des populations qui en ont le plus besoin. Les pays riches, plus favorisés que les autres, ainsi que d'autres organismes donateurs, devraient accorder à ce secteur un appui financier substantiel. Cet appui, nous en sommes persuadés, contribuerait grandement à aider les peuples en développement à subvenir eux-mêmes à leurs besoins et à résoudre les problèmes de malnutrition et de pauvreté en comptant sur leurs propres forces.

Je ne saurais terminer mon intervention sans dire un mot sur le problème de l'environnement. Comme beaucoup de personnalités ont eu l'occasion de le souligner le 16 octobre 1989 à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, on ne saurait dissocier la question de l'alimentation de celle de l'environnement. La création d'un environnement sain et durable est une impérieuse nécessité aussi bien pour les pays développés que pour les pays pauvres en voie de développement. Les ressources de la planète doivent être utilisées de façon judicieuse pour le maintien de l'équilibre entre l'homme et la nature.



Au Burundi, cette question se trouve au centre de nos préoccupations suite à la dégradation et à l'appauvrissement de nos sols dus à une forte pression démographique, au surpâturage, au déboisement, avec pour conséquence l'érosion et la rupture de l'équilibre écologique. C'est pour cette raison qu'un Ministère de l'environnement a été créé en octobre 1988.

La FAO a joué, depuis sa création, un rôle de premier plan pour sensibiliser l'opinion internationale aux problèmes de la faim, de la malnutrition et de la pauvreté dans le monde. Beaucoup d'efforts et d'initiatives ont été déployés dans ce sens avec des résultats appréciables dans beaucoup de nos pays, en particulier ceux en voie de développement.

Nous faisons appel à la générosité, à la compréhension et à la solidarité des pays plus favorisés et plus nantis pour poursuivre et pour renforcer leurs efforts pour soutenir notre Organisation en la dotant des moyens financiers nécessaires pour qu'elle puisse réaliser pleinement sa mission et son programme de nourrir les populations en augmentation constante. Les chiffres présentés par le Directeur général dans sa déclaration du 13 novembre se passent de commentaires!

Pour terminer, je voudrais une fois de plus féliciter Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO et son équipe pour le travail déjà accompli ainsi que pour la qualité des documents présentés à la présente session. Nous ne ménagerons aucun effort pour apporter notre contribution et notre soutien à toutes les décisions à même de permettre à notre Organisation de réunir plus de moyens et de déployer plus d'efforts pour renforcer son action, en particulier en direction des pays les plus démunis.

- Vive la FAO!

- Vive la solidarité internationale!

**D.I.G. KARIMANZIRA (Zimbabwe):** On behalf of my Delegation, may I begin by joining others in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, upon your election to office.

It is with great pleasure that I speak on behalf of the Government of Zimbabwe at this, the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference. This Conference is taking place at a time when we are concluding the decade of the 'eighties and entering the 'nineties. It is therefore appropriate that we must pause and reflect on the results of our endeavours during the last decade as we prepare for the formidable tasks that lie ahead.

Evidence to date suggests that while progress has been achieved by a number of countries in combating hunger, malnutrition and poverty, major problems still persist in many countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America. For Africa in particular, the record remains one of declining per capita food production. Overall hunger and malnutrition continued to be widespread despite the abundance of world food supplies. Increasing population growth, degradation of the environment, natural calamities, civil strife, and an uncertain world economic outlook all conspired to make the goal of eliminating hunger and poverty that much more difficult to achieve.

The world economic environment has serious adverse consequences for developing countries in their effort to end hunger, poverty and malnutrition. The external debt problem, declining development assistance, downward pressure on the demand for and prices of developing countries' products have impaired development and the growth process of developing countries.

In spite of this discouraging record, more positive developments also took place during the 1980s. A consensus emerged calling for relief on the debt burden being borne by developing countries. Equally important was a growing acknowledgement of the interdependence among nations and therefore the need for cooperation in dealing with matters of external debt, trade and development. In developing countries themselves, there is also growing awareness of the need to address the underlying structural deficiencies of their economies to achieve sustainable development.

It is vitally important, however, that the welfare of the economically weak members of society is not sacrificed in this economic adjustment process. The burden of adjustments has been disproportionately high for developing countries and is extracting unacceptably high social and economic costs which are reflected in declining indices of welfare and quality of life.

Coming to the end of the 'eighties as we have done, the paradox of our time - that of hunger amidst plenty - still continues. The challenge for the 'nineties therefore, is to continue with the effort to consolidate our gains, to reverse the impact of external economic factors and to continue to maintain food and agricultural issues on the centre stage of global attention.

But these efforts will require sufficient resources. I hope, therefore, that there will be consensus during this Conference to support and endorse the Programme of Work and Budget proposed by the Director-General.

This Conference is also taking place at a time when many countries in southern Africa are preparing for their new cropping season. In Zimbabwe, as a result of increased production by the small scale sector, coupled with favourable rains in the major grain producing parts of the country, the production of maize has increased substantially in relation to domestic requirements. We are therefore faced with a situation where substantial stocks of maize have accumulated. Concurrently, export prices are beginning to fall following the recent firming-up associated with the drought in North America.

This year it is expected that we will have a maize surplus of about 1 million tonnes after accounting for domestic offtake. Maize production usually fluctuates markedly with changes in the rainfall pattern, and this is reflected in the pattern of grain deliveries to the marketing board, and fluctuations in domestic sales. These variations make it extremely difficult to correctly ascertain the desirable level of stocks, to plan for production and exports, and to determine appropriate producer price levels.

Maize forms the basis of our national staple diet and is generally produced with the objective of achieving self-sufficiency. The major gains in maize production over the last few years have come from the peasant sector. The contribution of the peasant sector in maize output in volume terms has risen from less than 10 percent in 1980 to over 50 percent at present.

The contribution of the small-scale farming sector to total marketable agricultural output is largely attributable to the agricultural policy initiatives introduced by the Government since 1980.

Some of these policy reforms include the expansion of adaptive research, training and extension services geared for the small-scale sector, provision of farm credit, and the establishment of controlled marketing depots at which appropriate guaranteed producer prices can be received for the major products delivered by farmers. Pricing policy measures have also had a significant impact on boosting production and maintaining a satisfactory balance between cash crops and food crops.

A major feature of our agricultural structural adjustment has been the resettlement of some small-scale farmers in more productive lands, and this together with the expansion of State farms and cooperative farms has greatly contributed to increasing agricultural output. At the same time, large-scale commercial production has continued to play a critical role in the Zimbabwean agricultural system, and the sector exhibited notable gains in productivity during this period.

The major challenge now facing the Government of Zimbabwe is to sustain the positive improvements so far achieved against the background of a possible recurrence of drought, deterioration of the international economic environment and several other unforeseeable economic disturbances that might occur.

We are located in a region in which droughts are endemic. However, while the vagaries of weather remain largely unpredictable, they are not beyond taming through the application of science and technology. We believe, therefore, that the development of irrigation and the application of appropriate farming methods for moisture conservation are essential to offset the effects of future droughts.

On the production side, it is evident that an over-intensification of certain crops or overgrazing by livestock in the absence of effective land management policies, can lead to excessive land degradation and an irreversable loss of production capacity. Given the fact that high rates of population growth will continue to place considerable strain on our finite land resources, we will continue to focus attention on improving productivity while maintaining a correct production mix in each of the agro-ecological zones.

During the past few years we have seen increasing concern for the environment. In Zimbabwe, the degradation of soils, pollution of water and of the atmosphere, and deforestation are matters of grave concern. Therefore, my delegation welcomes and supports the emphasis that FAO is placing on the environment and sustainable development in its programmes.

The critical role of women in food production is beginning to be recognized and agrarian reform measures, in particular training, extension and transfer of technology are being appropriately adjusted in order to accommodate the special needs of women farmers who had been ignored in the past.

On the marketing side we have experienced severe bottlenecks during the procurement of crop surpluses from the increasing harvest in the peasant sector, in particular with respect to transportation, inadequate feeder roads and delays in processing payment to producers. This latter aspect is crucial in farming because it affects the ability of the producer to pay back loans and consequently the disbursement of further credit for the purchase of farm inputs.

I should mention here the plight of land-locked countries in our region who achieve agricultural surpluses. Being land locked, transport to overseas markets reduces our ability to compete in these markets and maximize foreign exchange earnings. Existing transport routes are generally expensive and have often been major targets of South Africa's acts of aggression and destabilization.

In the context of regional trade, may I acknowledge the positive role that the World Food Programme and other donor institutions are playing through triangular arrangements.

I would also like to mention our involvement in regional economic cooperation, specifically under the auspices of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) and the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA). Notable progress has been made in many SADCC regional agricultural and food security programmes, and in fostering regional trade among Preferential Trade Area (PTA) states, as a result of regional cooperation under these fora.

Many of our projects have received generous, technical and financial assistance from external agencies, including the FAO, and we are grateful for that.

In conclusion, let me say that developing countries face major obstacles in the search for a better way of life. The need for increased and more rapid aid disbursement from developed countries, together with an inflow of private investment for strengthening the recovery of the overall economic situation, cannot be overstressed.

We in Zimbabwe remain firm in our commitment to adopt sound agricultural policies and work towards achieving and sustaining self reliance in agriculture.

**Cyril R. DOMINIQUE (Grenada):** Mr Chairman, Director-General, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. The problems we face as a world community are planetary but solvable. Our two greatest resources, people and land, can still redeem the promise of development. The enormous changes sweeping over us demand fundamental changes in our attitudes, our policies and in the way we structure our societies.

One needs a wider definition of national security to embrace economic and ecological interdependence and global environmental hazards.

This definition will require new restrictions and new forms of cooperation in the interest of all. Such a concept of national security must also embrace relations with the developed and developing nations. In the long run, perhaps even in the short run too, environmentally sound development in the South could also benefit the North. The destruction of the planet's environment is making the world a less stable place to live politically, economically and militarily.

As the overburdened lands sustain fewer people in the nations of the Third World, desperate and hungry families search for a way out. Some flee to neighbouring countries and become environmental refugees, placing untold burdens on their host country, sometimes conflict. This delegation thinks we can have no true security until we direct more of our energies into the ecological stability of the developing nations. This delegation believes that armaments cannot and will not remove the threats to peace. We have a saying in Grenada: "A hungry man is an angry man".

We believe sustainable development and sound environmental management can. But, despite their importance we have traditionally tacked agricultural development and environmental concerns on to the tail end of our bureaucratic structures in underfunded and understaffed ministries. When we use man-made assets, we write off the use as depreciation, but with the environment we forget to evaluate it as productive capital, even though we use it as such.

When we clear our woodlands, use our skies, seas, rivers and streams as garbage bins and sewers we may perhaps show an increase in national incomes as measured in GNP. Such strategies are short-sighted and gains short-lived. We must pay in the end, often heavily. We need a bookkeeping system to monitor the real cost of environmental degradation.

Sustainable agricultural development calls for new imperatives for international cooperation. It requires new international financial systems to cope with national debts which both the tender and the debtor know can never be paid. Environmental damage, high debts and low returns on commodity sales, all encourage countries to overdraw further their environmental account in vain attempts to balance the national account.

This delegation finds that whenever the question of design for economic development in the South comes up, most of the North looks at their present industry and not at their past concerns for agriculture.

Agricultural development must be subsidized; it needs technical cooperation programmes. This development puts schools in rural areas, builds farm roads to access new farms and farm products, educates farmers, both formally and informally to handle the new technology.

In short, development must produce an educated rural population with the marketing facilities and expertise to sell the goods it produces and the ability to buy the products of the new high-input technology.

We in the Caribbean are small fragile islands with limited land resources and are very prone to sudden natural disasters, such as hurricanes; prices for our traditional crops, banana, cocoa, sugar, spices, etc. are all depressed. We are told by the experts to diversify into cash-oriented export crops - opening up new lands - putting pressure on our limited land base with an effect on erosion and water supply.

This delegation strongly indicates its support for the TCP, TCDC and WFP Programmes. It also wishes to indicate its satisfaction with the outcome of the Review of the field programme. It endorses the initiative for integrating women in rural development. At this point charity should begin at home. I do hope that I shall soon be seeing many more women in positions within the Organization where they can help the integration process of women in development.

Finally, this delegation wishes to thank the host country for its gracious hospitality. It also wishes to express its thanks to FAO for the invaluable cooperation and technical assistance given to us through its many projects, and reaffirms its staunch support for the institution in its many and varied activities.

I am confident that a well-funded and strengthened FAO will meet the challenges of the future head on. Like other delegations, I hope that this Twenty-fifth Session will see the end of the Review, thus giving the institution the ability to respond to the many problems and challenges of agriculture. We are concerned that this Organization is shrinking when it should be expanding.

**Arturo LOPEZ LUNA (Honduras):** En nombre de mi gobierno pláceme presentar un atento saludo al Dr. Saouma, Director General de la FAO, y extenderle nuestras felicitaciones por la eficaz dirección y conducción de los programas y actividades de la Organización.

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia, me es sumamente grato presentarle un cordial saludo y extenderle mis más efusivas felicitaciones por su elección para conducir los trabajos de este 25º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO.

Honduras es un pequeño Estado situado en el corazón de América Central, entre los océanos Atlántico y Pacífico, y fronterizo con El Salvador, Guatemala y Nicaragua.

La superficie de Honduras, predominantemente montañosa, es de 112 088 km<sup>2</sup>, equivalente a 11,2 millones de hectáreas, de las cuales 2,8 millones son de vocación agropecuaria, 7,4 millones de vocación forestal y 1,0 millones son áreas urbanas y tierras no definidas.

Al analizar el condicionante ambiental del país nos encontramos con grandes obstáculos para el desarrollo de la agricultura, ya que la deforestación ocasionada por los agricultores migratorios disminuye el suministro de agua en tiempo de sequía favoreciendo la erosión en tiempo de lluvia. El área de bosques latifoliados está disminuyendo a razón del 4 por ciento cada año.

Honduras cuenta actualmente con una población que sobrepasa los 5 millones de habitantes, de los cuales un 62 por ciento vive en el área rural, con una tasa de crecimiento de 3,3 por ciento que sobrepasa la capacidad gubernamental para proveer y ampliar servicios básicos en educación, salud, vivienda, extensión y crédito y distribución de tierras, sin mencionar que más del 40 por ciento de la población es de edad económicamente dependiente.

La economía hondureña tiene en su conformación una muy elevada dependencia de las actividades del sector agropecuario, pero, a pesar de ser un país eminentemente agrícola, la producción de alimentos no responde a las necesidades alimentarias de la población.

Es difícil desvirtuar la insuficiente expansión del sistema productivo de alimentos. Esta lentitud repercute en variables tales como el comercio exterior y los suministros alimentarios, especialmente en los estratos socio-económicos más débiles de la población, dado que el crecimiento tuvo lugar en áreas que desplazan la producción de granos básicos.

Las pérdidas post-cosecha, especialmente a nivel de finca de pequeño productor, son elevadas, más aún sumadas a las que se dan en la empresa agroalimentaria para exportaciones no manejables.

Es importante recalcar que Honduras cuenta con un mercado interno reducido y el externo es incipiente y monopólico, por lo que sus exportaciones tienden a reducirse relativamente; además el impacto de deterioro de los términos de intercambio, aun en esa reducida escala, ha sido negativo para el desarrollo del país.

La evolución de la demanda de alimentos en América Latina y en el mundo, sumada a la exigencia de una concepción más amplia y generosa sobre las necesidades más apremiantes de la población y la seguridad alimentaria, reclaman un esfuerzo considerable de las instituciones públicas y privadas y dedicadas a la investigación, la extensión agrícola, de apoyo a la producción y comercialización de productos agropecuarios, y, sobre todo, de las instituciones responsables de la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural.

A todo lo anterior se agrega el fuerte impacto de la pesada deuda externa y sus consecuentes medidas de ajuste interno, contracción del flujo de capitales y de recursos financieros para los programas de desarrollo.

La política de Honduras se propone como objetivos fundamentales fortalecer el régimen democrático escogido por los hondureños como forma de vida y de gobierno, asegurar a la ciudadanía el acceso a mejores niveles de bienestar, mantener y fortalecer relaciones con todos los países del mundo, especialmente con los del área de Centroamérica, dentro de un clima de colaboración y de respeto soberano.

Supuesto básico para alcanzar los objetivos mencionados es un entorno pacífico, estable, y seguro en el istmo centroamericano, por el cual venimos luchando intensamente. Es así como Honduras ha participado activamente en todos los esfuerzos realizados por los gobiernos de área del Grupo de Contadora y del Grupo de Apoyo.

Honduras fue anfitrión de la última reunión de Presidentes de Centroamérica celebrada en la ciudad de Tela el 21 de agosto del corriente año, en la que se tomaron decisiones importantes, conocidas como los acuerdos de Tela. También el gobierno de Honduras fue anfitrión de la última reunión entre países centroamericanos y los de la Comunidad Económica Europea, San José V, celebrada en la ciudad de San Pedro Sula, en febrero de 1989.

También Honduras brinda ayuda humanitaria a los pueblos de Centroamérica. Hasta la fecha ha acogido a cerca de 60 000 refugiados, procedentes de cuatro grupos diferentes, a quienes el Programa Mundial de Alimentos ha estado suministrando ayuda alimentaria desde 1980. Cada población de refugiados tiene sus propias características étnicas y la política de ayuda del gobierno de Honduras ha tomado en cuenta sus diferentes condiciones de vida. Aunque el gobierno de Honduras no es signatario de la Convención, ni del Protocolo sobre el Estatuto de los Refugiados, ha aceptado de hecho la condición de estos refugiados que han solicitado asilo.

Asimismo, en nuestro País se encuentran 300 000 ciudadanos de diferentes países que no están registrados y que constituyen una responsabilidad y obligación adicional al Gobierno.

La población femenina de Honduras se está incorporando integralmente al proceso de desarrollo del país y probablemente el esfuerzo más grande en su género lo constituyen las actividades que, en forma modesta, se están desarrollando desde 1983 para lograr métodos y mecanismos apropiados que permitan incorporar eficazmente a las mujeres campesinas al proceso de desarrollo rural, dentro de una política general de consolidación de empresas de la Reforma Agraria y mejoramiento de la calidad de vida de las familias campesinas hondureñas.

Los proyectos ejecutados hasta la fecha han beneficiado a grupos de mujeres campesinas organizadas en pequeñas empresas de producción, que en la mayoría de los casos no habían tenido acceso al crédito y que por primera vez inician sus experiencias en trámites bancarios.

Se ha propiciado la capacitación de los beneficiarios en los diferentes componentes indispensables para el manejo de pequeños proyectos: aspectos promocionales, organizativos, técnico-productivos, administrativos y contables. En esta trascendental tarea de incorporación de la mujer al desarrollo, mi Gobierno desea reconocer y agradecer la eficaz colaboración y ayuda recibida de la FAO, del PNUD y del Gobierno de Holanda.

Al sentar las bases para el funcionamiento de un sistema permanente de atención a la mujer campesina en el marco de las acciones de la Reforma Agraria y el Desarrollo Rural y mediante el efecto demostrativo de los logros anteriores, se ha generado una mayor toma de conciencia y actitudes favorables hacia el trabajo en beneficio de la mujer, lo que repercute indiscutiblemente en la revalorización gradual de su papel en la sociedad.

Habida cuenta de la importancia atribuida a la iniciativa de promover la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo rural, Honduras reitera la necesidad de hacer lo posible por realizar el Plan de Acción de la FAO para la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo.

Es oportuno recordar que Honduras es un Estado Miembro fundador de la FAO y que nuestro país comprendió desde el inicio los beneficios que significarían para la población mundial una organización de tal naturaleza como la FAO.

El Gobierno de Honduras, con el apoyo de FAO, viene accionando para generar condiciones apropiadas que estimulen el esfuerzo productivo de los agricultores y que les permitan realizar, en plazos razonables, las inversiones necesarias en tecnologías apropiadas. Para ello se adoptan medidas para que el productor reciba un ingreso suficientemente remunerativo y compatible con las condiciones del País.

El impacto de la cooperación de FAO a nuestro país ha sido de una enorme relevancia. Se ha recibido asistencia en campos diversos como el social forestal, capacitación en aspectos agrarios, fortalecimiento de la extensión agropecuaria, campañas fitosanitarias y de defensa animal, mejoramiento genético del plátano y banano y muchas otras actividades.

Sin embargo, sí deseo enfatizar la importante asistencia recibida en el aspecto de seguridad alimentaria que ha sido de gran significación para el bienestar de la población rural de Honduras.



Desde 1977, con asistencia del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, se han desarrollado en Honduras más de 25 proyectos:

- Tecnologías pecuarias;
- Preparado personal técnico en áreas específicas, como la producción de biogás y el control de enfermedades exóticas;
- Se han estructurado servicios agrícolas como la producción de semillas, la investigación, el riego y la cuarentena vegetal;
- Se han aliviado los efectos de desastres naturales y rehabilitado la producción;
- Se ha fortalecido la acción de la Reforma Agraria y el Desarrollo Rural.

Por lo tanto, Honduras reitera la importancia del PCT y la necesidad de reforzar el Programa, a fin de alcanzar un nivel más alto, el 17 por ciento, de los recursos del presupuesto ordinario.

También en esta oportunidad quiero expresar el reconocimiento y agradecimiento del Gobierno de Honduras a las demás agencias del sistema de Naciones Unidas, a los Organismos Internacionales, a la Comunidad Europea y a los otros países amigos donantes que muy generosamente nos han apoyado en estos difíciles momentos de la historia y del desarrollo de Honduras.

Para finalizar, si me permite señor Presidente, quisiera citar al procer hondureño, José Cecilio del Valle, un hombre de gran visión, quien hace más de 160 años pronunció las frases siguientes, que aún hoy tienen vigencia:

"Estamos en el punto más peligroso de la carrera. Vamos a formar nuevas instituciones, a hacer nuevas leyes, a crearlo todo de nuevo, pero, antes de llegar a esa cima, es preciso trepar rutas escarpadas, andar caminos peligrosos, atravesar abismos profundos ... Pero las leyes no se forman entre los horrores de la discordia. Se meditan en el silencio de la paz, en el reposo del orden. Si en vez de pensar en nuestra común felicidad, maquinamos nuestro mal recíproco; si en lugar de ocuparnos en los trabajos pacíficos de la Legislación, nos abandonamos a las disputas sangrientas de las divisiones intestinas, no gozaremos jamás de nuestra independencia. Nos sacrificaremos unos a otros, y, en medio de cadáveres, cansados al fin de derramar sangre, nos sentaremos sobre escombros y ruinas a llorar nuestra desgracia".

**Geoffrey M, OTENG (Botswana):** Let me on behalf of the Delegation of Botswana also take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election to the Chairmanship of this Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference.

We are gathered here once again in our continued effort to seek solutions in the fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition which continue to plague large parts of the world. We are somewhat gratified at this time by what appears to be a sign of reduced tension in the political and social situation in most parts of the world. In Southern Africa in particular there appears to be a gradual recognition by the States in the Region, for the need to reduce hostilities and to try and seek solutions through peaceful negotiation. The elections leading to the independence of Namibia are now over and it is our hope that peace will at last come to this country.

Peace and stability are the main ingredients for positive economic and social development. They are, however, only possible if there is a prevalence of openness, freedom and social justice. We are hopeful, therefore, that the momentum of positive changes for increased democracy and openness that we see taking shape throughout the world will continue and that in our Region the end result will not only be a free Namibia but will include freedom in South Africa and peace and stability in Angola and Mozambique. This, then, would enable our people to concentrate on productive development and the improvement of their livelihoods.

While we applaud these positive developments, it is unfortunate that we have failed to make similar progress in other spheres. As we are all aware, increased investment in agriculture and specifically in agricultural research, irrigation and conservation, has been hampered by the large external debt in the economies of the developing countries. The problem of servicing these large debts has also led to the implementation of structural adjustment programmes often imposed by lending agencies. The result of this has been reductions in public expenditure with the resultant disruption of activities in the productive sectors, especially agriculture. In addition, there have been adverse social repercussions in many countries as people express their anger at sudden increases in prices of staple foods. In view of the fact that most of the countries so affected are largely dependent on agriculture for their foreign exchange earning and employment, there is a need for greater assistance in order to cushion the sudden shock experienced by their economies.

There was a slight improvement in food production in the developing countries, including some on the African continent in 1988. However, the overall picture in the world production registered a decline. This has been accompanied by a decline in the level of food stocks throughout the world. In addition, the past two years since we last met have been characterized by a continued increase in the price of cereals. For those developing countries which are net importers of grain and which face serious foreign exchange constraints, the situation has become very serious. All this means that they are not able to provide the minimum nutritional requirements for their populations, while on the other hand, those countries which were fortunate to have surplus production are unable to dispose of their surpluses and are stuck with high storage costs and grains that will deteriorate until they are unfit for human consumption.

This situation raises the additional concern in the lack of progress in the improvement of agricultural trade. The majority of developing countries experienced a decline in agricultural export earnings. This way mainly due to the depressed prices of primary commodities. We can mention the sharp decrease in the prices of coffee and cocoa as examples. This situation meant a further decrease in the foreign exchange earnings of those countries which depend mainly on agriculture. Efforts to reduce or eliminate protectionism in agricultural trade have also not been successful. It is our hope that the on-going Uruguay Round of negotiations would prove successful and bring about an improvement in world trade.

It has always been our contention that the world problems of hunger and malnutrition cannot be solved in a piecemeal approach. All the problems of production, technology, population control, environmental protection, pricing, trade, etc., are inter-related and we need to seek an integrated strategy in order to find the correct solutions. The present approach of responding to crisis situations which has so far yielded limited success,

should be discarded for a much bolder and innovative approach. It is our belief that there are sufficient resources and sufficient knowledge to solve the current problems. What is lacking is the will and determination by nations to sit down together to work out an acceptable strategy.

With the world population estimated to reach 6 000 million in the next eleven years, with food production continuing to decline, and with continued increased threat to our environment, our time is slowly running out. There is therefore an urgent need for us to come up with long lasting solutions that will save mankind.

As political tensions decrease throughout the world and there is less confrontation between nations, we hope that there will be a corresponding decline in the need to arm ourselves against our neighbours which will result in the reduction in the production and acquisition of arms of war. This we hope will serve to release financial resources which so far have gone to military spending and will in addition release manpower resources which are presently preoccupied with military and weapons research. This will be the time to take bold decisions that will lead to a change in our present way of thinking and lead to the channelling of these resources to more productive efforts for the betterment of all mankind.

**Khamsing SAYAKONE (Laos):** C'est pour moi un grand honneur et un plaisir de diriger la délégation de la République démocratique populaire lao à la présente vingt-cinquième Conférence générale de l'Organisation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Tout d'abord, permettez-moi de présenter mes félicitations à M. le Directeur général, Dr. Edouard Saouma, et à tous ses collaborateurs qui ont apporté toute l'attention requise pour que la vingt-cinquième Conférence générale de l'Organisation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture puisse se dérouler de façon solennelle.

Je suis convaincu que sous la direction de Mr. John Charles Kerin, Président de la vingt-cinquième Conférence générale, qui dispose de riches expériences, en addition à la participation active des Vice-Présidents et de tous les délégués, les travaux de la Conférence générale aboutiront à de grands succès.

Il est de notoriété publique que, dans le processus de réalisation des tâches que la Conférence générale nous a confiées, notre Organisation s'est trouvée en butte à de nombreuses difficultés, notamment de nature financière. Durant ces deux dernières années, de par une insuffisance budgétaire par rapport aux tâches fixées par les Résolutions de la vingt-quatrième Conférence générale qui s'est tenue en 1987, notre Organisation s'est vue dans l'obligation de supprimer de nombreuses tâches sectorielles non seulement dans leurs aspects administratifs, mais de grands programmes économiques, techniques et autres ont aussi été affectés. Ces difficultés financières ont limité les progrès et le développement dans le domaine de l'agriculture, des forêts et de la pêche des pays membres, et plus particulièrement des pays en voie de développement. Malgré cela, grâce à la vivacité d'esprit et aux efforts déployés par le Directeur général et par les fonctionnaires de tous rangs et de tous secteurs de l'Organisation, les affaires les plus importantes ont pu être organisées et réalisées avec des succès satisfaisants, comme cela a été résumé dans le Rapport des activités menées par l'Organisation durant ces deux dernières années. Ainsi,

la délégation lao donne son avis favorable sur le rapport du Directeur général concernant l'exécution du Programme de travail de la FAO en 1988-89. Il est à souligner que l'Organisation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture s'est efforcée de surmonter tous les obstacles, a déployé tous ses efforts et utilisé tous les moyens afin d'assister les pays membres qui ont été les victimes de calamités naturelles en Afrique, en Asie, ainsi qu'en Amérique latine sous forme d'assistance urgente et d'assistance pour le développement.

Vis-à-vis de la République démocratique populaire lao, dont la production agricole a été affectée par de sévères calamités naturelles durant deux années successives, l'Organisation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture a rapidement mis en marche une coopération avec le Programme alimentaire mondial visant à relever la situation pratique sur le terrain, estimer les dégâts et résumer les besoins de chaque localité afin de demander l'assistance des pays amis, des organisations internationales, des organisations non gouvernementales dans le but d'alléger les souffrances et privations supportées par la population des régions frappées par les calamités naturelles. Grâce à l'assistance des pays amis, des organisations internationales et des organisations non gouvernementales, nous avons pu acquérir un nombre de bases matérielles et techniques nécessaires pour le futur développement agricole et forestier en la RDPL, et c'est aussi grâce à cette assistance que les fermiers lao pluriethniques ont pu se concentrer sur la production de riz annuelle en un mouvement national enthousiaste, que la transplantation des plantes a été réalisée à temps, que les épis se développent de belle manière... C'est ainsi qu'il a pu être estimé que la récolte de cette année ne sera pas moins de 1 300 000 tonnes, ce qui sera suffisant pour la consommation pour 1989-90.

Ainsi, au nom du Gouvernement et du peuple lao en général, et notamment au nom de la population qui a été victime de la sécheresse en 1987-88 dans le centre et dans le sud du Laos, je voudrais, par cette occasion, présenter nos remerciements les plus profonds envers l'Organisation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, au Programme alimentaire mondial, aux pays amis, aux organisations internationales et non gouvernementales qui ont apporté une assistance précieuse au Gouvernement et au peuple lao.

Dans son message, le Directeur général de l'Organisation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, à l'occasion du 9ème anniversaire de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation le 16 octobre 1989, avait mentionné: "En l'an 2000, il y aura un milliard de plus de bouches à nourrir. Pour y arriver, la production alimentaire devra augmenter d'environ 40 pour cent, et de beaucoup plus si l'on veut éliminer la faim."

Ainsi, la suppression de certains projets du programme d'activité de l'Organisation due à des difficultés financières est clairement contraire aux tendances nécessaires pour trouver une solution à l'alimentation dans les années à venir. Dans une telle situation, nous nous devons tous de chercher en commun des moyens pour la limiter et progresser jusqu'à sa cessation entière.

Après avoir amplement étudié le Programme du travail et budget 1990-91 présenté à la Conférence générale par le Directeur général, il est de mon opinion que les priorités définies constituent toutes des problèmes fondamentaux particulièrement nécessaires pour le développement continu de la production alimentaire afin de satisfaire aux besoins de consommation augmentant dans les années à venir.

Le budget de 574 millions de dollars a augmenté seulement de 0,45 pour cent. C'est un budget raisonnable et nécessaire pour que les activités de l'Organisation qui ont été régulièrement secouées ces dernières années se normalisent progressivement.

Ainsi, la délégation lao approuve entièrement le Programme de travail et budget pour l'année 1990-91 présenté par le Directeur général et espère que les autres délégations sont du même avis.

La République démocratique populaire lao pratique une agriculture naturelle, la monoculture de riz, dispose de peu de bases techniques et d'une productivité très basse, mais encore s'est trouvée en butte à de graves destructions dues à la guerre et à des calamités naturelles de façon continue. Mais durant plus d'une décennie, depuis que la patrie a recouvré entièrement son indépendance, grâce à la juste ligne politique du gouvernement, grâce aux efforts déployés par toute la population et plus particulièrement par les fermiers pluriethniques, l'agriculture de la République démocratique populaire lao a atteint des résultats initiaux dont nous sommes fiers: nous avons pu élever la production de paddy à 1,8 fois, de 660 000 tonnes en 1976 à 1,23 million de tonnes de 1987, c'est-à-dire que la production a augmenté en moyenne de 238 kilogrammes à 322 kilogrammes par tête. Pendant quelques années, nous avons pu nous suffire fondamentalement en céréales, et en certains endroits la population a pu en accumuler des réserves.

Mais, parallèlement à ces succès initiaux, l'agriculture et les forêts de la République démocratique et populaire lao montrent encore de nombreuses insuffisances et faiblesses:

La production agricole ne se déroule pas encore sous tous ses aspects et de façon ferme, ne se concentre que sur le riz et surtout sur la production de riz gluant; il n'existe encore qu'une récolte annuelle, et la culture de plantes céréalières, de plantes industrielles et l'élevage d'animaux ne reçoit pas une attention adéquate... Jusqu'à présent, nous n'avons pas encore pu apporter une solution adéquate au problème céréalier.

Les potentiels et les possibilités agricoles existantes ne sont pas encore dûment exploités et développés, tels que la superficie de terre utilisée pour la culture et l'élevage d'animaux qui atteint seulement 1,6 million d'hectares de la superficie agricole totale de 4 millions d'hectares. La culture de riz à elle seule ne couvre que 20 pour cent de la superficie agricole utilisée présentement (400 000 hectares sur un total de 1,6 million d'hectares).

L'introduction de la science, des techniques et de la culture intensive ne reçoit pas une attention adéquate. La culture, l'élevage d'animaux s'effectuent de façon naturelle. Les outils agricoles manquent et ne sont pas améliorés.

La superficie de la culture sur brûlis est d'environ 300 000 hectares. La culture sur brûlis, qui est devenue un danger des plus évidents et des plus sévères, n'a pas encore pu être restreinte ni empêchée, et la superficie totale des forêts du pays se trouve réduite de 2 pour cent par an. Sur la base des données relevées par des images de satellites jusqu'en 1981, la superficie des forêts de la République démocratique et populaire lao ne compte plus qu'approximativement 11 millions d'hectares, c'est-à-dire 47 pour cent de la superficie totale du pays. La sécheresse et l'inondation sont apparues consécutivement en plusieurs endroits.

En résumé, les dommages encourus par les forêts de la République démocratique populaire lao ont allumé un signal d'alerte, et sans mesures définitives afin de restreindre ce phénomène, d'ici à l'an 2005, il n'existera plus de bois, car la République démocratique populaire lao se tient au 4ème rang des pays qui détruisent leurs forêts à une cadence des plus rapides en Asie.

En résumé, l'agriculture de la République démocratique et populaire lao n'a pas encore réussi à se défaire de la monoculture de riz et d'autosuffisance individuelle, et l'alimentation n'a pas encore reçu de solutions fermes. Les potentiels de l'agriculture et des forêts n'ont pas été dûment développés, les ressources de la terre et des forêts n'ont pas été préservées, mais ont été au contraire détruites, la productivité de l'agriculture reste dans un état stagnant, et l'environnement se trouve gravement endommagé.

Si une situation telle que la présente production agricole se poursuit, nous ne pourrions pas libérer notre pays du sous-développement.

En se basant sur ces faits, la Conférence nationale sur l'agriculture a ainsi approuvé la conversion de l'agriculture naturelle vers une agriculture de production marchande dont, d'ici à l'an 2000, il nous faudra nous efforcer d'atteindre un niveau de production agricole en grande quantité, avec une grande diversification de marchandises de bonne qualité, visant à répondre aux besoins internes et l'exportation de marchandises agricoles doit répondre aux besoins de toute la société entière, fermement et en assurant des réserves. L'agriculture doit se transformer en une base initiale pour le développement de l'industrie.

Quant aux forêts, en se basant sur les caractéristiques socio-économiques de la République démocratique populaire lao, sur le rôle d'une importance considérable envers la vie de tous les jours, envers la cause de l'édification et du développement de l'économie et de la défense nationale dans l'immédiat et à long terme, ainsi qu'envers la protection de l'environnement, la stratégie forestière de la République démocratique populaire lao doit s'aligner sur les objectifs suivants:

- 1 Sauvegarder la diversité biologique existante des forêts, progressivement régénérer et développer cette diversité biologique.
- 2 Utiliser rationnellement l'utilité des forêts, utilisant et régénérant l'utilité économique des ressources forestières de façon rationnelle.
- 3 Lier étroitement la régénération, la protection et le développement des forêts avec une production suffisante de céréales, avec la réorganisation de la production et la sédentarisation des populations vivant dans les régions montagneuses et surtout dans le nord.

A présent, la République démocratique populaire lao a une population de 1,5 million de personnes qui vivent de culture itinérante sur brûlis, surtout dans les provinces du nord, et les ressources forestières de ces régions se trouvent gravement et continuellement endommagées. Ainsi, il nous est nécessaire de lier la production suffisante de céréales pour la consommation des populations montagnardes avec la réorganisation de leur mode de production et de vie, avec la régénération des forêts. D'ici à l'an 2000, il nous faut fondamentalement faire cesser la culture sur brûlis, sédentariser les populations montagnardes à un minimum de 60 pour cent et la population restante pour d'ici à l'an 2010.

Quant à 1990 qui arrivera très prochainement, nous nous concentrerons pour apporter une solution aux problèmes des céréales et de l'alimentation, garantir l'objectif de 2,2 millions de tonnes, dont 1,8 de paddy. La solution du problème céréalier et de l'alimentation doit être liée à la limitation et la progression vers la suppression fondamentale de la culture sur brûlis dans le but de préserver l'environnement.

Notre objectif futur et à long terme ne saura se réaliser sans la coopération et l'assistance des pays amis, des organisations internationales et non gouvernementales. Ainsi, sur cette scène historique, j'en appelle aux pays amis, aux organisations internationales et non gouvernementales de répondre à la demande du gouvernement et du peuple lao, une nouvelle fois, d'apporter une contribution importante à la conversion de l'agriculture naturelle de la République démocratique populaire lao en une agriculture de production marchande avec succès.

Finalement, je souhaite à la vingt-cinquième Assemblée générale de notre Organisation les plus grands succès.

Je vous remercie.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 h 00.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas.

# conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

# conférence

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

# conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 89/PV/12

Twenty-fifth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-cinquième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

25<sup>a</sup> período desesione  
PLENARIA

## TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENEIRE 12<sup>a</sup> SESIÓN PLENARIA

17 November 1989

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours  
John Charles Kerin, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45  
sous la présidence de John Charles Kerin, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 12<sup>a</sup> Sesión Plenaria a las 14.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia de John Charles Kerin, Presidente de la Conferencia



GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)

- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

**S Gblorzuo TOWEH (Liberia):** I bring you greetings and warmest felicitations from the President of Liberia, Dr. Samuel K. Doe, the Government and People of Liberia on the occasion of the 25th Session of the FAO General Assembly.

Let me first of all express my gratitude to the Government and people of Italy for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to us upon our arrival in Rome.

Our assembly at this 25th Session indicates the importance our respective governments place on food and agriculture, as well as a genuine search for a lasting solution to food security for the people of the world; for agriculture is the only medium through which a nation can feed itself, while at the same time providing the basis for a sustainable economy.

The Government of Liberia therefore, is cognizant of the fact that food and agriculture are important factors in a nation's survival. Consequently, continuous and accelerated efforts are being made to improve this sector of our economy. The approach was to enhance and sustain agricultural growth and development by launching a Green Revolution Programme in 1986, which is now in full operation.

The green revolution concept has been well supported by the Liberian people. There has been a gradual increase in the production of rice.

Correspondingly, tuber and other crops in this category are also showing gradual increases.

We are convinced that, given the enthusiasm with which the Liberian people have received the Green Revolution Programme, we will achieve our objective of food security for our people in the very near future. Accordingly, we have formulated a five-year development plan to develop 30 000 small farms in the low land. We hope to reduce the importation of rice, our staple food, by 85 percent at the end of the five years.

Also, emphasis is being placed on the establishment of agro-industries which will utilize the agricultural raw material to produce semi or finished products, thereby reducing our dependence upon imported commodities. Presently, an edible oil refinery is under construction which will produce cooking oil, margarine and other semi-finished products. Also, three cassava processing plants are being constructed for the production of starch and other products.

I am pleased to report that we have received support from friendly governments as well as Specialized Agencies of the United Nations; particularly, FAO and UNDP. We hope that after the revision of my country's green revolution action plan, which is being sponsored by FAO, friendly

governments will respond to our needs for assistance in implementing our Green Revolution Programme. My Government expresses her thanks and appreciation for your continuous support as we strive for the attainment of food security for our people.

You will understand that financial constraints among developing nations impede the efforts of these governments to implement most of their agricultural programmes. Most of the income received by these governments are tied up in servicing their debt obligations, whereas their capacity to borrow has become smaller. Therefore, the support we received to accelerate agricultural production is highly welcome and appreciated.

This body must not relent in its efforts to secure food for the world - a very difficult task indeed. The Council's report on the current world food situation, which shows a consecutive fall in the production of staple foods in terms of per capita consumption, is a concern for most countries, especially the developing nations, and Africa in particular.

Efforts must be accelerated in assisting countries that are unable to provide their people with food. We note with concern that the population growth rate in most of the developing countries continues to be far above their food production rate. To correct this trend, those countries that are affected should be encouraged and/or assisted to adopt the appropriate policy framework that takes into account population issues, as they relate to food security.

The report of the Council, indicating higher prices for cereals reflects a concern. We must cautiously consider the suggestion that cereal prices will be higher, for cereals are the staple of most of the developing countries who have less funds to acquire, and who at the same time are facing a mountain of debt burdens. From where will the extra come to direct towards this increased price of food?

It is pleasing to note in paragraph 20 of the report, however, that the Council was concerned about the situation of the rise in international cereal prices and the expected decline in food aid shipments.

We endorse the idea that food security must be achieved through the acceleration of the 4 "I's" - incentives, inputs, infrastructures and institutions. My Government like all others has the great responsibility of making food security a reality for her people.

Women contribute substantially to food production in Africa. Approximately 80% to 90% of the marketers and local food processors are women. We wholeheartedly endorse the plan of action for the integration of women into agricultural and rural development. We would not have used the term "Integration", since women are already within the sector.

The common trend it would seem, in most Third World countries, has been to play down or ignore the role of women in agriculture, principally due to cultural practices.

This trend has affected the involvement of women in the decision-making process. Thus, though they are the majority participants in food and agricultural production, there are very few statistics on their actual production. Moreover, very little credit inputs or other facilities necessary for improvement are directly extended to them.

Therefore, we recommend that where these services are not available, a survey on women's activities in food and agriculture be conducted through the assistance of FAO, and that they be the target group for credit, input supplies, infrastructural development and marketing outlets. Let women be involved in the decision-making process.

Fishery is an integral part of food and agriculture; for it is the major source of protein for many Member States. We join the Council in its endorsement of the Committee on Fisheries report and encourage the continuous efforts of FAO to induce the spirit of self-reliance in the fisheries management of Member States. We were privileged to participate in the first Regional Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among States bordering the Atlantic Ocean held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco. During this meeting, discussions were focused on the following: the assessment and conservation of our fisheries resources, the development of the sector through the utilization of bilateral action and complementary resources and the extension of solidarity with our sister countries that are land-locked.

The implementation and accommodation of the Conference will further strengthen the food supply of the African Continent and the world at large. We concur with the Council agreement that FAO give priority to the fisheries programme in member countries by monitoring the prevention of environmental degradation in both inland and marine waters.

Another issue of concern is the protection of our marine life. Vessels at sea are constantly contaminating the ocean, and large factories dump their waste into many of the rivers and other waterways. It is important that research be conducted on the best method of disposing of factory waste material. The various documents on the destruction of the ozone layer are also of great concern. We must strive to preserve our world for the future generation.

The C 89/2-Sup.I shows that although overall food-supply conditions improved slightly for Africa, there are still a number of countries facing grave difficulties. While we strive to improve these unfavourable conditions, our soil has been targeted for the dumping of toxic waste.

More than ever before the African Continent needs to intensify its environmental protection strategies. We request the assistance of member countries in monitoring the industrial activities of their respective countries, including chemical plants producing toxic and other waste products, as well as their method of getting rid of the waste.

To date, my Government has enacted a law dealing with the illegal dumping of toxic waste within our territories. The violation of this law is treasonable. Also, much effort is now directed towards the education of our people on the importance of conservation of the environment. A study on the effect of agro-chemicals on the soil has just been completed through a UNDP-supported project.

Finally, we must consolidate our resources, do away with much political rhetoric and sincerely get down to finding solutions to the many problems of the world food and agriculture situation. In view of this my delegation is in full support of the Programme of Work and Budget submitted by the Council for the period 1990-1991.

My Government assures this illustrious body of its continued support for the fight against hunger and malnutrition. We must be committed to ensuring global peace and security by providing enough food to feed the world's hungry because this is a fundamental human right. Consequently, we must not relent until every malnourished child is brought back to life.

I extend to you, Mr Chairman, and members of your staff our sincere congratulations on your election to this high office. It is the wish of my Government that you will serve with dignity and honour as you direct the affairs of the Conference to a level of prominence. It is my hope that our deliberation will be characterized with peace, unity and understanding. Let us resolve to remain ever-committed to the ideals and principles of global food security for our one world.

**Ernest BENJAMIN (Antigua & Barbuda):** Mr Chairman, I am delighted to associate myself with previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as Chairman of the Conference. I am confident that you will guide us to a fruitful conclusion.

I wish also to express my warmest congratulations to Dr Edouard Saouma for his dedication in promoting international cooperation in the area of food and agriculture for the benefit of mankind and for his excellent management and husbandry of this Organization in a period when FAO is experiencing its most difficult financial crisis.

The current world situation poses a great challenge for FAO and for the developing countries. Since our last Conference, the number of people to be fed in the world has increased by 178 million. Of this increase, 90% has occurred in the developing countries which are most vulnerable to this increase. All these people will have to be provided with the basic necessity of food. Inasmuch as the agricultural sector will have to feed these new masses of people, FAO's missions and responsibilities will increase in providing services to its members in response to the need for agricultural development and modernization.

Another issue which has adversely impacted on agricultural development is the world economic and financial crisis. This crisis has remained unabated. We are all familiar with the heavy debt burdens (particularly in the developing world), protectionism, lack of access to market and poor prices for agricultural produce for developing countries. Amongst the effects of this financial and economic crisis for developing countries, is the huge outflow of capital to service debt with inimical consequences on agricultural development. While the industrialized countries have been able to take measures to protect and assist their farmers, these measures have posed a threat for the agricultural economies of Third World Countries.

Antigua and Barbuda views with concern that at a time when developing countries are making efforts to increase food and agricultural production, FAO is experiencing severe financial difficulties for the delivery of services to its members. While we are mindful of the circumstances which have dictated the general atmosphere in which budgetary matters are being related to the United Nations Organizations, we consider it the duty of the community of nations to reflect that the 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 destitute people in the world, are matters which transcend the political whims and fancies of nations on the basis of comparative global and financial power. We support the Programme of Work and 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 during a period of challenge and uncertainty. Despite the severe financial problems the Director-General and the Council have exercised prudent husbandry and management of the resources during the 1988/1989 biennium.

Against the background of an unprecedented cashflow crisis the Director-General has presented a programme budget of some US\$574 million with a programme increase which amounts to 0.45%. Antigua and Barbuda strongly supports the programme's priorities for 1990/91 and in particular the emphasis of allocating as much as possible of the work programme budget for the technical and economic programmes and Technical Cooperation Programme, which amount to some 60% of the budget. We support the programmes priorities since they can have a significant impact on Third World economies such as those in the Caribbean. We are convinced that the allocation of the resources are realistic and well focused. However, we very much regret that FAO will be constrained in delivering the level of services which its Members will be expecting.

Antigua and Barbuda supports the Programme of Work and Budget and expresses the hope that it will be approved by consensus. We are encouraged in this hope since we believe that the problem, while grave, is not a fundamental crisis involving issues of principle for support of FAO, and no irrevocable decision of non-payment of contributions. Let us therefore rise to the challenge of honouring our obligations to FAO. Antigua and Barbuda gives the assurance that it will honour its obligations.

At our last Conference the question of the reform of FAO was a controversial issue. At that time we expressed the view that, inasmuch as FAO had faithfully discharged its mandate, we did not see the need for reforms.

Antigua and Barbuda is satisfied with the conclusions of the Joint Committees and the Group of Experts that the Food and Agriculture Organization remains a solid and dynamic institution which has demonstrated innovations in its work and has been responsive to changing world events and emerging needs. Now that FAO has received a clean bill of health, we trust that the Conference will embrace the opportunity of approving the recommendations and provide the Organization with the additional \$26 million to implement the very useful recommendations so that FAO can become a vibrant institution with the capability of tackling the problems of agricultural development in the future.

We are getting signals that some members would like to link the question of review to approval of the 1990/1991 Programme of Work and Budget: this Delegation is opposed to this arrangement. We believe that they are two separate and distinct issues. Time is not on our side to continue this process of inward examination. We believe that all the relevant facts are now available to facilitate a positive decision on the issue of the reform of FAO. I am sure that this Conference will rise to the challenge and arrive at a favourable decision in the true spirit of multilateralism and the principle of equality and sovereignty of nations.

Antigua and Barbuda would like to place on record its sincere appreciation for the timely and invaluable assistance which FAO rendered to our farmers in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo. As many of you might know, the agriculture sector of the islands of the eastern Caribbean was severely damaged by one of the most disastrous hurricanes in this century. The estimated damage to the agricultural sector was in the order of US\$90 million. This hurricane has severely disrupted the life and welfare of farmers in the eastern Caribbean, and will require significant resources for eventual rehabilitation of the agricultural sector. We are encouraged by the assistance of FAO in carrying out an assessment of the losses, providing emergency assistance and the Director-General's efforts in mounting a campaign to mobilize assistance from the international community to assist in the rehabilitation of the agricultural sector in the eastern Caribbean.

In light of the vulnerability of the island states in the Caribbean, to natural disasters such as hurricanes, which in recent times have been occurring in greater frequency and intensity, we propose that FAO devise a programme which would enable the island to provide to its farmers emergency assistance and assistance for rehabilitation in the aftermath of hurricanes and other natural disasters.

Antigua and Barbuda is very pleased that the Technical Cooperation Programme has received a programme increase of 2.8% in the budget for the upcoming biennium. As a country that has benefited from the TCP Programme, we strongly support its continuation with increased allocation.

We note the thinking in some quarters that the TCP should operate on the basis of pre-planning and should be managed and monitored by a Committee. Antigua and Barbuda finds this proposal unacceptable. Since the Programme is designed to respond to requests for emergency assistance, there must be the utmost flexibility in its operations. In this connection this delegation wishes to express its strong support for the continuation of this Programme, and hopes that in the next biennium the funds made available will be substantially increased.

I would like to associate myself with the delegation of Dominica in expressing appreciation for the excellent programme of cooperation between FAO and the Caribbean community in the pursuit of agricultural development.

Finally, Antigua and Barbuda would like to place on record its faith and confidence in FAO, which has rendered invaluable assistance in our efforts at agricultural development.

I express the hope that this Conference will be challenged by a genuine vision of international cooperation and solidarity in demonstrating its care and concern for FAO so as to increase its solidity and dynamism to discharge its mandate of assisting in freeing mankind from hunger and malnutrition.

**CHAIRMAN:** The words of Mr Benjamin are a very appropriate introduction for me to make an intervention. This will be my last day at the Conference. It has been a great privilege to have been here for the last week or so, and I would like to make a few fatherly comments.

I met with the General Committee this morning, and I have just had lunch with the Vice-Chairmen and the Chairpersons of the three Commissions. I would like to say to you that I believe this Conference is in very good hands, and that my own Australian delegation will keep me in touch as events unfold in this Conference.

Obviously, I cannot sum up the whole Conference at this time, but I have been busily scribbling away recording what has been said so far. Being the Chairman, I should not take any particular Australian point of view, but I would like to make some observations in four areas reflecting what has been said.

The four areas are: why FAO, what is FAO?; secondly, the role of ministerial or high-level biennial conferences; thirdly, the issues in this Conference put against the background of the general themes that we have all been echoing; and, fourthly, ways and means, direction, regarding the Review, the budget and the work programme.

On the first point, FAO is the Specialized United Nations Agency with a clear agricultural function. As is clear in the Preamble, agriculture equals agriculture, fisheries and forest. Development assistance is part of FAO's mandate, but basically FAO, firstly, collects, analyzes, interprets, and disseminates information on nutrition, food and agriculture; secondly, it provides technical assistance; thirdly, it provides a wide range of policy advice as set out in Article I, Section 2 of our Basic Document. Only one speaker at this Conference wanted to give less emphasis to any of these three main tasks.

It is important to realize that FAO is one of the many agencies involved in development assistance and aid. For example, in this city there are also the headquarters of the World Food Programme, the World Food Council and IFAD.

Development assistance is broader than just agricultural development assistance, but agricultural development work is the most fundamental. The professional aid debate has been a long one and many observations have been made by Ministers and heads of delegations at this Conference reflecting on inadequacies seen in the provision of technical advice and direct assistance. We have not got it right yet and we are all still aware of the problems of coordinating the response to a sudden famine or natural disaster.

Aid delivery and training have been mentioned by many delegations reflecting on deficiencies in the system programmes. I would suggest that had this Conference been just one of aid professionals, it would have been much more narrow in scope, more focused, but not of as much interest in identifying requirements and directions, which leads me to my second point.

While having Ministers and representatives of countries delivering statements with the detailed work being carried out in the three Commissions and various committees may lead to repetition, the Conference provides unique opportunity for virtually the world's agricultural Ministers dealing day to day with many policy problems to be able to exchange experience with Ministers of countries having like challenges.

To gain the perspective of the President of Chad, and to understand his recent experience in his country was a privilege, as was the analysis of the Pope. It is agriculture that unites us. It is heartening that there are Ministers here whose countries were at war with their neighbours only a year

ago. There are Ministers whose countries still are experiencing internal disorder. Yet we are all here together looking at what we can do for our farmers and fishermen. There are countries here as vast as China and India and as small as the Caribbean and South Pacific islands. I am not so naive as to think that there are no political tensions among us or that we will not form groupings on some issues, but many of us are using far different words to what we used only two years ago.

We all know that peace is the biggest issue. It is to be hoped that because the words have changed in some instances, aid flows continue to go where the need is greatest.

I put it to you as Ministers and Heads of Delegations that we should really value what we have in this Conference and understand that, as tedious as some aspects of a three-week session may be, there is no better way to have such a broad constructive perspective on world agriculture. The themes and issues that have emerged at this Conference are very clear. So many people have mentioned drought, desertification, sustainable development, the GATT Round, the price of inputs compared to the price of commodities, and it is clear also that the developed countries have different priorities than some developing countries.

The role of women in agriculture and sustainable development do not quite have the same importance when the rains do not come, there are people who are starving, or you have to farm with a gun at your side. But both concepts, women in agriculture and sustainable development, are of profound importance to us all.

Many countries have raised the question of animal health, for example, the screw-worm fly, the desert locust, and particular commodity problems such as the price of coffee and discrimination against coconut oil. Obviously, there is great concern by coastal states about the activities of distant-water fishing nations and the practice of driftnetting. There is general concern about the destruction of tropical forests, desertification, land degradation and the atmosphere.

To many, the immediate need for mere food makes these questions academic in the near term. Several Ministers have raised their concern about how world grain stocks have declined and how recent increases in the price of grains have occurred and the impact of this on poor, food-deficit nations. This is an issue that has to be honestly faced if we can move to the benefit of all agricultural nations for freer world agricultural trade. Quite apart from the fact that grain prices are poised to fall, there will be translation costs, but as the massive subsidization and protection by the rich nations is diminished, more will be able to be done for our poorest neighbours. I remind you again of the words of the Director-General: US\$ 290 000 million worth of agricultural subsidization world-wide compared with an effective negative aid flow now of US\$44 million due to massive international debt in the developing nations.

Individual countries have sensibly used the opportunity to take up specific issues with the Director-General and his staff, and there is no doubt that our three weeks will leave the professional people in this building under no illusions as to how vast and varied the challenges are. The General Committee received reports this morning from the Chairpersons of Commissions I and II, and it is pleasing to report that after long debates, good progress is being made on the key issues for resolution by this Conference. Commission I is making good progress on technical matters, international



agricultural adjustment and the state of food and agriculture. Commission II has before it the review of programmes, the Programme of Work and Budget and the review of the FAO. Ministers and representatives in the Plenary have made it clear there is an overwhelming majority of support for the Programme of Work and Budget. Delegates speaking to me give me the reading that there is a hope and a possibility of consensus of the key issues on which we will be taking decisions. I, too, hope that a consensus could be reached and that we do not have to have winners and losers. The review of FAO also seems to have been widely accepted. Some delegations want FAO to be continuously reviewed externally. While review will always continue- and it is a key task for us at these biennial conferences - there needs to be more thought given to how this can be practically achieved. Additional ideas have come forward from the Nordics, the Swiss, the British, the Australians and several other delegations. I believe these ideas and the functioning of the Council can be addressed by the provision of papers and the registering of agenda items for the next Conference. The practice of public administration, wherever we are, demands accountability, transparency and maximum information exchange.

We have all commented on the financial crisis facing the FAO, so we all have the task of promoting and improving FAO so that governments, for whatever reason, understand the importance of FAO's work. It gives none of us pleasure to ask an organization to perform tasks knowing full well that it does not have the funds. Zero real growth is one thing; negative zero real growth is another.

I finally wish to express on your behalf our thanks, not only to the Director-General, the Secretary-General and the more visible officials of the FAO, but all the people in the building, in the field, the people that service this Conference. I thank them for the work they are doing. I thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Sr. Presidente, seguramente sus cordiales e interesantes palabras de despedida han sorprendido a muchos miembros de la Conferencia y, por ello, como observamos que nadie pide hacer uso de la palabra, los representantes de Colombia trataremos de interpretar los sentimientos de todos nuestros colegas y amigos, al expresar a usted nuestra gratitud y reconocimiento profundos y sinceros por la forma inteligente, seria y dinámica como usted ha ejercido sus funciones de Presidente.

Entendemos su ausencia por las altas responsabilidades políticas y de gobierno que le esperan en su país, Australia. Le echaremos de menos en esta sala porque usted nos ha acostumbrado en una sola semana a sus actuaciones cordiales, constructivas, flexibles y eficaces.

Usted podrá salir de esta sala por la puerta grande, con la frente en alto, acompañado por la satisfacción del deber cumplido, con consagración, dignidad y lealtad que todos reconocemos y agradecemos.

Sus palabras de esta tarde sobre la importante función de la FAO y el resumen afortunado que usted ha hecho de sus labores confirman cómo se ha compenetrado rápida y eficazmente con todos aquéllos que estamos vinculados a esta Organización.

En su ausencia trataremos de honrar y prolongar la huella grata y admirable que usted ha dejado entre nosotros. Pedimos a usted, honorable Kerin, que, al volver a su país, usted transmita al honorable Gobierno de Australia nuestro reconocimiento porque el gobierno australiano nos haya permitido disfrutar de la experiencia y de la competencia de un real y caracterizado australiano como usted, tan calificado y respetable.

Estoy seguro de que todos los miembros de esta Conferencia deseamos a usted, Sr. Presidente, feliz viaje de regreso a Australia, uno de los países de mayor avanzada en la cooperación internacional, y deseamos a usted toda prosperidad y nuevos triunfos en el futuro.

Pedimos un cordial aplauso de despedida y agradecimiento para nuestro Presidente.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Javier TANTALEAN ARBULU (Perú):** Señor Presidente, Señor Director General, Señores Ministros, Señores Embajadores y Representantes, Señores Observadores, Señoras y Señores: En nombre del Gobierno de la República del Perú y de su Presidente Constitucional Doctor Alán García, me es grato transmitir el saludo a todas las Delegaciones y desear para este magno evento los mejores resultados, ya que éstos favorecerán a toda la humanidad.

Asimismo quisiera felicitar y agradecer a la FAO como institución y a su Director General por el trabajo que realiza en la lucha contra el hambre y en la búsqueda de un desarrollo sostenible.

Mi país es parte integrante de una región - la América Latina y el Caribe -que durante los años sesenta y setenta siguió esquemas de desarrollo basados en el proceso de sustitución de importaciones para desarrollar un sector industrial nacional. En este proceso se pensaba que dicho modelo de desarrollo basaría en gran parte su financiamiento, con el excedente obtenido de la agricultura. Sin embargo, tal excedente agrícola no se produjo en las magnitudes que los teóricos suponían. En la década del ochenta tal modelo entra en crisis por muchos factores, pero en los que cabe mencionar los siguientes: la falta de importancia otorgada a la agricultura; el inmenso endeudamiento externo que conoce la región en los años setenta y que derivarían en los años ochenta en la crisis de la deuda externa; el descenso del nivel de inversión en relación al producto interno bruto; el acelerado proceso de urbanización y de crecimiento macrocefálico de las metrópolis, conjuntamente con la descapitalización humana del campo - sobre todo de su juventud -, conformando en las ciudades el crecimiento del llamado sector informal urbano por la migración del campo hacia la ciudad; los términos de intercambio negativos para el campo en su relación con lo urbano que llevaron a la descapitalización productiva de la agricultura; y en la exportación neta de capitales hacia el exterior que hicieron nuestras economías.

Todo ello se ha traducido en un desarrollo desigual al interior de los países de la región, unido a una profunda heterogeneidad estructural, en la mayor segmentación de los mercados de trabajo y en el desequilibrio de las principales variables macroeconómicas, haciendo que algunos de los países, por el olvido del sector agropecuario, se vuelvan vulnerables y extremadamente dependientes en materia de importación de insumos y productos agroalimentarios.

Ha llegado la hora de cuestionar los esquemas teóricos y las prácticas, así como los paradigmas del desarrollo, revalorizando la función y el rol de la agroalimentación en las estrategias presentes y futuras. Por ello, la labor de vanguardia que debe ejercer la FAO en la asistencia técnica a los gobiernos, en todo lo que signifique el diseño de políticas, programas y proyectos que beneficien a la agricultura. Esto es más urgente en países como el Perú, donde la marginación y el olvido histórico han sido más profundos con el sector campesino del mundo andino, que vive en comunidades ancestrales y que hoy se ven azotadas por el fenómeno del terrorismo, que se desarrolla justamente en los medios rurales de mayor pobreza absoluta y relativa.

Tal situación se ve complicada por las características del entorno internacional de nuestras economías, en medio de la suspensión de recursos financieros frescos del mundo desarrollado hacia las naciones en desarrollo, con tipos de cambio volátiles; incremento en las tasas de interés que aumentan la carga de la deuda externa y la baja en los precios de ciertas materias primas que exportamos.

Conscientes de la necesidad de dedicar la mayor cantidad de recursos hacia el desarrollo, mi gobierno adoptó la decisión soberana de afectar sólo un porcentaje del valor de las exportaciones para el pago de la deuda externa, pero conjuntamente a una estrategia de desarrollo que apuntara hacia: la prioridad agroalimentaria en materia de desarrollo; las reformas en el aparato de estado, caracterizado por su burocratismo; la regionalización y descentralización del país; y, la reconversión y reestructuración del aparato productivo industrial.

Quisiera ahora tratar dos asuntos específicos de gran importancia.

El Perú como parte de la Cuenca Amazónica tiene deberes sagrados que cumplir con la humanidad frente al problema de la capa de ozono, pero, en este asunto, así como en la cuestión del narcotráfico - verdadera lacra y flagelo de nuestras sociedades que mi gobierno combate sin complacencia- existen co-responsabilidades con los países desarrollados, problemas que no son sólo competencia de nosotros. En el caso de la coca, hay producción de cocaína, porque es la demanda la que crea su propia oferta como diría algún economista clásico, y esa demanda viene de los países del hemisferio norte. De otro lado preguntaría: ¿Qué política de sustitución de cultivos resultaría prometedora para los campesinos que siembran la coca ilícita en medio de los menores precios del café y del cacao?

La consolidación y el triunfo de la libertad y la democracia sobre la barbarie, la anarquía y el caos, a los que el terror nos quiere conducir en mi país, tiene que lograrse demostrando las eficiencias sociales y económicas del sistema democrático. Por eso nos preocupa que los continuos programas de ajuste estructural signifiquen grandes costos sociales, especialmente para los más pobres, y dentro de ellos, los campesinos y agricultores.

De allí la perentoria necesidad de que la FAO esté presente desde los primeros momentos en el diseño de estos programas, junto con otros organismos internacionales, para proteger a la agricultura de los efectos indeseables de los programas de ajuste estructural.

Esto significa una FAO sólida y fuerte, que supere sus problemas financieros, y que pueda orientar más recursos a la América Latina y el Caribe. Y eso no lo vamos a conseguir, si avaláramos la tesis del crecimiento cero o la del congelamiento de la institución per secola seculorum

La FAO tiene por delante mucho que realizar respecto al desarrollo rural integrado, a la promoción e integración de la mujer y de los jóvenes campesinos, en la defensa del medio ambiente, en los procesos de investigación y transferencia tecnológica, en el desarrollo sostenible, en la seguridad alimentaria, en el desarrollo forestal y de las pesquerías, en los recursos genéticos de plantas y animales, en el desarrollo de la infraestructura de riego, en lo que significa el uso de plaguicidas, en el fortalecimiento de los programas de cooperación técnica los PCT, en las rondas comerciales del GATT para levantar las restricciones del comercio internacional, en la cooperación de la FAO con todos los organismos internacionales con los cuales existen intereses y funciones comunes.

Desde esta tribuna quiero unirme también a lo declarado por otras delegaciones en cuanto al reconocimiento a la labor del Programa Mundial de Alimentos con sus proyectos a favor de los grupos más vulnerables a la desnutrición, que también se desarrollan en mi país.

Nos parece un hecho sumamente positivo los resultados a que ha llegado un grupo de expertos en su examen a la FAO, sosteniendo que sigue siendo una institución sólida y dinámica que viene cumpliendo con sus fines objetivos, funciones y mandatos. Con ésta y otras conclusiones firmes y consistentes, creemos que el examen fue un proceso necesario, pero que ya terminó. Corresponde a nosotros lograr un consenso para lograr la implementación de las recomendaciones, que apunten al fortalecimiento de la Organización, todo lo cual aumenta nuestra confianza en la FAO y en su administración.

Ahora que estamos en un mundo de permanentes cambios estructurales en las relaciones internacionales, y cuando el desarme progresivo de las grandes potencias puede ser una realidad, se abren nuevas perspectivas de paz en el mundo. Ojalá que todo ello signifique a la vez, por parte de los países desarrollados, tener presente lo insostenible que resulta que se mantengan las desigualdades; que ello abra desde ahora un nuevo camino de lucha por la justicia y la cooperación entre todos los pueblos.

**João Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil):** As Chairman of Commission I, I do not have much time to prepare for the Plenary, but my delegation would like to propose to this Plenary that, as an indication of the importance which the Organization attaches to the words delivered yesterday by his Holiness the Pope, we include the text of his speech in our verbatim records.

The delegation of Brazil would therefore formally propose that the text of the speech delivered yesterday by His Holiness the Pope be included in our records.

**CHAIRMAN:** If there is no objection to that, I see no reason why it should not be done. There is no objection, so it will be done. I thank the delegate from Brazil.

**Brigi RAFINI (Niger):** Une fois de plus c'est notre chère Organisation, la FAO, qui nous offre non seulement cette agréable occasion de nous retrouver au rendez-vous biennal du donner et du recevoir, mais aussi, et surtout, le réel plaisir de prendre la parole devant autant de responsables politiques du secteur agricole et alimentaire.

Votre élection à la Présidence de nos travaux est en elle-même le témoignage d'un honneur mérité. Il en va de même de la désignation des 3 présidents de commission que nous voudrions assurer de tout notre soutien et notre disponibilité dans l'exercice de leur lourde et redoutable mission, car les points de l'ordre du jour sont d'une importance capitale pour l'avenir de notre Organisation.

Quant à Monsieur le Directeur général, il ne serait que justice rendue en lui reconnaissant ici tout le dévouement et parfois la passion qui l'animent face à la crise agricole et alimentaire de par le monde.

Notre Conférence est déjà entrée de plain-pied dans sa phase active, celle des débats en commission. Notre souhait est de ne pas la voir se transformer en une simple chambre d'enregistrement des exigences des plus forts face à ceux qui ont toujours été considérés comme demandeurs. Notre espoir est qu'elle soit plutôt l'occasion d'un examen de conscience pour tous et à tous les niveaux.

La FAO, cadre privilégié du partenariat multilatéral désintéressé avec les objectifs nobles et toujours valables à nos yeux énoncés depuis 1943 à Hot Spring, et pourtant immuables et la Charte des paysans définie lors de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural en 1987, reflète aujourd'hui avec ses problèmes et ses controverses l'image du contexte économique international et le rapport de force entre les Nations.

En effet quels que soient les objectifs et les stratégies que nous aurions définis pour notre Organisation, la problématique restera la même, à savoir comment éliminer de façon définitive - ou, pour être réaliste, de manière durable - les conséquences négatives d'un modèle de développement que nous tous savons incohérent?

Ou alors pour schématiser: "la Communauté internationale veut-elle continuer à refuser, au lendemain du bicentenaire de la Déclaration des droits de l'Homme, le minimum vital à la majeure partie de l'Humanité, à savoir le droit au bien-être alors que tous les moyens technologiques et financiers le permettant existent?"

Nous nous posons cette question parce que tous les thèmes qui seront abordés lors de cette session nous ramèneront à un seul constat: celui de l'échec face à une évidence, celle du choix d'un modèle de développement.

Nous, pays en voie de développement, inspirés, conseillés et encouragés par les pays dits industrialisés, leur avons emboîté le pas en adoptant, si ce n'est en copiant mal, ce qu'ils ont pensé être bon pour eux, et pour nous.

Maintenant c'est nous-mêmes, formés à leur école, dans leur système de valeurs, qui conseillons à 80 pour cent de ceux qui sont encore très proches des réalités que ce modèle de développement est le meilleur.

Quel modèle de développement? Celui qui fait appel à des intrants que nous ne produisons pas, des ressources dont nous ne disposons pas et qui produit des biens que nous ne consommons pas, ou que nous ne pouvons consommer qu'après transformation par ceux qui nous ont fourni les ressources à titre de prêt. Alors pour rembourser, il faut produire plus; ce qui suppose plus de pression sur les ressources et l'environnement.

Mais quelle est maintenant la réalité que vit la majorité de nos Etats?

- dégradation accélérée de l'écosystème,
- endettement croissant, atteignant pour la plupart de nos pays le seuil critique de 40 pour cent de recettes d'exportation,
- la plupart de nos pays se voient obligés de s'engager dans les cycles indéterminés des Programmes d'ajustement structurel et d'autres accords de confirmation, de rééchelonnement ou d'annulation partielle des dettes qui ne sont en fait que de simples "anesthésies locales" face à l'ampleur du problème,
- le déséquilibre flagrant dans les échanges internationaux ne fait que se creuser,
- la production agricole, si elle ne décroît pas, évolue en dents de scie au gré des attaques des déprédateurs, des conditions climatiques, mais surtout du fait des systèmes de production qui ne sont plus de mise,
- quant à l'élevage il est encore en prise avec les épizooties. De plus, si le capital "cheptel" n'est pas décimé par la sécheresse, c'est la concurrence déloyale des viandes hautement subventionnées sur le marché international qui handicape les possibilités d'investissement dans ce secteur.

Il nous est aussi reproché, entre autres, le taux de croissance démographique fort élevé et la gabegie quant aux dépenses publiques! Mais avons-nous pour autant croisé les bras? Non, Mesdames et Messieurs ! Nous avons tout tenté et continuerons à lutter avec l'ingéniosité et la détermination des petits paysans qui sont les 80 pour cent auxquels nous faisons allusion tantôt, et le peu d'épargne que nous lègue cette conjoncture.

Je voudrais ici dire tout haut que ces paysans méritent beaucoup d'égards et de considération. Nous n'avons pas le droit de trahir la confiance de ces "sans-voix". Nous devons plutôt demeurer leurs fidèles serviteurs.

L'exemple du projet Keita financé par le gouvernement italien auquel nous rendons hommage ici et coexécuté par la FAO et le Niger est plus qu'édifiant. Mais il faut des dizaines, voire des centaines de "projet Keita" pour restaurer la base de production, réhabiliter l'économie rurale et créer les conditions d'un vrai développement socio-économique durable.

Il faut plus que des assainissements de finances publiques et plus que des réformes institutionnelles, ou de facilités de paiement compensatoire pour éradiquer le mal qui ronge notre société.

Il est triste de le dire, mais la responsabilité nous incombe car le tort est le nôtre. Mais il est vrai aussi qu'il est partagé.

Aussi pouvons-nous le réitérer une fois de plus aujourd'hui: la solution des problèmes de développement rural ne réside pas seulement dans la redéfinition des objectifs ni dans la restructuration.

Tout a été largement développé et clairement spécifié dans la Charte des paysans et dans nos différents plans nationaux de développement.

Mais la clé réside certainement dans la révision de l'ordre économique international à travers un contrat de génération entre les pays développés et les pays les moins avancés.

Cet engagement à long terme et global n'est autre qu'un "Plan Marshall" à adapter aux objectifs retracés dans le plan des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique de l'Afrique et dont la première étape devrait être la table ronde sur la dette.

Notre pays, assumant alors la présidence du CILSS, a eu déjà à le recommander à la 86ème session du Conseil de la FAO en 1985, par la voie de notre défunt Chef d'Etat.

Comme vous pouvez le constater, le problème est de taille. Mais avec la bonne volonté, rien n'est impossible.

Les nombreux événements récents de par le monde confirment notre foi en l'espoir.

C'est dire que nous traversons un courant de dialogue, d'ouverture et de compréhension mutuelle qui doit nous inspirer.

C'est pour cela que nous faisons appel pour la présente session à la sérénité et à la sagesse.

Les Etats Membres doivent assumer leurs responsabilités jusqu'au bout car aucun, ici, n'a remis en cause sa foi en notre Organisation ni sa mission définie par l'Acte constitutif. Mais nous ne devons pas pour autant fermer les yeux sur les possibilités d'amélioration de son efficacité, la consolidation des acquis en relation avec la compétence et l'expérience des autres organisations soeurs, l'évolution du secteur rural et des capacités des Etats Membres, notamment les pays en voie de développement.

L'autocritique est un exercice difficile et périlleux, mais il est aussi un acte de courage et de bon sens. Engageons-nous donc à sauver les résultats de bientôt un demi-siècle de combat contre la faim et la malnutrition. C'est un domaine vaste et complexe où les besoins évoluent.

C'est pour cela que je ne voudrais pas finir sans me pencher sur quelques points des débats qui animent en ce moment les travaux en commission, en particulier:

- La situation financière: la preuve la plus éloquente de la qualité d'Etat Membre est le paiement de ses contributions. A cet égard, tous les Etats sans exception doivent mériter le même traitement. Nous ne pouvons donc que solliciter tous ceux qui ont enregistré un retard dans le paiement de ce dû de faire tout leur possible pour permettre à notre Organisation le redéploiement conséquent de son activité

- Pour le budget 1990-91, il reste entendu que notre pays soutient le programme et le budget conséquent. Mais il n'en demeure pas moins que nous devons user d'un peu plus de réalisme pour nous conformer aussi aux exigences de l'austérité qu'impose la conjoncture actuelle à la plupart des Etats.
- Le troisième point sur lequel nous voulons exprimer notre opinion est le programme alimentaire mondial.

La volonté de partenariat avec la FAO n'a jamais été démentie, sur le terrain en tout cas. Ses formes d'intervention ont largement évolué. C'est donc dans la même logique d'entente et d'interdépendance que nous, en tant qu'Etat Membre et bénéficiaire des différentes interventions, lançons un appel à la concertation. Il serait hautement souhaitable qu'un assouplissement des procédures et des règles puisse intervenir et qu'une solution heureuse et durable puisse être trouvée dans le cadre institutionnel le plus adéquat et dans le respect strict des intérêts de nos Etats qui donnent vie aux organisations.

Enfin, c'est pour nous le moment de rendre un hommage mérité au FIDA et de lancer un appel aux Etats présents afin d'éviter que le programme spécial pour l'Afrique subsaharienne touchée par la sécheresse, si bien maîtrisée, ne soit qu'un feu de paille et que la troisième reconstitution de ses ressources soit réalisée dans les termes convenus.

En terminant, permettez-moi de féliciter et d'encourager certains que nous avons trop tendance à oublier, à savoir les directeurs de programmes, de divisions et autres chefs de services de notre Organisation.

Il serait injuste et dommage de ne pas leur reconnaître le mérite d'avoir tant oeuvré pour que la FAO soit ce qu'elle est aujourd'hui. Il en est de même de nos dignes représentants respectifs au sein des organes internes qui ont su mettre à notre disposition des documents de travail d'une qualité indéniable.

Nous espérons que cette session parviendra à une plateforme d'entente nouvelle et surtout à une confiance renouvelée entre les Etats Membres, et entre eux et la FAO.

Plein succès donc à nos travaux,  
Vive la Communauté du destin,  
Je vous remercie.

**Takizal Luyan Muís MBINGIN (Zaïre):** Au nom de la délégation qui m'accompagne et en mon nom propre, je voudrais, Monsieur le Président, vous présenter mes sincères et chaleureuses félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection en qualité de Président du bureau de cette 25ème session de la Conférence générale de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

La délégation du Zaïre se réjouit particulièrement de la composition de votre bureau et formule ses vœux de voir les travaux des présentes assises aboutir à des résultats fructueux qui renforceront davantage l'action de la FAO sur le terrain dans les Etats Membres.



Je tiens également à féliciter Monsieur le Directeur général qui, depuis trois mandats, dirige la FAO avec beaucoup de compétence, beaucoup de dévouement et beaucoup de dynamisme.

Permettez-moi de saisir cette occasion pour remercier également le peuple et le gouvernement italiens dont l'accueil et l'hospitalité nous sont allés droit au coeur.

La déclaration du Zaïre à cette Conférence générale de la FAO porte essentiellement sur l'autosuffisance alimentaire qui est le point de mire de sa politique agricole. Celle-ci, qui bénéficie de l'attention de son initiateur, le Maréchal Mobutu Sese Seko, Président-Fondateur du Mouvement populaire de la Révolution, notre Parti-Etat, et Président de la République du Zaïre, constitue un volet important de notre premier Plan quinquennal de développement économique et social 1986-1990.

Le programme d'appui à l'autosuffisance alimentaire, en sigle PRAAL, concerne principalement l'accroissement de la production des cultures vivrières de base (maïs, manioc, riz), de la viande et du poisson. Son action est concentrée dans des zones choisies en fonction de leurs potentialités agricoles. Cette action tourne essentiellement autour de l'accroissement de l'efficacité de l'effort d'encadrement des paysans par la formation des agents techniques de vulgarisation et par l'approvisionnement en intrants, notamment les semences, les boutures améliorées, le petit outillage agricole ainsi que les engrais chimiques.

Grâce aux efforts entrepris dans le cadre de ce programme, la production nationale du maïs a sensiblement augmenté jusqu'à couvrir les besoins de consommation intérieure. Il en est de même du manioc qui, du reste, est l'un des aliments de base des populations zaïroises. Les efforts actuels dans ce domaine sont dirigés vers la recherche des cultivars et variétés plus performants et résistants aux maladies.

Quant au riz, bien que des progrès en termes de production aient été enregistrés au cours des dernières années, il n'en reste pas moins vrai que des ressources importantes doivent encore être investies pour augmenter la production nationale de manière à réduire progressivement les importations.

La production nationale de la viande ne couvrant qu'environ 40 pour cent des besoins du Zaïre, le Conseil exécutif s'emploie à tenter de résorber le déficit, notamment par le développement de l'élevage du petit bétail.

Concernant le poisson, les rivières et les lacs du Zaïre regorgent d'énormes réserves qui n'attendent que d'être exploitées et valorisées rationnellement. Outre ces réserves halieutiques, un accent particulier est mis sur la pisciculture familiale comme source d'approvisionnement en protéines animales.

En plus du programme d'appui à l'autosuffisance alimentaire (PRAAL) évoqué ci-dessus, les efforts d'accroissement de la production agricole du Conseil exécutif du Zaïre sont également entrepris par le biais des projets de développement agricole. Ceux-ci sont destinés à rendre le milieu rural plus favorable à la production agricole, à améliorer l'encadrement des producteurs, à vulgariser les techniques culturales appropriées et l'utilisation des intrants, à réhabiliter les pistes rurales, à aménager les points d'eau et d'autres infrastructures sociales.

L'agriculture d'exportation occupe une place importante dans l'économie zaïroise et constitue une source appréciable de devises. Le Zaïre a compris que son intérêt résidait dans la promotion et la diversification de ses exportations, de manière à tirer profit des avantages comparatifs dont bénéficient certains de ses produits comme le quinquina, l'huile de palme, le café.

Concrètement, le Zaïre s'est attelé à réhabiliter et à redynamiser le sous-secteur des cultures pérennes à travers un programme ambitieux de relance des cultures d'exportation. Ce programme vise tant l'amélioration de la productivité du tissu agro-industriel que la promotion des plantations villageoises. Les spéculations envisagées sont le café, le cacao, l'hévéa, le palmier à huile et le coton. A terme, le Zaïre compte reconquérir une part du marché international en vue de valoriser au mieux ses potentialités.

En dépit des efforts susmentionnés, l'agriculture zaïroise demeure encore confrontée à des difficultés et contraintes se rapportant à:

- l'insuffisance des moyens financiers et techniques;
- la dégradation du réseau routier;
- la faiblesse de l'encadrement des producteurs;
- le relâchement de la recherche agronomique, et
- l'insuffisance des infrastructures sociales en milieu rural.

Comme tous les autres pays en développement, le Zaïre compte relancer sa croissance économique et développer sa production agricole malgré le poids de sa dette extérieure et la détérioration des termes de l'échange.

Ainsi la délégation du Zaïre en appelle à la conscience internationale et relance à cette tribune l'appel du chef de l'Etat zaïrois qui, intervenant le 4 octobre dernier à la 44ème session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, a proposé qu'au cours de la décennie 1990-1999, les pays africains payent toutes leurs dettes en monnaie locale et que les nouvelles ressources ainsi constituées soient consacrées exclusivement à l'objectif de la croissance économique avec la collaboration des organismes internationaux compétents.

La délégation du Zaïre souhaite que la FAO tienne compte des programmes agricoles des Etats Membres et les intègre dans sa contribution à la préparation de la stratégie internationale du développement pour la quatrième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement. Par ailleurs, ma délégation aimerait profiter de cette tribune pour exprimer sa satisfaction sur l'assistance technique de haute qualité dont bénéficie le Zaïre, notre pays, dans le cadre de sa coopération avec la FAO, tant au niveau de son siège à Rome, qu'au niveau de sa représentation, au Zaïre.

Je voudrais conclure mon intervention en insistant sur la solidarité internationale qui est, en ce moment, indispensable à la relance économique des pays en développement. Comme je l'ai indiqué, le Conseil exécutif du Zaïre, à l'instar de nombreux gouvernements des pays en développement, mobilise beaucoup de ressources pour relancer son économie à partir de l'agriculture. Malheureusement, la conjoncture économique actuelle n'est pas de nature à favoriser ces efforts.

Aussi, notre souhait le plus ardent est de voir la FAO, en tant qu'expression de la solidarité internationale en matière agricole, continuer à jouer son rôle de chef de file de toutes les organisations du système des Nations Unies en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture, fers de lance des stratégies et des politiques de développement de nos pays.

Je vous remercie.

**Leki DORJI (Bhutan):** On behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan and my delegation, allow me first of all to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the Chair of this Conference. It is my honour and privilege to address this meeting under your leadership. With your able guidance, I am confident that we will arrive successfully at meaningful conclusions and useful results by the end of our deliberations.

The food and agriculture scenario since the last FAO Conference has been far from encouraging. We have witnessed, once again, increased aggregate consumption outpacing global production of staple foods. Production per capita in 1989 increased by merely 2 percent more than it was at the beginning of the decade. A significant rise in the prices of cereals has further undermined the ability of low-income, food-deficit countries to finance their food imports. The situation has not brought relief specially to those poor countries confronted with major external debts and debt-servicing difficulties. Moreover, many developing countries have to wrestle with external constraints such as protectionism and agricultural production subsidies which adversely affect commodity price and trade mechanisms in the international market.

We consider this situation a cause for serious consideration in the deliberations of our Conference. While the magnitude and complexity of the problems before us seem daunting, we should treat them as challenges which we should take up individually and in concert and as part of our agenda for cooperative action.

Our Conference is also taking place at a period when concern for the environment has seized global interest and has permeated the entire UN system, including all Specialized Agencies. People from rich and poor countries alike are becoming increasingly aware of the damage done by environmentally unsound policies and practices. Global warming brought about by indiscriminate burning of fossil fuels and forests could engender adverse effects such as uncertain precipitation, drastic shifts in agricultural production patterns, and inundation of low-lying coastal areas. The depletion of the protective ozone layer could have catastrophic effects on the health of the human population and other life forms. The worldwide recognition of these global problems, along with the growing realization that economic development can be sustained only if pursued in environmentally sound ways, have placed environmental considerations on the agenda of international development fora.

To effectively seize this opportunity for cooperation, FAO has an extremely important role to play. Within the context of agriculture, the challenge of finding alternative paths to sustainable production growth lends itself to a vigorous, concerted search for multilateral solutions for which FAO can lead the way. The promotion of research, development and/or transfer of environmentally sound production technology, extension of policy advice and planning support are important elements in support of sustainable development strategies and options.

For a predominantly mountainous country like ours whose economy is largely agriculture-based, subscribing to the goal of sustainable development is not just a moral obligation to the future generations of Bhutanese. It is also dictated by the practical fact that we have very limited arable lands on which we cannot afford to inflict damage if we are to sustain our agricultural production. We are, however, fortunate to be endowed with a large forestry base which protects our agricultural lands and watersheds, offers habitats to our rich genetic species, and ameliorates the micro-climate of our diverse production regions. These considerations have prompted us to adopt conservation as the main policy of our forestry sector. As in other countries with fragile mountain ecosystems, we are constantly in search of novel approaches and technologies which will help our farming population to organize their agricultural activities in ways that could optimize the use of our limited lands on a sustained basis. Our immediate thrusts are to increase cropping intensity and input use and to adopt appropriate technological innovations selectively while also protecting our soil from degradation through soil conservation and land development measures. Our Government has adopted an incentive structure through subsidies to encourage our farmers to undertake terracing, contour bunding and drainage activities to conserve our limited cultivable lands and to improve their productive capacity.

Bhutan also attributes greater importance to the role of women in the agricultural development of our country. We recognize the significant contributions our women population make in several agricultural operations, particularly in animal husbandry, livestock management, and farming. We are, therefore, fully in support of the FAO's Plan of Action for the integration of women in agricultural and rural development. Giving women full recognition and equal opportunities in the development process should be firmly embedded in the mandates not only of FAO but also of the governments of all its member countries.

Turning now to the proposed activities of FAO for the coming biennium, Bhutan accords particular importance to the Organization's technical and economic programmes. We fully support the priorities proposed by the Director-General under these programmes. We appreciate the emphasis placed on the activities related to sustainable development, and we welcome in particular the introduction of the new sub-programme under the title Sustaining Resource Potential. We would therefore like to see a progressive increase in fund allocation to this activity commensurate with the relative importance attached to it by FAO member countries.

In conclusion, I would like to convey the assurances from the Royal Government of our continued support for cooperative efforts towards our organizations' goals of sustainable development and global food security. FAO has been playing a leading role in this direction and we appreciate its relentless efforts globally and in our country in this regard.

A.M.Al Kaoud, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair

A.M.Al Kaoud, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia A.M.Al Kaoud, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

**Sulejman PEPA (Albanie) (langue originale Albanais):** Qu'il me soit permis de vous féliciter, au nom de la délégation de la République populaire socialiste d'Albanie, pour votre élection au poste de président de la présente Conférence.

J'ai le plaisir particulier de féliciter M. Edouard Saouma pour les efforts qu'il fournit et la contribution qu'il apporte dans la réalisation des objectifs et des buts qui se trouvent aux fondements de notre Organisation pour résoudre les problèmes agro-alimentaires qui préoccupent le monde.

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. Dans ce contexte nous apprécions les activités de ses programmes particuliers tendant à encourager l'accroissement de la production agricole, le développement des campagnes, l'échange des matériels biogénétiques, la conservation des ressources génétiques et l'application des nouvelles technologies au service de la production agricole. Aussi nous apprécions les grandes tâches en perspective jusqu'à l'année 2000 que notre Organisation a prévues pour la solution des problèmes agro-alimentaires.

La présente session tient ses assises en un temps où l'économie mondiale se trouve dans une crise profonde qui continue de frapper même le secteur de l'agriculture.

La perspective du développement agricole est liée avec la situation économique mondiale qui, actuellement, a comme un trait distinctif le développement inégal, l'instabilité des prix de vente des produits agricoles, l'inégalité des échanges commerciaux, l'exercice des mesures protectionnistes et les barrières tarifaires, l'accroissement galopant des dettes et l'approfondissement continu du fossé entre les pays industrialisés et ceux moins développés.

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.

Il est évident que les problèmes agro-alimentaires ne peuvent être résolus que seulement avec le bon désir et l'engagement de la FAO. Ils demandent en premier lieu l'engagement des Etats et la poursuite de politiques qui militent en faveur du développement général économique et social du pays, aussi important que le climat politique international et le niveau de la coopération économique internationale.

Les aspirations et les buts humanitaires de notre Organisation au service de l'agriculture et de l'accroissement ininterrompu des produits alimentaires ne peuvent pas trouver l'application nécessaire dans la situation actuelle internationale qui se caractérise par des événements contradictoires. Le monopole des produits agricoles et des aliments est transformé en un moyen de pression politique et économique par les grands producteurs et en particulier par les superpuissances. On ne peut pas aller vers la solution des grands problèmes préoccupants des pays en développement en utilisant des formes néocolonialistes de pillage et d'exploitation. Les dettes, les prix bas d'achat des produits agricoles rendent de plus en plus préoccupante la situation des pays en développement.

Malheureusement même aujourd'hui 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, tandis que les superpuissances dépensent des millions de dollars pour les armements. Dans les conditions actuelles du développement de la science et de la technique, il serait tout à fait possible à l'humanité, aujourd'hui comme demain, de se suffire en produits agro-alimentaires. La production agro-alimentaire devrait doubler ou tripler si les investissements nécessaires étaient mis à la disposition des producteurs agricoles.

La politique agro-alimentaire en Albanie au cours des années du pouvoir populaire a été partie intégrante du cours de développement proportionné et diversifié de toute notre économie socialiste. Elle vise l'accroissement continu du bien-être du peuple, ainsi que le développement économique et celui des générations futures.

Dans ces quatre décennies et demie notre pays, suivant une juste politique, a fait de grandes transformations dans le développement de l'agriculture comme dans les autres domaines.

A l'épicentre de notre politique agraire a toujours figuré la nécessité de satisfaire normalement les besoins alimentaires de toutes les masses travailleuses. Nous pensons que les besoins du peuple doivent être le pivot et l'objectif de toute l'activité productive et sociale de notre pays.

L'application des objectifs du programme alimentaire a été élaborée d'une manière originale et réalisée de front avec les priorités nécessaires s'appuyant sur l'accroissement des produits agricoles. Cela nous a permis non seulement de nous suffire en pain, mais encore d'améliorer sensiblement la structure d'alimentation de notre population dont le taux de croissance est le plus élevé d'Europe.

On ne peut pas ne pas mentionner le fait que le déchargement des déchets industriels, l'utilisation des produits chimiques même en agriculture, l'exploitation sans critères des superficies agricoles, la dégradation des forêts, la destruction de la flore et de la faune ont causé la pollution de l'environnement et le déséquilibre écologique dans plusieurs pays, ce qui constitue un grave problème.

Notre pays attache une importance particulière au développement complexe des forêts à des fins économiques ainsi qu'au maintien de l'équilibre écologique et à la protection de l'environnement contre la pollution.

Les forêts en Albanie occupent 36 pour cent du territoire national. Elles appartiennent à l'Etat et au peuple dans son ensemble.

Dans le développement ultérieur et la perspective de l'économie forestale jusqu'à l'année 2000 nous avons déterminé les objectifs pour équilibrer les coupes et la croissance annuelle des arbres afin que cet équilibre soit maintenu par la réduction absolue du volume du bois d'oeuvre utilisé et l'accélération de la production des forêts existantes.

Ce qui caractérise le développement de notre agriculture est l'intensification ultérieure de la production agricole grâce à l'extension du système d'irrigation, à l'utilisation des engrais chimiques, à la mécanisation des travaux et au développement harmonieux et proportionnel de ces secteurs. Nous n'ignorons pas les différentes difficultés qui sont apparues dans la voie de l'accroissement des produits agricoles ainsi que

l'influence des facteurs du climat qui se sont fait sentir d'une façon plus accentuée au cours des dernières années mais la consolidation et la stabilité dans l'accroissement de la production agricole ont fait que le rythme moyen de l'accroissement de la production globale agricole et la circulation réduite des denrées alimentaires ont été 2 fois supérieures au rythme de la croissance démographique.

L'agriculture représente l'un des secteurs fondamentaux du développement économique du pays. Au cours de plus d'une décennie elle assure le pain du peuple, plus de 85 pour cent des aliments de base, les matières premières pour l'industrie légère, plus de 40 pour cent de la valeur des articles industriels de provenance agricole.

Au service de la production agricole est mis sur pied un réseau d'institutions de recherche qui résoudront avec succès les problèmes actuels et de l'avenir du développement de l'agriculture. L'attention est consacrée à l'application de nouvelles technologies dans les conditions de notre pays pour une utilisation plus rationnelle des potentiels et des ressources du pays.

Pour assurer l'accroissement avec des rythmes plus accélérés de la production agricole et de l'élevage au cours de l'année 1989 notre gouvernement a pris un certain nombre de mesures importantes qui consistent en l'accroissement des investissements pour protéger le sol, augmenter de façon continue sa fertilité, accroître les superficies arables, défricher de nouvelles terres, augmenter la superficie sous l'eau grâce à la construction des oeuvres d'irrigation, accroître la mécanisation et l'utilisation des produits chimiques, appliquer de nouvelles technologies pour une meilleure utilisation des ressources du pays.

Grâce à ces mesures l'accroissement de la production agricole pour l'année 1989 par rapport à l'année 1988 est majoré de 9 pour cent.

Les résultats et les progrès dans le domaine de l'agriculture sont le fruit de la mobilisation générale du peuple albanais qui réalise de manière consciente les objectifs du plan de développement économique et sociale qui constitue la base véritable pour un avenir plus prospère et avancé.

C'est avec plaisir que nous constatons que la coopération de notre pays avec la FAO au cours de ces dernières années s'est amplifiée, ce qui est reflété par la réalisation de certaines activités d'un caractère technique et d'échange d'expériences visant à l'accroissement de la production agricole.

La délégation de la RPS d'Albanie est d'avis que les efforts fournis pour résoudre les problèmes agro-alimentaires dans le monde sont inséparables de la lutte que les peuples doivent mener avec fermeté pour leur indépendance politique, contre le pillage et l'exploitation impérialistes, contre toute forme de dictature et d'ingérence étrangères.

En terminant, je souhaite que les travaux de cette session, qui a abordé d'importants problèmes agro-alimentaires 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.

Je vous remercie.

**Aleki SISIFA (Tonga):** Mr. Chairman, it is a great honour for me today to address this distinguished gathering, the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. As the representative of the Government of Tonga to this Session, I congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and all the office bearers of this Conference for your unanimous election to your posts.

While we deliberate in this Conference events take place that will change the course of history with far reaching implications for the work of FAO. The population of the world has reached the new height of five billion and is growing at the rate of 200 000 a day. There are 500 million human beings malnourished while the surplus food and resources exist in the world in which we live. The economic crisis persists with vast implications, particularly for the developing countries.

As indicated by the Director-General in his statement to the Conference, the relationship between east and west takes a new direction of detente accompanied by the prospect of closer cooperation in the political and economic spheres. We can only hope that the later turn of events and other significant crises of positive connotations taking place around the world today signal the beginning of a new brighter era characterized by freer flow of opportunities and resources from the developed countries to the developing nations.

Tonga, like other small island countries, did not escape the ramifications of the world economic crisis. The days of subsistence affluence have gone and small is no longer so beautiful. Being small and isolated is associated with transport and marketing problems that have huge dimensions from our perspective. The mounting bills for imports, particularly those of food, fuel and agricultural inputs now exceed by far the income derived from the export of agricultural commodities. The implications for the conduct of government are serious; the implications for the small rural farmers are more serious, and small rural farmers make up more than 80 percent of the population.

Fortunately, security of food in terms of the staple root crops in my country is the norm rather than the exception. Tropical cyclones and droughts do visit us from time to time causing disruption to production, and under these circumstances the assistance of the World Food Programme and the FAO have been most appreciated.

Since the institution by FAO of the World Food Day Tonga has commemorated this day every year with the associated awareness programmes being implemented in ceremonies and through the mass media, as well as in the field.

The production of staple food that is adequate is not satisfactory by itself. Nations and people alike need income to survive in today's world. For Tonga, like many Member States, coconut oil forms the basis of the regular income for small farmers; it is a major income earner for the country. The price of this commodity has been at floor level for exceedingly long periods and a reverse of this most unfortunate situation is not in sight. To make matters worse, as the delegate of Western Samoa so eloquently



expounded, there is a strong anti-campaign being carried out by certain interest groups using unfounded claims that coconut oil in food is harmful for human health. I strongly support the plea for FAO to use its technical expertise to resolve this issue before it is too late.

The traditional markets for fresh produce of the small farmers of my country and some other island countries in our region have largely been confined to our two metropolitan neighbours from which we secure most of our imports. Due perhaps to the restructuring that goes on in the marketplace and to other factors as well, while our imports keep climbing our fresh produce exports have fallen to insignificant proportions. The opening up of market niches in some Pacific rim countries of the Asian region is a most welcome phenomenon under these trying circumstances.

My delegation joins the call for a speedy and favourable conclusion to the Uruguay Round. We do pray that goodwill will suffice so that the extent of any benefits arising from these negotiations will not be limited to the developed and industrialized world but that developing countries, large and small, strong and weak, will likewise benefit from these activities so that they will be able to begin to work towards equitable shares in the international markets.

In this regard my delegation pays tribute to the Director-General of FAO for his farsighted move to close ranks with GATT in this important mission. Perhaps if and when resources are available the expertise of FAO that will be developed in this field could be made available on request to member countries and to regions where countries in need of this assistance do not participate in the Uruguay Round for reasons beyond their control.

Tonga over the years has been making a concerted effort to diversify its agricultural base. One of the successful outcomes of this work has been in the production of vanilla. As it is a most suitable cash crop for small farmers, other island states of the south-west Pacific are starting to promote the cultivation of this crop.

Of late, virus diseases previously unknown to affect orchids have attacked this crop. The consequences so far have been serious, but it is believed that they can be devastating. This problem, has been the subject of a Technical Cooperation Programme activity, and we are grateful because it made useful recommendations. However, long-term research, including some basic research, is needed in this area. We suggest that FAO assist to facilitate this work, which will prove vital to the development of this valuable crop in the south-west Pacific.

Tonga supports the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1990/91.

We are, however, sorry to see the falling trend in the importance attached by the Programme of Work and Budget to the Technical Cooperation Programme. This is because the TCP is of increasing importance to my government, as it is to other member countries, as delegates have indicated in their statements. However, we are confident that the Director-General will secure the necessary funds through extrabudgetary sources to support activities in the greatest areas of need.

My delegation commends FAO for the emphasis placed on sustainable development and the environment. Tonga has been actively participating in the Asian Pacific regional project set up for implementation of the International Code of Conduct. Legislation following the Code is in place

and implementation is an ongoing activity. We particularly welcome the incorporation of the principle of prior informed consent. Tonga, like other nations, places great importance on the preservation of the environment not only through using environmentally safe agricultural practices but also through awareness of promotion activities. Environmental Week has been instituted and has been commemorated every year.

We commend FAO also for the shift of its policy toward integrated management strategies and the focus placed on farming systems.

Finally, my delegation supports the recommendations made by the distinguished delegate of Samoa for an extra seat to be created in the Council of FAO specifically for the member island states of the Southwest Pacific Region. The number of member countries in this region has substantially increased, and we seek the support of the distinguished delegates on this matter. Through this, the problems and needs unique to these countries will have the opportunity of being reflected more in the policy and in the work of our Organization. I wish to convey through you to the Director-General of the FAO and to the Conference at large the appreciation of the Government and of the people of the Kingdom of Tonga for the close cooperation between the Organization and Tonga over the last biennium. We are certainly looking forward to furthering the cooperation in the present biennium.

**Lennox Ewart Alseym DAISLEY (St. Vincent and the Grenadines):** It is for me a great pleasure to be able to participate and address this 25th Session of the FAO Conference. I am particularly honoured to stand before such a distinguished gathering of leaders, administration, researchers and other scientists from so many countries around the world to present my country's contribution in an effort to chart the course of this indispensable organization for the future. I therefore extend to you the greetings and wishes for a successful conference from the Government and people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

As I speak today, the world is witnessing fantastic changes in the relationship between the super powers, changes of a political and economic nature which were unthinkable only a short while ago. This is a positive sign, and we applaud and support this spirit of cooperation. After all, it is cooperation and collaboration between countries rather than antagonism that will ensure the survival of mankind on this planet.

My own country has consistently advocated cooperation with its regional neighbours as its main objective. To this end, we are active members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Caribbean Economic Community (CARICOM). We are now actively pursuing the political integration of all Caribbean States as a major goal. This we consider to be vital to our welfare and survival. Our presence in the FAO is further testimony of our resolve at cooperation and solidarity.

The work of the FAO, its orientation and modus operandi are ideally suited to the needs of developing countries. We are therefore pleased to learn that the Review of FAO operations has indicated a clean bill of health for the Organization.

We are, however, of the firm conviction that the role of the FAO must be further strengthened to cope with the numerous problems resulting from an ever increasing population, environmental threats, malnutrition and persistent poverty in our countries.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, like so many other developing countries, is very dependent upon agriculture for the provision of local food needs and for foreign exchange earnings through the export of raw materials. However, we still import large quantities of raw and processed foods to supplement our local requirements. This continues to have adverse effects on the balance of payments, which have been highly negative for many years. This difference or negative flow of capital from developing countries amounted to US \$ 43 million during 1988. The heavy reliance on preferential market access in developed countries for our export commodities makes it imperative that we join with other developing countries to safeguard our exports. The prospect of the single European market in 1992 presents a myriad of problems to us as ACP countries. To us, 1992 has Orwellian overtones.

Although agriculture is central to our economy, we are particularly vulnerable to both natural and man-made disasters. Over the past ten years, for example, my own country had to survive the disastrous effects of one violent volcanic eruption, two hurricanes, and at least one major drought. The recent passage of Hurricane Hugo through the Caribbean has devastated many countries and destroyed the hopes and aspirations of hundreds of thousands of people. The full impact may never be estimated.

At this point, Mr Chairman, permit me to place on record my country's appreciation for the very valuable assistance received from many countries in response to the many disasters. The FAO needs particular mention. The positive response of the FAO for assistance to deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo is commendable. Furthermore, the prompt assistance by the FAO when swarms of desert locusts suddenly appeared in our country earlier this year, will continue to be a source of great consolation to the Government and people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The vulnerable and fragile nature of agriculture and consequently the economy of developing countries has persuaded my Government to embark upon a policy of land reform and agricultural diversification as the main development thrust.

The land reform programme is aimed at redressing the historical imbalances in land distribution, tenure and utilization patterns that have constituted a major constraint to agricultural production and the country's development. The situation where the vast majority of the best quality land is owned by a few individuals and allowed to remain idle for speculative purposes or as collateral for non-agricultural business ventures, while the remainder of the population hunger for land, unemployment sky-rockets and chronic food shortages are experienced, is considered counterproductive and socially undesirable.

Diversification of agriculture is considered the best strategy for the optimal utilization of land, to increase food security and self-sufficiency as well as to create better employment opportunities for our population. Agricultural diversification is therefore an integral component of the overall land reform programme. Government has therefore indicated its intention to purchase all estates once they are available for sale and to subdivide them into economically sized units for distribution to farmers. Resettlement has already commenced on one large estate, and nine other

estates are being prepared for similar treatment. As a result of these initiatives, more land will be made available to small farmers, and hence to the private sector, which my government considers a major vehicle for economic development.

FAO clearly has a role to play in these activities. However, while the involvement of external consultants is recognized, sustainable agriculture must involve the development of local expertise and capabilities. My delegation is therefore fully supportive of the idea expressed by other Caribbean delegations to assist in the development of indigenous institutions, such as the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the University of the West Indies (UWI). Consultancies and financial assistance should therefore be made available to these institutions in order to enhance their research capacity and to transfer the findings of this research to the farmer.

FAO has been of great assistance and support to my country's priority areas of fisheries, dairy development, home economics, the sugar industry, land reform and agricultural planning. Although the FAO field programme has been of modest scale, the impact and benefits have been enormous.

My government will therefore not be supportive of any effort to reduce or weaken the FAO's potential for rendering assistance. We are therefore very dissatisfied that the Technical Cooperation Programme's share of the budget has declined rather than increased. While prudent financial management is a commendable goal, and is fully supported, reducing the TCP is tantamount to cutting off your nose to spite your face.

Developing countries have been encouraged and persuaded in the past to de-emphasize traditional farming methods and replace them with more advanced agricultural technologies. However, this approach has seemed to link us to a cycle of dependence because of the very fragile nature of our agriculturally based economies. Now we are being advised that much of this new technology can have a very disastrous effect upon the environment and mankind. Widespread agrochemical usage in farming is not only depleting a non-renewable resource, but is polluting water supplies, destroying many animal and plant species, degrading soil resources, and contributing in great measure to the greenhouse phenomenon that is altering climatic factors with the possible result of increased occurrences of tropical storms and other disasters.

The protection and preservation of our natural environment is therefore of major concern to my delegation. We are therefore fully supportive of the FAO's positive action to ensure that pesticides and other toxic substances, if ever they are to be used, are done so as judiciously as possible. Proper stewardship of our resources is essential not only to the present but to the future generations.

At this juncture it is probably wise on our part to sound a word of warning or caution. I do hope that the phenomenal changes currently sweeping the political and economic landscape of the world are not viewed as an opportunity for the greater promotion of the injudicious use of technology to a section of the world that has been repeatedly and variously referred to as "technology-backward" or "technology starved." The consequences for the global environment by such an inept strategy can be catastrophic.

In this regard, I do hope that my comments are not construed as an affront to any country or group of scientists, but experience has shown that selfish interests by individuals can have serious repercussions. I was rather reminding this distinguished gathering that our ultimate aim is to ensure sustainable development, and restore the dignity and respect of the farmer.

The wealth of experience of the FAO as a multilateral organization will therefore be greatly needed for the proper stewardship of the world's resources.

In closing, my delegation would wish that the numerous issues on the agenda of this Conference will be resolved so that the Organization will proceed with greater competence with its work in the development of agriculture in our countries.

It is particularly important that the modus operandi of the Organization can be firmly established at this time, bearing in mind that we are all aware that the next session of the Conference will be preoccupied with the matter of elections.

**Robson CHIRWA (Malawi):** It is a great honour for me to be here to participate in the 25th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference on behalf of His Excellency the Life President, Ngwazi Dr H. Kamuzu Banda, of the Republic of Malawi, who is his own Minister of Agriculture. This is an honour I do not take for granted. I am very grateful to His Excellency the Life President, Ngwazi Dr H Kamuzu Banda, for according me this great honour and privilege.

Mr Chairman on behalf of the Malawi Delegation, and indeed on my own behalf, accept my warmest congratulations on your election as Chairman of the 25th Session of the Conference of FAO. I also wish to extend sincere congratulations to the other members of the Bureau on their election. Your election to this high office is a reflection of the confidence and admiration that the members of this Conference have for the Australian people in general, and an acknowledgement of your own personal qualities, skills and experience, which I am confident will enable you to guide the proceedings of this Conference to a meaningful, constructive and fruitful conclusion. To this end I would like to associate myself with those distinguished delegations that have spoken before me in assuring you of my Delegation's full cooperation and support.

I wish also to express my Delegation's heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, for the gracious statement which he was pleased to deliver to this Conference, which in many ways will help in guiding this Conference to reach consensus on many issues. I would be failing in my duty if I do not compliment the efforts of the entire Secretariat for the tremendous effort they are putting into FAO's activities.

I would like to dwell now on the situation of food and agriculture in Malawi. Malawi's economy is based on agriculture as there are no minerals worth talking about, except for the good rich soil.

In 1964, Malawi became independent on a poor economic base and through the leadership of His Excellency the Life President, Ngwazi Dr H. Kamuzu Banda, immediately realized that survival of the Independent State of Malawi was dependent on a sound agricultural policy. Against this background Malawi,

through the pragmatic leadership of the Life President, has established an agricultural and economic policy which is embodied in the words of His Excellency the Life President, and I quote "Malawi should be self-sufficient in food and have surplus for sale and expand cash crop production for cash and export". He has further said on many occasions that "whatever his people may not have, three things they must have, namely, they must have enough food, they must have good clothes and must live in houses that do not leak when it is raining".

To ensure that this policy is translated into reality, His Excellency the Life President became his own Minister of Agriculture in order to personally monitor and guide effective implementation of agricultural programmes. The people have listened to His Excellency's appeal for hard work in the field which has resulted in significant progress being made in agriculture and the attainment of self-sufficiency in food.

Food production in Malawi is mainly the activity of smallholder farmers both male and female. The Government of Malawi provides services in both agricultural research and agricultural extension. Provision of farm inputs both on cash and credit, as well as an established marketing system, are some of the incentives that are aimed at stimulating production in the Smallholder Sub-sector, which also participates in the cash crop production, particularly tobacco, tea, cotton and coffee.

The Estate Sub-sector continues to concentrate on the production of cash crops, mainly maize.

Recently the agricultural sector has suffered from the negative effects of subsidy removal programmes. Malawi is a land-locked country operating in a high-cost environment because of the long overland road transport costs. Removal of subsidy has meant more costs of production, which have not been matched by corresponding increases in produce prices, the net effect being reduced incomes. This is in itself mitigating against progress and if not checked could perpetuate hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

I wish to highlight some of the projects that are being implemented in Malawi with funding from both bilateral and multilateral donors. Indeed these projects are playing an important role in agricultural development. Malawi is grateful to all these donors and wishes to use this opportunity to solicit for more aid. The FAO Technical Cooperation Programme deserves a mention here, not that it is the only important one, but because we are discussing the role of FAO. The Fertilizer Programme which started this year needs to be continued if it is to achieve any meaningful results. The other projects in Forestry, Fisheries and Agriculture require strengthening, with more technical assistance and other resources.

Let me now turn to the items on the Agenda. Regarding sustainable agriculture and environmental protection, I wish to report on the observance of World Food Day which coincided with the Silver Jubilee of Malawi's Independence. The theme this year was "Food and Environment". As Malawi observed World Food Day this year, she looked back at 25 years of Independence, and was reminded of the need for environmental protection in order to sustain and increase food production to feed the ever increasing population.

Furthermore, Malawi was privileged this year to host the 8th Session of the Africa Forestry Commission at which the Africa Forest Action Plan was adopted. Malawi has endeavoured to address deforestation problems, as is evidenced by the establishment of the National Tree Planting Day by His Excellency the Life President, Ngwazi Dr H. Kamuzu Banda. Every year the 21st of December is a public holiday when the public is made more aware of the importance of trees in the environment. It is a day when members of the public and all leaders are encouraged to plant at least a tree, and the same is done in schools and other relevant institutions.

In the case of fisheries, Malawi suspends fishing in the main breeding season in order to prevent depletion of her fish resources.

Development projects in pursuit of short-term gains that ignore environmental consequences are self defeating as they do not solve any problems but rather postpone them to later periods when the damage so caused is not easily repairable. My Delegation welcomes the inclusion of this item on the Agenda and looks forward to the outcome of the discussions.

The Malawi Delegation supports the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1990-91, especially the Technical Cooperation Programme aimed at improving the smallholders' agricultural production. The provision of technical assistance in research, technology transfer, farm mechanization, and enhancing farm input supplies, produce marketing, human resource development, farmer training, women's participation, resource conservation, etc., is a prerequisite for any sound and meaningful agricultural development. Looking at Malawi's request in the pipeline I would have liked to have seen more resources in TCP, but mindful of the resource constraints I look forward to the future with hope and content with the present level.

Regarding the Report of the 57th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, the Malawi Delegation endorses the recommendations and commends them for the favourable consideration of the Conference. Of concern to the Malawi Delegation is the economic significance of tobacco. Tobacco is a major export crop for Malawi, accounts for more than 60 percent of foreign exchange earnings, and is a source of income and employment for a large number of people. Malawi is aware of, and has contributed to, the debate on "tobacco or health" at the World Health Organization and has indicated its concern on the economic significance of tobacco.

Malawi has also worked with experts, including some from the Food and Agriculture Organization, on crop diversification in order to explore the feasibility of reducing dependence on tobacco. In the face of local realities this process is a slow one and will need more time and assistance to develop, consequently tobacco will for the foreseeable future remain the main export crop.

Malawi as a founder member of the International Tobacco Growers' Association (ITGA) welcomes the recommendations made by the relationship between the ITGA and FAO, as contained in document CL 96/6, namely that the informal cooperation between FAO and the Association should continue.

Regarding the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations, the view of the Malawi Delegation is that reviews provide an excellent opportunity to evaluate achievements against set goals and objectives, and to determine a future course of action. Reviews are not an end in themselves, but are on-going processes which are carried out as and when necessity demands. My Delegation commends the Programme and Finance

Committees and the Director-General and the Secretariat for their contribution to the Review, whose report is before us. Both the report of the Programme and Finance Committees and the views and comments of the Director-General contain aspects which warrant immediate attention and implementation. In discussing the Review sight should not be lost of the urgent need to address the issues of hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

The inclusion of the "International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides", and introduction of the "Prior Informed Consent" clause, is of relevance to Malawi. My Delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the FAO Secretariat, and the Government Consultative Group, for the considerable amount of work which led to the principal Prior Informed Consent (PIC) in the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. The need for minimizing the negative effects of pesticide usage is imperative for any sustainable agricultural production. It is the view of my Delegation, that FAO can, and should, play an important role in this respect through Technical Cooperation Programmes. Research in Biological Control should be given high priority. This will, apart from reducing environmental hazards and human suffering, also save the much needed foreign exchange in the long-term. Extensive efforts in proper handling and usage of pesticides need to be intensified, especially for smallholder farmers. The Prior Informed Consent clause will ensure that importing countries become aware of the possible negative effects of the pesticides, so that measures are taken in their proper usage and handling.

With regard to the integration of women in agriculture and rural development, Malawi has made tremendous progress. Right from the time of independence, Malawi recognized the important role that women play in development. In this respect His Excellency the Life President, Ngwazi Dr H. Kamuzu Banda, ensured that there existed the league of Malawi Women in the Malawi Congress Party, a political party which won Independence for Malawi and plays a major role in determining the direction and course of action in the development of Malawi. Four years ago a women's organization called Chitukuku Cha a Mai M'Malawi was established, and is contributing greatly to development in the field of health, social welfare and agriculture. In recognition of the vital role that women play in agricultural development, the Ministry of Agriculture established a Women's Programme Section, to cater for the needs of women in agricultural training, credit and input supplies and marketing.

Studies have revealed that about 69 percent of farm labour is provided by women who, unfortunately, have the least access to resources and knowledge. In order to ensure that the involvement of women in all spheres of development is properly coordinated the National Commission for Women in Development was established. The Malawi Delegation looks forward to sharing experiences with other Member Nations.

In concluding allow me to express gratitude and appreciation to FAO and the Director-General for establishing an FAO Resident Mission in Malawi. The presence of the Resident Mission has facilitated speedy processing and implementation of TCP and other FAO executed projects financed by other multilateral and bilateral donors. This gesture has further cemented the relationship between Malawi and FAO.



Finally, my Delegation wishes to register appreciation and gratitude for the food aid being received from both multilateral and bilateral donors through the World Food Programme and the direct WFP food aid which is helping Malawi cope with the food needs for the large number of refugees including displaced persons. The food for work programme is seriously being pursued.

**E. YOUKEL (UNDP):** As the last speaker of the day and at this late hour, I will do my best to put all my notes together and present them to you in the most telegraphic manner. No matter how hard I try, however, the FAO/UNDP cooperation is such that even a telegraphic message will take a few minutes. Mr Chairman, as all the preceding speakers have done, and on behalf of UNDP's Administrator, Mr William H. Draper III, I wish to congratulate you upon your election and wish you a successful conclusion of the Conference.

The frequent consultations which have taken place during the past two years between senior staff of FAO and UNDP, both at headquarters and at the field level, amply demonstrate the prevailing trend to further strengthen the ties which have been developed, for four decades now, between the two organizations. Apart from regular ACC, CCSQ (OPS) and IACM meetings, important and fruitful consultations have taken place between the regional bureaux of UNDP and the corresponding departments of FAO. There is no case when a UNDP Resident Representative, while visiting Europe for one or another reason, has not passed through FAO in order to discuss ongoing or pipeline country projects, as well as other issues related to the enhancement of UNDP/FAO cooperation at the field level. In this context, I am pleased to inform the Conference that the European Office of UNDP in Geneva, where I serve, facilitates the visits of UNDP Resident Representatives to the executing agencies and subsequently follows up on all matters discussed, on their behalf.

Another important consultation procedure, initiated by the Administrator of UNDP, is that all important UNDP documents for the Governing Council are initially sent to the agencies - in a draft form - for perusal and comments. In this regard, we, in UNDP, have greatly benefitted from FAO's comments as FAO has been one of the most responsive and active participants in this process. These extensive consultations also favourably match the recommendations of the expert group (on FAO's objectives, role, priorities and strategy) and the joint programme and Finance Committee's recommendations.

I should like to deal with two issues which are of equal concern to UNDP and FAO and of importance to this Conference: one is the review of field programmes 1988-1989 and the other relates to recent developments in the UN system of interest to FAO. The latter, you may recall, and as decided by the 24th session of the Conference, is to be a standing agenda item for the governing bodies of FAO, given its importance and implication for the whole UN system.

On the first issue, UNDP commends the Director-General of FAO, Mr Saouma, and his able staff, for the preparation, once again, of an excellent analytical and very comprehensive document (C89/4) on the field programmes for the period under review (1988-1989). We note that the overall volume of field activities during the biennium reached a record high level in current terms with total expenditures in 1988 of US\$ 342 million and an estimated US\$ 363 million in 1989. The main factor underlying the increase in expenditures of around 9%, as stated in the document, is the sharp rise in

delivery under UNDP-funded programmes, which accounts for nearly half of the total field programme expenditures during the biennium. Based on a continuing high level of FAO/UNDP project approvals, we fully concur with the statement that "prospects for the next few years are reasonably encouraging". I should like to inform you that the figure of approvals shown in the computer printout of last month reached the impressive level of US\$ 232 million. We are very pleased to note that 48% of the total expenditures went to Africa, to which FAO and UNDP attach a high priority. We also appreciate the fact that crop production accounted for the largest share of field programme delivery (25%), while there was a notable rise in expenditures for planning and policy analysis projects (from 6 to 10% of total expenditures). This trend is fully in line with the evolving needs in the developing countries and the priorities their governments attach to these sectors. FAO's considerable efforts to replace internationally-recruited project directors and staff with nationals are indeed commendable. We also commend the efforts of FAO in applying a government project execution modality, thus further advancing towards the ultimate goal of self-reliance of the developing countries. In this respect, we have taken note of the suggestions contained in the relevant paragraphs (under sub-title "Towards Full Government Execution) in chapter four of document C89/4.

We studied with great interest chapter two of document C89/4, devoted to assessment of field projects. Our particular interest in this subject stems from the very mandate of my organization and the accountability of its Administrator to the Governing Council of UNDP regarding the quality of the projects funded by our organization and executed by the respective specialized agencies. We commend the staff of the FAO Evaluation Service for the important work accomplished during the biennium under review. We note with satisfaction that the introduction of revised and improved procedures by both FAO and UNDP contributed to strengthening the FAO project evaluation work and improving its quality. We are also pleased to read, in chapter two of the document, about, and I quote, "the productive liaison between FAO and UNDP in reviewing problems and difficulties encountered in the planning and implementation of that major programme". We fully agree with FAO that the intensive high-level reviews of the entire UNDP/FAO programme undertaken during the biennium on a global and regional basis, involving the senior management staff of both organizations, greatly contributed to this process. We stand ready to continue and further expand as well as intensify this close partnership and collaboration. We are also pleased to note the manner in which items such as agricultural investment, TCDC and women in development are treated in the document, these being also of high priority to UNDP.

In summary, at this juncture, I should like to bring the following to the attention of the Conference:

1. contacts with FAO have been improving, in terms of frequency, quality and the constructive nature of the dialogue;
2. UNDP funds going to agriculture, fisheries and forestry are again increasing, since 1987, as pointed out earlier in my statement;

3. areas which we feel UNDP can increasingly participate in, together with FAO, are: rural development, nutrition, joint UNDP/FAO country specifics, high quality sector studies and issue-focussed seminars (irrigation, extension work and sustainable institutional development). We look forward for further suggestions from FAO on these issues;
4. within WCARRD follow-up, we are working closely with FAO on the macro-economic policy impact on rural poverty and we should like to further extend our cooperation in this area;
5. we are pleased with the cooperation of the FAO Investment Centre with UNCDF. Also in this context, we note that UNCDF investments in the agriculture and rural development sectors are increasingly channelled through FAO, as indicated in the Conference documentation.

The other important issue I would like to refer to now concerns the "recent developments in the UN systems of interest to FAO". Regarding developments in the UN system (document C89/9) and particularly on "The role of UNDP in the 1990s", the Governing Council of UNDP, after its high-level segment debate and long and intensive negotiations, preceded by extensive consultations at various levels that were conducted during a full year and in which FAO actively participated, took a decision which envisaged emphasis on accelerated growth with human development, sustainability and greater self-reliance. I am stressing this because these are issues of main and common concern to both organizations. All forecasts show that, by the year 2000, human development will acquire even greater magnitude and importance, as competitiveness, productivity, skilled staff, knowledge-based employment and management capacity become the key factors of economic development. The largest part of the world's output will be ensured not only through additions of capital, but by improvements in people's individual capacities. Thus, this is a broad scope for cooperative action for two organizations - partners as they are in assisting developing countries in human development. It is in this context that UNDP will produce its first annual report on human development next year. The report will analyse the state of the human condition. We are already participating in a series of country exercises to identify concrete policies and programmes for implementing realistic, durable goals over the next decade. In addition, UNDP will be supporting considerable research, data collection and technical assistance in the field of human development. These efforts will be carried out in full collaboration with the specialized agencies of the UN system. FAO's keen interest in this initiative, and its readiness to contribute to this report, is highly valued by the Administrator.

Our determination to place human resources development at the centre of UNDP's activities was amply demonstrated in the Administrator's speech to the 2nd Committee of the General Assembly delivered on 3 November last.

Another major challenge in the next decade concerns ecological security. There is a heightened concern that development strategies must not destroy tomorrow's natural resources in the struggle for better living standards today. We in UNDP are conscious of our obligations to assist the developing countries in the environmental field. We are already supporting more than 400 projects targetted directly towards sustainable development at a total cost of around \$ 300 million. An excellent example of cooperation between FAO, UNDP and the World Bank is the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, which has received unanimous support from all concerned.

As you know last June, our Governing Council discussed "The Role of UNDP in the 1990s" and reaffirmed our basic mandate to build national development capacities. We are fostering the premise that donor-driven technical cooperation must give way to truly recipient-led planning and programming. As part of this process, UNDP has staged NATCAPs in 18 African countries to help them manage their technical cooperation more effectively. We continue to do more in this area and we support FAO's desire to enhance its participation in this process. The Council endorsed UNDP's central funding and central coordinating roles and confirmed that UNDP should serve all developing nations - and also in that process maintain its neutrality.

Another development with equally important bearing on the future relationship between UNDP and FAO is the study entrusted by the Governing Council to an independent Expert Group on the tripartite relationship and the successor arrangements to support costs. UNDP commends the active participation of the FAO Secretariat in the extensive consultation process which started as early as April this year. The Expert Group is expected to submit its report by the first week of December to the Administrator, who will circulate it to all concerned.

We have also noted the references in the document before you on issues discussed at the July 1989 session of the ECOSOC, and now on the agenda of the 2nd Committee of the General Assembly, namely, the "Triennial Policy Review of Operational Activities of the UN system". Appropriately, the issues covered range from mobilizing additional resources to improving programming; from simplifying procedures to providing technical advice; from rationalizing country-level structures to re-examining the Resident Coordinator system, and from decentralization to alternative methods of governance. On this issue, our Administrator spoke to the 2nd Committee on the 3rd of November and indicated UNDP will work closely with the Director-General's office on the actions that must follow. We thus look forward to the Committee's guidance in this area.

I would like to refer to another important subject, Mr Chairman. It relates to the Standard Basic Agreement, recently sent by UNDP's former Associate Administrator, Mr Brown, to Mr Saouma. We attach particular importance to the early conclusion of this agreement, in view of the fact that FAO remains our major partner in the execution of programmes in the field. We understand that the representatives of agencies met in Geneva some two weeks ago on this subject and we hope that this Agreement will soon be concluded, as strongly recommended by our Governing Council, thus further facilitating and enhancing our working relationship.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to turn your attention for a moment to the immediate future. As you may be aware, 1992 marks the beginning of the fifth UNDP Programming Cycle. The Governing Council will therefore be called upon, at its next June session - significantly coinciding with the 40th anniversary of UNDP - to take important decisions with regard to the allocation of resources for that cycle. Preparatory work is already well underway in UNDP and a series of consultations have already been held with Member States. Simultaneously, the executing agencies, are expected to initiate preparatory programming work, in their respective sectors of competence, at country and regional levels. I hope that FAO Country Representatives, in close cooperation with the UNDP Resident Representatives' offices, will make every possible effort to ensure that recipient governments attribute appropriate priority to agricultural

development projects in country and regional programmes for the next cycle. I am sharing this concern with the distinguished delegates of the Conference who may wish to follow up on this matter, as appropriate, upon their return to their home countries.

Let me conclude, Mr Chairman, by reiterating UNDP's readiness to further strengthen the existing cooperation between UNDP and FAO for the benefit of the developing countries we serve.

**Yves BERTHELOT (CNUCED):** Permettez-moi tout d'abord de remercier le Directeur général de la FAO pour avoir invité la CNUCED à participer à cette session du Conseil. Cette session est particulièrement importante pour mon organisation puisqu'elle a lieu à un moment où celle-ci est engagée dans deux activités intéressantes directement la FAO.

La première est le soutien au groupe d'experts que le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies a créé sur les problèmes des matières premières en Afrique et la seconde est la préparation de la deuxième Conférence des Nations Unies sur les pays les moins avancés, qui se tiendra à Paris en 1990.

Sur la première, je dirai simplement que le rapport sera remis au Secrétaire général en février et que les recommandations s'adresseront à la fois aux gouvernements africains pour qu'ils prennent des mesures pour améliorer la productivité et la participation des ressortissants africains dans la commercialisation des matières premières, et à la Communauté internationale pour qu'elle apporte son soutien aux objectifs que je viens de mentionner et qu'elle supprime les obstacles à l'accès aux marchés. En outre la nécessité de la coopération entre producteurs sera soulignée. Je pense que ce qui se passe sur le café et la cacao est suffisamment clair. Je veux remercier la FAO pour le concours très précieux qu'elle a apporté au groupe jusqu'à présent.

Je m'exprimerai un peu plus longuement sur la Conférence de 1990.

Le groupe des pays les moins avancés comprend 42 pays qui comptent parmi les plus pauvres de la planète et qui, outre leur pauvreté, ont des économies particulièrement faibles et fragiles. Celles-ci sont caractérisées par leur faible intégration, le bas niveau de la productivité agricole, une industrie quasi inexistante et des ressources humaines mal préparées au changement économique par une éducation insuffisante, des incitations inadéquates et des services sociaux modestes. Enfin, l'étroitesse du secteur des exportations, particulièrement dépendantes des matières premières dont la demande est relativement inélastique, limite leur aptitude à acquérir les devises nécessaires et à saisir les occasions offertes sur le marché international. Tel ou tel de ces caractères se retrouve dans nombre d'autres pays en développement mais dans les PMA ils sont tous présents simultanément et plus aigus. Cela réduit leur aptitude à réagir aux désastres naturels ou aux chocs extérieurs et même à bénéficier des avantages que la coopération internationale offre à l'ensemble des pays en développement.

Une action spécifique est donc nécessaire. Cela fut reconnu en 1981 quand fut adopté le Nouveau programme spécial d'action pour les pays les moins avancés et cela demeure vrai aujourd'hui.

Le Nouveau programme spécial d'action n'a pas été un succès puisque la situation relative des PMA s'est détériorée et puisque les engagements pris n'ont pas été tenus. Je ne donnerai pas de détails pour gagner du temps, mais je dirai qu'après étude des faits nous sommes convaincus que ces

désastreuses performances sont dues à la conjonction de politiques nationales inefficaces et trop peu ambitieuses d'une part et d'autre part au fait que le soutien international a été insuffisant et inadapté. En outre les procédures de suivi, très inégales au niveau national et trop lâches au niveau global, n'ont permis ni les adaptations aux changements de l'environnement international, ni la mobilisation des volontés politiques nécessaires à l'action et à la coopération.

Cela dit, nous ne pensons pas qu'il y ait là matière à désespérer, au contraire et pour deux raisons: tout d'abord, les causes de l'échec ne sont pas la fatalité mais des erreurs humaines qui sont par nature corrigibles. Si l'action des gouvernements et des hommes est à la source des mauvais résultats, elle peut être la cause de succès futurs.

Justement, et c'est ma deuxième raison d'espérer, quelques-uns des pays les moins avancés ont réussi à accroître leur revenu par tête dans des circonstances également difficiles quand se sont trouvées réunies des politiques nationales courageuses, auxquelles a effectivement répondu un soutien international rapide et suffisant.

Dans le cas de l'agriculture, je voudrais constater que depuis 1980 la production agricole n'a crû que de 1,7 pour cent en moyenne dans les PMA alors que l'objectif était de 4 pour cent et, je le rappelle, que la population a crû de 2,6 pour cent par an dans ces mêmes pays. Il s'ensuit que l'objectif d'autosuffisance alimentaire est devenu illusoire et, plus grave, que la sécurité alimentaire a été compromise.

Des pénuries ont obligé à recourir à l'aide alimentaire dans tous les PMA, sauf quatre, comme le signale votre Organisation. Et, malgré l'aide alimentaire, la malnutrition s'est étendue. Selon le FIDA, le contenu en calories de la diète dans les PMA qui était de 9 pour cent en dessous de celui de la moyenne des pays en développement est aujourd'hui de 11 pour cent inférieur.

De plus, durant cette décennie, le cercle vicieux qui lie la pauvreté, la fragilité de l'agriculture et la dégradation de l'environnement est devenu évident et préoccupant.

Pourtant, les gouvernements des PMA ne sont pas restés inactifs et, dans de nombreux cas, des réformes d'envergure ont été entreprises pour améliorer la situation. Les résultats de ces réformes, pourtant, ont été très inégaux selon les pays. Souvent, lorsque l'amélioration des pays a entraîné un accroissement de la production, d'autres problèmes sont apparus: distorsion des structures de prix entraînant surplus ici et déficit là; saturation des moments de stockage, des moyens de transport, aggravant parfois les différences entre régions d'un même pays; sans parler de calamités naturelles qui ont parfois annulé les efforts entrepris.

Enfin, les PMA se sont trouvés confrontés à l'instabilité et à la baisse des prix des matières premières agricoles qu'ils avaient développées et pour lesquelles prévalaient des situations de surproduction. Toute politique dans le futur devra bien entendu être adaptée et mise à la mesure de chacun des pays. Mais il est très vraisemblable qu'elle devra s'appuyer sur trois grands principes.

Tout d'abord, la modernisation de l'agriculture nécessitera un ensemble cohérent et intégré de mesures portant sur la propriété des sols, les prix, les intrants, le stockage, la transformation, le transport, les communications et l'information; toutes les composantes de cet ensemble sont également importantes. Concentrer les efforts sur l'une en oubliant les autres n'aboutirait pas à des résultats satisfaisants.

Ensuite, l'impact des efforts faits dans les secteurs agricoles sur l'économie dans son ensemble dépendra de la possibilité d'établir des liens en amont et en aval avec les autres secteurs d'activité.

Enfin, il faudra judicieusement doser, et de façon différente selon les pays, l'emploi de mécanismes de marché et les interventions publiques. Pour conclure, il est clair que des recommandations devront être faites à la Conférence de Paris en 1990 dans le secteur agricole. Ces recommandations devront s'adresser aussi bien à chacun des PMA qu'à la communauté des donateurs. Nous sommes confiants - et c'était l'objet de ma venue ici - que la FAO poursuivra sa réflexion sur le sujet; nous attendons d'elle de nouvelles contributions au processus de préparation de cette Conférence qui s'ajouteront aux très importantes et utiles contributions qu'elle a déjà apportées dans ce but.

Je vous remercie.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Je voudrais rappeler aux délégations que lundi 20 novembre à midi est la date limite pour la présentation des candidatures aux élections des membres du Conseil et aux élections des membres du Comité du programme et du Comité financier. Des formulaires de proposition des candidatures sont joints respectivement au document C 89/LIM/22 pour l'élection des membres du Conseil, et au document CL 97/2 pour l'élection des membres des comités du programme et financier.

**Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia):** Mr Chairman, Honourable Ministers and Distinguished Delegates, Mr Director-General, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is an honour and privilege for me, to submit the statement of my Minister, Comrade Dr Geremew Debele, member of the Central Committee of WPE and Minister of Agriculture of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, to the 25th Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. Because of urgent and pressing national commitments, Comrade Dr Geremew Debele was not able to attend this important Conference and I am instructed by him through Commissioner Yoseph Wolde Michael (ONCCP), to kindly request you, Mr Chairman and through you, to the Conference, to convey his best wishes for the success of this important Conference. With your kind indulgence, Mr Chairman, I will henceforth submit Comrade Dr Geremew Debele's statement.

The Minister's statement is as follows: On behalf of the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, I am pleased and honoured in extending my sincere congratulations to you on your election as chairman of the 25th Session of the FAO Conference. Because of your able leadership, I am confident that you will bring the deliberations of this Conference to a successful and meaningful conclusion.

May I also extend my heartfelt appreciations to the people and Government of the Republic of Italy, for hosting this Conference and making our tour of duty pleasant and memorable.

Mr Chairman, it is to be recognized that all countries' goals are to feed their people, eliminate poverty and destitution. However, the achievement of these goals are becoming increasingly difficult in the developing world. Agriculture which directly provides livelihood to more than half of the world's population has not been able to contribute its share because of reasons emerging from national and international circumstances. While national situations, which among other factors include low level of technology, degradation of the environment, changes of weather conditions and inadequacy in the use of inputs are being tackled in as much as resources permit; those emerging from the international situation particularly as related to commodity trade has become a major obstacle.

Agriculture's importance could be extended to a stage of causing balance or imbalance in the overall economic development, and hence its effect on the global peace is an equally important concern of the international community.

The delegation of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, fully shares the view that challenges of the international community in the broader areas of agriculture, forestry and fisheries fall within the mandates of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and consider that the Minister of Agriculture and delegations of Member Nations who are attending this Conference as the proper bodies to which all issues relating to agriculture, forestry and fishery could be addressed. As the related issues are varied and complex, and most of these have been addressed in the multitudes of sessions over the last 45 years, I am obliged to limit my address to some issues which are tabled for the considerations of the Conference. At the outset I like to indicate my recognition of the fact that the constitution which was adopted 45 years ago equally responds to the present needs of food and agriculture.

Mr Chairman, at this juncture, I would consider it to be my obligation to report to this august body about the state of food and agriculture in the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Agriculture is the pillar of the Ethiopian economy accounting for about 48% of the GDP. 90% of exports, and 85% of employment. Because of this dominant role, the Government has accorded top priority to it in the overall development strategy.

The reflections of this could be evidenced in the National Ten-year Perspective Plan. The first five-year plan prepared in 2 years and 3 years has been implemented, and agriculture has not performed as planned. There are many causes for this but the main ones are frequent drought, inavailabilities of inputs and technological backwardness. The second phase of this long-term perspective plan will be launched in due time.

The priority goals of the successor five-year plan are generally going to be the same with the long-term plan, which include attainment of food self-sufficiency, alleviation of unemployment, improving the balance of payments, conservation of natural resources and protection of the environment. The medium-term plan also places importance on an integrated approach to rural development, with emphasis for the need of inter-sectoral integration at national, regional and local levels.

As a result of the above considerations the objective of the next Medium-term Five-year Plan would sharply focus on high potential crop-producing areas. The Government has identified three areas of concentration to achieve these goals. Accordingly the implementation of the second phase of the ten-year Perspective Plan is focusing on three agro-ecological zones namely: the high potential crop-producing areas (148);



the high potential perennial crop-producing areas (34); the low potential crop-producing areas (90). The development strategy involves full participation of the local population and incorporates a conservation-based development approach at the grassroots level.

Farmers in these potential crop and perennial crop production areas, through their respective service-cooperatives receive priority allocations of inputs like fertilizers, improved-seeds, chemical, credit, extension-services, farm-tools and implements. In addition to these services, rural infrastructure constructions like roads, stores and silos are considered along the same lines with the objectives of improving marketing conditions, reducing post-harvest losses and improving input delivery.

Mr Chairman, currently, only 7% and 2% of the farming population respectively use fertilizers and improved seeds. Post-harvest grain losses have been estimated at about 600 000 metric tons or 10% of the annual production. The loss in the field attributed to post-harvest damage is estimated at about 20%.

We do realize that increases in the use of fertilizers, improved seeds, more efficient and equipped plant protection services for controlling crop pests and reducing post-harvest losses would make significant changes in the availabilities of food at national level. However, financial resources constraints has inhibited the exploitation of existing resources; as a result, this situation has forced us to focus on high producing areas rather than distributions of inputs at a national level.

Mr Chairman, the forest of Ethiopia is shrinking at an alarming rate, from an estimated 16% of the total area in the early 1950s, to the current estimate of less than 5%. Presently it continues to decrease at a rate of 200 000 hectares annually, the major demand being requirements for fuelwood which takes about 80% of the annual production.

The unsustainable use of forest product is a question of survival rather than a preference, emerging from the low standards of living and lack of sufficient number of alternatives. Annual demand exceeds total wood production by around 15 million cubic meters. The rapid depletion of forest and the growing scarcity of fuelwood has negative effects on the Economy and Environment.

In an effort to avert this negative situation the Government has launched intensive forestation programmes. Presently some 350 000 hectares or 6% of the erosion-susceptible crop lands have been bunded and 150 000 hectares forested. Efforts are also being made to introduce and expand use of improved stoves, biogas and solar photovoltaic technologies in rural areas with a view of alleviating the fuelwood crisis. Here is one of the areas where the need has been identified and international cooperation will have a fast impact on the implementation of these plans towards achieving a sustainable development.

The country is also endowed with a large potential of fish resources both in coastal and inland waters. With regard to inland fisheries the present catch is estimated at about 10% from the potential annual catch of 33 000 mt. The major obstacle to the development of fishery resources is primarily the lack of a marketing network which requires large-scale investment for setting up infrastructures such as roads, transportation, storage facilities, etc.

Mr Chairman, the frequent drought in the 1970s and 1980s that afflicted Ethiopia has led to large-scale food imports. Although far from being a passing phenomenon, the drought was only one of the several elements of a long-term decline in the country's capacity to attain self-sufficiency in food production, other major contributing factors include population growth, poverty, technological backwardness and poor infrastructures. In the fight against the root causes of poverty the country has made major progress in the areas of agrarian reform, abolition of feudal systems, eradication of illiteracy, etc.

Mr Chairman, there is a growing awareness that a comprehensive development policy which accords top priority to agriculture is essential for improving the performance of our economic development. Rightly enough, policy reform is currently receiving increased attention by governments, and we have come to witness that a favourable policy in itself will not bring the desired changes. If meaningful achievements are to be scored, we believe that policy reforms will have to be supplemented by resources that assist in the development of human resources, transfer of technology, rural infrastructures and development of research capabilities. People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has recently introduced policy measures that are believed to stimulate and accelerate our development efforts. It is our firm conviction that these measures will ultimately lead towards greater investments both from within and outside the country.

It is to be noted that 90% of Ethiopia's export earnings comes from agriculture, and the major share of this earning is derived from coffee. Because of the present depressed environment of coffee commodity trade and the suspension of the international coffee agreement, the country's export earnings are being affected drastically. This will mean that Ethiopia's capabilities to finance investments and imports will be constrained by both the low level of aid inflows and insufficient growth of exports. If the prevalence of this situation continues in the 1990s, it is anticipated that my country will face acute shortages of foreign exchange and will have difficulties in even maintaining its present level of expenditures.

While expressing my sincere gratitude and appreciation for all forms of emergency and development assistance in the past, I would like to use this opportunity to appeal to the international community to raise the availabilities of development assistance through both bilateral and multilateral channels, in order to address the food and agricultural problems that are facing my country presently.

Mr Chairman, within the time that is available I have tried to briefly outline the state of food and agriculture in Ethiopia. In this effort, however, it should be noted that international organizations like the FAO are playing significant roles in providing policy advice, information and technical assistance. These areas of assistance being outlined in the reviews of both the regular programme and field programmes. I would limit my observations to words of sentiments for the Organization. I would however, feel obliged to indicate that the services that Member Nations get from this Organization will depend on the resources availed to it. As was recurred by the Director-General, present contribution levels and the failure to respect contributions that were obligated will curtail the Organization from providing services that are expected by Member Nations, particularly those developing countries like mine. I would, therefore, like to join with those that appealed for fulfillment of these obligations for a better operation.

Having remarked on those general considerations I would now draw the attention of the Conference to some of the items that are tabled for this Session. In doing so I will only concentrate on those issues which will require views of the Member Nations, and leave the technical details for the observations to be made during the discussions of the individual items in the respective commissions of the Conference.

Mr Chairman, during the 24th Conference the Programme and Finance Committees working jointly and assisted by a small number of experts were asked to review FAO's roles, priorities and strategies. During this Conference and in the same resolution, the Director-General was also called upon to submit recommendations resulting from the review, together with his own views, to the 25th Conference. I am pleased to note that the outcome of this exercise is placed before the 25th Conference along with the review of the field programme and the management review which were not specifically called-for in the resolution.

The review before us has proved the vitality and continued importance of FAO. We hope that Member Nations and the international community will continue to meet their obligations as per the requirement, and show good will towards realizing the objectives of the Organization.

The delegation of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, having participated in the review exercise and party to the whole process, would like to reaffirm its support for the recommendations contained. Detailed observations on specific topics will however be aired during the discussions of the item in Commission II.

Mr Chairman, the delegation of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia recognizes that the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1990-91 biennium is a result of intensive discussions that were deliberated during sessions of the various technical committees throughout the present biennium and therefore we are convinced that it deserves our approval. The priority areas and programme elements incorporated in the document have gone through the appropriate screening process and are acceptable to us even though we feel that the proposal falls short of the range of requirements and expectations of member countries. With the understanding that present economic realities of developing countries and availabilities of financial resources from developed countries cannot extend beyond those included in the Programme of Work and Budget, we earnestly feel that the proposal tabled before us deserve a consensus.

Mr Chairman, the incorporation of the "Prior Informed Consent" clause to the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and use of Pesticides was called for by the 24th Conference. Our delegation is pleased to note that issues relating to the incorporation of the "Prior Informed Consent" clause were considered by the working group and the Committee on Agriculture. We therefore indicate our support to the recommendations contained in Document C 89/20 and hope that its implementation will receive urgent attention because of its relationship with human health and protection of the environment.

Mr Chairman, it is to be noted that during the adoption of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, Ethiopia had reservations on the acceptability of the undertaking, particularly as related to Article 2.1. of the document. We have participated in both the working group and also the third session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. We anticipate that the Present Interpretation on the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources as contained in Document C 89/24 will take care of the

concerns that were expressed by Ethiopia. We therefore will have no reservation towards the resolution that is annexed. Likewise we hope to see the outcome of the work that is started on the Conservation of Animal Genetic Resources in the near future.

Mr Chairman, the Progress Report on the Integration of Women in Development indicates that it will require resources of an extra-budgetary nature and also from the Regular Programme. We hope to see that these requirements are more and more covered from the extra-budgetary resources so as to relieve the financial constraints of the Regular Programme. The programme's contribution to rural development is immense and therefore it has our full support.

Mr Chairman, FAO's support to member countries in the conservation and introduction of environmental factors in its projects and programmes is a very important activity, and its continuation will still remain to be valid. Even though the effort of the Organization and allocation of 3% of its resources to this endeavour could be welcomed, it will be important to note that the requirement is much higher. Additional activities and the continuity of currently implemented programmes will require consideration of additional resources for an effective sustainable development effort.

We therefore would like to indicate that compatible resource allocation will have to be considered for this important area of the environment.

In this connection we would like to indicate the support of the Peoples's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in FAO's involvement in the Preparatory Work of the 1992 UN World Conference on Environment, with the hope that this Conference will create additional momentum towards reaching the expected aspirations on environmental concerns.

In the view of the Ethiopian delegation the proposed International Conference on Nutrition will create additional momentum in alleviating problems related to nutrition and food, and therefore will have no reservation towards its implementation. We also hope that the Special Fund from extra-budgetary resources could be made available for the implementation of this Conference. As this is a matter to be discussed in the Regional Conferences, we plan to make detailed observations in this connection.

Mr Chairman, in this world of interdependence, it is painful and contradictory to note the gap between those that have more than plenty and the dominating majority engulfed by poverty, which is certainly not a reflection of the global interdependence. I therefore would like to close my remarks with a reminder that the people of the world will have to coordinate their efforts towards promoting development in the area of agriculture and food production for the betterment of human beings and for a better future.

In all these efforts, contributions of the Director-General, the staff, the working groups, the various committees, commissions, and the Council have been filled with devotion and the outcomes of which have become a source of encouragement. We therefore would like to pay our tribute for their respective share of contributions.

Finally, Mr Chairman, while encouraging the Director-General and Secretariat of FAO to pursue further their endeavour of noble objectives, I wish to stress once again that the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia will spare no effort to take up appropriate measures towards improving the food situation and environmental problems. Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II**  
**ALLOCUTION DE SA SAINTETE LE PAPE JEAN-PAUL II**  
**DISCURSO POR SU SANTIDAD PAPA JUAN PABLO II**

Address delivered by His Holiness during the Papal Audience granted to participants to the 25th Session of the FAO Conference on 16 November.

Discours prononcé par le Saint-Père au cours de l'audience accordée le 16 novembre aux participants à la 25ème Conférence de la FAO.

Dicurso pronunciado por el Santo Padre durante la audiencia concedida el 16 noviembre a los participantes de la 25ª Conferencia de la FAO.

Mr President, Mr Director-General, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, as the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization continues to develop as an important point of encounter for the political experiences of all countries, the Holy See has followed attentively the decisions of the more important specialized intergovernmental agencies of the UN. It has been especially pleased to note the work of the General Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization within the specific field of its competence. FAO has sought to play an indispensable role, together with other organizations involved in questions of agriculture and food supply, in safeguarding the basic human right to be fed adequately. This goal requires an effective and continuous effort to guarantee the access of individuals and peoples to sufficient food supplies as part of the greater process of development worldwide.

The complexity of mounting an adequate and effective campaign against hunger and malnutrition is becoming more and more apparent. Today, fifteen years after the World Food Conference of 1974, we have been made aware of the need for a careful and objective consideration of the many factors bearing upon problems of world economic development and social progress. This is particularly evident in light of rapid population increases, especially on certain continents, and a world economy that presents phases of recession and difficulties in implementing domestic economic policies even in highly industrialized countries.

For this reason, it is best to avoid purely global and negative descriptions of the existing situation. Instead, existing observations and assessments, however disappointing they have been hitherto, ought to become a stimulus to new reflection on the possibility and indeed the duty, of concerted action on the part of States and intergovernmental organizations.

This sort of activity must necessarily be gradual and will need to be adjusted to the changing conditions of individual countries and the overall world situation. In effect, what is needed is a real determination not only to define the goal of justice, but also to achieve that goal through an activity grounded in moral solidarity.

If it is operative anywhere, this moral solidarity must be characteristic of the various Member States of FAO. An effective struggle against hunger and malnutrition will depend upon a united course of action undertaken first of all by those organizations and agencies directly involved with issues of food and agriculture. Aside from FAO, these would include IFAD, the World Food Programme and the World Food Council.

The struggle against hunger has ramifications in the area of investment as well. Here too, international monetary or financial organizations, in coordinating loans and payments on the world, regional, local and group level, are called to demonstrate a cooperation born of solidarity. Indeed, it is quite possible that the problem of foreign indebtedness, particularly that of the developing countries, can begin to be confronted through appropriate recourse to such multilateral organizations.

Besides their operational contributions, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank with its affiliated organizations, have also made important suggestions aimed at discerning criteria for readjusting the economy of indebted countries, and for indicating appropriate measures which aim at renewing domestic economic policy in order to foster its real and organic development. These suggestions must be taken into serious account. Finally, it is important to make certain that all foreign aid, not merely financial aid, be the fruit of a solidarity on the part of the wealthy with those who are poorer - a solidarity that employs truly disinterested measures, as opposed to measures that would constitute new forms of domination.

The struggle against hunger involves, in a way that is becoming ever more evident, the requirement that the nations of the entire world be subject to generally recognized and workable norms in the business sector. This is particularly important for the less developed countries, in order to safeguard their ability to export their products, especially agricultural ones. What must be avoided are all those recurring forms of protectionism which end in creating increasing obstacles to trade or, in some cases, actually barring developing countries from access to markets.

In this regard, an evaluation of the patterns of conduct emerging in those businesses developing within GATT is in order. There, for the first time, updated criteria for mutual regulation in commercial relations among States have been established. These criteria have a direct reference to agro-alimentary products and to the possibility of their trade on the world market.

Concern must also be voiced about the deterioration of food security in the present world situation. Indeed, parallel to the notable increase in world population there has been a recent decline on the world level in the availability of foodstuffs. The result has been a reduction of those reserves which constitute a needed guarantee against crises of hunger and malnutrition. Similarly, in the countries where production is high, this has been artificially reduced by a sector-oriented policy, which reflects a closed market calculation. Whatever its domestic value, such a policy is certainly not in harmony with a solidarity open to world needs and acting in favour of those who are most needy.

The protection of the natural environment has become a new and integral aspect of the development issue. When we pay proper attention to its ecological dimension, the struggle against hunger appears even more complex, and calls for the establishment of new bonds of solidarity. Concern for

ecology, seen in connection with the process of development and in particular the requirements of production, demands first of all that in every economic enterprise there be a rational and calculated use of resources. It has become increasingly evident that an indiscriminate use of available natural goods, with harm to the primary sources of energy and resources and to the natural environment in general, entails a serious moral responsibility. Not only the present generations but also future generations are affected by such actions.

Economic activity carries with it the obligation to use the goods of nature reasonably. But it also involves the grave moral obligation both to repair damage already inflicted on nature and to prevent any negative effects which may later arise. A more careful control of possible consequences on the natural environment is required in the wake of industrialization, especially in regard to toxic residue, and in those areas marked by an excessive use of chemicals in agriculture.

The relationship between problems of development and ecology also demands that economic activity project and accept the expenses entailed by environmental protection measures demanded by the community, be it local or global, in which that activity takes place. Such expenses must not be accounted as an incidental surcharge, but rather as an essential element of the actual cost of economic activity. The result will be a more limited profit than was possible in the past, as well as the acknowledgment of new costs deriving from environmental protection. Those costs must be taken into account both in the management of individual businesses and in nationwide programmes of economic and financial policy, which must now be approached in the perspective of regional and world economy.

In the end, we are called to operate beyond narrow national self-interest and a sectorial defense of the prosperity of particular groups and individuals. These new criteria and costs must find their place in the projected budgets of programmes of economic and financial policy for all countries, both the developed and the developing.

Today, there is a rising awareness that the adoption of measures to protect the environment implies a real and necessary solidarity among nations. It is becoming more apparent that an effective solution to the problems raised by the risk of atomic and atmospheric pollution and the deterioration of the general conditions of nature and human life can be provided only on the world level. This in turn entails a recognition of the increasing interdependence which characterizes our age. Indeed, it is increasingly evident that development policies demand a genuine international cooperation, carried out in accord with decisions made jointly and within the context of a universal vision, one which considers the good of the human family in both the present generation and in those to come.

Finally I am pleased to note the very particular attention which FAO has given to the women's issue, as it emerges in agricultural and rural development problems. This attention helps make the transition from those affirmations of the dignity and equality of women contained in the Universal Declarations of the United Nations and in certain regional organizations to the many more specific questions involving women's integration into the overall process of agricultural and food development. It also helps to suggest appropriate applications, not only in the developing countries but also in those that are industrially advanced.

I am particularly pleased that in addition to paying due attention to the strictly economic aspects of women's contribution both to agricultural production and to the commercialization of food products, one also finds explicit reference to women's dignity as human persons as the basis for their just integration not only in the production process but into the life of society as a whole. I find here a clear parallel to my teaching in the Apostolic Letter *Mulieris Dignitatem*. In that letter, I made reference to various dimensions of the Christian vision of the dignity and vocation of woman. It is my conviction that only within a perspective of an affirmation of the dignity of women as human persons can there come about a just consideration of their participation in socio-economic development, rural progress and civil growth.

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation for the treatment of those themes which have been explored by the work of the present General Conference of the FAO. I am pleased that in the preparatory documentation those themes were treated not only with regard to the programme and budget of the coming two-year period, but within the broader perspective of the major problems of the present day. It is my hope the FAO will succeed in making a vital contribution to that international strategy for development which the United Nations Organization has sought to encourage and which men and women of every nation increasingly perceive as an urgent demand of justice and human solidarity in today's world.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen: upon all of you, and upon your work, I cordially invoke God's abundant blessings.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas



# conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

# conférence

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

# conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 89/PV/13

Twenty-fifth Session  
PLENERY

Vingt-cinquième session  
PLÉNIERE

25° período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

## THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

13ª SESION PLENARIA

20 November 1989

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La treizième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45

sous la présidence de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 13ª Sesión Plenaria a las 9.45 horas

bajo la presidencia de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

**Lawrence GATT (Malta):** Mr Chairman, I congratulate you on your election to the chair of this Conference, which I am pleased to note has focused its main attention on the relationship between food production and the environment.

Malta, too, has actively pursued the question of the environment in international fora. At the Forty-third Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Malta introduced a resolution which recognizes climate change as a "Common Concern of Mankind". At the Forty-fourth Session Malta proposed that a study be prepared on the problems, among other considerations, of the environmental state of extra territorial spaces and the effective environmental protection of such spaces. No doubt these initiatives will feature prominently in the debate on the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and during the UN Special Session on the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development.

I am sure that under your able chairmanship, the Conference will emphasize FAO's interest in these matters and make the required preparations for our Organization's significant contribution to the success of both the International Development Strategy and the United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly.

Public awareness and concern over environmental and human health issues have affected virtually all food production sectors. Increased groundwater contamination, coastal water pollution, soil erosion and chemical residues are just a few of these issues that agriculture and fisheries will have to tackle in the years ahead, because once a crisis is reached it will be too late to act. The international political and legal systems remain ill-equipped to offer a solution that will ensure the integrity of the global environment. It is for these reasons that Malta has taken those initiatives at the United Nations General Assembly Sessions. Malta's initiatives are aimed at creating the required mechanisms, political and legal. Malta's initiatives are, however, based on cooperation and sharing, not on exploitation or on grabbing what is on somebody else's plate. Extra territorial spaces are on nobody's plate. Climate change has been recognized as a common concern of mankind.

There is no need to stress the devastating world-wide effects of climate disruption on food production. The Montreal Protocol is an important precedent on the more challenging issue of greenhouse warming. However, the agreement is inadequate. Even if harmful chemicals are phased out in these five to seven years, the long atmospheric lifetimes of these chemicals mean that the environment could take a century to recover. Aggressive policies to conserve existing forests and to create new forested areas are needed to yield significant environmental benefits. However, developing and small countries do not dispose of sufficient resources enabling them to grow economically and at the same time contribute towards a healthier environment. The special needs of these countries must be taken care of by the International Community. For this reason I must emphasize the urgent need of creating new opportunities for agriculture and of broadening

opportunities in revitalized rural areas. This requires a long-term commitment to sound policy options. Several opportunities may exist in extra territorial spaces. But these must be exploited on a rational basis, not by grabbing. Private sector decision makers will need to revitalize their commitment to entrepreneurial opportunity by sharing their achievements. Both public and private decision makers must build on the development of human resources and technological change.

The Government of Malta believes that the long-term problems of farmers and fishermen and of the agricultural and fisheries sectors cannot be solved by traditional commodity programmes alone. Moreover, it is increasingly apparent that the rural communities' problems are much more than the farm or agriculture itself. The more fundamental challenge is to broaden economic opportunities in rural areas. Therefore, the focus of policy should perhaps become one of providing opportunity for people rather than simply relying on increased production or productivity.

Technological developments have in the past played a decisive role in altering productive development and avoiding global catastrophies. They will continue to do so in the years ahead. However, the transfer of technology has not reached the small landless and uneducated farmer and fisherman in every corner of the world. In general, the larger farms in developed countries have been the leaders in adopting technological advances. Consequently, they reaped much of the benefits associated with technological improvements. The willingness and, more important, the ability to adopt new technologies as they emerge may be the key to future survival for many farms, especially the small family farm.

The role of the farmer, important as it is, is now shared with the important roles played by the scientist and the banker. Although off-farm income sources have helped many small and part-time farmers overcome the effects of inefficient production, the pressures will intensify in the future. It is, therefore, imperative that knowledge be imparted to the farming community through a system of efficient extension services at the village level. Only then, sustainable development in agriculture can be achieved.

Economic development is best achieved by making the best use of the world's resources. People are practically always the richest resource. The most characteristic idea which has strongly influenced recent thought is the so-called principle of subsidiarity or decentralization. Decisions should be taken at a level closer to those who will be most affected by the decision. Research and development in agriculture and fisheries initiated at the regional level, nearer to the user, can be more accessible to the small farmer and fisherman than that carried out in the laboratories of a multinational enterprise. However, the human resources of the multinational firms are required to work hand in hand with the end user of technological development. This means that in the near future, farmers and fishermen can hardly be unskilled or uneducated, concerned only with the tending of livestock or the tilling of land or catching depleted fish stocks. They have to be trained in the use of modern technology and management skills. In doing so, many of the problems facing farmers and fishermen and rural people could be eased. In this way opportunities and options could open up, and sustainable development be sparked.

Malta is proposing the setting up of a regional Marine Technology Centre for the Mediterranean as envisaged in the Law of the Sea Convention. The idea is to put the transfer of technology in a practical and realistic perspective. Considering that only 3 percent of the research and development process

takes place in developing countries and that 90 percent of the scientists and technologists are in developed countries while 93 percent of the users of newly developed technology are in developing countries, it seems to be important to break this producer/user dichotomy. It is, therefore, important to set up the required mechanisms whereby developed and developing countries could share research and development projects with built-in training components.

The proposal envisages cooperation between State, private and international institutions, sharing costs and risks as well as benefits but including both North and South. The research and development projects must be carried out by a set-up different from universities and other research institutions of the traditional type. They must be market oriented, conceived by the real needs of the world - a demand-pull orientation. Examples that come to mind, which are very relevant to the needs of agriculture and food production, are desalinization and solar energy projects and coastal replenishment projects taking into consideration the land/sea interface. I have no doubt that such a centre would be able to be a model for other regional centres around the world. I am sure that FAO will give its support to this proposal.

I have today tried to concentrate my statement on three important issues that are interrelated leading to one goal - sustainable development. These are environmental protection, technology transfer and broader opportunities for farmers and fishermen through education and extension. It is my Government's considered opinion that the solution to environmental problems which are of concern to mankind must be tackled at a global level for the formulation of equitable policy and legal framework while the management of such framework can and should be undertaken by regional organizational set-ups. These organizations would coordinate research and development activities that mainly aim at opening up opportunities for the small- and medium-sized agricultural producer or fisherman in resourceless, small and developing countries. Moreover, both public and private organizations must participate in such activities.

If successful in this partnership, the future for agriculture and fisheries and for rural areas, is bright and promising.

**Alexandros VAYENAS (Greece):** It gives me particular pleasure and honour to address on behalf of my Government the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference which very rightly has been characterized as a world food summit to plan strategy for action needed to feed the world population, growing by 80 million a year. Our session coincides with the starting of a new era in our continent. The very positive developments we experience day by day will certainly give a new dimension to what we call development cooperation. As a result, we do hope that this evolution will free more resources to be diverted to the developing countries, and these will enable them to fight more effectively against hunger and poverty.

Agriculture is and should remain the priority of priorities of the International Community. We share the view of the experts that agriculture can still tilt the balance between sustainability and the deterioration of the resource base and between political stability and turmoil. It can underpin or undermine global prosperity.

Against this background, may I point out the disquieting features of the current food situation. Production of staple foods has fallen below aggregate consumption for the second consecutive year. World carry-over stocks of cereals would be barely at the minimum level, and we have noted FAO's consideration that it is necessary to safeguard food security. We cannot but welcome the increase in food production in 1989 in those developing regions that had experienced a decline in 1987. We regret, however, that per caput food production remained below its average levels for 1979-80 both in Africa and the Near East.

The above facts lead to the conclusion that we have to be very much concerned with the precariousness of the world food situation. We further note with equal concern that because of the rising of international cereal prices, the cost of cereal imports for developing countries will increase. Food shipments are expected to decline. My delegation shares the concern that the agricultural commodity trade situation, particularly of developing countries, has remained difficult. We note that although the value of agricultural exports in real terms in 1987 had fallen for the developing countries, a better balance for several commodities had been achieved since early 1988 between export availabilities and import demand, resulting in a partial recovery in prices for those commodities.

Let me now turn to the specific item of the agenda of the Conference. We support the Director-General's proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91. We welcome his initiative to give priority to net additional resources for sustainable development, crop weather monitoring, biotechnology, crop protection, agricultural data development, policy advice, women in development, aquaculture and the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. We appreciate the efforts of the Director-General aiming at reconciling the various positions in order to permit the consensus of the Member Nations. We therefore consider that the Budget and the Programme of Work for 1990-91 constitutes a realistic approach, and we hope that the political approach which has inspired the presentation of this budget will lead to its final approval.

On the review of certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations, our starting point is the following: first, the Constitution of FAO needs no changes. It has served the Organization and its members very well in letter and spirit and has been appropriately respected. Second, the exercise should be focused on the reinforcement of FAO's capacities to meet the increasing future assistance needs of Member Nations. In other words, we support the conclusion that the Organization remain a solid and dynamic institution. However, this certificate of good health does not preclude opportunities for making the Organization more effective and more efficient. The deliberations of the Council and some statements made by the Plenary of this Conference have shown that a certain number of divergencies among Member Nations have emerged regarding, mainly, the implementation of the recommendations of the Review. We believe that the political approach should prevail. My delegation is ready to support the package of the review before us, including the suggestion by the Director-General for increased cooperation with GATT, staff training and more consultation with Rome-based United Nations agricultural organizations.

In this respect I appeal to all Member Nations to show the necessary political will which will enable this Conference, in all wisdom and serenity and in a spirit of mutual confidence, to proceed to the appropriate decisions necessary to meet the immense challenge on the eve of the year 2000.

May I recall the adoption by the Council of the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development? We welcome and support this response, and we look forward to the implementation of creative activities. Women have played an active role in our society, and my delegation would like to underline the social, economic and political aspects of this issue.

A brief reference now, at this present round of GATT negotiations, to an issue which has considerable economic consequences in developed as well as developing countries. The relevant negotiations, focusing mainly on agriculture, which constitutes one of the most important areas under discussion, are difficult and delicate. We should conduct them with clarity, determination and political will for compromise. We believe that the convocation of an international conference on nutrition, as suggested by the Director-General, constitutes a positive initiative proposed at an appropriate time. Malnutrition does not only concern the countries of the developing world: it is, and should be, of great concern to all of us. As these matters cover various scientific, political and social aspects, they should be considered as one of the challenges of our time.

Finally, I wish to refer to another chapter of paramount importance: the environmental aspects of agricultural development.

By the year 2000 the global population will be 25 percent above that of the mid-1980s. Fulfilling the global needs for agricultural products without damaging the environment presents a formidable challenge.

Agriculture, if well managed, can assist in conserving natural resources. Therefore, the relationship between sustainable agriculture and the environment is that of complementarity and interdependence.

In conclusion, I subscribe myself to the Director-General's assessment that FAO nowadays is experiencing renewed vigour, revived commitment, and an enhanced promise of fulfilment. We are aware of the many difficulties and constraints which lie ahead.

But we also think that the years to come will put ever-increasing pressure on FAO to do more for more people. The various developments in all sectors of human activities we are witnessing today bring home the fact that the world is in a phase of rapid change. The global economy in food and agriculture is becoming even more complex. The world is going to need a stronger FAO and our Organization is going to need stronger support from the world.

Greece will spare no efforts to contribute within her possibilities towards helping FAO to remain a solid and dynamic institution able to face effectively, as it has done so far, all problems related to hunger, poverty and malnutrition.

Datuk Seri Sanusi JUNID (Malaysia): May I, on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, offer you our sincere congratulations on your unanimous election as Chairman of the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference. May I also congratulate your Vice-Chairmen on their election to their posts. I am also glad to have this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr Edouard Saouma for his untiring efforts in the search for a world devoid of hunger, poverty and malnutrition.

On 16 October this year we celebrated the 9th World Food Day. The theme chosen by the FAO was "Food and Environment".

This theme was obviously chosen to instil greater consciousness of the existence of about 500 million undernourished people on this earth.

The Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, reported that the number of hungry people in the world is steadily rising because of population growth, economic crisis and environmental problems.

Malaysia supports the FAO 1990-91 budget of US\$ 574 million to undertake the global task of fighting this calamity. We know that it will be put to good use as Malaysians have benefited much from the service of FAO.

From Dr Saouma's report I noted the following facts:

1. The increase in population in the past 2 years is 178 million, 90% of which were born in the Third World, which is 80 million a year.
2. In 1987 the developed countries spent US\$ 290 billion to protect their agriculture, which serves as an obstacle to imports from poor countries.
3. Developing countries, despite debt crisis, send more money to developed countries than they receive. In 1988 developing countries paid US\$ 43 billion more than they received.

The FAO's research finds that -

4. The world has lost 25 000 m. tons of earth by erosion. In the drier climatic nations 3 500 hectares of land cannot be tilled. Developing nations have lost between 5 and 7 m hectares of land normally used for agriculture as a result of environmental crisis.

Dr Saouma offered a candid reason for this when he said that "Wealth, like poverty, seemed to make people unable to see beyond their present needs. In an attempt to reap maximum short-term profits and satisfy every need of a society of over-consumers, a veritable chemical, indeed nuclear, war has been unleashed on nature."

You have reminded us Mr Chairman that the present world population is 5 billion and by the year 2000 it will be 7 billion.

As it is, the number of deaths by malnutrition was in 1970: 400 m; in 1975 : 635 m; by the year 2000 it is estimated as 600 m. Can we face this global challenge?

Dr Saouma lamented that the number of declarations multiplies, but in practice the world persists in its suicidal behaviour.

I believe we can overcome this global challenge, provided all declarations are followed by action.

In Malaysia we are rather fortunate in that our food production is expected to exceed population growth. This is not an overnight achievement. Much of the credit goes to the dynamism and entrepreneurship of our people, to management capabilities, to the climatic conditions and natural resources, and, to a good measure, to the external inputs both bilateral and

multilateral which contributed to the success. In this connection, I would like to pay tribute to FAO and similar agencies that assisted us in the early days of our agricultural development.

Besides God, the only permanent thing in life is Change. Because of changes or advancements in technology we see that Thomas Malthus's theory on population is proven wrong on a global basis. There is enough food in the world to feed the whole world population.

However, while developed countries have surplus food, food production failed to match population growth in 56 developing countries in 1988 and in 70 developing countries in the current year.

It is therefore not for lack of technological know-how, but for lack of the transfer of technology and investment to the nations that need them, which is one of the causes of prevailing poverty. The FAO can continue to intervene here as it has done in the past.

In the meantime, for stability, those that have surplus should help the needy - it is a moral obligation, for there is enough food to go around. Although our response cannot be by assistance alone, in the long run the reduction of food production by nations with surpluses should be proportionate to the production by nations with deficit.

In November 1987, in this same hall, I mentioned free trade as the best thing that can happen in this world. The linkage of trade to debts and poverty must be recognized.

However, as exporting industrial nations become importers of industrial products, restrictions are imposed. It is even worse when industrial nations become competitors in the export markets of agricultural products with poor agricultural nations.

It is ironical that whilst the developing countries are making every effort to make some headway in their export of agricultural products at competitive prices, without the benefit of heavy subsidies and other supports, various new barriers are being put in disguised forms to limit their accessibility to some markets. The barriers take the form of creating phobias in the minds of consumers by propagating that the products are hazardous to health, and of producer subsidies under the guise of food aids.

When a Malaysian scientist on a scholarship wrote a doctoral thesis on vegetable oils and fats, he was not allowed to submit his finding upon objection by the association of a rival vegetable oil, which funded the faculty.

We therefore need independent views of the FAO on the nutritional values of the main food export items produced by the various countries with recommendations on ways to improve the market for developing countries.

We should not change our attitude and look away from "free trade" in the industrial and agricultural products. It is a fact that agriculture development is closely intertwined with economic performance. Poor economic performance compounded by external debt burdens and adverse trade balances have greatly affected the agriculture development of many developing countries.



Nearly all of the developed countries still manage modest growth, but many of the developing countries are experiencing stagnation, if not negative growth.

The terms of trade are not getting any better for the Third World, while protectionism and unfair trading practices are having adverse effects on the economies of the poor.

The rich countries have apparently ganged up against the poor. They have arrogated to themselves the right to direct world trade.

They, and powerful commercial banks of the West, manipulate currencies to their advantage.

By pushing the value of the currencies of the NICs, immense economic gains can be achieved by the rich. If that fails, there is always protectionism to fall back on.

As a side effect of revaluation the debts of some poorer countries who are not necessarily NICs are doubled. It is little wonder that the external debt problem continues to plague the developing countries. In 1988 the total external debt of developing countries stood at US\$ 1.32 trillion. This could be resolved only on the basis of shared responsibilities between the parties concerned, namely between debtor and creditor governments and the commercial banks, and with a substantial reduction in the stock and service of external debt.

Severe austerity measures on the part of debtor countries would lead only to political and socio-economic instability in the developing countries. Here, FAO could assist debtor countries in their planning and thus help reduce the impact of the structural adjustment process. This process often seriously threatens the food security situation of the developing countries.

As far as concerns the environment, I note that 2 400 years ago, the Greek philosopher Plato expressed concern at the impoverishment of Attica in Greece due to deforestation and soil erosion. However, Plato was ignored for centuries by the western world with the result that we now see vast stretches of denuded treeless areas on the surfaces of temperate earth. Plato's observations are as true today as they were then. During centuries of exploitation of natural resources of the richer countries vast forests have been denuded to make way for farms and cities. Now, suddenly the value of these forests in the protection of the environment is realized. Do the rich countries reafforest their land in order to restore the ozone layer? Of course not. The poor countries are told not to log their forests even though it may be their sole revenue earner. If, in the process, the softwood producers in the rich countries have the market to themselves, this is also coincidental.

It is not my intention to blame the developed countries for the decline in environmental conditions but certainly, I disagree that the developing countries alone should be blamed. Malaysia has been very concerned with the impact of agricultural activities on the environment. The country has long been aware of the global concern over environmental issues such as the greenhouse effect, soil degradation, water pollution, and of the need to

protect the flora and fauna of the tropical rain forests. Concerted measures have been undertaken in the planning and implementation of programmes for the development of the agriculture and forestry sectors so as to ensure that agricultural activities are in harmony with the environment. These plans have always been in line with the efforts made by FAO.

Scientists believe that the primary cause of the greenhouse effect is the emission of carbon dioxide, 85 percent of which is being emitted from the industrialized northern hemisphere. Other greenhouse gases such as CFCs, nitrous oxides, methane and tropospheric ozones are the byproducts of industrialization in the north. What we need now is concerted international action, in particular from the developed countries. They should be sensitive to environmental degradation. Diverting attention to the exploitation of rain forests will not stop environmental problems which lie at the West's own doorstep. The Landkawi Declaration on Environment, signed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government on 21 October 1989 at Landkawi, Malaysia, is a testimony of our commitment to the environment.

Malaysia is happy to note that out of a thorough examination by the consultants, Resolution 6/87 was adopted. This has given FAO a clean bill of health. FAO will continue to remain a solid, dynamic institution. Malaysia is ever ready to play its role in this community of nations, proportionate to its stature, resources and technical capabilities.

**Anatolio NDONG MBA (Guinea Ecuatorial):** Antes de iniciar mi intervención, quiero expresar mis felicitaciones a los miembros de la Mesa, por su brillante elección, para presidir estos debates durante la presente Conferencia, augurándoles éxitos en su cometido. Les expreso asimismo el deseo del pueblo agrícola de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial y de su Presidente, Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, de ver culminar en un total éxito los trabajos del 25º periodo de sesiones de nuestra Conferencia, en la búsqueda de soluciones adecuadas a los problemas del hambre, la malnutrición, los desequilibrios ecológicos, el drástico descenso de los precios de los productos agroindustriales de los países en vías de desarrollo y el elevado costo de los medios de producción.

Como es habitual en nuestra Organización, una vez más nos reunimos aquí en este foro los responsables de las políticas del agro de nuestros países, para analizar juntos los problemas que en este sector nos son comunes, y encontrar las soluciones armoniosas y más adecuadas para todos.

Ciertamente, el mundo está atravesando una crisis que no es coyuntural, pues la venimos sufriendo ya desde un largo periodo; crisis que azota tanto al Norte como al Sur, pero, con mayor vehemencia, se reciben sus efectos negativos en los países en vías de desarrollo, y, fundamentalmente en aquellos que, como el mío, la República de Guinea Ecuatorial, su economía se basa fundamentalmente en la producción y exportación de productos agrícolas, tales como el cacao y el café, cuyos precios están en constante descenso en los mercados internacionales.

En la búsqueda de soluciones viables a esta situación, estamos todos involucrados y moralmente obligados, tanto los unos como los otros, a encontrar y aplicar estas soluciones, alejándonos de posiciones egoístas, que sólo agudizarían cada vez más el distanciamiento de los en vías de desarrollo en relación a los países industrializados, originando el desequilibrio cuyas graves consecuencias estamos sufriendo actualmente.

Todos reconocemos que nuestra agricultura y economías son consecuencia de las imposiciones de antaño, al servicio de otras comunidades. Por ello, los campos fueron orientados hacia una producción de exportación, tales como el cacao, el café, el algodón, etc., y subvencionando, por otra parte, los alimentos importados, en detrimento de su producción local, según los hábitos alimenticios de la población.

Aunque la situación haya variado en parte hoy día, sin embargo, seguimos sufriendo en nuestros hogares, en nuestras sociedades, en nuestros pueblos, las consecuencias de una política que unos marcaron sobre otros. El cacao, café y otros principales productos de exportación sufren cada vez más un descenso de los precios en los mercados mundiales.

Esta situación no sólo nos afecta a los países del Tercer Mundo, pues también en los países industrializados el excedente de la producción de leche y ciertos cereales como el trigo, arroz, maíz y otros, les obliga a promover con frecuencia políticas de subvención, que frenan la posibilidad e intención de expansión y comercialización, dentro de nuestros países, de aquellos cultivos tradicionales y acordes con nuestros hábitos alimenticios, tales como la malanga, la yuca, plátanos y otros.

Estamos seguros de que un mayor esfuerzo de unos y otros permitirá acelerar más nuestros pasos hacia un mundo más equilibrado y fraterno. En nuestra agricultura, aunque en estos últimos diez años ha sufrido un ligero aumento en lo que se refiere a la producción y abastecimiento local de alimentos, sin embargo, la tónica general ha sido y es la de un crecimiento global de la producción más lento que el de las necesidades, y ello se traduce en un deterioro del equilibrio entre la oferta y la demanda de productos alimenticios, y, en consecuencia en el mantenimiento de una situación de malnutrición. Esos dos factores representan el estado de inseguridad alimentaria, que es uno de los principales obstáculos que frenan el desarrollo de nuestro país.

Teniendo en cuenta estos obstáculos, el Presidente de la República, Su Excelencia Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, en su programa presentado al pueblo el pasado día 2 de agosto del presente año 1989, con motivo de su nuevo mandato, ha dado alta prioridad al sector del agro, en especial a la diversificación de los cultivos, tanto de exportación como alimenticios, y al fomento de las agrupaciones de productores agropecuarios y de pesca, a la conservación de los recursos forestales y cinegéticos, así como a la explotación racional de nuestros recursos haliéuticos.

Para que este programa pueda sin dificultad alcanzar los objetivos propuestos, es por lo que aprovechamos nuestra intervención en esta Asamblea y la concurrencia de todos nosotros hoy aquí, para proponer y solicitar un apoyo más eficiente de los organismos y países en "programas de autoabastecimiento alimenticio", pues los fondos generados a través de los programas de alimentación mundial (PMA), podrían dirigirse, aparte de aquellas acciones ya iniciadas y bien conocidas por todos, también deberían orientarse, como decimos, hacia el fomento de los cultivos tradicionales de nuestras zonas, a su conservación y comercialización, dentro de una política de estrategia alimentaria, respetando y evolucionando en armonía con nuestros hábitos alimenticios.

Invitamos, por tanto, a que en las acciones dentro del marco de nuestras cooperaciones se establezca una estrategia que permita reemplazar progresivamente las producciones alimenticias importadas por producciones cosechadas en el país, mejorando, asimismo, su transformación y conservación.

Sería muy loable para todos nosotros fomentar una política de concertación y armonización de las ayudas alimentarias con las necesidades reales y efectivas de los países, acción que deberá tomar en cuenta una visualización de futuro, respetando y orientando nuestros hábitos alimenticios, pero sin tratar de desviarlos hacia productos no cosechables en nuestros suelos, pues está demostrado que es una de las causas del aumento del endeudamiento externo y del freno al desarrollo agrícola.

Igualmente, y dentro del orden de las ideas que acabamos de exponer, la conservación de productos alimenticios en los países en vías de desarrollo no ha variado ni sufrido una mejora sustancial, y un mayor énfasis en este sentido sería importante para mejorar las condiciones de vida de miles de familias rurales y urbanas, cuya subsistencia se basa fundamentalmente en lo que obtienen de sus propios campos.

Naturalmente, todos estos programas y planteamientos difícilmente serían alcanzables si no se dispone de los recursos humanos nacionales adecuados capaces de llevar a cabo estas políticas, siendo así necesario un mayor apoyo a los programas de formación.

Por otra parte, la explotación indiscriminada de los bosques, sin una intención real de repoblación, castiga duramente nuestro medio ambiente forestal, permitiendo y facilitando el avance acelerado de la desertificación, lo cual entraña un peligro inminente y preocupante para países que, como la República de Guinea Ecuatorial, se hallan en la línea del Ecuador. A ello coadyuva la práctica de la agricultura itinerante, con la quema constante de los bosques y la consecuente eliminación de los microorganismos del suelo, produciendo una acidificación del suelo que causa el empobrecimiento de nuestras producciones agrícolas, sacrificando y disminuyendo el potencial y la capacidad de nuestros pastos y, en consecuencia, frenando el desarrollo de la ganadería.

El desarrollo rural y la conservación de los recursos dependen de iniciativas de alta envergadura, tomadas en común por los países en vías de desarrollo y los industrializados y, sobre todo, estas iniciativas deben de traducirse en hechos. Se impone, por tanto, la toma de medidas globales, habida cuenta que la salvaguarda de los recursos es de responsabilidad y de interés de la comunidad. En esa esencia, felicitamos y apoyamos el programa del plan forestal de los trópicos y el programa de actividades elaborado por la FAO para el próximo bienio.

Quiero terminar este discurso agradeciendo al Gobierno de la República de Italia su hospitalidad, y al seftor Director de la FAO y a sus colaboradores la organización y la calidad de los documentos elaborados para su examen en este vigésimo quinto período de sesiones.

**Maxime ZAFERA (Madagascar):** Cette vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence générale se tient à un moment crucial pour l'avenir de l'humanité tout entière car aucun pays ne pourra échapper aux événements qui menacent le monde si l'homme persiste dans ses erreurs et ne pense qu'à son bien-être immédiat, faisant fi des conséquences que ses actes pourraient provoquer sur les conditions d'existence de son prochain.

Plus que jamais, la solidarité internationale est la seule voie de salut; la coopération entre tous les pays, entre toutes les régions constituera le seul remède; dorénavant, le multilatéralisme s'impose. Les éminentes personnalités qui ont pris la parole lors de la célébration de la 9ème Journée mondiale de l'alimentation le 16 octobre dernier l'ont déclaré solennellement. Je cite: "pour parer aux catastrophes qui nous menacent, est requise une action volontaire concertée et prolongée par et entre tous les pays du monde; l'économie internationale est essentiellement faite de liens et d'interaction".

Voilà quelques citations qui ne manqueront pas de conforter les partisans du multilatéralisme et de les encourager dans leur conviction. Ils auront en tout cas moins de difficultés à convaincre les réticents et ceux qui ont adopté comme ligne de conduite "le chacun pour soi".

La résorption de la couche d'ozone de l'atmosphère, l'effet de serre, la pollution des mers et des océans sont des phénomènes qui malheureusement n'épargneront aucun pays, aucune nation de notre planète. Pour essayer de parer à ces catastrophes, plusieurs chefs d'Etat se sont réunis et ont pris la ferme décision d'adopter à l'avenir un certain mode de développement qui respectera la nature et l'environnement, développement durable, le qualifie-t-on dans toutes les instances qui traitent de la question. Mais comment devra-t-on procéder pour atteindre, ou tout au moins, approcher du but fixé? La volonté politique des hauts décideurs est manifeste mais le sujet présente un côté technique prépondérant et nécessite de ce fait la prise en main en tant que chef de file par un organisme international solide, compétent, en qui on peut avoir confiance. Quelle autre organisation mieux que la FAO pourrait aider l'humanité dans cette entreprise grandiose? La FAO n'a-t-elle pas depuis toujours lutté pour protéger l'environnement, pour préserver la pérennité des ressources naturelles tout en assurant leur exploitation rationnelle. Aussi, Monsieur le Président, nous ne pouvons que nous féliciter de constater que, dans le Programme de travail et budget 1990-91, le concept de développement durable et les actions y afférentes bénéficient d'une priorité marquée. Je voudrais cependant attirer l'attention de cette auguste assemblée sur le fait fondamental que, pour le gouvernement malgache et pour la quasi-totalité des pays en voie de développement, la protection de l'environnement n'est pas une fin en soi, elle ne devrait pas être considérée comme un préalable absolu à tout projet de développement; pour nous, le meilleur moyen, le moyen le plus sûr pour préserver la nature contre toute destruction, contre toute exploitation abusive et irrationnelle, est de promouvoir le développement économique, de vaincre la pauvreté, d'élever le niveau de vie des populations rurales.

Si, dans les pays développés, l'environnement est menacé par l'industrialisation à outrance et la recherche de profits maximums et immédiats, dans le monde en développement en revanche c'est plutôt la pauvreté qui contraint les gens à surexploiter les ressources; les

populations mènent une lutte quotidienne de survie en extrayant des formations boisées déjà surexploitées et du sol au stade de dégradation avancée les moyens de subsistance les plus élémentaires. Bien entendu, les gouvernements de nos pays prennent déjà les mesures nécessaires pour mettre un frein aux phénomènes; ainsi, à Madagascar, deux conférences internationales ont été organisées en 1970 et en 1984 sur les thèmes de développement et protection de l'environnement. En 1984, le gouvernement a concrétisé toutes les décisions et recommandations des conférences par la promulgation d'un décret déterminant et précisant la stratégie nationale pour la conservation et le développement à Madagascar. A signaler qu'actuellement un plan d'action sur l'environnement a été élaboré par environ 150 experts nationaux et internationaux en collaboration avec la Banque mondiale, la FAO, l'Unesco, l'USAID et plusieurs autres organisations internationales et non gouvernementales. Il prévoit notamment le renforcement de la protection des réserves et des parcs nationaux et des programmes de développement rural permettant une utilisation rationnelle des ressources.

Mais les interventions dans ces secteurs sont de très longue haleine et requièrent en outre des moyens financiers exorbitants. Or, les difficultés financières et économiques de nos pays ne leur permettent pas de faire face aux besoins, aussi est-il indispensable que la communauté internationale leur consacre un soutien conséquent. A cet égard, Monsieur le Président, nous enregistrons avec beaucoup de satisfaction la proposition très intéressante formulée par le Ministre Monsieur Nallet lors de la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation qui vise en même temps à améliorer le marché mondial des produits et à apporter un appui financier appréciable aux pays en voie de développement dans leurs activités de développement et de protection de l'environnement. Nous souhaitons que la proposition trouve auprès des autres pays industrialisés un accueil favorable.

Le soutien que j'ai évoqué précédemment devra intéresser le développement économique, social et technique dans son ensemble comprenant, bien entendu, la résolution des problèmes de la dette, de la baisse des recettes des produits d'exportation et de la détérioration des termes de l'échange. Il devrait être consenti aux populations de nos pays la possibilité de se sentir vivre dans un monde de paix, d'égalité, de justice sociale et de prospérité; le conflit entre l'opulence et la paupérisation, entre l'abondance et la pénurie chronique devrait prendre fin. Au cours de la décennie qui se présente d'une manière imminente, la volonté d'atteindre ce nouvel objectif, nous pouvons d'ores et déjà la démontrer en accordant notre soutien ferme aux institutions internationales de développement telles que la FAO; évitons de l'affaiblir en la privant de ses moyens de travail, de ses ressources.

Comment pourra-t-elle accomplir le mandat que nous lui avons assigné, comment pourra-t-elle réaliser le programme de travail si nécessaire à nos pays en ces moments très difficiles, si nous nous permettons de la priver de plus d'un tiers de son budget? Le non-respect des obligations financières statutaires de certains grands contributeurs a eu des conséquences déplorables à l'endroit des populations déshéritées des pays en voie de développement; 45 millions de dollars de programmes prioritaires supprimés, ce sont 45 millions de dollars de manque à gagner pour ces populations et une aggravation très dangereuse de la détérioration de leur situation alimentaire, sociale et économique.

Peut-on décemment rester insensible à cette situation et, au lieu de chercher à y remédier, va-t-on exiger une fois de plus le blocage du budget et prôner la croissance zéro? Va-t-on lésiner sur une croissance réelle de 0,45 pour cent?

Ma délégation est convaincue que la logique et le bon sens vont cette fois-ci primer sur les autres considérations et que le consensus sera atteint dans l'approbation du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91. En tout cas, Madagascar appuie chaleureusement ledit programme.

Un des sujets vitaux qui nous occupent est le rapport du Comité du programme et du Comité financier traitant de l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO. Ma délégation voudrait vous faire part de son point de vue sur les propositions et recommandations contenues dans le document y relatif. Vous vous souviendrez, Monsieur le Président, qu'à la 24ème session de la Conférence la délégation malgache a, sans ambiguïté aucune, manifesté son sentiment à l'endroit de la réalisation d'une étude en vue de procéder à des réformes de la FAO. Elle a fermement déclaré que de telles investigations étaient inutiles et onéreuses; les améliorations dans les performances de l'Organisation, a-t-elle précisé, pourraient être examinées et décidées par les organes directeurs eux-mêmes.

Ma délégation constate qu'elle a eu raison car il ressort de cette étude que la FAO reste une institution solide et dynamique qui a fait preuve d'esprit d'innovation dans son travail et s'est adaptée à l'évolution de la conjoncture mondiale et à l'émergence de nouveaux besoins à l'échelle mondiale et régionale; la FAO, souligne-t-on, a fait un excellent travail en quantité comme en qualité.

Mais actuellement, nous disposons d'études qui ont coûté des millions de dollars et il est normal d'en exploiter judicieusement la substance. Il n'est cependant pas question de procéder à d'autres études ou à d'autres examens supplémentaires. Les dispositions de la Résolution 6/87 ont été exécutées dans leur totalité; aussi, après cette Conférence, il faudra se pencher exclusivement sur la mise en oeuvre des recommandations.

Un préalable cependant: des crédits supplémentaires se montant à 26 millions de dollars sont requis. Il est exclu de ponctionner ces montants du budget. Aucun programme ne devra être supprimé ni connaître une exécution différée.

Je déclare que le document C/89/21 est un outil de travail d'excellente qualité et je voudrais, au nom de ma délégation, féliciter très chaleureusement les principaux protagonistes, à savoir les membres des deux Comités, le Secrétariat de la FAO et bien entendu les groupes d'experts. D'entrée de jeu, je m'empresse de préciser que les recommandations des Comités aux paragraphes 3.48 à 3.54 et 4.14 nous conviennent et nous les appuyons. Nous appuyons également les recommandations du paragraphe 2.64 à l'exception de l'alinéa (IX) qui se rapporte au processus du budget programme. En effet, nous ne pourrions être favorables à la tenue de la session spéciale de janvier que si cet exercice coûteux permettait effectivement d'atteindre le consensus dans le vote du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91. Nous nous réservons donc le droit de nous prononcer à l'issue de cette Conférence.

Tout en faisant nôtres les recommandations des Comités, je voudrais que l'on mette l'accent sur les programmes et/ou actions suivants:

- en premier lieu, le Programme de coopération technique, qui a reçu un jugement très positif de la part de tous les protagonistes, devra connaître à l'avenir un accroissement progressif et sa forme actuelle, garante de l'efficacité, devra être préservée.
- les fonds fiduciaires sont des sources de financement très précieux pour les actions de terrain, leur augmentation est très souhaitée et il faudra maintenir leur caractère multilatéral.
- les programmes de développement durable et de protection de l'environnement devront viser surtout à vaincre la pauvreté.
- la biotechnologie ne devrait pas servir à développer la concurrence entre les pays en développement et les pays en voie de développement; elle ne devrait pas essayer de mettre au point dans le nord des systèmes de production qui nuiraient gravement aux petits agriculteurs du sud: il faudra, le suggère le document dans son paragraphe 2.21, l'orienter dans le sens le plus bénéfique pour les pays les plus défavorisés et les producteurs les plus démunis.
- les trois grands rôles de la FAO restent valables à savoir réunir et diffuser des informations, servir de tribune internationale sur les grands problèmes d'alimentation et d'agriculture et fournir une assistance technique aux Etats Membres; mais, en accord avec les Comités, ma délégation estime que l'assistance technique gagnerait à être renforcée car elle est vitale pour nos pays.

Les activités de la FAO dans les domaines où sa maîtrise est incontestée en raison de sa grande expérience et de son savoir-faire devront connaître à l'avenir un développement à la mesure des besoins immenses manifestés par les Etats Membres. Pour améliorer les revenus ruraux et vaincre définitivement la pauvreté, la FAO devra intensifier sa participation dans des domaines clés comme l'agro-industrie, l'agroforesterie, la pêche et l'aquaculture, l'approvisionnement et la commercialisation des produits agricoles, ainsi que la mise en place d'un système simple mais performant d'exploitation agricole.

Les échanges d'expérience entre pays en voie de développement devront être favorisés; aussi la FAO devra-t-elle continuer à appuyer les initiatives tendant à promouvoir le Nouvel ordre économique international et accorder une attention toute particulière à la coopération technique entre pays en voie de développement et à la coopération économique entre ces mêmes pays.

Nous aussi, Monsieur le Président, nous sommes convaincus que dans bien des pays en voie de développement il existe encore de bonnes possibilités de diffuser des techniques connues ailleurs mais qui n'ont pas encore été appliquées dans ces pays, mais, de grâce, adaptons-les aux conditions et aux exigences locales et consacrons-y les efforts et le temps requis pour les faire adopter sans contrainte par nos agriculteurs.

Les coupes drastiques opérées dans le budget 1988-89 ont porté un coup dur au programme de formation et d'information. L'objectif hautement prioritaire, cher à nos Etats, à savoir le renforcement des ressources humaines dans les pays en voie de développement, n'a pas du tout été épargné. Il faudra redoubler d'efforts pour rattraper le temps perdu. Il est nécessaire que nos pays disposent de plus en plus de cadres coopérants qui nous permettent de prendre en main l'exécution de nos projets de développement. A ce sujet, nous encourageons très chaleureusement l'orientation que la FAO a bien voulu adopter, à savoir confier de plus en



plus aux gouvernements des pays bénéficiaires des projets de terrain l'exécution desdits projets. Elle devra cependant ne ménager aucun effort pour rendre le personnel national capable de formuler, gérer et évaluer les projets. Bien entendu, les capacités de soutien de l'Organisation devront être renforcées en conséquence, conformément aux recommandations figurant aux paragraphes 3.51 et 3.52 du document.

Tout au long de leurs études, les groupes d'experts ont insisté sur l'opportunité de doter l'Organisation de ressources suffisantes. Le Comité financier et le Comité du Programme ont depuis toujours insisté sur la nécessité de faire correspondre programmes votés et ressources requises. On relève au paragraphe 7.43 que la FAO ne sera pas en mesure de s'acquitter de son mandat si elle n'est pas assurée de disposer de ressources suffisantes; et le groupe d'experts recommande que les Etats Membres mettent fin à la période d'austérité financière dont souffre l'Organisation en honorant leurs obligations financières à temps et en trouvant une solution au règlement des arriérés.

Ma délégation ne peut que déplorer la situation critique dans laquelle se trouve l'Organisation, situation voulue et provoquée par quelques-uns des Etats Membres, ceux-là mêmes qui l'ont créée et lui ont délivré un satisfecit à l'occasion de la célébration de son 40ème anniversaire. Vont-ils enfin ouvrir le robinet d'oxygène ou la laisseront-ils périr sans pour autant pouvoir fournir les justifications de leur condamnation?

Des espoirs renaissent, semble-t-il, et nous voulons chaleureusement les partager car nous ne pouvons pas concevoir que l'on mette fin à cet outil si indispensable à nos pays et à nos populations. Le gouvernement malgache, malgré ses graves difficultés économiques et financières, a réglé la totalité de ses contributions. Nous voulons ainsi démontrer notre attachement à l'Organisation et la confiance que nous lui accordons.

Nous exhortons tous les Etats Membres à régulariser au plus vite leur situation au bénéfice de nos populations les plus pauvres et les plus déshéritées.

Ayant fait part à cette auguste assemblée de nos vues sur les principaux sujets de notre ordre du jour, je souhaiterais maintenant pouvoir vous donner quelques informations assez brèves sur la situation qui prévaut à Madagascar au point de vue économique en général et dans les domaines qui nous occupent en particulier au sein de cette organisation, à savoir l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Bien entendu, nous avons déjà eu l'occasion de traiter largement de ces sujets lors des nombreuses rencontres internationales, notamment au sein du Conseil, des comités et groupes intergouvernementaux sur les produits de base; aussi je n'entrerai pas dans les détails, je me contenterai de dégager les grandes lignes de notre politique agricole et des problèmes de développement y afférents.

Le pari que le gouvernement malgache a formulé lors de la 24ème session de la Conférence, concernant l'autosuffisance en riz, est sur le point d'être gagné et nous espérons atteindre les objectifs fixés à ce sujet en 1990.

En effet, après dix ans de lutte acharnée, la production rizicole dépassera les besoins de la population. Ces résultats sont le fruit d'une politique agricole conséquente visant principalement l'amélioration de l'environnement des producteurs agricoles, notamment en leur garantissant des prix rémunérateurs, mais aussi en appliquant des paquets technologiques appropriés et mis à l'épreuve, axée principalement sur la réhabilitation des réseaux hydroagricoles d'irrigation, la fourniture des intrants: engrais, semences sélectionnées et pesticides et, bien entendu, la réduction des pertes après récolte.

Comme j'ai dit précédemment, le gouvernement malgache a, au cours des dix dernières années, mis en oeuvre un programme vigoureux de redressement de l'économie nationale en coopération très étroite avec la Banque mondiale, le FMI et les autres partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux.

A l'instar des autres pays en voie de développement ayant procédé eux aussi à des mesures d'ajustement structurel, Madagascar a connu des problèmes sociaux très graves, mais le gouvernement s'était très rapidement employé à redresser la situation. Il a élaboré et mis en application une politique de sécurité alimentaire appropriée et bien adaptée aux besoins du pays. Il a pris les dispositions requises pour assurer la disponibilité en denrées alimentaires pendant toute l'année, y compris la période de soudure, pour garantir la stabilité des prix, aussi bien auprès des producteurs que des consommateurs, et enfin, il a pris des mesures favorisant l'accessibilité de l'ensemble de la population aux produits disponibles.

Cependant, il s'est avéré nécessaire de concevoir et d'appliquer un programme d'alimentation ciblé en faveur des groupes les plus vulnérables, mais aussi la promotion de petits projets de production alimentaire au bénéfice des pauvres des agglomérations urbaines. Le gouvernement malgache est convaincu que la relance de son développement économique passe nécessairement par le renforcement de la capacité d'action des ressources humaines. C'est pour cette raison que tous les intervenants, les femmes comme les jeunes, font l'objet d'une attention toute particulière. A Madagascar, un département ministériel s'occupe spécialement de programmes de promotion de ces catégories importantes de la population, et des réalisations encourageantes sont à l'actif de ce département.

La délégation malgache recommande à la Conférence d'entériner le plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement et approuve les priorités et programmes identifiés. Elle se déclare favorable à la prise d'une résolution par la Conférence, demandant au Directeur général de la FAO de poursuivre les efforts déjà réalisés, de mettre en oeuvre les actions prévues dans le plan, en relation étroite, bien entendu, avec les Etats Membres.

Ces derniers devront faire face à leurs obligations vis-à-vis du budget pour permettre de mobiliser les ressources prévues. Les Etats en mesure de le faire devraient souscrire des ressources extra-budgétaires correspondant aux besoins requis pour la mise en oeuvre du plan d'action.

Voilà quelques aspects de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans mon pays que j'ai voulu partager avec vous. Je me suis abstenu de la développer outre mesure, étant donné le temps limité dont nous disposons.

Enfin, permettez-moi, en terminant, de me joindre au chœur de félicitations adressées au Président de notre vingt-cinquième session, au Ministre de l'énergie et des industries premières de l'Australie, ainsi qu'aux autres membres du Bureau.

Nous leur souhaitons beaucoup de succès dans la conduite de nos travaux.

**LI JONG KYOK (République populaire démocratique de Corée):** C'est un honneur et un privilège pour moi de prendre la parole devant cette assemblée solennelle où se trouvent réunis tous les principaux responsables de l'agriculture mondiale.

Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour rendre, du haut de cette tribune, au nom de ma délégation un hommage particulier à notre Organisation, dont l'oeuvre au service de l'humanité et de la paix est devenue indispensable pour le monde.

Je tiens également à féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO et son équipe pour le travail accompli depuis la dernière session et pour les résultats obtenus dans l'exécution du programme de l'Organisation, en dépit des multiples difficultés.

En cette fin du XXème siècle, la faim est devenue un fléau dévastateur qui provoque non seulement le désordre social dans de nombreux pays, mais menace également la stabilité mondiale.

Malgré les découvertes de la science, les progrès prodigieux accomplis sur beaucoup de fronts, la pénurie alimentaire s'aggrave et le nombre de malnourris croît inexorablement. Une grande partie de la population agricole des pays en développement est condamnée ainsi à la faim sur place ou à l'exode.

Une situation aussi critique peut avoir une conséquence imprévisible non seulement sur l'avenir des pays les plus pauvres, mais également sur l'équilibre à long terme de la stabilité dans le monde entier.

L'amélioration de la production agricole demeure donc l'objectif majeur à atteindre pour un développement socio-économique harmonieux dans les pays en développement et la prospérité mondiale.

En ce qui concerne mon propre pays, l'agriculture a toujours été l'une des priorités de la politique économique de mon gouvernement. Voici en effet 25 ans qu'ont été publiées, par notre Président Kim Il Sung, les "Thèses sur la question rurale socialiste dans notre pays".

Grâce à la réalisation de ces thèses, des progrès considérables ont été enregistrés ces dernières années dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation.

La production de céréales, qui n'était que de 1,8 million de tonnes en 1946, a atteint 9,5 millions de tonnes en 1982 et 10 millions en 1984. Tenant compte des conditions spécifiques du pays, géographiques et climatiques, des efforts particuliers ont été déployés pour la récupération de nouvelles terres cultivables et leur irrigation.

Ces dernières années, plusieurs dizaines de milliers d'hectares de salants ont été défrichés et des travaux de canalisation d'envergure sont sur le point d'être achevés.

Tout récemment, deux polders de 3 200 et 5 200 hectares ont été achevés sur la mer de l'Ouest, réduisant la ligne côtière de mon pays de 88 km.

Au cours du nouveau plan à long terme (1987-1993), mon pays exploitera au total 300 000 hectares de salants.

Permettez-moi d'évoquer encore, brièvement, quelques points qui figurent à l'ordre du jour de nos assises et qui méritent de retenir tout particulièrement l'attention.

D'une part, je voudrais souligner l'importance que revêtent la coopération et la solidarité internationale dans le cadre de la FAO. La plupart des pays en développement manquant de moyens techniques, de nouvelles technologies, incapables d'investir, se trouvent dans l'impossibilité de suivre le processus rapide de modernisation des pays industrialisés.

Selon les experts, l'aide alimentaire et technique, mal conçue et mal utilisée, s'est révélée souvent insuffisante pour relever la production agricole et alimentaire, les revenus et la consommation des productions rurales dans les pays les plus déshérités.

Donc, les pays en développement ont non seulement besoin d'une aide très importante des pays développés en vue d'acquérir les compétences et les moyens matériels et techniques appropriés, mais également de la coopération Sud-Sud dans la recherche et le transfert de technologies.

De ce point de vue particulier, je tiens à dire combien mon pays est heureux d'avoir mis à la disposition des autres pays en développement, surtout en Afrique, un grand nombre de ses experts et techniciens qui ont obtenu de beaux résultats dans la recherche biotechnologique, l'irrigation de nouvelles terres de culture et dans l'association de l'élevage à l'agriculture qui fournit un moyen de traction, de transport et de reproduction de la fertilité.

Dans ces efforts, nous aurons besoin d'une FAO plus active, plus engagée pour favoriser la coopération entre les pays en développement, ce qui est justifié aussi par les trois grands rôles de notre Organisation.

A ce propos, je voudrais dire également quelques mots du programme de la coopération technique de la FAO.

Comme la plupart des pays en développement, mon pays apprécie beaucoup la manière souple et rapide avec laquelle les fonds du PCT sont mis à notre disposition.

Mais nous estimons que les ressources affectées au PCT sont encore insuffisantes pour faire face aux demandes croissantes.

Nous souhaitons vivement que la part des allocations attribuées à ce programme dans le budget de la FAO soit, à l'avenir, progressivement augmentée, et les critères et les modes d'intervention du programme allégés davantage pour répondre mieux et vite à des demandes imprévues d'assistance de courte durée; par exemple promouvoir la coopération technique entre pays en développement, prodiguer une formation technique ou formuler des avis en matière de politique.

Il serait également souhaitable que davantage de fonds soient mis à la disposition de la FAO sous forme de fonds fiduciaires et que le Directeur général prenne contact avec les donateurs pour savoir s'ils sont disposés à fournir des contributions volontaires additionnelles, soit au PCT, soit par

le biais de fonds fiduciaires. Ma délégation déplore la grave situation financière de la FAO, due à la pression constante d'un certain nombre de pays qui ne sont pas favorables à l'expansion des activités de notre Organisation, notamment en faveur des pays en développement.

Nous apprécions d'autant plus le réalisme et la clairvoyance avec lesquels le Directeur général a géré la situation difficile. Grâce à sa gestion sage, notre Organisation a pu continuer de jouer son rôle de chef de file dans l'agriculture, les pêches et les forêts à l'échelle mondiale et apporter une contribution efficace au développement agricole dans de nombreux pays du monde.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de travail et budget, nous considérons que le faible accroissement qu'il représente n'est pas justifié par le programme de travail intense, mais mon pays votera en faveur du budget présenté par le Directeur général pour assurer une adoption consensuelle.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** Señor Presidente, señores delegados, señoras y señores.

En primer lugar quiero expresar nuestra complacencia por verle a usted, señor Presidente, al frente de esta sesión y reconocemos su muy merecida capacidad.

Queremos dar las gracias a la Secretaria de la FAO, a su Director General por la excelencia de la documentación presentada a la Conferencia para su consideración y aprobación.

Se celebra esta 25ª sesión de la Conferencia de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación en el umbral de la última década del siglo veinte, año en el que el mundo ha sido testigo de inesperados e increíbles cambios, la mayoría de ellos positivos para la humanidad.

En el viejo mundo, la soñada Unidad Europea está a punto; la reestructuración del mundo soviético es un proceso en marcha indetenible; la heroica resistencia no violenta de la juventud china; la iniciación del proceso de reducción de ocupación de las grandes potencias en el territorio europeo; la esperanza de la abolición de las armas químicas, y, por último, la caída del muro de Berlín, todo lo cual pareciera que podemos ser optimistas para el inmediato porvenir.

Lamentablemente este esperanzador panorama mundial no puede incluir nuestra región latinoamericana, la que, por el contrario, presenta una realidad desconcertante, obstaculizada en su desarrollo para el cual está dotada de ingentes recursos naturales, por el enorme peso de una deuda externa, a todas luces impagable, convirtiéndola en una región de exportación de divisas a través del pago de los intereses. A ello se agregan los problemas derivados del proteccionismo agrícola, impuesto por los países desarrollados, y que impiden la colocación de los productos que podrían servir para el mejoramiento de la situación económica.

En este cuadro negativo se inscribe el problema del narcotráfico, que afecta la vida económica y social de algunos países, lo cual se refleja en la región.

La recurrente amenaza de las guerrillas, que resta vitalidad a las actividades productivas, y, más recientemente, el recrudecimiento de la lucha armada. De nuevo, los escuadrones de la muerte vuelven a ensombrear la vida cotidiana de la comunidad latinoamericana, conmoviendo con su horrible asesinato que ha llevado al martirio de seis sacerdotes jesuitas, profesores de la Universidad Centroamericana de El Salvador, entre ellos el Rector Ignacio Ellacuría, distinguido filósofo y teólogo, conocido como un alto exponente de la teología de la liberación. El hecho ha producido una profunda consternación y repudio en la Comunidad Internacional. No tenemos, pues, motivos de optimismo.

Una constante en el interés de nuestra Organización, a la cual conciernen los problemas de la alimentación y la nutrición, es el hecho de que el crecimiento de la población mundial adelante a un ritmo que llevará a la humanidad a más de 6 000 millones de habitantes para el próximo a 2000.

Si recordamos además que el número de los malnutridos excede los 500 millones, y a esto agregamos la amenaza de los cambios climáticos, el recalentamiento de la tierra, el avance del proceso de desertificación, la destrucción de la capa de ozono, la disminución de los bosques tropicales y la contaminación de las aguas y del aire por efecto de los desechos industriales, podremos calibrar la enorme responsabilidad que debe hacer frente la FAO, puesto que son éstos precisamente los problemas cuyas soluciones le conciernen en virtud del mandato que le asigna su Constitución.

En esa línea de las responsabilidades está, en primer lugar, la seguridad alimentaria y mundial.

Compartimos esta preocupación y, por ello, apoyamos los esfuerzos que se dirigen al propósito de que cada país deba seguir las estrategias necesarias para procurar producir por sí mismos, en su propio territorio, los alimentos necesarios para su subsistencia.

Consideramos que es éste el camino más viable hacia el logro de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, y es por ello por lo que apoyamos el Programa de Cooperación Técnica de la FAO, que es el instrumento a través del cual la Organización dirige la acción de autoabastecimiento en los países del Tercer Mundo.

Coordinada con el Programa de Cooperación Técnica va la acción de los Programas de Campo, herramienta de acción directa en el propio terreno porque sólo por el conocimiento directo de los problemas en cada caso pueden los expertos aconsejar planificar el proyecto adecuado como solución. Por ello consideramos que no solamente debe la FAO mantener esos programas fundamentales para su labor de asesoramiento y capacitación, sino que es necesario que el presupuesto contemple una dotación adecuada para cubrir debidamente su realización con eficacia. De ellos depende muy directamente que pueda llevarse a cabo la aspiración de que cada país del Tercer Mundo pueda contribuir por sí mismo a lograr la seguridad alimentaria mundial, produciendo los alimentos que consume, para no depender permanentemente de la ayuda alimentaria.

En la tarea insoslayable de la FAO por erradicar la pobreza y malnutrición se ha desarrollado el concepto de agricultura sostenible. Debemos apoyar este nuevo concepto que envuelve una reorientación de la agricultura que, no sólo es más acorde con los criterios ecológicos de preservación del ambiente, sino que, además, su práctica está en mayor consonancia con las capacidades y recursos de los campesinos pobres.

Mediante la asistencia en el trabajo de campo puede llegarse a cada Comunidad para enseñar a producir los alimentos básicos de una dieta que le permita su subsistencia y eventualmente una reserva.

Por extensión del concepto de agricultura sostenible apoyamos el principio de desarrollo sostenible, que no sólo puede permitir mediante tecnologías bien fundamentadas, la protección y conservación del medio ambiente, sino que permitiría la incorporación para uso agrícola de vastos espacios que en muchos países, permanecen como terrenos baldíos, sin el aprovechamiento racional para la producción de alimentos.

Muy importante en este Programa de Agricultura Sostenible por la directa vinculación que a ella tiene es el Plan de Acción de la Mujer. Este Plan de Acción tiene sobre todo un objetivo esencial que es la incorporación de la mujer del medio rural al desarrollo.

Tradicionalmente en los programas de desarrollo quedaba siempre rezagada la mujer. Desde la celebración del Decenio de la Mujer, establecido por Naciones Unidas, la FAO ha dirigido mayor atención a la capacitación de la mujer, y, atendiendo a la Resolución de la Conferencia de 1987 sobre integración de la mujer al desarrollo, hemos insistido en que esta integración no se limite a la capacitación, sino que debe traducirse en oportunidades de participación en las diversas actividades de su Comunidad.

Queremos expresar nuestro apoyo al Plan de Acción de la Mujer, y, asimismo, al Proyecto de Resolución, que será presentado en la Comisión I.

Deseamos asimismo expresar nuestro apoyo al Compromiso de Recursos Fitogenéticos, incorporando en él los componentes zoogenéticos y los peces, de acuerdo con las propuestas discutidas en el Grupo de Trabajo que se reunió en octubre pasado.

Los países del Tercer Mundo, ubicados geográficamente en las áreas intertropicales y en cuyos territorios se halla la inmensa mayoría de estos recursos, no están en capacidad por sí mismos de financiar las medidas necesarias para su producción, defensa y desarrollo. Es por ello que apoyamos el propósito de que sea la FAO quien, en acción multilateral, tenga bajo su jurisdicción esta tarea tan importante como es la defensa de este patrimonio de la humanidad para beneficio de las generaciones por venir.

Por las mismas razones de defensa y protección de los recursos ambientales -suelo, agua y aire - cada vez más amenazados por la contaminación derivada del uso abusivo de los fertilizantes químicos, los pesticidas e insecticidas, damos nuestro apoyo irrestricto al Código de Conducta que obliga a los productores a respetar el principio de libre consentimiento en la distribución de sus productos.

No deseamos dejar de expresar nuestro apoyo a la iniciativa de FAO en relación al establecimiento de una organización internacional para el manejo de las especies de peces migratorios.

Respaldamos la resolución de la FAO relativa al Plan de Acción para el manejo y desarrollo de los recursos pesqueros. Los países que están ubicados en el área del Mar Caribe conocen bien lo que significa la depredación de sus recursos pesqueros por las grandes empresas de los grandes países

desarrollados que usan y abusan de tales recursos. Necesitamos el apoyo, la asistencia y la autoridad de una organización como la FAO para la protección y tecnificación de la explotación racional de la pesca que constituye para muchos países la base de su subsistencia.

Asimismo queremos expresar nuestro apoyo irrestricto al Plan de Acción Forestal de los Trópicos en el cual parece haber casi unanimidad en esta Conferencia, por cuanto ello significa no sólo en relación con la protección del ambiente, sino en cuanto a su significación para la supervivencia humana.

Finalmente, al expresar nuestro apoyo pleno al Programa y Presupuesto 1990-91, deseamos ratificar nuestro rechazo al principio del crecimiento cero y absorción de gastos.

Sumamos nuestra opinión favorable a la aprobación del Presupuesto por consenso, a fin de que la FAO pueda continuar cumpliendo la eficiente labor que le ha sido reconocida por el Comité de Expertos en su examen.

**Mohamed Sidya OULD-BAH (Mauritanie):** Je voudrais tout d'abord, à l'instar des voix unanimes qui se sont exprimées du haut de cette tribune, me joindre à l'hommage qui a été rendu par tous mes collègues à M. le Président à l'occasion de sa brillante élection pour présider nos travaux. Nos félicitations s'adressent également à tous les membres du Bureau de notre Conférence.

Avec une telle direction, notre Conférence peut sans complexe aborder sereinement et efficacement les nombreuses questions qui sont inscrites à son ordre du jour. Des centaines de millions d'hommes et de femmes attendent en effet les échos de notre Conférence et ses résultats pour améliorer leur niveau de vie. La FAO, de par son mandat, est l'une des organisations du système des Nations Unies dont l'action a un impact immédiat en raison des interrogations et des défis que posent les inégalités persistantes au niveau international dans le domaine de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Quelle réponse peut-on apporter à ces 500 millions d'affamés de par le monde au moment où la croissance démographique annule tous les efforts dans les pays du tiers monde pour augmenter la production et la productivité agricoles?

Quelles solutions peut-on envisager pour l'amélioration du niveau de vie de ces affamés alors que la dette et la détérioration constante des termes de l'échange annihilent tous les efforts déployés par les pays en développement?

N'est-il pas, enfin, temps de prendre conscience des dangers qui guettent notre monde si des formes nouvelles de solidarité ne sont pas trouvées?

Depuis plusieurs années, toutes ces questions reviennent sans cesse dans les différents forums internationaux. Des progrès ont été certes enregistrés sur telle ou telle question; mais l'ampleur des problèmes, l'interdépendance de notre monde impliquent une approche plus cohérente et plus globale des problèmes de développement.



Notre Organisation - il faut s'en féliciter - a toujours été en première ligne, qu'il s'agisse de consensus sur les grands problèmes ou qu'il s'agisse de son action multiforme tant sur le terrain qu'auprès de ses membres.

Grâce à cette action, les grands problèmes ont été codifiés et la Communauté internationale dispose de véritables chartes issues de consensus qui sont aujourd'hui autant de références essentielles, je veux dire:

- la Charte des paysans, issue de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural;
- la Charte mondiale des sols;
- l'Engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques;
- la Stratégie d'aménagement et de développement des pêches;
- le Plan d'action forestier tropical;
- le Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire;
- le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides.

Autant de jalons qui n'auraient pu être posés sans la persévérance, le dynamisme et le dévouement de notre Directeur général, le Dr Edouard Saouma, auquel je tiens ici à rendre un vibrant hommage au nom de mon pays.

Sous son égide, la FAO n'a cessé d'être à la tête de toutes les initiatives pour la promotion du développement du tiers monde et en particulier de l'Afrique.

Le fait que la plus grande partie des ressources de l'Organisation, malgré la crise, soit consacrée à notre continent est, en soi, un signe éloquent de cet engagement personnel pour une région dont la situation alimentaire demeure fragile.

Malgré la priorité accordée au secteur agricole conformément au Plan de LAGOS, l'insécurité alimentaire demeure pour nous la plus grave des préoccupations, au moment où la plus grande partie de l'Afrique fait face aux effets cumulés de l'ajustement structurel et de la crise internationale.

En examinant notre ordre du jour, ma délégation enregistre avec satisfaction que notre Conférence, encore une fois, n'esquivera point les grands défis qui nous interpellent.

En effet, à la veille de la quatrième décennie des Nations Unies pour le Développement, nous avons ainsi l'occasion de faire le point et de tracer des perspectives très claires pour notre Organisation afin de lui permettre de jouer pleinement son rôle au cours de cette décennie.

Dans son rapport introductif, le Directeur général a attiré notre attention sur les grandes tendances qui se dessinent au plan mondial, notamment au plan de la situation de la production alimentaire et de celle des stocks.

Cette situation ne profite, on le sait, qu'à une partie du monde: 70 sur 108 pays en développement n'enregistreront pas une croissance de leur production agricole en raison de la pression démographique. Cela se traduira par une diminution de la production vivrière dans les trois quarts des pays africains. Ce chiffre, j'ai tenu à le rappeler, illustre les graves hypothèques qui pèsent sur le développement du tiers monde et qui représentent la plus grande des menaces sur la stabilité et la paix dans le monde.

Cette situation rend encore plus urgente la conjonction de tous les efforts pour trouver d'abord une solution appropriée à la dette des pays en développement qui se trouvent, aujourd'hui, paradoxalement dans la position d'exportateurs nets de capitaux vers le nord.

Mon pays se félicite, à cet égard, de la décision de remise de dette prise récemment par certains pays développés en faveur des pays en développement.

De tels efforts doivent être complétés par la mise à la disposition de ces pays de nouvelles ressources à des conditions concessionnelles leur permettant de relancer leurs structures de production. La FAO, qui dispose d'une expérience incomparable et de structures appropriées, peut et doit jouer un rôle dynamique de catalyseur dans la nouvelle donne qui s'annonce. Cela doit concerner naturellement les secteurs de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation mais aussi ceux relatifs à la gestion des ressources halieutiques, hydrauliques et environnementales.

Il s'agira en particulier d'assister les pays en développement pour la mise en place des stratégies adéquates dans ces domaines et de favoriser l'obtention de ressources nécessaires à l'exécution de ces stratégies.

Il est heureux que cette approche soit prise en compte dans le document soumis à notre examen, ce qui reflète le débat qui agite notre Organisation depuis plusieurs années. Ce rôle de pionnier doit être poursuivi à l'occasion des grandes négociations à venir.

La détente actuelle observée dans les relations politiques internationales doit aussi trouver sa traduction concrète dans les relations économiques internationales. Il ne saurait, en effet, y avoir de vainqueurs ou de vaincus alors que les problèmes se posent en terme de suivi pour une grande partie de la population mondiale.

Fort de cette approche, mon pays accorde une place de choix à la coopération multilatérale et s'inquiète de la stagnation des ressources affectées à cette coopération. La persistance d'une telle situation est, sans nul doute, en contradiction avec les démarches des uns et des autres.

Or, nous avons besoin plus que jamais de la solidarité internationale pour faire face à nos priorités nationales et assurer la mobilisation de toutes les énergies en vue d'assumer notre développement économique et social.

Je note d'ailleurs avec satisfaction, dans le cadre de cette mobilisation, l'intérêt accordé par la FAO à l'intégration de la femme dans le développement à travers le plan d'action que nous avons à discuter.

Je dois dire ici qu'il s'agit d'un sujet fondamental auquel la direction nationale de mon pays accorde une très grande priorité, car la femme doit occuper aujourd'hui la place qui lui revient dans le processus de développement.

Sur un autre plan, il est fondamental que les problèmes d'environnement, qui sont inséparables des problèmes de l'agriculture, continuent à bénéficier de l'attention de la FAO.

Cette attention a été notamment mise en exergue lors de la dernière Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. L'adoption, au cours de notre Conférence, du principe d'information et du consentement préalable, dans le Code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides dans ce domaine, constitue un signe tangible et encourageant.

Cela ne pourra que réjouir un pays comme le mien qui subit une dégradation accélérée de son environnement du fait de l'avancée du désert. Il faut donc une mobilisation générale et universelle pour sauver notre monde d'un désastre écologique dont les effets seraient incalculables.

Mon gouvernement a pris connaissance des propositions de restructuration de notre Organisation conformément à la Résolution 6/87 de notre vingt-quatrième Conférence. Nous proclamons à cet égard notre attachement à l'intégrité de son mandat pour continuer à renforcer son rôle et à augmenter son efficacité.

Nous avons, en effet, la chance de disposer d'un outil capable - comme cela a été prouvé par le passé - de répondre à notre attente. Cela ne veut pas dire qu'il ne faille pas améliorer ses performances et affecter le plus de ressources possibles aux activités sur le terrain.

Depuis plusieurs années, le Dr Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de notre Organisation, par son action propre, a lancé la dynamique nécessaire qui nous permet aujourd'hui d'entrevoir l'avenir avec optimisme.

Il conviendra néanmoins d'accorder plus d'importance à la coopération interagences au sein du système des Nations Unies afin de mieux utiliser les ressources disponibles et de créer un courant de collaboration entre ces agences.

Je voudrais dans ce cadre souligner le rôle combien positif joué par le Programme alimentaire mondial aux côtés de la FAO.

Les activités du Programme alimentaire mondial constituent en effet un appui réel à de nombreux pays dont le mien, et ce dans différents domaines considérés comme essentiels face aux conséquences désastreuses de la sécheresse persistante et de la crise économique. Je veux parler de l'aide d'urgence, de l'aide vendue génératrice de fonds de contre-partie qui constitue à la fois une aide sociale et une aide à la balance des paiements, sans oublier les programmes "Vivres contre travail".

A cet égard, mon Gouvernement appuie ses appels aux donateurs pour l'augmentation des ressources du programme pour la période 1990-91 et adresse au Directeur exécutif ses félicitations et ses vifs remerciements pour le sérieux et l'efficacité dont il fait preuve.

Permettez-moi d'insister sur la grande attention que mon gouvernement accorde au secteur agricole et rural, domaine de prédilection de notre Organisation.

Il me suffit de rappeler que le secteur rural dans notre pays jouit d'une absolue priorité dans le plan de développement économique et social.

Ainsi, dans le premier plan de redressement économique et financier mis en oeuvre au cours de la période 1985-88, 36 pour cent des investissements ont été consacrés au secteur rural.

La même priorité est toujours maintenue à travers notre programme de consolidation et de relance pour la période 1989-91 qui prévoit de lui consacrer 34,3 pour cent des investissements publics.

Cette priorité a permis d'obtenir une forte croissance de la production agricole. La production céréalière par exemple permet désormais la couverture de 40 pour cent des besoins et ce, malgré certaines calamités, notamment l'invasion des criquets pèlerins au cours des deux dernières campagnes, invasion qui risque de se prolonger malheureusement encore.

Cependant, malgré des efforts nombreux et variés, la Mauritanie, comme les autres pays sahéliens, reste encore tributaire des aléas climatiques pour parvenir à son objectif ultime en la matière, à savoir l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

En cette fin du XXème siècle, malgré les progrès technologiques extraordinaires, des millions d'hommes et de femmes ne survivent que par un fil ténu d'espoir.

Nous avons le devoir de renforcer cet espoir et de bâtir une solidarité véritable.

Notre Conférence aura une lourde mission dans ce domaine et je suis sûr que, par notre réalisme et notre sagesse, nous saurons être à la hauteur de cette mission.

**Alexandre José ZANDAMELA (Mozambique) (original language Portuguese):** I should like to thank you, Mr Chairman, for the opportunity to address this honourable Conference to express my opinion on FAO's activities and give some overall information on the situation in my country.

In the first place I should like to express my satisfaction for the fact that our Organization has the goal to achieve food self-sufficiency in our countries by the year 2000.

The problem of food insecurity constitutes at present, in many African countries, a serious threat to our people's survival. I believe, however, that it does not suffice to isolate the single problem to be solved; as we see it, it is necessary to clearly identify its actual causes, in each and every one of our countries. For as long as an unfavourable international economic order regarding social and economic development in our countries is maintained, as long as a fair solution for the Third World debt issue is not found, as long as in these countries the material, financial and human resources are scarce, our goal will be but a mere ambitious project.

Mozambique, like most African countries, has agriculture as the basis for its development. It is through the development of this economic sector that we envisage the path for socio-economic balance and the future well-being and happiness of our people.

The hardships we are faced with, brought about by internal and external factors of a diverse nature, constitute serious hindrances to the challenge of improving our production rates with a view to the food self-sufficiency we all long for.

We are still experiencing at present the effects of a feeble economy of a remarkably subsistence character, inherited from the pre-independence period. The shortage of trained manpower, material and financial resources; the lack of social and economic infrastructures in sufficient number to meet the needs of a country covering 800 000 km<sup>2</sup>, are serious constraints that defy our capabilities.

This already debilitating condition of the Mozambique economy, from the early years after independence, has been constantly shaken by factors that are internally very difficult to control, namely: the aggression and destabilizing war being waged against us from the outside which has been the main cause of the present socio-economic situation in the country. The efforts made in the first years after independence towards economic rehabilitation and investment in food production and export products have been the target of sabotage and destruction actions. The encouraging growth rate experienced in the global social product, which reached 11 percent in the period 1977-81, after a gradual fall that attained extremely low values, is presently around 4 percent. Although these figures are considered encouraging in our difficult situation, our aim is to attain and exceed the rates already attained then. This factor not only contributed to increasing the food deficit and worsening the nutritional situation of the population in general, but also aggravated the situation of the balance of payments, due to the fall in the production of our traditional export products.

The droughts and floods that occasionally destroy our crops and other natural disasters, such as diseases and pests, are problems we are faced with. On the other hand, soil erosion, deforestation and desertification, and water contamination are difficult factors to control, given our weak resources.

The serious effects of the international economic crisis, beginning in the early eighties, which affect the underdeveloped countries in general, and which appear chiefly in the increase of imported products' prices and in the deterioration of our export products' prices, are factors beyond control, given the strong dependency in relation to the developed countries. As a result, in 1989 more than 5.5 million Mozambicans are facing food insecurity and require external aid. About 700 000 have crossed the borders heading for neighbouring countries in search of refuge and about 1 700 000 are displaced from their usual living and production locations inside the country, thereby being deprived of working conditions.

In this setting Mozambique was fortunate to have been greatly supported by the international community. International solidarity has had a highly important role in assisting government efforts towards minimizing the effects of the food deficit in our country. However, such support should, in our opinion, materialize mostly in direct action to support production, while a dialectical relationship is established between the Emergency Programme and the Production Rehabilitation Programme.

The nearly thirty projects presently under way with FAO assistance in Mozambique denote this character. Most of them are related to agricultural and livestock production, environmental protection and also technical assistance and some institutional support. A new orientation of food aid programmes directly towards food production would have a positive impact in the re-establishment of the populations presently experiencing a critical situation.

The Economic Rehabilitation Programme, started in early 1987, has contributed to a new dynamic for the whole economy in general. With regard to agriculture, new working styles and new aggressiveness in solving problems have been experienced. In order to go along with such dynamics, we are proceeding towards some structural reforms at grassroots level, and concentrating efforts on research, rural extension and training. Reforms are

being undertaken regarding price, credit and marketing policies, which are strengthened by investments in the rehabilitation of the commercial network, opening the way for the establishment of perfect competition markets and of incentives to production increase.

Notwithstanding the existence of all the social sectors in agriculture, our present production plans tend to give priority to the family sector, establishing basic conditions, providing the required tools and other factors included in rural extension programmes.

In this context, agricultural production rehabilitation programmes are being established for priority districts of every province of the country, as it is not possible to extend this type of action in a generalized way, given the difficulties already mentioned earlier.

In order to materialize these actions, which include the resettlement of populations presently dispersed and the setting-up of living conditions in an integrated way, all the government sectors are directly involved and all donors are invited to participate in the important support and development of the peasant sector, which in our country contributes the most in terms of production for self-consumption and for marketing.

In spite of the great constraints I have already referred to concerning our wish to overcome this struggle against hunger and all types of underdevelopment, we are sure that once peace is re-established, by using, at medium term, the rudimentary means and technology we now have, we may reach again the production rates attained before, and even go beyond them.

In the meantime, the People's Republic of Mozambique has already defined as her internal target, together with the efforts to put an end to an unfair and imposed war, an endless struggle to solve the food problem in the country over the next decade. For that reason we think that the international community should not be alienated from these goals.

The year 1989 was declared by FAO as the year of environment. We welcome this because we consider the preservation of the environment an aspect of particular relevance in the fight for food self-sufficiency because the effects of desertification are already reaching alarming proportions, which put at risk our production plans and our very future.

I cannot miss this opportunity to refer to some specific work of FAO that has particularly benefited the African countries. In this regard special reference should be made to the Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme for Africa (ARPA), launched by FAO four years ago to establish the bases for an important group of actions for the development of agriculture in our countries. On the other hand, we should also like to highlight FAO's priority regarding the biennium 1988-89, which are centred mainly on programmes which envisage an increase in production and food security in Africa.

In spite of the budget constraints for the next biennium, which impose a reduction in the actions and programmes of member countries, we are happy to see the decision on priorities in favour of the poorest countries, in the most problematic areas of environmental preservation, erosion, deforestation, direct support to the peasant sector and to the most vulnerable groups, including programmes involving women in production and the establishment of new jobs.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I should like to wish you every success in chairing this Conference. I also hope that the discussions of the esteemed Commissions will be fruitful, for the progress of the Organization, for the world agricultural situation and for the welfare of all peoples.

**Salisu A. INGAWA (Nigeria):** It is, indeed, a great pleasure and honour to be here to represent the honourable Minister for Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alhaji Samaila Mamman, who is unable to be here. He sends his best regards to Conference. Therefore, I will read his speech.

First of all, Mr Chairman, may I and my entire delegation congratulate you on your election to chair the Twenty-fifth Session of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Conference.

The FAO is now forty-four years old, and in these years, without any exaggeration, it has justified its existence by being instrumental in giving succour to millions of people throughout the world.

It will be recalled that in 1988 the recorded world population reached 5 000 million people, twice what it was 40 years earlier. Statistical projections have it that by the year 2000 (just over a decade from now) there will be more than 6 000 million men, women and children in the world. Undoubtedly, all of these people must be fed. At the moment, 75 percent of the world population lives in the developing world. Consequently, over 85 percent of the projected population growth by the year 2000 would occur in these territories. The food supply situation in the developing countries is in a pathetic situation. Indeed the situation poses a challenge not only to the underprivileged nations, but also to the industrialized nations. I feel confident and optimistic that in the light of these sombre reflections on the global food situation the FAO will evolve practical strategies aimed at greater food production for the undernourished and starving population of the world.

This august body is aware of Africa's economic crisis and the UN Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development. The UN Secretary-General's Progress Report to the Forty-third Session of the UN General Assembly in 1988 considered the main issues which still face Africa today - i.e. debt burden, domestic economic policy reforms, and poor agricultural performance. Africa's increasing debt burden is considered its most oppressive constraint on development. Faced with declining prices for its exports and other agricultural commodities and rising interest rates which have increased debt-servicing (according to an ECA Report) from 26.1 percent in 1984 to 43.3 percent in 1987, real development becomes near impossible as resources for purchasing essential development inputs are diverted to debt repayment.

The economic crisis affecting most Third World countries, especially in Africa, is a culmination of decades of environmental degradation of varying degrees, high population growth rates, mismanagement of resources arising from misplaced priorities, and external factors having an impact on and beyond the control of these countries. It would be naive, therefore, to expect the economic problems confronting Africa and other Third World countries to disappear in a year or two even with the best of intentions, and while concerted efforts at national level should continue, there is no

doubt that sincere global action by the international community, devoid of mere rhetoric, should complement such efforts in order to reverse the deplorable conditions under which the masses in these developing countries live.

What is required of the international community towards alleviation of the problems of Africa's rural population includes assistance in the provision of appropriate infrastructure facilities and necessary inputs for efficient food production, storage, processing, fabrication of simple farm tools, and access to international commodity markets, as well as steps towards cushioning the effects of the debt burden with a possibility of outright cancellation of the debts, as already suggested by some countries. Concerted global action against drought, desertification, conservation of the environment and appropriate agricultural research and technologies deserve global support. It is indeed a paradox that in the midst of plenty and affluence millions of dollars are spent annually to make weapons of war and destruction while abject poverty, hunger and malnutrition are experienced by millions of underprivileged and vulnerable groups in many parts of the world. One wonders whether humanity has totally lost its humaneness.

Current efforts of the major industrial powers to ease the debt burden are clearly a step forward but may not be sufficient to achieve the rapid substantial reduction in indebtedness necessary to revitalize economic growth and development in developing countries. I endorse the call by some delegates for a major international assault on the debt burden to reverse the economic decline in African and other Third World countries and to reduce the heavy social costs that accompany the debt burden.

Laudable agricultural policies and programmes amount to an exercise in futility if not implemented. The World Bank has frequently chastized many countries for being delinquent in the implementation of otherwise laudable agricultural programmes. During deliberations of bodies such as the FAO special attention must be paid to effective agricultural planning, plan coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. It is also pertinent to reiterate here that in our general agricultural planning there should be increased awareness to integrate environmental concerns.

In that connection, I wish to congratulate the FAO for making food and environment the theme of this year's World Food Day celebrations. The earth's natural resources are being plundered; the lands, lakes, and oceans are being polluted with toxic wastes, as well as by effluents from industrial and manufacturing activities. The air is being filled with noxious gases. The degree of severity of environmental problems may differ from country to country. Nevertheless, immediate actions, already being taken by many countries to ameliorate the situation, need to be vigorously sustained and expanded. In Nigeria, necessary legislative action to protect the environment has recently been taken and a Federal Environmental Protection Agency has been established. The experience of other countries in this regard would be very valuable to us.

The loss of arable land through desertification, soil erosion and deforestation is widespread in Africa. FAO studies have shown that between five and seven million hectares of land under cultivation are lost in these various ways every year, mostly in the developing world. The situation in Nigeria is quite serious and requires urgent remedial measures. The northern parts of Nigeria bordering the Sahel are facing serious desert encroachment, while the south-eastern part is threatened by serious soil erosion. We reiterate that efforts at sustaining the world's forest and land resources must be global in concept and implementation.



The problems of frequent loss of food crops and livestock as a result of pests and diseases still continue, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. As part of our effort to alleviate these problems the Federal Government of Nigeria recently established two independent committees to handle the twin problems of pests and desertification. The government decided to establish these committees in order to free their operations from the shackles of civil service bureaucracy.

Furthermore, we are vigorously pursuing development in the fisheries and forestry sub-sectors. Self-reliance in food and fibres continues to be our watchword. The government has embarked on liberalization of agricultural loans to small-scale farmers. The import duty on agricultural equipment has been reduced and a National Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) has been established to construct rural feeder roads and provide rural water supplies. In addition, a National Directorate of Employment (NDE) has been established to ameliorate the problems of unemployment and underemployment in the country. The Government has also established an Agricultural Insurance Scheme to cushion losses of crops and livestock arising from the vagaries of weather and pests. Trade in agricultural commodities has been liberalized by the abolition of the marketing board system which deprived farmers of getting full prices for their farm products. Farmers produce more wherever and whenever they receive higher prices for their farm products.

The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its Twenty-seventh Session in April this year examined, inter alia, the latest developments in the world food security situation, and also the impact of stabilization and structural adjustment programmes on food security. I hope that this Conference will examine critically the recommendations of that Committee and come up with practical propositions for their implementation.

Other areas that we would like this august body to examine include the inadequacy of data for planning and poor technology transfer. We would also like food storage and preservation to be examined and action plans to be developed.

In the case of integration of women in agriculture and rural development, we would say that there is need for a fair representation of women in agricultural production in all countries. The role of women in crop production, harvesting, fish processing, etc. cannot be overlooked. There is need to give recognition to the crucial role of women all over the world in agricultural production. Just recently the Economic Commission for Africa sponsored a conference on women in development hosted by my country, and women from all levels of government in Africa participated. Programmes to give due recognition to the involvement of rural women in agricultural and rural development are being initiated.

Before I conclude, may I indicate that I am pleased to announce that in response to the call by the Director-General of the FAO, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has just a few days ago paid the total arrears of its contributions to the FAO including the 1989 assessed contributions. I wish on behalf of my Government to reaffirm Nigeria's commitment and support for the FAO in its vigorous and relentless effort to ensure food self-sufficiency for the generality of mankind.

The world is linked intricately together. A collapse of share prices in New York reverberates not only in London, Paris and Tokyo but in Lagos, Nairobi and Dakar, as well. The world now has a common destiny and a common commitment. To ensure food self-sufficiency and the improvement of the quality of life of the world's citizens poses a global challenge and requires global efforts for effective solution. Nigeria pledges her support and commitment to the FAO's efforts at making this world devoid of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and a happy place for all.

**Mohammed GHUFRAN (Afghanistan):** Mr Chairman, first of all I would like to present to you my sincere congratulations for your election as the Chairman of the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference. I am positive that this Conference will attain considerable success under your chairmanship and Member States with little land to till, the least developed and the developing nations, will especially benefit from its outcome.

As you are aware, Afghanistan is an agricultural country and thus agriculture, animal husbandry and forestry constitute its economic backbone. Almost 80 percent of the population is engaged in agricultural endeavours, earning their livelihood from farming, directly or indirectly. More than half of the gross national product is derived from agriculture. The consolidation of the pillars of external trade and the assurance of the normal activities of domestic industries depend on the quality of by-products of the agricultural sector. Hence, agricultural development constituted the most important item in the socio-economic development plan of the country during the past years, as a result of which changes were brought about in the structure, production methods, organization and management of agriculture, including the use of land and water. In normal years, plant and animal production were evaluated positively, but through the last decade the imposed war has robbed the nation of its spiritual and material assets in several fields, dealing agriculture and its supplementary installations a deadly blow.

Despite serious efforts to ensure a lasting development for this sector, various events such as droughts, displacement of agrarian population, closure of roads, shortage of chemical fertilizers and improved seeds, indiscriminate cutting of forests, overgrazing of pastures and desertification contributed during the past decade to a drastic reduction in plant and animal products. This has forced a large number of agricultural workers to emigrate to major towns and engage in other occupations.

Years of war jeopardized the procurement, supply, shipment and disposal of essentials such as chemical fertilizers, improved seed, pesticides and others from provincial centres to the countryside and the other way round. This damages our hard-working farmers twofold. However, despite our problems in connection with procurement, supply, shipment and distribution of these essentials, we were able to distribute 120 000 tons of chemical fertilizers, of which urea constituted 95 000 tons and phosphates 25 000 tons. In addition, 11 500 tons of wheat seeds and 4 750 tons of beet seeds were disposed of last year. Likewise, in order to prevent the spread of plant and animal diseases pesticides worth Afs. 120 million were distributed among farmers and stock-breeders. Of course, this amount will in no way meet all the requirements of our farmers because they have realized the significance of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and their demand is growing fast.

In the field of protection and treatment of domestic animals against disease and pests during the past year, a total of 13.5 million animals and fowls were treated. A total of 11 million doses of various vaccines was produced in the existing laboratories, and animals were artificially inseminated. One must point out at this juncture that we were able to realize the plan targets in this connection but need much more. We have not produced the desirable amounts due to financial constraints and shortage of technical personnel, as well as equipment and supplies.

During the past year, a total of 433 experiments were carried out on various plants through various agricultural research stations. But we also face major problems in this sphere. Our country is very rich as far as plant genes are concerned. In several professional works, Afghanistan is regarded as the origin of a number of fruits, vegetables and cereals. Therefore, it is necessary to collect and preserve all plant genes and use these not only in improving plant strains inside the country but also share them with international agricultural research institutes. Our problems in this connection comprise lack of a well-equipped gene bank and shortage of equipment and supplies required for operation of agricultural research stations.

The cooperative movement is gradually gaining ground in the agricultural sector. At present, a total of 641 agricultural cooperatives with a total working capital of Afs. 50.7 million and 94 300 members are active. Despite the obstacles faced, this movement is making promising progress. The cooperatives have been able to supply their produce to the market with better quality, earning good prices.

Likewise, the Government has been able to render necessary assistance to farmers through these co-ops. The present problems of this movement comprise lack of technical and experienced personnel in organization and management to provide consultative and technical services. We need equipment and supplies to create cooperative projects in the fields of apiculture, sericulture, sheep farming, cattle farming and fruit processing, etc.

Natural forests and pastures are in bad shape in Afghanistan. The balance of the ecosystem has been disturbed. Fields are ruined and many problems stemming from soil erosion and spread of desertification are preparing the ground for further imbalance in environment.

Further, the arable area and pastures adjacent to forests are lying fallow. During the past 10 years of the imposed war, we have not been able to carry out technical activities to protect and develop forests and pastures.

Therefore, we hope, that after establishment of peace and the preparing of the ground for technical activities, to obtain from the FAO, UNDP, UNEP, ESCAP and SACEP financial and technical assistance in connection with watershed management, creation of man-made forests of fast-growing trees, organization of the natural forests, prevention from desertification, initiation of social forestry, agro industry, national parks and protection of wild life through natural preserves and finally to complete our vegetation and ecological maps.

Ninety-nine percent of the arable land in Afghanistan belongs to the private sector. Implementation of land reforms caused a large percentage of these lands to lie fallow due to displacement of farmers and splitting of plots into smaller pieces, leading to a drastic reduction in crops. Based on these considerations, the Government revised the Land Reform Law following the proclamation of the National Reconciliation Policy, raising the ceiling of

land holding from 6 to 20 hectares per family of first category land. According to the new regulations, farmers having little land can annex to their holdings lands adjacent to their fields lying fallow, due to missing owners. Also landowners can divide their holdings among their children according to Shariat Islam and local practice and get ownership deeds for them from the Government. This will better pave the way for mechanization of farming.

In order to raise agricultural outputs as much as possible and meanwhile encourage private entrepreneurs to invest in agricultural and livestock farms, the Government has approved regulations allowing these entrepreneurs to obtain public lands on easy terms with certain tax exemptions.

This decision is very promising, and right now a large number of entrepreneurs have received public lands and started to produce crops and livestock while the Government is making available to them credits through the agricultural, export and industrial banks, as well as providing them with technical and consultative services.

With a view to supplying to farmers better mechanized services the Government has set up several mechanized agricultural stations in various parts of the country. Local farmers utilize agricultural machinery for levelling, ploughing, harvesting and other purposes at subsidized rates. This service is also being developed as the farmers' demand is fast growing. One must point out that during the years of war, the country has lost a large number of draught animals and hence they have to be replaced somehow.

Likewise, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is making chemical fertilizers and improved seeds available to farmers at subsidized rates to boost agricultural outputs and raise the standards of living of the rural people. In the same way, the farmers receive veterinary, extension, protection and technical and consultative services free of charge. Further, the farmers' tax arrears have been exempted to provide an additional incentive.

Regarding the part played in agriculture by women, one should say that Afghan women are playing a constructive role in producing foodstuffs. They are taking part in various spheres of agriculture according to local customs and traditions. But unfortunately, their role has not received due attention.

Despite their indefatigable efforts, Afghan women living in rural areas are faced with several problems. In order to encourage them to participate more in agricultural activities, the Section for Development of Women was re-established within the framework of the Agricultural Extension Department two years back. We appreciate the great efforts made by the FAO to raise the skills of rural women in agricultural activities, raising animals and fowls, home economics, food and nutrition, environmental sanitation, utilization of natural resources and development of handicrafts, and support the earlier decisions of the FAO Council in this respect. I should mention that due to shortage of foreign exchange, transportation problems, forced migration of farmers from their habitats and other difficulties, the distribution of agricultural inputs to farmers has been jeopardized. Therefore, lack of inputs and the high cost price of outputs have resulted in exorbitant rates in home markets for agricultural outputs.

Despite the fact that a number of activities have been carried out in agriculture and animal husbandry, the question of food shortages stemming from reduction in agricultural and animal outputs constitutes a major problem. During the past few years, inclement weather has not been favourable to agriculture. For instance, severe unpredicted cold in spring and autumn of this year resulted in the stunting of normal growth of several plants, shortening their seasons. This has also led to shortage of foodstuffs with negative repercussions on the year to come.

Our delegation believes that one could accelerate the development of agriculture by using improved agrotechniques, chemical fertilizers, improved seeds, combating against animal and plant diseases and pests, introducing better strains of animals, preparing vast programmes for watershed management, protection of forests and wildlife, expansion of agricultural cooperatives and better management of agriculture.

We greatly appreciate the indefatigable efforts of the FAO for its direct assistance and the realization of UNDP and UNHCR aid in connection with the return of refugees as well as the help rendered to development of agriculture, animal husbandry and forestry in Afghanistan by other international organizations since the past few years.

The implementation of the National Reconciliation Policy, a humanitarian measure adopted by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, has produced positive results at national and international levels. This policy is based on the principle that the present problems can be resolved not through military but by political means, specifically by way of direct negotiations and dialogue between the Government and our brothers in opposition. This, together with the Republic of Afghanistan practical measure, has been proposed and reflected in the documents endorsed by international gatherings including those of the 24th United Nations General Assembly in New York and the Conference of Non-Aligned Nations in Belgrade.

Considerable agricultural growth in our country calls for the cessation of present fratricidal war and establishment of peace to save the suffering humanity and rehabilitate and reconstruct agriculture to preserve the environmental balance. Unfortunately, traditional agricultural methods are still prevailing among the farmers, contributing to impoverishment of farmers, decline in land and animal productivity, curtailing of purchasing power of the people, shortage of foodstuffs and agricultural raw materials.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan assures the FAO and other donor organizations and nations that due to the positive changes in connection with the resolution of present problems at home and abroad, their economic and technical assistance will be utilized to the maximum by the rural poor for developing the agricultural sector.

We expect the FAO to considerably expand its economic and technical assistance, taking into account the development objectives in agriculture and intensify its efforts to solicit the help of other international organizations and individual nations due to the fact that agriculture is in bad shape in our country because of the ill effects of war.

Underdeveloped agriculture and lower agricultural outputs, not only in our war-ravaged country but also in others, have resulted in regrettable food shortages and environmental imbalance, and many developing nations are faced with food shortages and malnutrition.

Therefore, the constant efforts of the FAO Director-General in this sphere are greatly appreciated, and we invite the attention of all participants of this Conference to the solution of this serious problem.

We believe so long as there exists the danger of hunger in the world and the environment remains polluted, the establishment of a real peace will be impeded. Therefore, it would be better for the participants of this Conference to make a serious decision with a view to eliminating the danger of hunger in the developing countries by proposing short and long-range measures. In our view, guaranteeing the world food reserves and creating such reserves at national level by the WFP will be useful in achieving this objective. The FAO is requested to play an active role in this sphere and coordinate the aid of individual nations and international organizations for this purpose.

World population in 1988 reached the 5 billion mark. This shows that it doubled since 38 years, and by the year 2000 it will reach the 6 billion mark. Unfortunately, most of this growth occurs in developing nations. As predicted, there will be a gap between the population growth and agricultural outputs causing a major problem. On the other hand, another major problem of these nations is their weak economies. Other problems such as illiteracy, poverty and disease are stemming from these types of economies. Hence it would be advisable for the FAO and other international organizations to urgently help developing countries to save the lives of millions of human beings.

We believe that agriculture should be developed in such a way that the ecosystem is not disturbed. This should be taken into consideration in national, regional and international development programmes because by an unwise use of natural resources, poor farmers will be affected more. Of course the dimensions of this problem differ from country to country, and FAO has a constructive role to play in this connection because it can offer to the needy nations the assistance they badly require.

At the end, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to present to you the best wishes of the people of Afghanistan for the success of this Conference, and also to wish for further successes of the FAO Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, in his endeavours to eliminate poverty, hunger and malnutrition in a safe environment.

Thank you for your attention.

**Mohamed ROUGHY (Algérie):** Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi tout d'abord, au nom de la délégation algérienne, de joindre ma voix à toutes celles qui m'ont précédé pour vous exprimer nos félicitations pour votre élection à la Présidence de la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Je suis persuadé que le choix qui s'est porté sur votre personne, et à travers vous sur votre pays ami, est garant du succès des travaux de cette Conférence.

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi également de féliciter les Vice-Présidents et les membres du Bureau qui vous apporteront sans doute une aide précieuse dans l'accomplissement de votre mission.

Enfin, je ne manquerai pas d'adresser au Directeur général de la FAO nos félicitations pour le travail accompli sous sa haute autorité depuis la dernière Conférence et pour avoir réuni les meilleures conditions pour assurer le meilleur déroulement pour la présente session.

Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les Ministres, Monsieur le Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, avant d'aborder la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans mon pays ainsi que les actions que nous avons entreprises dans ce secteur et de vous faire part d'une manière générale de notre avis préliminaire sur certains points de l'ordre du jour de cette Conférence qui nous intéressent plus particulièrement, il nous paraît utile de mentionner que la présente session de la Conférence de la FAO s'ouvre dans un contexte international marqué par l'aggravation de la situation économique dans les pays en développement en raison de l'augmentation de la dette extérieure, la persistance de l'inégalité des termes de l'échange, et l'affaiblissement des disponibilités en ressources financières.

Aussi, Monsieur le Président, nos débats doivent être centrés sur les efforts à déployer en vue de promouvoir un développement intégré du secteur de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, par l'adoption de recommandations qui répondent à nos préoccupations actuelles.

Monsieur le Président, s'agissant du contexte algérien, la situation politique, économique et sociale a été marquée par la mise en place de réformes importantes que je me permets de porter à la connaissance de la Conférence. Sur le plan des actions structurelles, notre pays a engagé une série de réformes dont la réforme agricole constitue une composante importante. L'objectif majeur est la constitution à terme d'exploitations agricoles modernes maîtrisant le progrès agronomique où les paysans exercent pleinement leur responsabilité dans un environnement technico-économique répondant efficacement à leurs besoins.

L'action de l'Etat, pour répondre aux préoccupations de ces producteurs, sera axée sur des mesures tendant à :

- faciliter l'accès au crédit et aux intrants;
- faire bénéficier rapidement le monde agricole des résultats de la recherche;
- établir les convergences nécessaires entre les impératifs nationaux en d'indépendance alimentaires et les intérêts des producteurs par le biais de mesures incitatives (prix, fiscalité, subventions, crédit), notamment en ce qui concerne les produits stratégiques.

Notre démarche part du postulat que l'exercice des responsabilités par les producteurs est un préalable au développement des situations de crise alimentaire. C'est ainsi que le nouveau statut des coopératives agricoles rend le producteur pleinement responsable dans la création, la gestion et la définition des activités qui l'intéressent. Il permettra, en outre, une réelle prise en charge par les producteurs du choix des circuits et des conditions d'échanges les plus économiques et les plus efficaces.

Ainsi investies, ces coopératives vont constituer un outil puissant de promotion et de participation active des producteurs à la mise en oeuvre de la politique agricole.

Il faut cependant signaler que les écueils dressés ces deux dernières années, notamment une sécheresse persistante et le fléau acridien, ont eu des effets négatifs sur la production agricole. Il a fallu mobiliser des ressources humaines et financières importantes pour juguler l'invasion acridienne et préserver le potentiel productif dans le pays, moyens qui en situation normale auraient servi au soutien des exploitations agricoles réorganisées par l'importation des facteurs de production nécessaires au développement de l'agriculture en général.

Par ailleurs, de nouveaux périls menacent à présent l'agriculture en Algérie. Il s'agit de la lucilie bouchère américaine et de la peste équine, deux phénomènes apparus récemment qui constituent des motifs de préoccupation car ils nécessitent la mobilisation de moyens financiers supplémentaires et surtout la mise à notre disposition de moyens de lutte appropriés, y compris l'information scientifique et technique. Au demeurant, je voudrais rappeler notre souci de voir allégées les contingences imposées par les procédures et réglementations sanitaires et phytosanitaires sur le commerce des produits agricoles. Néanmoins, l'Algérie souscrit à la clause figurant dans le Code de conduite des pesticides et qui stipule que l'envoi d'un produit interdit ou sévèrement réglementé ne doit pas avoir lieu sans l'accord de l'autorité désignée, ce qui, du reste, est le résultat d'un consensus international.

Abordant les activités de la FAO, je voudrais exposer la position de mon pays sur les deux points de l'ordre du jour qui focalisent l'attention: le Programme de travail et budget pour 1990-91 et le rapport des Comités sur l'Examen de la FAO.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de travail et budget de la FAO proposé par le Directeur général pour la période biennale 1990-91, dont les lignes directrices viennent d'être approuvées par la quatre-vingt-seizième session du Conseil, mon pays tient d'emblée à l'appuyer.

Il manifeste en particulier son intérêt pour le Programme de coopération technique qui a largement prouvé son utilité et son efficacité. Compte tenu de la conformité du Programme de travail avec les recommandations des organes de la FAO, y compris les conférences régionales, et avec les objectifs à moyen terme, et de l'augmentation minimale de l'ordre de 0,45 pour cent, la délégation algérienne appelle à l'approbation par consensus du Programme de travail et Budget proposé pour l'exercice prochain.

Monsieur le Président, l'Organisation a beaucoup souffert ces dernières années des problèmes de liquidités et, selon les dernières informations communiquées, le Directeur général a dû effectuer des coupes dans le budget ordinaire s'élevant à 68 millions de dollars E.-U.

Cette situation, si elle persiste, pourrait amener le Secrétariat à recourir à des solutions palliatives hypothétiques.

La situation financière de la FAO nous préoccupe car elle est due au non-versement des contributions par plusieurs Etats Membres dont certains lient en quelque sorte le règlement de leurs contributions au rejet de demandes répétées de croissance réelle zéro.

Pour sa part l'Algérie, pour manifester sa confiance en notre Organisation et son action, a fait l'effort d'acquitter intégralement sa contribution malgré ses difficultés financières.



Quant au deuxième point relatif à l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO, la délégation algérienne souscrit à la conclusion des Comités qui ont souligné que la FAO continue d'être une Organisation solide et dynamique.

Ce processus d'examen a fait ressortir que les objectifs poursuivis par l'Organisation sont conformes à son Acte constitutif.

Nous considérons qu'en général les recommandations émises vont dans le sens d'une amélioration de l'efficacité de la FAO grâce aux priorités et stratégies définies.

Quant au financement des recommandations qui seront retenues, la délégation algérienne estime que toutes les solutions possibles doivent être explorées pour trouver les fonds nécessaires en tenant compte, toutefois, des grandes difficultés économiques que connaissent les pays en voie de développement. Mon pays, contraint actuellement à une austérité draconienne en matière financière, ne peut apporter de contributions supplémentaires à celles qui lui sont fixées par le barème de contributions.

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais pour conclure exprimer mon souhait de voir la FAO continuer à apporter son soutien aux pays qui en éprouvent le besoin, particulièrement les plus démunis et, surtout, à les aider à faire face aux périls nouveaux ou conjoncturels souvent imprévisibles et qui, faute d'assistance, pourraient déboucher sur une situation critique pour le ou les pays concernés.

L'Algérie tient à réitérer son intérêt au renforcement de la coopération avec la FAO et l'importance qu'elle attache à l'accroissement de l'aide qu'elle apporte. Elle exprime le vœu qu'à travers votre Organisation se cristallise une stratégie globale pour un développement rural intégré notamment à un niveau régional pour la mise en oeuvre d'actions concrètes visant l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde et en particulier dans les pays en développement .

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

**Fotis POULIDES (Chairman, Credentials Committee):** I have the honour to present to Plenary, the Report of the Second Meeting of the Credentials Committee held at 8.45 on 15 November 1989. In accordance with Rule III.2 of the General Rules of the Organization, the Credentials Committee examined the credentials of 18 Member Nations and found them to be in order, thus bringing the total to 150 credentials. One Member Nation had not registered to date.

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1 Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal

The additional list of Member Nations whose delegations have presented credentials found to be in order is as follows: Bahrain, Burundi, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Guinea, Iceland, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Mali, Namibia, Rwanda, St. Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Suriname, and Tonga - total, 18 Member Nations. One nation which has not registered to date is Democratic Kampuchea.

In addition to the four Member Nations which have already notified the Organization that they will not be attending the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference mentioned in the previous report C 89/LIM/7, the following three Member Nations have advised that they will not be represented - Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

The Credentials Committee also examined the credentials of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and found them to be in order; these are the following: Secretary-General of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, World Food Council, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme, World Food Programme, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Social Defence Research Institute and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. Specialized agencies are the following: International Labour Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Other organizations of the United Nations system - the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Credentials Committee wishes to record its satisfaction at the number of credentials deposited by Member Nations which had been signed by a member of government of the highest rank.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.

# conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

# conférence

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

# conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 89/PV/14

Twenty-fifth Session  
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Vingt-cinquième session  
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25° período sesiones  
PLENARIA

## FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING QUATORZIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE 14ª SESION PLENARIA

20 November 1989

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours  
Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45  
sous la présidence de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 14ª Sesión Plenaria a las 14.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATION (continued)
- DECLARATIONS PES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES DE LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

**Moulaye Mohamed HAIDARA (Mali):** Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général, Messieurs les ministres, honorables délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs:

J'éprouve un sentiment de profonde reconnaissance et d'espérance d'avoir l'insigne honneur et l'immense privilège de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée.

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de saisir l'heureuse opportunité qui m'est ainsi offerte pour vous adresser, au nom du peuple de la République du Mali et de son Gouvernement, mes très vives félicitations pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de cette vingt-cinquième session.

Je voudrais, au nom de la délégation qui m'accompagne et en mon nom propre, vous assurer de notre soutien indéfectible dans l'accomplissement de votre noble et délicate mission.

Notre haute appréciation et nos vifs remerciements vont également au Directeur général de la FAO, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, pour le dévouement et la compétence avec lesquels il dirige avec sa dynamique équipe, les activités de notre Organisation malgré les difficultés actuelles.

Monsieur le Président, la crise économique qui secoue le monde est différemment ressentie par les Etats Membres de notre Organisation.

Les pays en voie de développement en général et ceux d'Afrique en particulier subissent de plein fouet les effets de cette crise. Cette situation entrave la bonne exécution du programme prioritaire pour le redressement économique et le développement 1986-1990 décidé par le continent africain. C'est certainement dans notre continent que le nombre de personnes vivant au-dessous du seuil de pauvreté ne fait qu'augmenter.

A l'évidence, cette situation a été aggravée par les calamités naturelles, la récession économique internationale, la détérioration des termes de l'échange, la montée du protectionnisme dans les pays développés, la baisse des prix des matières premières et l'endettement des pays africains, le déséquilibre entre la production alimentaire et l'accroissement démographique, engendrant ainsi des conséquences socio-économiques particulièrement graves.

Monsieur le Président, le Mali fait partie des pays les plus défavorisés de l'Afrique. Pays sahélien de surcroît, vaste et enclavé, son économie est dominée par l'agriculture, l'élevage et la pêche. Après 15 années de dure sécheresse, le Mali vit une période de répit.

L'hivernage 1989 promet une production céréalière satisfaisante malgré le très lourd tribut que nous avons payé aux nombreux déprédateurs de nos récoltes que sont les criquets, les sauteriaux, les rats, les chenilles, etc ...

Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour remercier à nouveau la FAO et tous les partenaires du développement du Mali pour l'élan de solidarité que nous enregistrons chaque année en faveur de notre programme de lutte contre les déprédateurs.

Monsieur le Président, la recherche de l'autosuffisance par la lutte contre la désertification, la maîtrise de l'eau, le désenclavement constitue l'axe fondamental du développement économique et social du Mali. C'est dans ce cadre que nous poursuivons la mise en oeuvre de notre stratégie alimentaire soutenue entre autres par:

- un programme national de vulgarisation agricole intégrée,
- un plan semencier national,
- la restructuration du marché céréalier en vue d'assurer aux producteurs des prix incitateurs,
- la maîtrise des eaux pour la sécurisation, la diversification et l'intensification des systèmes de production,
- la mise en oeuvre d'un plan national de lutte contre la désertification,
- la transformation structurelle et organisationnelle du monde rural afin qu'il soit le moteur de son propre développement.

C'est ainsi que nous avons partout créé des associations villageoises "Ton villageois" dont les actions de promotion socio-économique sont soutenues par une Banque nationale de développement agricole (BNDA), un Fonds national d'autosuffisance alimentaire (FAA) et la Chambre d'agriculture.

Des résultats encourageants ont été enregistrés, lesquels militent en faveur de la poursuite de cette orientation pour un développement durable.

Par ailleurs, les opérations de développement rural (ODR), qui sont des structures d'intervention de l'Etat, sont en cours de restructuration afin qu'elles puissent jouer de plus en plus un rôle d'organismes conseils du monde rural.

Dans le secteur de l'élevage, nous pansons les plaies de la sécheresse. Le Gouvernement du Mali, après une analyse approfondie de la situation de l'élevage et la détermination des différentes contraintes d'ordre écologique, pastoral, nutritionnel, sanitaire, zootechnique et socio-économique a adopté une stratégie basée sur:

- la préservation de l'équilibre écologique par l'élaboration et l'adoption d'un schéma directeur d'aménagement du territoire,
- la maîtrise des eaux de surface et des eaux souterraines dans le souci d'une exploitation rationnelle des pâturages,
- l'accroissement de la production et de la productivité du cheptel par l'intégration élevage-agriculture,
- l'augmentation et la sécurisation des revenus des éleveurs,
- la satisfaction des besoins nationaux en produits animaux.

C'est ainsi que pour stimuler la production laitière, il a été créé un fonds laitier, des ceintures de pâturages autour des grands centres urbains et des parcs villageois dans les zones de production rurales.

Un accent particulier est mis sur l'amélioration de la production fourragère et d'aliments de bétail et la lutte contre les épizooties parmi lesquelles la peste bovine.

A cet égard, je tiens à exprimer les remerciements de mon gouvernement à la FAO pour son appui au démarrage effectif et au bon déroulement de la campagne panafricaine de lutte contre la peste bovine.

Enfin, dans le domaine de la forêt, de la faune et de la pêche, l'action du Mali reste focalisée sur la lutte contre la désertification. En effet, la désertification est le phénomène environnemental le plus critiqué de notre pays. La lutte contre ce fléau conditionne le développement économique de notre pays.

Le plan national de lutte contre la désertification et l'avancée du désert a été traduit en huit programmes principaux, à savoir:

- 1 . Elaboration et mise en oeuvre d'un schéma d'aménagement du territoire
- 2 . Coordination et suivi du Programme national de lutte contre la désertification (PNLCD)
- 3 . Programme Barrière verte
- 4 . Formation, information et sensibilisation des populations
- 5 . Recherche sur la désertification
- 6 . Recentrage des actions en cours
- 7 . Economie des combustibles ligneux
- 8 . Mesures législatives et réglementaires d'accompagnement.

Le Mali, qui a souscrit au Plan d'action forestier tropical dès son adoption, est engagé avec ses partenaires dans l'élaboration de son PAFT qui devra s'intégrer entièrement dans le Plan national de lutte contre la désertification avec le triple rôle de:

- faire le point de tous les acquis forestiers déjà obtenus au Mali,
- coordonner et suivre l'action des divers intervenants en matière forestière,
- approfondir l'étude de quelques secteurs prioritaires comme le code forestier, la place de l'arbre dans le monde rural, la participation des populations aux activités forestières, etc.

Le secteur de la pêche, lui aussi, connaît un regain d'intérêt à la suite de l'amélioration de la pluviométrie. Des actions pertinentes sont entreprises en aménagement des pêcheries, amélioration de l'équipement des pêcheurs, contrôle des pertes après capture. Une vaste étude est entreprise dans le delta intérieur du fleuve Niger sur le stock et la dynamique des populations de poissons aux fins d'une organisation rationnelle des captures.

Enfin la pisciculture rurale gagne très rapidement toutes les zones hydroagricoles du pays en complément à la production agricole.

Quant à l'apiculture moderne, elle s'est rapidement développée depuis l'intervention de la FAO (1983) et du PNUD (1985). Plusieurs apiculteurs traditionnels sont regroupés en associations villageoises de producteurs, alors qu'apparaissent en ville les premières mielleries modernes.

La faune, malgré une légère amélioration, reste fortement braconnée et des actions plus vigoureuses de restauration sont encore nécessaires.

Monsieur le Président, l'intégration de la femme et des jeunes dans le développement rural est une préoccupation permanente de notre gouvernement. Le plan d'action de la FAO pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement ne fait que rendre justice à une des couches les plus actives de la population rurale. Au Mali, la désertification, l'érosion des sols et la déforestation sont si importantes que le concept du développement durable est non seulement une nécessité absolue, mais, et surtout, une obligation pour toute notre nation. C'est pourquoi, j'ai dit plus haut que la lutte contre la désertification conditionne notre développement économique et social. Cependant, les impératifs d'un ajustement structurel rendu indispensable et le service de la dette compromettent gravement nos efforts dans ce sens.

S'agissant de l'examen de certains aspects des buts et objectifs de la FAO, nous nous réjouissons de la confirmation selon laquelle les objectifs poursuivis par l'Organisation sont conformes à son acte constitutif et que la FAO continue d'être une Organisation solide et dynamique. Nous souscrivons de façon générale aux conclusions et recommandations du Conseil et nous estimons que les ressources nécessaires à leur mise en oeuvre devront faire l'objet d'un financement supplémentaire.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, je déplore la situation financière dramatique dans laquelle se trouve notre Organisation.

Elle félicite le Directeur général pour la bonne qualité de sa gestion.

Elle approuve le Programme de travail 1990-91 ainsi que les priorités énoncées dans les documents de travail.

Nous approuvons également le niveau du budget proposé tout en regrettant, comme nombre de pays en développement, la réduction de la part du Programme de coopération technique.

Voilà, Monsieur le Président, les quelques points saillants que ma délégation a cru devoir livrer à cette auguste Conférence.

Je souhaite que nos réflexions et échanges d'idées puissent conforter notre Organisation, la FAO, dans ses efforts en faveur de l'amélioration du sort des millions de personnes qui souffrent encore de la faim et de la malnutrition .

**R. OLEMBO (United Nations Environment Programme):** It is my privilege and great pleasure to address the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO General Conference on behalf of Dr Tolba, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, and to convey to you all his best wishes for a successful meeting. I would like to assure you that Dr Tolba very much regrets being unable to participate in this Conference personally. Therefore, it is on his behalf that I renew his pledge to this meeting and to his colleague and friend Dr Saouma for continued cooperation between FAO and UNEP in the numerous areas of mutual interest. A cooperation which has grown stronger and stronger since the UN family and the international

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<sup>1</sup> Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

community gathered during the UN Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972. During that Conference a general framework for environmental action was set out, focusing on problems which were perceived as threats to the future of our planet.

The mandate of UNEP was specified to coordinate the environmental activities of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, act as a catalyst for their efforts, keep the world environmental situation under review and ensure that the emerging environmental problems of international significance are considered by Governments. The broad goal of UNEP is to ensure that the environmental dimensions and natural resources are managed prudently and utilized in environmentally sound, socially acceptable, and economically viable ways.

This is of great importance since most developing countries and large parts of many developed countries have natural resource-based economies. Their economic capital consists mainly of their stocks of environmental resources: their climate, soils, forests, agriculture, fisheries and water. Their long-term economic development depends on maintaining, if not increasing, these stocks and on enhancing their ability to support agriculture, forestry, fishery, mining, tourism and environment for local benefits and export.

Environmental phenomena are interrelated and the implications of this interrelatedness have to be taken fully into account in the formulation of policies for agriculture, industry, energy and in the management of soil, air and living resources. For example, poor agricultural policies may easily result in land, water and biological diversity degradation; energy policies are linked with acid precipitation, with the global greenhouse effect and with the over-utilization of forests for fuel. Socio-economic and political policies could also have adverse impacts on the environment and hence the need to move toward sustainable development - a concept of development that has recently been brought to the surface with great force by "Our Common Future" and the "Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond".

As the UN family and the international community are preparing to celebrate 20 years after Stockholm in 1992, the mechanisms set in motion by the establishment of UNEP are now focusing attention on how to operationalize and generate universal support for the principles of sustainable development. For environmentally sound and sustainable development to take off, the international community needs to focus efforts at the global, regional, and national levels to resolve long-standing problems which underlie environmental degradation. These include - among others - the sustainable conservation of biological diversity within a broad socio-economic context, prevention of land degradation by combating deforestation and desertification and by improving agricultural techniques, environmentally sound management of biotechnology, protection of oceans and coastal areas and protection of the quality of freshwater resources, protection of the atmosphere by combating climate change and global warming and depletion of the ozone layer, environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals and the improvement of environmental health. This all requires cooperation within and across national boundaries taking a pragmatic approach adapted to specific national requirements. The basic underpinning of sustainable development is to bring about full consideration of the environmental dimension in the formulation and implementation of development policies and programmes.



FAO and UNEP have continued to work closely with each other in order to lay the foundations to achieve such sustainable development. In the course of your own review of how FAO could become an even more effective instrument of international development (reflected in document C 89/21-Sup.1) your Director-General sent to UNEP a high-powered policy review group and I am informed that its recommendations to him include strategies and modalities to strengthen the FAO/UNEP collaboration in the coming and perhaps crucial decade for international environmental action.

There was great hope a few years ago that new agricultural techniques, primarily the development of high-yielding crop varieties, would solve the problems of developing countries by increasing the per unit productivity of available land. Unfortunately, this has required the use of purchased inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and machinery. Compounded by the lack of necessary infrastructure - the increasing cost of the inputs, the heavy debt burden and poor foreign exchange status of the importing countries, the low purchasing power among the small and marginal farmers, the possible pollution of soil and inland and marine waters due to losses of applied chemicals and the vulnerability of the high-yielding crop varieties to pest and disease agents, major constraints exist in exploiting the full potential of the new crop varieties in developing countries already starved for capital and who face increasing population growth - their food situation remains precarious.

UNEP, FAO and other relevant organizations of the UN system have tried to resolve these problems and find a number of solutions. However, more needs to be done toward sustainable agriculture. With reference to sustainable agriculture, I would also like to note that UNEP fully supports FAO's current efforts on the formulation of a soil conservation strategy for Africa. Through the programme of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) and in consultation with FAO, UNEP is contributing toward that end by formulating training needs and by organizing training courses on soil conservation for Africa. UNEP appreciates the support FAO is giving to UNEP's efforts on advisory services to developing countries on the formulation of national soils policies.

However, a more systematic approach toward sustainable agricultural practices is required. The report of the World Commission on Environment and Development noted, inter alia, that current development policies tend not to promote sustainable agriculture, and that in both developed and developing countries, there is ample evidence of ecological unsustainability of agricultural systems. This concern is also reflected in the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987 by which the General Assembly noted that insufficient attention to the environmental impact of agricultural policies and practices has been causing environmental damage, such as: soil degradation, deforestation and desertification; loss of land productivity, soil and water pollution and hazards to human health caused by excessive use of agricultural chemicals; salinization due to inappropriate irrigation; genetic erosion and increased vulnerability of crops to diseases and pests due in part to the use of high-yielding varieties. The Fifteenth Governing Council of UNEP expressing its desire to contribute to the achievement of food security without resource depletion or environmental degradation through the internalization of environmental considerations in sectoral policies and programmes, as a response to a General Assembly resolution, adopted resolution 15/24. It asked that a joint Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and United Nations Environment Programme meeting on sustainable agriculture be convened within

the framework of the preparations for the proposed 1992 United Nations Conference. In the light of discussions elsewhere delegates will already have a copy of the decision 15/24. The decision asked for four matters. First, the reviewing of the mechanism for integrating agricultural production and environmental policies worldwide. Secondly, it should elaborate a world strategy for sustainable agriculture to guide agricultural policies at national and international levels in order to ensure that such policies encourage farmers to adopt practices that are ecologically sustainable and that lead, inter alia, to improving the quality of life of rural people. Thirdly, to formulate recommendations for practical action that might be taken by the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other international organizations concerned within the context of their ongoing activities to promote sustainable agriculture.

As requested our Executive Director has already forwarded the decision to the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and a preliminary joint meeting at the technical level has already been held to work out modalities for its effective implementation. I note with some pleasure that you are returning to this matter, and I will report to my Executive Director that this Conference is concerned with these matters and they will need some resolution.

Finally, I should like to mention an important issue, namely, the issue of climate change and global warming. Today, we expect that many countries will be affected by the consequences of global warming. The evidence has already begun. For this reason, our Organization and WMO have established an International Panel on Climate Change on global warming. It is my hope that in the work of this Organization when dealing with sustainable development and possible climate change, the impact of the problem will be taken fully into account and an additional element by which we can ensure that nations that require development have sustained economies. This can be done by taking into account the evidence that is available.

On behalf of my organization, I thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak and give you my warmest felicitations.

**Nemer HAMMAD (Observer for Palestine Liberation Organization) (original language Arabic):**  
Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, Heads of Delegations, on behalf of the delegation of the State of Palestine and on behalf of each delegation participating in this important Conference, it gives me pleasure to associate myself with the preceding speakers in congratulating you, as well as the members of the bureau, on your election to the chairmanship of our Conference and your active steering of the deliberation.

On behalf of the delegation of Palestine, I should like to say that the agriculture sector plays an important and strategic role in the economies of developing countries, namely, in providing food security, contributing to the national economy, providing labour opportunities and providing migration from rural to urban areas. This leads the developing countries of the world to accord priority to the agriculture sector for development plans. Nevertheless, the efforts expended by the developing countries in this field did not achieve the desired results whether it be in food security, the increase of national exports or the improvement of their balance of payments.

Millions of people are still victimized by hunger and malnutrition. There is a more than US\$5 billion deficit in the trade and agricultural balance of payments of the developing countries, apart from billions of dollars in accumulated debts that have led to more stringency within states toward expenditure on agricultural development and food subsidies for the poor.

We are of the view that the absence of concrete progress in agricultural development in the developing countries has to be attributed to the imbalance in the structure of the global economy, the inability to reach agreement in the North-South dialogue, the proliferation of protectionist policies, fluctuations in exchange rates as well as the acute crisis which the industrial states encounter in trying to export to the developing countries, to which is added the volume of debts which put in a strait-jacket the aspirations of the Third World, their development plans and programmes. We believe that the serious action to repair the imbalance in the global economy, and the establishment of the new international economic order that goes side by side with sophisticated technology, detente and cooperation, should be coupled with the laying of the foundations of a just peace in order to create the essential climate for economic development and to provide the required resources.

Therefore, it is axiomatic that foreign domination should be eliminated as a sine qua non for this development. Could we achieve socio-economic development for the peoples who are under the yoke of racial occupation as are our brothers in Southern Africa, and the people who are under the Israeli occupation of Palestine unless the right of these peoples to self-determination and independence is acknowledged? The Israeli occupation authorities have followed unprecedented policies and stifled all forms of freedoms, in addition to imprisonment, detention and harassment by practising all forms of ethnic and religious discrimination against the Palestinian people under occupation. They have followed unprecedented actions relating to the confiscation of land, people's settlements and reservoirs. The cumulative effect of such arbitrary measures has created a perilous situation for the Palestinian people and led to the popular intifada against oppression, calling for freedom to pursue a self-reliant policy of building the domestic economy.

The Zionist occupation authorities have confiscated more than 50 percent of the total lands of the occupied lands since 1967, and have earmarked it for colonialist settlement. Those authorities have dominated the water resources in the occupied lands, including the surface wells, and limited their use. They banned new ones which would meet the requirements of Arab agriculture. At the same time, they are digging new wells in their settlements in a way which will produce a grave imbalance in underground waters and increase the salinity of the Arab wells, especially in the Gaza Strip.

In the area of rural institutions necessary for agricultural development which were there before the occupation such as those working in credit, extension and research, cooperation and marketing, the occupation authorities either closed down or marginalized the services and activities they extend to farmers. As regards the infrastructure in the Palestinian countryside such as water, electricity, rural roads, utilities, housing services, health and educational services, not more than 50 percent of these services are available in Palestinian villages.

We have to consider the brutal Israeli practice in their campaign of collecting taxes from citizens, represented by the besieging of Bit Sahaur. They also confiscated property and the houses of citizens. States collect taxes, the money to be spent on public services and so on, but in the case of Israel, the occupation authorities collect taxes to build jails and to finance their occupation and oppression of the people.

We would mention here that since the Palestinian intifada, the occupation authorities have escalated measures to punish the inhabitants for their rejection of injustice and oppression, for their wish to rise to freedom and to independence, by military and economic blockade, by burning crops and limiting agricultural facilities.

The Israeli policies and practices over 22 years of occupation have had grave repercussions on the performance of the Palestinian agricultural sector. The share of agriculture in GNP declined from 37 percent to 18 percent. The number of agricultural workers decreased to a mere half and the rate for the work force has decreased from 40 percent to 24 percent. These agricultural workers did not go to the industrial sector, as is known, because the latter did not develop. They were forced to move in conformity with Israeli plans either to migrate abroad or to work in the Israeli economic sectors, with unfair working conditions and poor payment. The deterioration of the agricultural sector is manifest in its inability to meet the basic food requirements of the population. It was self-reliant and self-sufficient before the occupation. It has led to an increase in imports, especially from Israel. The markets in the occupied lands have become the second biggest market for Israeli goods in the world after the United States of America.

The weak performance of the rural areas and the poor living conditions is indicative of one of the biggest problems faced by the occupied Palestinian lands, because development in the long term will not be achieved. We are of the view that the solving of these difficult and intricate problems will not materialize unless the occupation is ended. The Palestinian people should be enabled to practise their legitimate rights of repatriation, self-determination, and the right to establish their own independent state. During this transitional period the Palestinian people require assistance to alleviate their suffering, to explore the best way of finding solutions in order to alleviate suffering, and to rectify the situation in the agricultural sector. Other socio-economic sectors in general should take into account the prevailing circumstances resulting from the Israeli occupation and its practices. Facing the practices and policies of the Israeli occupation requires a concerted international effort to join the Palestinian peace initiative launched on 15 November 1988 in Algiers. This was supported by the struggle of our people within and without the occupied territories under the leadership of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the people.

For the international community to achieve peace, it has to reveal the Israeli practices which hamper the socio-economic progress of the Palestinian people, and their right to self-determination.

Allow me to register from this rostrum our deep appreciation of the increased awareness within the United Nations system of the plight of the Palestinian people who are suffering under the yoke of occupation. We also register our deep appreciation of the sincere efforts deployed on behalf of our people. In particular, I would like to thank UNDP, UNCDAT, UNIDO, WHO, ILO, Unesco, UNRWA, and others, and express our thanks and gratitude to the

EEC for their important decision in giving priority to Palestinian products and the recognition of the Palestinian certificate of origin. We also thank them for their financial support through the setting up of productive projects. I would also like to extend our thanks to every State and every humanitarian organization which gave support to our people in the social and production domains. FAO, which has a brilliant record in solving the problems of food, hunger, desertification and agricultural growth in the Third World countries, in cooperation with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, has played fully and effectively its part in carrying out studies, tabling proposals and giving their full support to the vital agricultural projects needed by our people. This will be very beneficial in meeting the currently exceptional circumstances of our people and for the improvement of the infrastructure and of our living standards.

The glorious Palestinian Intifada is accelerating its efforts to achieve its goal of liberating our people from oppression and establishing our independent status. The tally of human and material losses will continue until we have reached these goals of freedom, independence and a just peace in our land. Through this, we have full trust in all of you, and we thank you.

**Idris NOUR (Observer for 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 Dr Salim Ahmed Salim, 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 some of 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 fight against hunger in the world.

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, I am particularly gratified to recognize the presence of the delegations of the African Liberation Movements, and that of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, to this Conference. Their presence is significant for the struggling peoples of Africa and Palestine as a whole, but also to the liberation movements themselves. The struggle against colonial domination, exploitation and apartheid is fast approaching the finishing line.

The OAU commends those countries, peoples, associations, bodies and organizations which continued their support for Africa in combatting epidemic diseases, drought, famine and other disasters that have been hitting our continent very hard. We do hope that future avenues will be found to help in the implementation of the economic recovery programme of Africa.

This is the last FAO General Conference to be held in the decade of the 1980s, a decade that could be considered as one of catastrophes, of poor performance in African economy, and one that did not guarantee the minimum well-being of the fast-growing population in Africa.

Agriculture, food, nutrition and health are indeed some of the topics that particularly interest us for they are integrated and are probably the prime prerequisites in the search for development for ourselves and our children. One is, however, compelled to acknowledge that in our present Africa, where social wealth is still measured in terms of the number of children of a family or a community, over 4 million African children each year suffer from preventable diseases such as diarrhoea, measles, tuberculosis and others. Children and women make the backbone of our development programmes. Each year other millions of children are victims of the world economic crisis, their continent's external indebtedness, the terms of exchange imbalance, the fall in price of African raw materials, the high price of manufactured goods, currency fluctuations, the attendant famine and malnutrition on the one hand and, particularly on the other from neglect and politico-economic errors that adversely affected the structure of the rural world resulting in the fall in food production. All this happened so swiftly that in many African countries the rural world became completely marginalized and did not receive the necessary protection and resources it needed. That was followed by rural migration, the frightening spectre of the abandoned villages, the fields lying idle and without cultivation. The results of this situation are undesirable.

Food and agriculture in Africa have been subjects of pronounced instability of supplies, demand and prices. Grain imports for human consumption in 1986 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 a foreign exchange burden, is beyond the means of many countries.

Per capita food production has fallen by 5 percent in the 1980s; cash crop production has also fallen. At the same time there has been no compensating rise in non-agricultural output to finance food imports.

The causes of the food and agriculture crisis have been identified as internal, external, natural, man-made, economic, political and institutional. While many studies have been carried out on the crisis, action to resolve it has been rather minimal. After all, when we talk of the African crisis, we are actually talking about a combination of crises that have been interacting and include food crisis, debt crisis, poverty crisis and the environmental crisis. It is by looking at all these problems together that we can centralize our crisis and accordingly be in a position to treat it.

It is worth repeating that African Governments have expressed their intention to take measures for the economic development of their continent. This is expressed in the Lagos Plan of Action and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery. Nevertheless, Africa does not lack resources.

Although initiatives on increasing agricultural production were undertaken by FAO, practicability of programmes and areas of priority remain some of the challenges facing the FAO.

You will also understand that a meeting of Ministers of Agriculture cannot afford not to examine current environmental problems at the time when these issues have become topical and preoccupy the attention of the entire international community. It does not pay to increase the productivity of the land on one hand and to allow desertification to expand on the other. Resolutions on environmental problems such as dumping of toxic wastes require your cooperation to ensure their full and comprehensive implementation.

The General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity has a number of projects that deal with some aspects of food and agriculture. One of its projects is the identification and assessment of underexploited food plants for increasing household food security. The other projects include development of aquaculture at household level and a workshop on what went wrong with African agriculture.

On behalf of the OAU I would like to offer FAO and other interested organizations an open invitation to join us in the implementation of these projects. The main objectives of the projects are to increase food supply, eradicate hunger and malnutrition, and ensure household food security.

Hunger in the world has become the order of the day. It is estimated that there are 800 million people who are under the threat of hunger. Hunger has many causes including natural, man-made, economic, social and political. The hunger problem does not coincide with the amount of food available. There is in fact a 10 percent excess of food available in the world, given the nutritional requirements of the entire population. It is, therefore, a question of food distribution and imbalances created by international trade and not of shortages. Considerable human effort, technology, financial resources and, above all, political will are required to eliminate hunger in the world and to sustain human dignity. Without changes of policies and commitment by all concerned hunger will not be reduced. Access to adequate food should be proclaimed by the international community as a basic human right.

The challenge we face today calls first and foremost for the mobilization of our peoples who have not been involved in the making of decisions concerning their destiny for a long time, and we now know the results of such an approach.

We are in a race at the end of which we are sure to score marks and bring joy to the suffering masses of our peoples. I wish your deliberations full success.

**A.T.M. Shamsul HAQUE (Observer for the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific):** It is my privilege to convey to you the greetings and good wishes of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, commonly known as CIRDAP, for the success of this Conference. I am thankful to the Director-General of FAO, Mr Edouard Saouma, for inviting me to attend this Conference as observer. My thanks are due to the distinguished delegates of Bangladesh, Viet Nam and other countries for their references in their statements to this Conference to the role of CIRDAP in rural development in the Asia-Pacific region.

CIRDAP was set up in July 1979 as a regional, intergovernmental and autonomous organization 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 11 member countries of CIRDAP - five from south Asia, namely Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and six from south-east Asia, namely Indonesia, Laos P.D.R., Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

A number of other countries of the Asia-Pacific region, such as the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Cambodia, and Pacific island nations, such as Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa and Tonga, 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 (IRD). The principal objective of CIRDAP is to help alleviate rural poverty through people's participation in the development process. 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 World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, promotes exchange of experience and know-how in agrarian reform and rural development among the member countries in line with the Programme of Action developed by WCARRD.

The programme of work of the Centre is based on four areas of concern determined by the CIRDAP Governing Council at the level of the ministers in charge of contact ministries in the member countries. These are: agrarian development, institutional and infrastructural development, resource, including human resource development, and employment.

The research projects of CIRDAP deal with key issues of rural development in general, and of integrated rural development in particular. Some of the research studies carried out in recent years cover areas such as rural women in development, small-scale farming, non-farm employment, cooperatives, decentralization, agrarian reform, landlessness, impact of technology on the rural poor and integrated farming systems.

More and more emphasis is now being given on action-oriented programmes. CIRDAP action research projects are intended to combine theory with practice in the formulation of innovative experimental projects in rural development for improvement of the conditions of the poor and disadvantaged groups. These projects relate to rural women in fishing communities, community participation in IRD through community information and planning system (CIPS), integrated national action for rural children, social forestry in IRD, and basic needs and ecology.

CIRDAP organizes regional, subregional and in-country training programmes, seminars and workshops on different aspects of rural development, mainly in collaboration with the national IRD centres. Beginning from 1986, CIRDAP has been offering regular training courses on Training Methodology, Preparation and Analysis of Rural Development Projects, Monitoring and Evaluation Methods and Techniques in Rural Development.



The documentation and information activities of CIRDAP are geared to developing and maintaining a base of documentation and information on IRD activities to facilitate improved planning and management of IRD projects. CIRDAP has recently initiated video documentation of success stories on rural development. The Centre completed a project on "State of the Art Report on IRD" in 1987, which has been updated this year as a part of the tenth anniversary programme of CIRDAP.

FAO and the Government of Japan have been supporting CIRDAP from its inception. The Centre is having collaborative programmes, amongst others, with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Government of the Netherlands.

The next meeting of the CIRDAP Governing Council due to be held in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 7-8 December 1989, is going to be attended by a number of Ministers from the member countries.

In conclusion, let me draw your attention to the message sent by Mr Edouard Saouma on the occasion of the CIRDAP 10th Anniversary in July this year. The Director-General stated: "I am confident that with the assistance of CIRDAP, and through the sharing of experiences and the distilling of lessons learnt from past successes and failures, countries in the region will be much closer to realizing their national objectives".

Mr Saouma reiterated FAO's commitment to work with CIRDAP as to assist member countries in their efforts to ameliorate rural conditions and improve the lives of the rural people.

I sincerely hope that with increasing support of the CIRDAP member countries, FAO, and donor countries and agencies, CIRDAP would be able to further intensify its efforts to help alleviate rural poverty and thereby improve the quality of life of the teeming millions in the countries of the Asia-Pacific Region.

**Mrs Maria Teresa GUICCIARDI (Observer for International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) (International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers):** The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and its associate, the International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers (IFPAAW), - representing 88 and 6 million members respectively worldwide - have a long history of involvement and building up policies and activities aimed at increasing security of food supply and promoting agricultural development. Most recently, at the end of October, we organized a major conference on the African Development Challenge in Nairobi, which was preceded by a seminar on Trade Union Responses to the African Economic Crisis. We are happy about the active participation by the FAO, through its representative, since it is true that rural development is a most important target for the developing countries in general, but in particular for the African nations. It is tempting to report in detail on the economic policy conclusions of the international free trade union movement with regard to the food and agriculture situation. However, abiding by the time constraints I should like to emphasize the following.

One common feature of our overall policies for development, employment and an end to poverty is the need to put the people first in development priorities. Development requires participation and dialogue if it is to work. The truth of this has been made clear by the difficulties that have resulted from the imposition of structural adjustment programmes which have not included measures to protect vulnerable groups during adjustment. Much suffering and political and social unrest can be avoided if there is prior discussion with representative organizations of workers on measures to protect the basic needs of the poor.

People's participation has been recognized by the FAO as an important aspect to be integrated into all development programmes; it is indeed fundamental with regard to the work of the FAO for the implementation of the programme of action of the WCARRD - World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

It must also be recalled that the WCARRD stated that if participation is to be active and effective it needed voluntary, autonomous and democratic organizations genuinely representing rural people's interests and involving primary producers and rural workers, such as farmers' associations, cooperatives and rural workers' organizations. The basic position of ICFTU and IFPAAW is that there can be no meaningful participation of people either in agricultural or rural development unless the trade unions are recognized as full social partners and are allowed to take their proper place in the various decision-making processes. The best promotion and protection is provided by the standards set by the ILO, in particular Convention No. 141 concerning organizations of rural workers and their role in economic and social development, together with Conventions No. 11 on the right of association and protection in agriculture, No. 87 on freedom of association and protection of the right to organize and collective bargaining. Up to now only 26 countries have ratified Convention No. 141, out of which very few are from the developing world. This clearly reflects a lack of political will on the part of many of the world's governments.

Despite 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 and providing opportunities for dialogue and agricultural cooperation.

There are many obstacles to the establishment and effective functioning of rural workers' organizations. A number of these obstacles are of a social and economic nature, such as high unemployment and extreme poverty in rural areas, land scarcity and archaic land tenure systems, the drift to urban areas, the use of migrant labour, the increase of non-permanent employment, the excessive instability and mobility of seasonal labour, widespread illiteracy and the geographical isolation of agricultural undertakings. These factors alone make it already extremely difficult for rural workers to organize themselves in strong organizations and to exercise their basic trade union rights.

In addition to these, there are also important legal and administrative obstacles in a number of countries, while repressive measures by authorities and employers, including the use of violence against rural trade union leaders and members, have further worsened the problem of rural workers to organize themselves.

We are of the opinion that the FAO could and should be of assistance in promoting the ratification of ILO Convention No. 141 and in providing opportunities for dialogue in agricultural cooperation.

The Committee on Agriculture and the Council of the FAO discussed this year the concept of People's Participation in Agricultural and Rural Development and proposed that a Plan of Action be prepared for consideration by the Council and the Conference "in due course". We firmly hope that a concrete time-table and financing is under way. We also strongly support that people's participation through their representative organizations - I add: and the role of trade unions - should be a major focus in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action and will thus become the major theme of the next Progress Report on WCARRD to be submitted to the FAO Conference in 1991.

The free trade union movement has been investing much effort in the organizing of women workers. Particular attention must be given to women in the rural sector as the major part of these workers are indeed 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. An important element in rural development policies must be support services specifically targeted for women, aimed at improving the productivity and remunerative value of women's work in agriculture, which at the same time would further integrate women in development and strengthen their participative capacities.

We therefore welcome the inclusion in the Conference agenda of the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development; we support the Plan's two-pronged approach of including both women-specific projects and the integration of women into mainstream projects. We agree with the identification of the four areas for action - the civil status, economic, social and decision-making spheres and with the three major tasks: data-collecting, training and public information and integration and participation of women in agricultural projects. In carrying out the strategies and actions we urge FAO to involve the trade unions and women trade unionists within them and to make use of their experience - at all levels: local, national, regional and international.

As trade unions we know that women are ready and eager for a full role and full recognition in the economy, for the achievement of more equal societies with decent standards of living and health and opportunities for education and justly remunerated work. The FAO Plan of Action for the integration of Women in Development has therefore all going for it to succeed.

Another item on the Conference agenda concerns directly the interests of the working people; the introduction of the "Prior Informed Consent" clause into the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. The ICFTU and IFPAAW have been urging governments for ratification of the Code, and we have been urgently supporting the introduction of the PIC scheme. Weaknesses in the regulatory systems of many countries mean that it is both unfair and unrealistic to expect importing countries to assume major responsibility for controlling international trade in hazardous pesticides. We also believe that the minimum basis for the PIC clause should be to include those pesticides which have been classified by the World Health Organization as most toxic under its Class 1 list. In addition, a pesticide which has been banned or restricted in any one country should be included in the PIC scheme.

We sincerely hope that this can be achieved.

**Lino VISANI (Observateur de l'Alliance coopérative internationale):** Je vous remercie vivement de m'avoir donné la possibilité de prendre la parole pour l'Alliance internationale des coopératives. J'ai l'honneur de participer à la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence de la FAO en qualité de représentant des mouvements coopératifs de soixante-dix pays membres de l'ACI qui comptent plus de 600 millions d'associés. Une grande partie de ceux-ci opèrent dans le tiers monde.

Notre dernier congrès, qui s'est tenu l'année passée à Stockholm avec la participation du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, a consacré une partie fondamentale de ses travaux à l'engagement prioritaire de toutes les organisations coopératives du monde pour développer le mouvement coopératif dans le tiers monde. Cela est en effet une condition essentielle pour contribuer à la création de rapports de coopération mondiale et pour surmonter les disparités profondes existant entre le nord et le sud du monde, entre développement et environnement. A cette occasion, on a fait un riche bilan d'une longue période d'activité mais on a aussi renouvelé les engagements pris en vue de soutenir et d'aider la croissance d'un mouvement coopératif libre, indépendant et démocratique, en tenant compte des conditions extrêmement difficiles du sud du monde où se trouve la plupart de la population mondiale composée, en grande partie, de paysans.

Les directives et les objectifs fondamentaux indiqués au cours de cette Conférence sont donc extrêmement importants pour nous en vue de réaliser une stratégie à long terme pour le secteur agricole et alimentaire, tel qu'il se présente actuellement et où la FAO joue son rôle de tout premier rang.

Le développement durable, l'environnement, la coopération mondiale, le désarmement sont donc nos objectifs principaux dans lesquels on pourra trouver une solution pour le problème des déséquilibres les plus marqués entre nord et sud du monde, comme, par exemple, celui du poids insupportable de l'endettement et du développement de la démocratie, c'est-à-dire de la participation démocratique, à égalité de droits.

On voit dans le monde entier des signaux positifs dans cette direction et qui sont en évolution très rapide.

Dans ce cadre, nous souhaitons que les difficultés où la FAO opère actuellement puissent être surmontées grâce à l'esprit de compréhension et de collaboration, mais aussi grâce au renouvellement des initiatives de la part de la FAO.

Il faut examiner à ce propos le budget 1990-91 et surtout la partie concernant le mouvement coopératif, c'est-à-dire de la participation rurale. Nous attachons, par exemple, beaucoup d'importance à la réalisation d'un plan pour l'intégration de la femme dans le développement agricole et l'Alliance de coopération internationale donnera tout son appui à ce projet.

Par contre, le problème fondamental de la participation populaire est traité, à notre avis, de manière insuffisante, car s'il est vrai qu'il n'y a pas de développement agricole et alimentaire durable sans participation populaire, il est évident que cela comporte le développement d'organisations

populaires libres, démocratiques et, surtout, coopératives puisque les coopératives représentent la forme d'association la plus répandue dans le tiers monde et qui permet aux travailleurs des campagnes, en particulier aux plus déshérités, de participer du développement agricole durable.

On avait déjà affirmé ce principe pendant la dernière réunion du COAG et la vingt-quatrième session du Conseil avait approuvé les directives décidées sur le document présenté par la FAO sur l'organisation d'un plan d'action dans ce domaine et sur la nécessité de faire de ce sujet la direction principale pour développer la politique de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Mais on ne fait allusion à tout cela ni dans le budget 1990-91 ni dans les derniers documents de la FAO; il y a seulement quelques observations intéressantes du Directeur général à propos de la révision des rapports administratifs avec les organisations non gouvernementales et la FAO.

Plusieurs délégations des gouvernements affirment la nécessité d'élargir les rapports entre la FAO et les organisations non gouvernementales en vue de réaliser des rapports de collaboration plus étroits et plus productifs et ces délégations mêmes déclarent leur disponibilité à participer avec des fonds extrabudgétaires.

Actuellement, une stratégie mondiale pour le développement durable agricole et alimentaire est nécessaire et nous croyons donc qu'il faut réaliser des rapports plus étroits et plus efficaces avec les organisations internationales non gouvernementales dans leurs fonctions spécifiques et en relation avec l'ensemble des expériences qu'elles représentent dans le secteur des associations rurales, tout cela afin de réaliser aussi des rapports plus efficaces avec les ONG locales et régionales: l'Alliance de coopération internationale veut affirmer ici sa totale disponibilité de collaboration à ce propos.

Nous souhaitons que le prochain Conseil de la FAO puisse se trouver dans la condition d'examiner et d'approuver un plan d'action pour le développement des organisations rurales et, pour l'instant, nous souhaitons qu'on puisse réaliser les propositions présentées par la FAO au COAG, avec aussi le renforcement de la division qui s'occupe, à l'intérieur de la FAO, de l'activité des organisations rurales.

**Glenn FLATEN (Observer for International Federation of Agriculture Producers):** It is indeed an honour for me as President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, to address this Plenary Session of the FAO Conference.

Over the last four years of my presidency, I have travelled widely, visiting farmers in their villages and farms in almost all our member countries. This experience, which I am privileged to have had, leads me to make three important observations:

The first of these is that there can be no permanent solution to the world food crisis without economic justice for the farmer. Countries which have abundant food supplies have in nearly every case created an environment in which the farmer's entrepreneurial spirit can flourish. This does not mean heavy government intervention. It simply means that farm inputs must be available at the right time and at prices which farmers can afford, that there is a fair price policy for producers, for what they sell and that there is an effective marketing system.

My second observation is that national agricultural policies have to be adapted to the specific circumstances of individual countries. It is just not realistic to try to work out a blueprint in Washington or Geneva for a national agricultural policy that can be a recipe for success worldwide. There are different historical, cultural, geographic and climatic factors that need to be respected. National governments, working with national farmers' organizations, must find the appropriate farm policy mix to encourage local agricultural development.

My third observation is that in spite of efforts at the national level, solutions to many of the most serious constraints facing agriculture can only be found through cooperation at the world level.

Such constraints include:

- low and unstable prices for primary commodities. I am thinking in particular at the moment of the present desperate situation facing coffee and cocoa producers;
- inadequate financing of agriculture in the developing countries which needs greater assistance from the industrialized countries;
- measures to reduce the heavy debt burden of developing countries;
- measures to create a fairer and more stable multilateral trading system, not forgetting the silent majority of developing country members of GATT.

I know that these three observations are probably familiar to FAO. They correspond to FAO's long-term goals and strategies for agriculture, which are supported by IFAP.

IFAP also supports FAO's work programme priorities for 1990-91.

I am sure you agree, Mr Chairman, that the key to the success of these programmes is obtaining the cooperation of the people involved - the farmers - and earning their confidence.

The most effective channel of communication from the farmer to the government is through representative and independent farmers' organizations. The form of organization can vary by country. We have in the membership of IFAP farmers' unions, farmers' cooperative federations and chambers of agriculture. They are responsible organizations which are a valuable partner to government in the development of the rural economy. Government cannot work individually with every farm family in the country. It therefore needs to work with representative organizations in which farmers are grouped.

This was one of the important messages that came out of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development over a decade ago. More recently, it has gained broader support, for example in the World Bank and UNDP. IFAP has for over ten years been running programmes to promote and strengthen farmers' organizations in developing countries. This involves small-scale projects at the national level, as well as regional and worldwide workshops. FAO has contributed significantly to this work. FAO has shown increased concern this year for people's participation and the role of non-governmental organizations.

IFAP has taken an active part in discussion of the item on Peoples' Participation in Agricultural and Rural Development at the Tenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture. The subsequent decision of the Council to prepare a Plan of Action on Peoples' Participation is a source of satisfaction for IFAP.

Growing concern for farmers, especially the needs and aspirations of low-income farmers at both policy level and in field operations, was evident during the World Food Day celebrations in Rome, and is also Prominent in the Plan of Action on the Integration of Women in Agricultural and Rural Development, which is an innovative and indeed sensible undertaking for which IFAP has already indicated substantial areas for possible consideration.

There is also more explicit consideration of NGO involvement in projects at their identification and design stage, and encouragement for a closer relationship between the FAO country representatives and NGOs. This could lead to effective involvement of the appropriate NGOs in project preparation and implementation.

This recognition of the increasing importance of non-governmental organizations is much appreciated. IFAP welcomes the recommendation for a review in 1990 of the present administrative and financial procedures guiding FAO cooperation with NGOs in order to strengthen that cooperation. IFAP urges in the review due consideration be given to the vital role of genuine representative and economic farmers' organizations and to their international body, IFAP should be identified, where appropriate, as the organization entirely financed and controlled by farmers' organizations. Wherever possible, it should be specified which type of organization is being dealt with, instead of simply referring to NGOs.

People's participation is neither an easy nor a short-term task. We hope that the Plan of Action will serve both to clarify the very nature of the concept of people's participation, with its essential organizations, as well as to boost the implementation of the part of the WCARRD Programme of Action related to this matter.

Unfortunately, the Plan of Action on People's Participation is not explicitly identified in the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. We know that the preparatory process has already been initiated, and we are confident that FAO will soon fulfil its undertaking in this regard. IFAP stands ready to continue cooperation with FAO and contribute its considerable experience in this area to the preparation of the Plan.

While people's participation is perhaps the major concern of our Federation, I would like to briefly address two other aspects of the work programme for the next biennium.

Firstly, sustainable development and farming systems will be a priority for both IFAP and FAO in 1990. At our next World Farmers' Congress, to be held in Trondheim, Norway, in June 1990, we are honoured to have the Chairman of the UN Committee on the Environment, Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, give a keynote address on Agriculture and the Environment. From this discussion, we hope we can contribute to FAO in its preparation for the proposed 1992 UN Conference on the Environment.

My other concern is with preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade and the Special Session of the General Assembly that will discuss this matter. IFAP supports the lead role of FAO in the food and agricultural sector and fully shares the view that this sector has a "vital role to play in revitalizing economic growth and in achieving the objectives in the areas of nutrition, poverty alleviation, human development and the environment". We value highly the preliminary work being done in preparing the study on the Long-Term Strategy for the Food and Agriculture Sector. We share the view expressed in paragraph 73 of the document that: "What must be emphasized in the Strategy is the need for promoting an enhanced role for the private sector, including cooperatives...". IFAP looks forward to the final Strategy including an explicit mention, and clear indication, of the important role played by farmers' organizations, be it in policy-making (price fixation, identification of research priorities), providing services (marketing agricultural products, input supplies, credit facilities, access to extension and training), or in acting as a link between primary producers and national authorities. This would be in accordance with the WCARRD Principles, the FAO Conference Resolution 7/79 and the Recommendation of COAG's tenth session, which should be included among the FAO-sponsored actions on which the full Strategy will be based.

I would like, before closing, to express our appreciation for the good working relationship enjoyed with FAO, for the expertise FAO staff bring to many of our meetings, for the valuable yearly consultation we have with the Commodity and Trade Division, for the support for the development work of the Federation, and for good cooperation with our permanent representative in Rome, Mrs Pela. We wish every success to the Director-General and his staff for the coming biennium.

Let us work together to make the coming harvests plentiful, so that millions more of our people can look forward to a life without hunger.

**Ms Z. INDRUCHOVA (Observer for World Federation of Trade Unions):** As you all know, this session of the FAO Conference takes place in the year of the tenth anniversary of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD). The occasion provides us all with the possibility to reflect on efforts and collective action to promote the implementation of WCARRD conclusions and recommendations.

The Director-General, in his opening statement, has made an earnest effort to analyse the current world food and agriculture situation. It is true that there are numerous challenges facing it and it is also true that the ten years since WCARRD, designated as the Third United Nations Development Decade, are already considered as a "lost decade" which witnessed, in most developing countries, a severe setback in the quest for the elimination of hunger and poverty.

Numerous changes have taken place in the world since 1979. The tremendous advances in science and technology and the growth of productive forces offer great prospects to accelerate social progress.

However, as we enter the 1990s, we face an accumulation of unresolved economic and social problems while the human civilization itself continues under the threat of a nuclear holocaust and ecological disaster.



Ten years after WCARRD, we can see that the specific problems of the millions of agricultural workers and peasants, and other sections of the population in rural areas in the developing countries, have not been properly addressed. Although development strategies have continuously stressed the need for agrarian reform and restructuring of the rural economy, most governments have failed to implement such reforms. Vast sectors of the population thus remain unemployed or underemployed, in many cases illiterate and denied access to modern civilization. The rural workers' movements for appropriate changes in agricultural policies continue to meet with persecution, violence and loss of lives as many events during the past decade demonstrated.

The peasants and rural workers in many countries are still subjected to triple exploitation: by the local landlords and money-lenders; by the representatives of urban capital in alliance with the rural rich, and by the agri-business TNCs and foreign capital. The situation calls for urgent effective measures, at all levels, to fight against this triple exploitation.

We are firmly convinced that it is possible and necessary, through genuine implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action, to lift these vast sections of the rural labour force from a state of technical, economic and social backwardness and enable them to gain access to education and training oriented to the beneficial use of appropriate new technology.

The World Federation of Trade Unions considers that there are alternative policies for real recovery and for full employment if the outflow of resources from the developing countries, engineered by policies of profiteering and speculation, is eliminated. The IMF, through its structural adjustment policies imposed on developing countries, has also its share for turning the 1980s into a "lost decade". We have repeatedly warned on the social costs of the structural adjustment measures imposed in an arbitrary and one-sided manner in many countries and heavily tilted against the working people, who are made to pay through loss of jobs, lower real wages and living standards, loss of social benefits and labour protection.

That is why the defence and further expansion of trade union rights should be seen as a constituent part of the measures to promote social development, giving the working people the right to participate in economic development.

The trade unions have always stated from this rostrum that there is no real shortage of resources for economic and social development and for a stable recovery from the present crisis.

The INF treaty stipulates the elimination of a whole class of nuclear armaments and negotiations are going on for further reductions. It is therefore time to seriously implement policies of "disarmament for development". We believe that positive results can come only by involving the working people and trade unions in this process.

Opinion is now widely shared that the present huge dimensions of the ecological crisis would have been foreseen and avoided if policies were oriented to long-term people's interests and not the immediate short-term profits for the monopolies.

Questions of protecting the environment have come to the fore in the recent period, and greater international cooperation must be promoted to this field. In this sense, the WFTU is ready to actively support, through its Commission on Environment, all relevant FAO action.

It is being generally recognized that the active involvement of the working people and their organizations in the formulation of economic and social policy as well as in monitoring its implementation has a particular importance.

Thus, the role of trade unions in the economy and society is assuming a new role in the present situation in all countries and all social systems. There is also wide recognition of the need for international action to deal with the specific problems of global economic relations, of foreign debt and sustainable development.

The WFTU wishes to remind here that the principle of people's participation has been strongly embodied in all WCARRD documents as a basic prerequisite for the success of rural development policies.

We are, therefore, very disappointed that we cannot see people's participation figuring among the nine FAO priorities as they are defined in the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

In this connection, we wish to draw the attention of the Conference to the recommendations of this year's COAG session which largely discussed "People's Participation in Agricultural and Rural Development".

On the other hand, the WFTU welcomed the adoption of FAO Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development. We believe that the necessary basis for a fruitful cooperation in this field has been laid down at the 5th World Trade Union Conference on problems of Working Women, organized by the WFTU in September this year in Sofia. The contribution of the FAO representative to the Conference deliberations was highly appreciated by all participants.

Finally, may we recall the WFTU's firm belief that the solution of all the economic, social and ecological problems in our interdependent world requires cooperation, democracy and workers' participation, and active international solidarity.

It is in this spirit that the 42nd session of the WFTU General Council (which met last week) has decided to convene the 12th World Trade Union Congress in November 1990 in Moscow, as an open forum for dialogue, solidarity and justice, to which the FAO is cordially invited as an important UN agency which can play a unique role in the development and democratization of international relations, in order to guarantee that the enormous achievements in science and technology be turned in a decisive manner to serve man, his dignity and prosperity, in a world of peace and security.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias a la distinguida representante de la Federación Sindical Mundial.

No hay más oradores disponibles.

Distinguidos colegas y amigos, hemos llegado así al término del debate general durante el cual han desfilado por esa tribuna 133 autorizados representantes de Gobiernos y 14 Observadores de Organizaciones; en total, 147 oradores.

Antes de dejar Roma, nuestro Presidente, el Honorable J.C. Kerin, de Australia, hizo ya un interesante y adecuado resumen del debate general celebrado hasta el pasado viernes. Hoy han hecho uso de la palabra distinguidos representantes de otros Estados Miembros y Observadores de algunas Organizaciones.

Yo trataré de complementar muy breve y específicamente el excelente resumen anterior de nuestro Presidente, cuya valiosa labor todos conocemos.

Los últimos oradores insistieron sobre la necesidad de que los agricultores sean beneficiarios de asistencia, de recursos, formación y capacitación para que la agricultura pueda seguir siendo el capital humano, la fuerza motriz insustituible de un verdadero desarrollo rural integrado.

Se insistió en que la FAO debe implementar adecuada y eficazmente el Plan de Acción en favor de la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo rural.

Los oradores destacaron la importancia del sector agrícola en el contexto general del desarrollo, sobre todo en los países del Tercer Mundo, en los cuales el sector agropecuario cumple una función vital en sus economías.

Varios oradores insistieron en la necesidad de que se modifiquen las actuales estructuras del comercio agrícola internacional, a fin de que un comercio libre y justo permita la exportación con precios equitativos de los productos de los países en desarrollo a los importantes mercados de los Estados desarrollados.

Todos los oradores que hoy intervinieron anunciaron el apoyo de sus Gobiernos al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, propuesta hecha por el Director General de la FAO, Organización que todos coinciden en que debe seguir funcionando cada vez mejor y más eficazmente en favor de todos los Estados Miembros, particularmente de aquellos en vías de desarrollo.

Se expresó general apoyo al Director General de la FAO y al eficaz funcionamiento de esta Organización. Se reiteraron cordiales y merecidas felicitaciones a nuestro Presidente, al Honorable Kerin, las cuales ruego a los distinguidos representantes de Australia transmitan al distinguido y eminente Presidente de esta Conferencia.

Esta tarde intervinieron también representantes de siete organizaciones internacionales, cuyas actividades están vinculadas a los objetivos de la FAO. A esos distinguidos representantes queremos decir que para nosotros es importante que esas Organizaciones concedan importancia a la función de la FAO, al hacerse presente en esta Conferencia, interviniendo en el debate general.

Al despedirse de esta Conferencia, nuestro Presidente hizo una importante declaración, de la cual extraemos un punto fundamental: el diálogo, el consenso, la flexibilidad, la cordialidad y el entendimiento deben seguir siendo parámetros inmodificables, dentro de los cuales deberá seguir trabajando esta Conferencia.

Pienso que todos apoyamos esa exhortación constructiva de nuestro Presidente Kerin.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, levantaremos ahora la sesión de esta tarde.

La próxima Sesión Plenaria será, como estaba prevista en el calendario, pasado mañana miércoles a las nueve y media de la mañana, tal como se anunciará en el diario de la Conferencia.

Si nadie quiere intervenir ahora, gracias por su atención y les deseo fructíferos trabajos en las Comisiones.

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 89/PV/15

Twenty-fifth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-cinquième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

25º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
QUINZIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE  
15ª SESION PLENARIA

22 November 1989

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours  
Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quinzième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 heures  
sous la présidence de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-President de la Conférence

Se abre la 15ª Sesión Plenaria a las 10.00 horas  
bajo la presidencia de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

ADOPTION OF REPORT  
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT  
APROBACION DEL INFORME

Adoption of Fourth and Fifth Reports of the General Committee  
Adoption des quatrième et cinquième rapports du Bureau  
Aprobación de los Informes Cuarto y Quinto del Comité General

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Declaro abierta la sesión 15ª de la Conferencia.

Como habrán observado en el diario distribuido para hoy, los temas a considerar son el Cuarto y el Quinto Informe del Comité General.

La Secretaria ha hecho un esfuerzo para distribuir los documentos respectivos y espero que todos ustedes los tengan ya.

El Cuarto Informe está contenido en el documento C 89 LIM/35-Rev 1 y el Quinto Informe del Comité General aparece en el documento LIM/36.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, vamos a iniciar nuestra discusión del Cuarto proyecto de Informe, documento C 89 LIM/35-Rev.1. Se trata de la elección de los miembros del Consejo. El Informe que a este respecto presenta el Comité General es rutinario. Corresponde a lo que se hace cada dos años. Podrán observar que se presenta la situación de aquellos Estados aspirantes a miembros del Consejo en cada región, a la luz de los resultados obtenidos el lunes pasado, a las 12 del día, cuando se cerró el plazo para las inscripciones.

Como lo dice el documento, es muy probable que en algunos casos sea necesario celebrar más de una votación. A partir del párrafo 8ª del documento C 89 LIM/35-Rev 1, el Comité General recomienda la manera en que se deberá proceder a la votación. Esta forma, como se procederá a votar, corresponde a la secuencia más práctica y conveniente, a la luz de la experiencia de la Secretaria y de todos nosotros. Por tanto, espero que este primer punto, Cuarto Informe del Comité General, no ofrezca ninguna dificultad.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, entiendo entonces que la Conferencia acepta y aprueba el Cuarto Informe del Comité General.

Fourth Report was adopted.  
Le quatrième rapport est adopté  
El Cuarto Informe es aprobado.

Podemos pasar ahora al otro punto de nuestra reunión de hoy, el Quinto Informe del Comité General que, repito, está contenido en el documento C 89 LIM/36.

Voy a pedir a nuestro Secretario auxiliar, el Sr. Tedesco, que lea el primer punto del documento C 89 LIM/36, en relación con derechos de voto.

Tiene la palabra el señor Tedesco.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL ADJOINT:**

Droit de vote:

1 - La Conférence a noté que, en vertu du paragraphe 4 de l'article III de l'Acte constitutif, quatorze Etats Membres n'avaient pas le droit de participer aux scrutins de la Conférence au début de la session, car le montant de leurs arriérés était supérieur à la contribution due par eux pour les deux années civiles précédentes. Par la suite, quatre de ces Etats Membres ont régularisé leur situation. Neuf Etats Membres avaient fait savoir qu'ils n'avaient pas pu s'acquitter de leurs obligations pour des raisons indépendantes de leur volonté. Dans ces conditions, la Conférence a décidé de rendre leur droit de vote à neuf Etats Membres (Antigua-et-Barbuda, Burundi, Comores, Guatemala, Guinée équatoriale, République dominicaine, Roumanie, Sao Tomé-et-Principe, Sierra Leone) à la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence. Un Etat Membre (Kampuchea démocratique) ne s'est pas inscrit et n'a pas répondu à la correspondance concernant le règlement de ses arriérés, de sorte que la Conférence n'avait pas de raison de lui rendre son droit de vote. En outre, la Conférence a insisté pour que tous les Etats Membres s'acquittent dès que possible de leurs contributions et de leurs éventuels arriérés.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han oído ustedes la recomendación a esta Conferencia del Comité General sobre los derechos de voto de aquellos Estados que estaban a punto de perder ese derecho.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, entiendo que la Conferencia está de acuerdo en aprobar esta recomendación del Comité General.

Le ruego al señor Tedesco que lea del documento C 89 LIM/36 la parte correspondiente al nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Esta parte contiene un proyecto de resolución que debe ser adoptado por la Conferencia. Les ruego que observen que en el párrafo 3 aparece en blanco el nombre de la persona que va a ocupar el cargo de Presidente del Consejo, nombre que se llenará debidamente después de las elecciones previstas para el próximo martes día 28.

El señor Tedesco tiene la palabra.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL ADJOINT:** Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil:

2 - La Conférence était saisie de deux candidatures aux fonctions de Président indépendant du Conseil.

3 - La Conférence a élu au scrutin secret M. ... aux fonctions de Président indépendant du Conseil pour une période de deux années expirant à la fin de la session ordinaire de 1991 de la Conférence, et a adopté la résolution suivante:

La Conférence,

Ayant procédé à un vote au scrutin secret conformément aux dispositions de l'Article XII du Règlement général de l'Organisation,

1. Déclare que M. ... 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 1991;

2. Décide 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 partie, 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 des Etats-Unis 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.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han oído ustedes el texto del proyecto de resolución, corresponde al mismo texto aprobado por esta Conferencia en 1987. Se refiere esencialmente a las condiciones de nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros de la Conferencia, entiendo que decidimos adoptar este proyecto de resolución. Así queda decidido.

Le ruego al señor Tedesco que lea la última parte del Quinto Informe del Comité General referente al calendario de las Sesiones Plenarias: aprobación del Informe sobre el tema 13º, Programa de Labores y Presupuestos para 1990-91 y objetivos a plazo medio. Esto corresponde a los párrafos 4, 5 y 6 del documento C 89 LIM/36.



El señor Tedesco tiene la palabra.

Fifth Report was adopted.

Le cinquième rapport est adopté.

El Quinto Informe es aprobado.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL ADJOINT:**

4 - Il était prévu que l'adoption en plénière du rapport de la Commission II sur le point 13 (Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 et objectifs à moyen terme) et de la résolution sur l'ouverture de crédits pour 1990-91 ait lieu le mercredi 22 novembre à 11 heures, c'est-à-dire aujourd'hui.

5 - Afin de permettre d'inclure dans la résolution susmentionnée des crédits budgétaires correspondant à d'autres décisions qui pourraient résulter des travaux des Commissions I et II, le Bureau recommande à la Conférence de modifier le calendrier de telle sorte que l'adoption du rapport de la Commission II sur le point 13 (Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 et objectifs à moyen terme) et de la résolution sur l'ouverture de crédits budgétaires pour 1990-91 ait lieu le jeudi 23 novembre à 15 h 30. Dans ce cas, les travaux des Commissions pourraient se poursuivre dans la matinée du mercredi 22 novembre mais seraient suspendus dans l'après-midi du jeudi 23 novembre.

6 - Le Bureau recommande en outre que le Président de la Commission II lance un nouvel appel au consensus sur le point 15 "Conclusions de l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Espero que ustedes hayan seguido con atención la propuesta que hace a la Conferencia el Comité General. Esta propuesta del párrafo 6, a mi juicio, va en la buena dirección de lograr el consenso entre todos los Estados Miembros, consenso hacia el cual nos exhortó con tanto énfasis el Presidente Titular de esta Conferencia, el honorable Kerin, y nosotros esperamos que, si la Conferencia acepta esta recomendación en la tarde de mañana, cuando se vote el Proyecto de Resolución sobre las consignaciones presupuestarias para el bienio 1990-91, podamos lograr el consenso que todos sinceramente deseamos.

**Ian BÜIST (United Kingdom):** My delegation strongly endorses what you have said concerning paragraph 6. However, as far as concerns paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Fifth Report of the General Committee, the United Kingdom believes that for the reason given at the beginning of paragraph 5 it may be necessary for the General Committee to reconsider the timing of the adoption by Plenary of the report of Commission II on item 13, and the resolution of budgetary appropriations 1990-91 and possibly to defer them further. We propose that the General Committee should look again at this point at its next meeting tomorrow.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Como ustedes saben, ha sido tradición de esta Conferencia e inmodificable en todas las reuniones anteriores que la aprobación del Proyecto de Resolución sobre las consignaciones presupuestarias se apruebe a más tardar dentro de la segunda semana de funcionamiento de nuestra Conferencia. Esta costumbre se ha adoptado porque en la segunda semana de la Conferencia las delegaciones cuentan con un número de representantes que hace posible la votación por llamamiento nominal y por dos terceras partes, requisito necesario para la aprobación de este Proyecto de Resolución. Sin embargo la observación del distinguido colega y amigo, el señor Buist, del Reino Unido, tiene sus méritos y naturalmente el Comité General la volverá a considerar. Sin embargo, también conviene que recordemos cuál es la situación actual.

Como ustedes habrán podido observar en el diario de hoy, la Comisión II no tiene reunión esta mañana. Hemos sido informados extraoficialmente, y el señor Buist del Reino Unido lo sabe también, que el Presidente Tchicaya de la Comisión II está ensayando un ejercicio de acercamiento entre las distintas posiciones para lograr el consenso al cual el Reino Unido ahora de nuevo ha adherido. De nuevo se consideró que, por este momento y a estas alturas, lo más conveniente es aceptar este Informe del Comité General, seguir de cerca las actividades del Presidente y de sus amigos y volver a considerar este asunto, pero siempre a la luz del hecho fundamental de que en esta segunda semana debe ser aprobado el Proyecto de Resolución sobre las consignaciones presupuestarias para el bienio próximo.

**Ian BUIST (United Kingdom):** As I understand it, we would not be approving this timetable definitively but, Mr Chairman, as you said at the beginning, the General Committee will look at it again. Of course, we understand the point about taking a decision in this way. There are still another two days before the week elapses, so I think there is sufficient flexibility for us not to find that the other processes we are trying to achieve are somewhat cut short by an inadvertent procedural deficiency which might have some adverse consequences on the prospect for consensus.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Entiendo el alcance positivo y sensato de la nueva intervención del señor Buist, del Reino Unido, y daré traslado de sus observaciones al Comité General en su próxima reunión. Puedo asegurar a los miembros de la Conferencia que, en ausencia del Presidente Titular, el Comité General está cumpliendo debidamente sus funciones de contribuir a que esta Conferencia se celebre de forma ordenada y eficaz. Dentro de esos parámetros, que serán inmodificables para el funcionamiento del Comité General, las observaciones que se han hecho esta mañana serán tenidas en cuenta.

Si no hay ningún otro comentario por parte de los Miembros de la Conferencia y si la Secretaría General no tiene ningún anuncio, sólo me permito recordarles que, tal como aparece en el diario de la Conferencia para hoy, ahora la Comisión I está funcionando, la Comisión II reanudará sus labores esta tarde y la Comisión III tendrá su primera reunión esta tarde, bajo la

Presidencia del señor Pourtalès, de Suiza, en esta misma sala. De manera que les ruego que participen en las Comisiones y que estén de nuevo presentes en la Plenaria cuando ésta sea convocada en el diario de la Conferencia, a la luz de la decisión final que tome el Comité General en cuanto a la recomendación al respecto.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, se levanta la sesión.

The meeting rose at 10.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 10 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 10.15 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 89/PV/16**

Twenty-fifth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-cinquième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

25<sup>a</sup> período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
SEIZIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE  
16<sup>a</sup> SESION PLENARIA  
23 November 1989

The Sixteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours  
Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La seizième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 heures  
sous la présidence de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 16<sup>a</sup> Sesión Plenaria a las 15.00 horas  
bajo la presidencia de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

Tribute to Mr René Moawad, President of Lebanon

Hommage à M. René Moawad, Président du Liban

Homenaje al Señor René Moawad., Presidente del Libano

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Como ha sido ampliamente publicado, ha dejado de existir el señor René Moawad, Presidente de la República del Libano, Estado Miembro de la FAO. Ruego a ustedes que se pongan de pie para guardar un minuto del silencio.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

**Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale Arabe):** Monsieur le Président, la délégation du Liban ne peut qu'exprimer sa reconnaissance et ses remerciements aux distingués délégués représentant leur pays à cette Conférence générale qui ont bien voulu partager avec le Liban la douloureuse épreuve causée par l'assassinat de notre Président de la République: René Moawad, élu depuis 17 jours seulement.

Le feu Président a trouvé la mort après la réception du corps diplomatique venu le féliciter à l'occasion du 46ème anniversaire de l'indépendance du Liban.

Le destin a voulu qu'il tombe martyr, alors qu'il était l'objet de notre espoir. Il était considéré notre sauveur, pour sortir le Liban du calvaire qui a duré plus de 17 ans.

Malheureusement, le destin a écourté sa vie avant même qu'il ne réalise ses espoirs. Cependant le Liban a été chanceux dans la mesure où ce qui reste de la légitimité a été sauvé. En fait, le Premier Ministre ainsi que le Président du Parlement qui accompagnaient le Président dans deux autres voitures en sont sortis sains et saufs. Les mains criminelles responsables de la mort de feu Rachid Karami opèrent encore au Liban en s'attaquant aux esprits nobles de notre pays. Ceci est très regrettable et le moment est venu pour qu'elles disparaissent pour que le Liban soit enfin libéré de leurs actes odieux.

Au nom de la délégation du Liban, j'adresse mes remerciements les plus sincères à tous les délégués, et plus particulièrement au Président, mon ami Monsieur Bula Hoyos, l'Ambassadeur de la Colombie auprès de la FAO, tout en priant le bon Dieu de nous préserver du pire.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Estoy seguro de interpretar el sentimiento de todos los miembros de la Conferencia al pedirle al colega y amigo Abdel Malek, representante del Líbano, que transmita el sentimiento unánime de condolencia y solidaridad de todos los Estados Miembros de la FAO.

En el Informe de la Conferencia incluiremos una referencia in memoriam para registrar este hecho doloroso. La vida sigue su curso.

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

Adoption of Sixth Report of the General Committee

Adoption du Sixième Rapport du Bureau

Aprobación del Sexto Informe del Comité General

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos colegas y amigos, tal como estaba previsto después de la decisión que tomó ayer esta Conferencia, iniciamos nuestra reunión de esta tarde, para la cual, como aparece en el diario, estaba prevista la aprobación del Informe de la Comisión II sobre el tema 13º, incluida la votación del Proyecto de Resolución sobre consignaciones presupuestarias para el bienio 1990-91.

Sin embargo, el Comité General ha seguido con toda atención el propósito unánime de que se logre un consenso particularmente sobre los temas 13 y 15 y por ello el Comité General ha celebrado en el día de hoy dos reuniones en estrecho contacto con los Presidentes de las tres Comisiones.

El Comité General ha apreciado mucho el esfuerzo que vienen haciendo el Embajador Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II y un distinguido grupo de representantes de gobiernos que, como amigos del Presidente, están colaborando con él en busca del consenso.

Como conclusión de estas actividades, en su reunión celebrada al final de esta mañana:

"El Comité General decidió recomendar a este Pleno de la Conferencia que el tema que estaba previsto para esta tarde se aplazase hasta el viernes 24 de noviembre a las diez de la mañana.

El Comité General recomienda a la Conferencia también que éste sea el último aplazamiento de la discusión de este importante tema.

Y que, inexorablemente, la votación sobre el Proyecto de Resolución, que contiene las asignaciones presupuestarias, sea votado mañana por la mañana sin ningún otro aplazamiento."

El Comité General sigue consciente de que es necesario que, dentro de esta segunda semana de la Conferencia, se realice esta votación antes de que algunas delegaciones puedan carecer de personal, circunstancia que les impediría estar presentes en ese acto, que es, sin duda, el más importante de esta Conferencia.

El aplazamiento que recomienda el Comité General está basado una vez más en la búsqueda del consenso, espero así que esta recomendación del Comité General pueda ser aceptada por ustedes como Plenaria de la Conferencia.

Si no hay ningún comentario, entiendo que así queda decidido.

Me he permitido informarles también que:

"El Comité General decidió que los dos Proyectos de Resolución sobre el tema 15 sean sometidos directamente a la Comisión II, sin que pasen por el Comité de Resoluciones, debido a la falta de tiempo."

Se trata del Proyecto de Resolución que el Presidente de la Comisión II y sus amigos están elaborando y de otro Proyecto de Resolución presentado por 22 países, cuyo texto se me ha informado que comenzará a circular dentro de poco.

Por otro lado, para tranquilizarnos todos, me complace informarles también que, al margen de estos hechos que les he presentado en nombre del Comité General, las tres Comisiones de la Conferencia siguen sus trabajos de manera ordenada y eficaz con el propósito común e inmodificable de que esta reunión se cumpla dentro de los términos previstos y con los mejores resultados posibles.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, podríamos levantar ahora esta Sesión Plenaria. Nos reuniremos de nuevo aquí mañana por la mañana como ha recomendado el Comité General. Les invito a que asistan ahora a las reuniones de las Comisiones I y II, que tendrán lugar esta tarde y posiblemente se prolongarán también esta noche por algún tiempo.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, entiendo que el Pleno de la Conferencia acepta las recomendaciones del Comité General.

Les agradezco su asistencia y comprensión.

The meeting rose at 15.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 15 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 15.45 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 89/PV/17**

Twenty-fifth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-cinquième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

25º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
DIX-SEPTIÈME SEANCE PLENIERE  
17ª SESION PLENARIA

24 November 1989

The Seventeenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours  
Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dix-septième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15  
sous la présidence de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos. Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 17ª Sesión Plenaria a las 10.15 horas  
bajo la presidencia de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos. Vicepresidente de la Conferencia



ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 1 (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - PREMIERE PARTIE

(émanant de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 1 (de la Comisión II)

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Buenos días, colegas y amigos. Declaro abierta la 17ª sesión plenaria.

Antes de entrar a considerar los asuntos previstos para esta mañana, quiero comunicarles que en las dos reuniones que celebró ayer el Comité General se expresó mucha inquietud por el hecho de que algunas delegaciones tienen que dejar Roma y podrían así no participar en algunos debates aún pendientes.

A la luz de esa consideración, y teniendo en cuenta que la Comisión III terminó sus trabajos de manera oportuna y eficaz rápidamente, me he permitido conversar esta mañana con el señor Pourtalés, de Suiza, Presidente de la Comisión III, sobre la posibilidad de que esa Comisión concluya hoy mismo sus trabajos.

Hemos llegado a la decisión de pedir al Comité de Redacción de la Comisión III, presidido por el colega y amigo Horacio Carandang, de Filipinas, que se reúna a las 12 horas y 15 minutos de hoy en la sala de Alemania en vez de a las 14 horas y 30 minutos como se había anunciado. Así la Comisión III podría reunirse en esta sala a las 17 horas de hoy y concluir, como lo esperamos satisfactoriamente sus trabajos, ya que los temas discutidos en la Comisión III no han sido muy controvertidos.

Quisiera pedir de manera muy cordial y respetuosa, como ya tuve ocasión de hacerlo personalmente, al señor Carandang que los Miembros del Comité de Redacción de la Comisión III estén presentes a las 12 horas y 15 minutos en la sala de Alemania. Gracias de antemano por la cooperación y comprensión del señor Carandang y de sus compañeros miembros del Comité de Redacción de la Comisión III.

Como aparece en el programa para hoy, y es bien sabido, en la sesión de esta mañana vamos a proceder en primer lugar -en primer lugar repito- a la aprobación del informe de la Comisión II sobre el tema 13, Programas de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 y objetivos a plazo medio. Espero que todos tengan el documento respectivo, el documento C 89/Rep./1.

Tengo el privilegio de pedir al distinguido Presidente Embajador Tchicaya que presente esta parte del informe de la Comisión II.

El señor Tchicaya tiene la palabra.

**Joseph TCHICAYA (Président de la Commission II):** Monsieur le Président, je souhaite d'abord présenter mes remerciements à la Conférence pour la confiance qu'elle a placée en me désignant Président de cette importante Commission II.

Le point 13 qui traite du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 et objectifs à moyen terme a exigé de la part de notre Commission un débat large et emprunt de franchise. Quatre séances y ont été consacrées, durant lesquelles 75 délégués ont pris la parole.

A la suite de ces débats fort fouillés, la Commission a adopté ce Rapport présenté sous la cote C 89/REP/1 qui est soumis à votre examen. Ce travail a été l'aboutissement d'un bon travail réalisé par le Comité de rédaction présidé par M. Theolin de la Suède.

Monsieur le Président, nous pensons que ce rapport qui a fait l'objet de discussions intenses constitue l'expression concentrée des débats qui ont eu lieu sur cette question. Voilà pourquoi nous vous le présentons pour qu'il soit adopté. Je vous remercie.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** La Conferencia es soberana. Yo como Presidente en ejercicio estaré democráticamente sometido a la voluntad de ustedes, pero considero mi deber insistirles en lo que acaba de plantear el Presidente Tchicaya.

Este texto ha sido estudiado y analizado cuidadosa, seria y profundamente primero por el Comité de Redacción, presidido con gran competencia por el señor S. Theolin, de Suecia, y luego adoptado por el pleno de la Comisión II.

A la luz de esas consideraciones, les ruego que acepten mi propuesta de que, como de costumbre, procedamos a discutir este proyecto de informe sección por sección.

Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 y objetivos a plazo medio.

Paragraphs 1 to 6 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 6 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 6 son aprobados

Paragraphs 7 and 8 approved

Les paragraphes 7 et 8 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 7 y 8 son aprobados

Paragraphs 9 to 12 approved

Les paragraphes 9 à 12 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 a 12 son aprobados

Paragraphs 13 to 19 approved

Les paragraphes 13 à 19 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 19 son aprobados

Paragraphs 20 to 24 approved

Les paragraphes 20 à 24 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 20 a 24 son aprobados

Paragraphs 25 to 31 approved

Les paragraphes 25 à 31 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 25 a 31 son aprobados

Paragraphs 32 to 35 approved

Les paragraphes 32 à 35 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 32 a 35 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 36 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHE 36 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFO 36 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Como todos sabemos ya, después de aprobar esta parte de nuestro Informe, deberemos pasar ahora a adoptar la resolución sobre consignaciones presupuestadas. Ha sido ya distribuido el documento C 89/Rep/1-suplemento 1.

Para la aprobación de esa resolución, se requiere una mayoría de los dos tercios, y, por consiguiente, una votación nominal.

Espero sinceramente que el resultado de esa votación va a fortalecer la vida y las actividades de esta Organización que, bajo la dirección acertada del Director General, trabaja cada vez más y mejor en favor de todos los Estados Miembros y particularmente de aquéllos en vías de desarrollo.

Pido al Oficial de Elecciones, al señor B. Linley, que extraiga a suerte el nombre del país por el cual se deba empezar la votación nominal; yo mismo haré la extracción. El primer país es la República de Corea.

Voy a pedir ahora al Secretario General de la Conferencia, al señor Alessi, que explique las modalidades de la votación para que todos sepan exactamente qué van a votar y cómo deben hacerlo.

El señor Alessi tiene la palabra.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Nous arrivons au vote de la Résolution portant ouverture de crédits pour l'exercice 1990-91.

L'Article XVIII paragraphe 5 de l'Acte Constitutif stipule que "Les décisions relatives au montant du budget sont prises à la majorité des deux tiers des suffrages exprimés".

Selon l'Article XII paragraphe 7 alinéa a) du Règlement général, un vote par appel nominal a lieu si une majorité de 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 de 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 106.

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 des 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, comme vous l'avez déjà annoncé Monsieur le Président, est la République de Corée.

Je précise que les représentants de chaque Etat Membre, à l'appel de leur nom, devront 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. Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Espero que hayan sido claras las explicaciones del Secretario General sobre las modalidades del voto.

Hay número suficiente para el quorum reglamentario y espero que en el transcurso de la votación ese número se incremente.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, pido al Oficial de Elecciones, al señor B. Linley, que llame nominalmente a cada Estado Miembro para que vote. Luego procederemos a hacer el recuento de los votos y a anunciar los resultados.

El señor Linley tiene la palabra.

VOTE

VOTE

VOTACION

VOTE  
VOTE  
VOTACION



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

~~SHOW OF HANDS VOTING~~  
~~VOTE A MAIN LEVEE~~  
~~VOTACION A MANO ALZADA~~

ROLL CALL VOTING  
APPEL NOMINAL  
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on .....  
Vote sur .....  
Votación para ..... **BUDGETARY APPROPRIATIONS** .....  
..... **1990-91** .....  
.....

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	104
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	7
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	5
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	41

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	111
--	-----

Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	74
--	----

ADOPTED  
ADOPTÉE  
ACEPTADA

~~REJECTED~~  
~~REPOUSSEE~~  
~~RECHAZADA~~

Date..... **24/11/80** ..... 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 en 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  
Z Session de la Conférence  
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

FULL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT  
APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BILLETIN  
VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETS

1st Vote on BUDGETARY APPROPRIATIONS 1990-91

Vote sur .....  
Votación para .....

COUNTRY	YES	NO	ABSEN	COUNTRY	YES	NO	ABSEN	COUNTRY	YES	NO	ABSEN
Afghanistan	X			Cameroon	X			Oman			X
Albania			X	Central (Fed. Rep. of)	X			Pakistan	X		
Algeria	X			Chad				Panama	X		
Angola	X			Greece	X			Papua New Guinea			X
Antigua and Barbuda	X			Grenada	X			Paraguay			X
Argentina			X	Guatemala			X	Peru	X		
Australia		X		Guinea	X			Philippines	X		
Austria	X			Guinea-Bissau	X			Poland		X	
Bahrain	X			Guinea			X	Portugal	X		
Bangladesh	X			Haiti	X			Qatar			X
Barbados	X			Honduras	X			Romania			X
Belgium	X			Hungary	X			Russia	X		X
Belize			X	Iceland	X			St. Christopher & Nevis			X
Benin	X			India	X			Saint Lucia			X
Botswana	X			Indonesia	X			St. Vincent & Grenadines			X
Brazil			X	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	X			Samoa			X
Bulgaria	X			Iraq	X			Sao Tome and Principe			X
Burkina Faso	X			Ireland	X			Saudi Arabia	X		
Burundi	X			Israel		X		Senegal			X
Cameroon	X			Italy	X			Seychelles			X
Canada			X	Jamaica	X			Sierra Leone			X
Cape Verde	X			Japan		X		Solomon Islands			X
Central African Republic			X	Jordan	X			Somalia			X
Chad			X	Kenya	X			Spain	X		
Chile	X			Korea (Rep. of)	X			Sri Lanka			X
China	X			Kuwait	X			Surinam	X		
Colombia	X			Laos	X			Swaziland	X		
Comoros			X	Latvia	X			Sweden	X		
Congo	X			Lebanon	X			Switzerland		X	
Congo	X			Lesotho	X			Syria	X		
Cook Islands			X	Liberia	X			Tanzania	X		
Costa Rica	X			Libya	X			Thailand	X		
Cote d'Ivoire	X			Luxembourg			X	Togo	X		
Cuba	X			Madagascar	X			Tonga	X		
Cyprus	X			Malawi	X			Trinidad and Tobago	X		
Czechoslovakia	X			Malaysia	X			Tunisia	X		
<del>Democratic Republic of Congo</del>				Maldives	X			Turkey	X		
D.P. Rep. of Korea	X			Mali	X			Uganda	X		
Denmark	X			Malta			X	United Arab Emirates			X
Dominica	X			Mauritania	X			United Kingdom		X	
Dominican Republic			X	Mauritius	X			U.S.A.		X	
Ecuador	X			Mexico	X			Uruguay	X		
Egypt	X			Moldavia	X			Vanuatu			X
El Salvador	X			Morocco	X			Venezuela	X		
Equatorial Guinea	X			Mozambique			X	Viet Nam	X		
Ethiopia	X			Namibia			X	Yemen Arab Republic	X		
Fiji	X			Nepal	X			Yemen (P.D. Rep. of)			X
Finland	X			Netherlands		X		Yugoslavia	X		
France	X			New Zealand		X		Zaire			X
Gabon	X			Nicaragua	X			Zambia	X		
				Niger			X	Zimbabwe			X
				Nigeria			X				
				Poland	X						
	39	1	3		58	4	0		27	2	2

Paragraph 36, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 36, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 36, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

**Sidasty AIDARA (Sénégal):** Il ne s'agit pas d'une explication de vote comme vous l'avez indiqué. Au moment du vote malheureusement, des obligations ont fait que je ne pouvais pas être dans la salle pour voter le budget.

Je voudrais clairement indiquer ici, pour la Conférence et pour le procès-verbal des travaux de notre session, que si ma délégation avait été présente au moment du vote sur le budget elle aurait voté en faveur du projet de résolution qui a été présenté.

Je voudrais regretter tout simplement, encore une fois, que des obligations impétives m'aient amené à quitter la salle au moment du vote mais cela ne doit en aucune manière être interprété ni comme une négligence, ni comme un manque d'intérêt pour les travaux de la session, ni comme un manque d'appui du budget.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias por la actitud constructiva que ha anunciado nuestro colega el Sr. Aidàra de Senegal, que constará en las actas.

**João Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil):** The Brazilian delegation wishes to reiterate its clear agreement with the Programme of Work. We regret, nevertheless, that we are not in a position to endorse the increase in the Budget as it would affect substantially the amount of our contribution, an amount that we will find extremely difficult to absorb due to the burden of external debt and the deterioration of export prices for commodities; in a word, the economic and financial crisis faced by developing countries. We would also like to draw the attention of the Plenary to the fact that the budget level has a more adjusting effect on the assessed contribution of some developing countries due to the revised scale of contributions. The decision of my delegation is consistent with the attitude taken by my government regarding their decision in other multilateral fora. This position should not in any way be misconstrued as an endorsement of the zero-growth principle or of any other negative policies aimed at debilitating our Organization.

**Ms Jane BECKER (United States of America):** In the vote just concluded, the majority supported a Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 which includes real growth of over 1 percent, taking into account the reduction in the lapse factor despite the overwhelming acceptance of zero real growth in times of budgetary restraint by major UN system organizations such as the World Health Organization which rely on the payment of assessed contributions by Member States. The majority supported a budget which includes substantial cost increases based on assumptions by a General Assembly decision yet to be made. With the lapse factor, the assessment per

annum for the major contributor increases by nearly 17 percent. For developing countries paying 0.01 percent of FAO's working budget, assessments per annum will also increase by nearly 17 percent. This occurs against the backdrop of the fact that 86 countries - more than half the membership of FAO - have not paid their full contributions for 1989, and 47 countries are in arrears. Having said that, the United States has never denied its legal obligations to pay its assessed contribution to FAO. With regard to the lapse factor, my delegation would like to note that the number of countries which voted on the report of Commission II with regard to the wording of the Commission's Report regarding the lapse factor did not represent half of the membership. The lapse factor reduction, as you know, significantly increased the budget level of the Organization. This vote, which was taken in Commission II just two days ago, resulted in approximately a 15 percent increase in the budget level. This information, according to FAO's rules, should have been available sixty days before the convening of this Conference for the proper consideration by member countries in their capitals of the budget level. Getting back to the vote, voting yes on this budget is the choice of the membership, and the membership has the right to make that choice. We must note, however, that seven countries voted against the budget, including our own. Those same countries will be expected to pay nearly 50 percent of the contributions to the 1990-91 Budget. Those countries abstaining represent another 8 percent of the assessed contribution. I repeat that each member of this body has the right to make his or her own choice. To endorse the budget, however, contrary to the express wishes of those members who must provide substantial resources for that budget, is, I submit, an irresponsible choice. For my own delegation, I must confess that it will be difficult to justify this budget to those in my government who ultimately make decisions on funding international organizations including FAO. I cannot speak for other governments, but common sense tells us that to expect full support from those who have already rejected the budget is the height of irresponsible optimism. Over the past two biennia, FAO and the Governing Body of this Organization have complained loudly about the financial crisis caused by the delay in payments by my country which rejected the 1988-89 Budget. Our repeated efforts to work together in crafting a budget which realistically serves the needs of the FAO community have garnered no positive reaction. Instead, members have voted for another biennium of financial instability, I fear. This is their choice, and my delegation respects it. But I must tell you that with choice comes responsibility. My delegation absolutely rejects responsibility for the financial crisis which may occur during the next biennium. We will remind those members who voted for this budget that they are responsible for causing it.

One additional point: We have listened with interest to the Director-General's comments regarding the need to conduct the vote on the Budget Resolution during the second week of the Conference. We agree that the cost of living in Rome is quite high and that it becomes extremely difficult for delegates from developing countries to remain here over a lengthy period. We might add that the cost of conducting lengthy meetings is also substantial. It is for these reasons that we would propose that the Conference be shortened by one week. In this way, all Member States could have the opportunity to participate in all proceedings of the Conference, and considerable savings would result.



**EL PRESIDENTE:** En relación con los comentarios que se han hecho acerca de la forma en que se debatió algún asunto en la Comisión II, considero mi deber como Presidente recordar que la Conferencia es soberana y que al principio de la reunión de esta mañana, por unanimidad, sin ningún disenso, aprobó plenamente el informe de la Comisión II sobre el punto al cual se ha hecho referencia.

También creo que es mi deber indicar que ahora estamos discutiendo la aprobación de la parte del informe de la Comisión II sobre el tema 13, Programa de Labores y Presupuesto y objetivos a plazo medio, y que cualquier otra referencia o propuesta sobre asunto distinto es fuera de orden.

Como Presidente del Comité General, debo también declarar que los aplazamientos que ese Comité propuso a la Conferencia estaban dirigidos a preservar la marcha ordenada y eficaz de esta reunión y que fueron recomendaciones constructivas, siempre aprobadas por el pleno de esta Conferencia, a la cual no puede atribuírsele ninguna responsabilidad, que yo rechazo como Presidente.

**Hamed Abdalla SALMAN (United Arab Emirates) (original language Arabic):** We regret that we were not present at the voting in this room. Since this resolution was voted by the majority, we would like to record the approval of the United Arab Emirates of this resolution and the budget allocations which were presented by the Director-General.

**F.C. PRILLEVITZ (The Netherlands):** The Netherlands adheres to a policy of zero growth for all UN organizations financed through assessed budgets. Incidentally, for our national budget we have adopted a negative real growth over the last seven years, excluding the budget for development cooperation which has grown every year. Only in exceptional circumstances are we able to deviate from this principle. We have decided that the review was such an exceptional circumstance, and with considerable difficulty my Government finally decided that it could agree to the one percent real growth in the budget if the results of the review were acceptable and the cost involved could be absorbed by the budget through reallocation of its resources and through savings. We even believe that perhaps an increase of slightly more than one percent would have been defensible under the circumstances if this would have resulted in a consensus decision on the budget, which we would have highly valued. What we have just voted upon was a budget with an additional real increase of almost 2 percent due to the decrease of the lapse factor which we have strongly opposed, while at the same time we do not know yet how much of the cost of the review will be absorbed, if any. A consensus has not at all been reached. It is thus with considerable regret that we were left with no other choice than to vote against. Regret because we believed that a consensus could have been reached if some more flexibility had been applied and more understanding had been shown for the difficult position in which my own country and others found themselves. Regret also because we highly value FAO as a development institution and as a global centre of knowledge and information. We would have preferred to express our support with a positive vote.

**David COUTTS (Australia):** Australia has voted against the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 with very great regret. I would like to give an explanation of why we have felt obliged to do this.

In spite of the fact that we follow the principle of zero real growth, we had been prepared to agree to the Programme of Work and Budget as proposed by the Director-General in Document C 89/3, even though this involved a real programme increase of 1 percent. We were prepared to do this because we have a deep commitment to FAO dating back to the founding of the Organization. We felt that unanimous approval of the Budget was highly desirable to set the scene for recovery from the difficult circumstances in which the Organization has found itself in recent years. We also have been encouraged by the very productive process which has been followed in this Review, and we look forward to very productive results from this process.

However, in our view this proposed budget did not include the decrease in the lapse factor, which we do not feel has been justified by any valid arguments, and which adds a further US\$9 million to the already dramatic increase in assessed contributions. In addition, there is still a question in our minds about the procedures followed in relation to this matter. For this reason, we have felt compelled to vote against the Budget.

In spite of this, I anticipate that we will continue our commitment to the Organization and maintain our participation in its operations as fully as we can, as we feel that it has a vital and unique role to play in battling the continuing problems in the areas of food and agriculture.

Thank you, Mr Chairman, for this opportunity to express the reasons for our vote.

**Sundaraman RAJASEKAR (New Zealand):** I would like to set out briefly our reasons for voting against the Budget proposals.

My Government's general policy in regard to budgets for international organizations has been in favour of zero real growth. This in our view strikes a reasonable balance between the need to support priorities and programmes of development agencies such as FAO and the very real financial constraints being faced by most, if not all, of us. In my Commission II statement on goals and objectives, I referred to the financial disciplines and cut-backs which are being enforced in New Zealand as part of the Government's programme of, reducing budgetary deficits and to promote greater efficiency in the public sector. While we were prepared to consider the Director-General's proposals as contained in Document C 89/3, which would have allowed for a small real growth, the decision to reduce the lapse factor has in effect provided for a much greater real increase. No doubt this has some implications for country assessment as well.

The concerns expressed by a number of delegations about the timing and notification of the lapse factor proposal are also of some concern to us. We would have preferred that the matter be referred back to the Council or the Finance Committee for further consideration.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you that my country's position on the Budget does not in any way limit our commitment to FAO and its basic objectives.

**Hannu HALINEN (Finland):** I have the honour to explain the vote on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 on behalf of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

The Nordic countries voted for the PWB 1990-91. However, we continue to have serious concerns on certain fundamental issues relating to the Budget process and the Budget itself. The Nordic countries want to focus attention on the main programmes themselves. This has not been possible. Essential questions on the main objectives, functions and programmes and the inter-relationships between these questions were not adequately addressed in the Draft Budget Proposal. We had hoped for a better reassessment of the PWB in the light of changing circumstances.

Furthermore, a number of shifts within major programmes appear in the PWB without sufficient information concerning the bases on which they were made. The way priorities are actually set within the organizations is not clearly spelled out. The Budget document also lacks transparency in this regard.

These shortcomings can best be remedied through a better presentation of the document from the Secretariat side and more active involvement by Member States in all stages of its preparation.

We welcome the formulation of the nine priority areas as such. However, these priorities are not proposed in a systematic manner through corresponding programme adjustments in the PWB. It is the considered opinion of the Nordic countries that in order for these priorities and their selection to be fully reflected in the Budget document a proper discussion and decision by the governing bodies is required.

Financial constraint is a reality with which both the United Nations organizations and many national governments are faced. The Nordic countries would expect more serious efforts to be made by the FAO Secretariat to make economies and to use available resources more efficiently.

In addition to a budget increase of about 1 percent over the previous Budget base, the Conference has also been asked to consider partly substantiated cost increases.

The present level of the lapse factor already provides considerable flexibility for the Secretariat. The untimely and unsubstantiated request for a further increase in the lapse factor entails further increases in net assessed contributions. The Nordic countries therefore voted against the decrease of this factor to 3 percent.

Finally, the Nordic countries are conscious of the practical difficulties caused by a postponement of decision on the Budget for one-and-a-half days to some delegations. We would however like to point out that the delay, in leading to a positive progress on the Review process, was instrumental in bringing about the support of the Budget by the Nordic countries.

**Hans POPP (Suisse):** Monsieur le Président, ma délégation regrette d'avoir dû s'abstenir lors des votes sur la résolution budgétaire, principalement pour deux raisons:

La première est que le budget soumis à cette Conférence ne correspond pas à la proposition originale du Secrétariat contenue dans le document Programme de travail et budget pour le prochain biennium car celui-ci contenait une augmentation réelle d'environ 1 pour cent. Mais maintenant, nous sommes confrontés à une augmentation réelle d'environ 3 pour cent. Ceci est la conséquence directe de la réduction du taux d'abattement pour les postes vacants de 5,5 à 3 pour cent décidée dans la Commission II, in English the famous lapse factor. La réduction de ce facteur ne nous semblait guère justifiée. Mais ce qui nous dérange aussi, c'est la manière dont cette proposition a été présentée.

Par ailleurs, comme nous l'avons déjà exprimé à plusieurs reprises dans notre déclaration générale comme dans le débat, les augmentations de coût manquent, à notre avis, de transparence et ne semblent pas suffisamment justifiées.

Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais souligner que mon pays continue à coopérer avec cette Organisation dans la poursuite de son énorme tâche. Je vous remercie.

**Ian BUIST (United Kingdom):** The United Kingdom has voted against the Resolution for the following reasons:

Firstly, Commission II was informed by the Secretariat on 15 November that at the current market rate the effective working Budget presented in C 89/3 to be funded by Member Nations' contributions would be US\$545 million. Subsequently, a decision was taken to reduce the lapse factor - that is to say, the vacancy rate assumption - to 3 percent; but, on the basis of the information given to the Conference in C 89/5 on the experience of the Organization throughout this decade, it was clear to us that no cut in the lapse factor was justified, and that, on the contrary, an increase would have been justified.

Secondly, the Budget includes provision for increases which have not yet been agreed and may not be agreed by the United Nations General Assembly in the remuneration of professional staff. In our view, the cost of this increase, if it is agreed by the General Assembly, should be met by the Special Reserve Account, or by absorption if necessary.

We took note of the statement of the Secretariat in Commission II to the effect that the situation in relation to these costs would be monitored by the Finance Committee, and that if the funds were not needed for this purpose, other things being equal, they should form part of an eventual cash surplus which would be returned to Members at the end of the 1990-91 biennium. Had we received more specific guidance on the meaning of the phrase "other things being equal" we could have agreed to that method of proceeding.

In short, the effect of this and the other changes has been to raise the figure of US\$545 million to US\$626 million. This will involve an increase for each Member Nation of over 15 percent in their assessed contribution.

Overall, therefore, we see no justification for these increases in the Budget of the Organization. We consider as a general principle that the Budget of all United Nations organizations financed by assessed contributions should not grow in real terms, and to the extent possible the non-discretionary cost increases should be absorbed. In this connection we note that there is no arrangement for any systematic review of the need for individual posts or divisions within the Organization.

Finally, we note that if the Budget increases now adopted make it more difficult for other Member States to meet their assessed contributions in full without falling into arrears, the practical effect will be to increase the share of the Organization's expenditure which is actually met by those Members which do fulfil their obligations beyond their relative assessed share. We will of course meet our own obligations, but we would regard this consequence as extremely regrettable.

**Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada):** My delegation wishes to offer a brief explanation for its abstention to the vote on the budgetary appropriations for 1990-91. It will be recalled that Canada voted against the proposal to reduce the lapse factor from 5.5 percent to 3 percent when this issue was taken up in Commission II.

We were opposed to the reduction in the lapse factor and also concerned about the manner in which this measure was introduced and adopted. This proposal had a substantial impact on budgetary appropriations. However, my delegation wishes to register its satisfaction with the developments in the review of FAO and is pleased that a consensus has emerged on this important item. We look forward to the implementation of the results of the Review.

**Tadeusz STROJWAS (Poland):** The Polish delegation wishes to explain the reason for its abstention to the vote on the budgetary appropriation 1990.-91. While discussing the Programme of Work and Budget our delegation supported the Programme, and in a spirit of cooperation worked for a consensus resolution on the budget appropriation for the next biennium. However, to our regret, the consensus has not been reached.

In this new situation we should like to make our position absolutely clear. The scale and weight of challenges with which my country is faced at the present time is, indeed, unprecedented. The mass media, politicians and statesmen fascinated with the quality and pace of changes in Poland have emphasized this phenomenon for reasons I do not wish to analyse here at this moment. However, as the representative of Poland to this noble Organization, I consider it my duty to say that Poland is a country with an empty treasury, and has acute economic problems and a huge external debt. For these reasons we cannot vote for additional financial obligations knowing that we will not be able to fulfil such obligations. In other words, we are not playing a two-faced game. We want to be considered honest and reliable partners by all delegations sitting in this Conference hall. We have not voted against the proposal.

During discussion of the subject matter the Polish delegation expressed great appreciation for all the efforts made by the Director-General in order to reach a compromise between the needs of, and the pressure from, a majority of Member States (including my country) and the level of resources reduced over time by inflation, etc.

In view of this situation, and the problems in our own country, we fully understand the Director-General's position and admire his skills.

Finally, all the bold reforms in Poland will bring about much of the desired improvement to the economic situation and will allow our delegation to accept all financial obligations toward this Organization, of which we are proud to be one of the founding fathers.

**Ilan HARTUV (Israel):** We very much regret that we cannot vote for the Programme of Work and Budget. We fully approve and endeavour to further the aims of FAO and we approve the Programme of Work in general.

Although we approve of all assistance to the FAO to develop agriculture, mainly in the poorer countries; but we are voting against the Budget as a protest against politizing the Organization and because the Organization's funds will be misused for political help to Palestinian political propaganda contrary to all the traditions of the FAO.

We realize this is not the doing of the Organization per se, but of our fellow Members.

We shall continue to support the Organization and pay our dues and hope that the FAO will be allowed to return to concentrate on its real aims.

**El PRESIDENTES:** De acuerdo con la práctica vigente, la declaración de Israel se incluirá en las actas.

Los Presidentes de las Comisiones I y II me han pedido informar a los delegados que las reuniones de estas dos Comisiones previstas para las 11 esta mañana tendrá lugar inmediatamente después de que concluya esta sesión Plenaria.

**Sumiji NAKAZAWA (Japan):** My delegation voted against the draft Resolution on the budget appropriation 1990-91. I should like to explain our standpoint on this matter.

The Japanese delegation is opposed to the inclusion of the reduction of the lapse factor which has been introduced without sufficient discussion. On the basis of the new scale of contributions, the Japanese contribution will increase by more than US\$1 million due to the introduction of the new lapse factor. This amount would cause difficulties in our own budget at this stage and the problem is the same for most member countries.

In the preparation of the next biennium budget the new method of budget procedure was introduced for the first time as part of the FAO review. We welcome it on the basis of the proposed outline of the Budget we have been discussing. With regard to the budget level and priorities from the beginning of this year, we thought it would be useful to facilitate a consensus. Japan was ready to join the consensus on the approval of the new Budget. However, just before the beginning of the 96th Session of Council a new proposal on the lapse factor was presented. We have had too short a time to study it thoroughly. We regret that such a proposal may render any efforts to introduce a new budget procedure in vain. Having said that, as the new Budget has been approved by the Conference, Japan will make every effort to fulfil its obligation to FAO as it has in the past, and will remain a strong supporter of FAO.

My delegation sincerely hopes that such budgeting processes as we have just experienced will not be repeated in the future, and that a further effort will be made by the FAO Secretariat to maintain a fuller understanding and cooperation with member countries.

**Konan Daniel YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire):** Monsieur le Président, j'ai souhaité prendre la parole au nom de mon pays qui voudrait tout simplement, dans le respect des décisions souveraines de chaque Etat Membre, lancer néanmoins un appel à l'endroit de nos partenaires des Nations industrialisées qui, pour des raisons diverses, se sont abstenues ou ont refusé le niveau proposé par le Secrétariat pour le prochain budget caractérisé par un relèvement de 0,45%. Nous voudrions interpréter la volonté de beaucoup de pays ici présents et pensons que cette attitude sur le budget n'aura pas d'effets négatifs sur le financement de certaines activités de l'Organisation par des ressources extrabudgétaires; ressources budgétaires qui, nous l'espérons vivement, permettront de mettre en oeuvre les mesures préconisées par l'examen de la FAO ou même les différents programmes spéciaux.

De même, nous pensons que nos amis continueront d'apporter leur concours au financement du programme alimentaire mondial et à la reconstitution des ressources du fonds international de développement agricole, toutes organisations qui oeuvrent très utilement pour le même objectif en faveur des pays en voie de développement. Voilà, Monsieur le Président, le bref message que je voudrais adresser à nos amis ce matin. Je vous remercie.

**Muhammed Saleem KHAN S. (Pakistan):** Pakistan has voted in favour of the Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 in full realization of its implications and with full satisfaction as to the contents. Therefore, we are extremely disturbed when our decision, which was shared by 103 countries, was called "irresponsible". Pakistan is a strong supporter of the UN multilateral system and has always acted most responsibly in connection with difficult decisions in this system and in making payment of its assessed contributions despite its large financial constraints.

We know that currently we are slightly behind with the payment of our assessed contribution to FAO. We certainly have every intention of paying this as soon as possible. We also recognize that a number of countries - I believe 86 - are at the moment in default. We have no doubt that these countries are fully committed to the responsibility of paying. However, most of these countries are constrained by circumstances beyond their control. I

am sure that all countries who contribute less than 0.1 percent, and who are proud and committed members of the FAO and the UN system, feel extremely disturbed by being called "irresponsible" in their conscious and well considered decision to support the Budget. Therefore, we regret this statement.

**Anwar Muhamed KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of) (original language Arabic) (No English translation until):** ... the Budget 1990-91. This was due to pressing commitments. Therefore, I should like to stress once again what my country has said in previous meetings, namely, that we approve the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91. Certain ideas were exchanged, but we approved the programme because it takes into account the prevailing financial situation and the problem which arises when certain austerities in expenditure have to be observed.

Therefore, my country would like to support this resolution for the Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91.

Sra. **Mónica DEREGBUS (Argentina):** Señor Presidente, usted nos pidió paciencia y nosotros esperamos disciplinadamente, pero ya estamos desesperados y pensábamos que se había olvidado de nosotros.

La delegación de Argentina ha debido votar en abstención la Resolución sobre las consignaciones presupuestarias para el bienio 1990-91, y quisiera ahora explicar la razón de su voto.

En primer lugar, permítame destacar que Argentina está plenamente comprometida con los principios y objetivos de la Organización y que continuará prestando todo su apoyo a sus actividades futuras. Estamos seguros que se verán considerablemente reforzadas en los próximos años. Sin embargo, como es por todos conocido, la República Argentina está atravesando una de las situaciones económicas más difíciles de su historia. El grave peso de la deuda externa, los problemas de la balanza de pago y las pérdidas de ingreso de divisas por exportaciones de nuestros productos tradicionales, así como el severo ajuste interno, han hecho más que nunca necesario reducir los gastos del Estado.

El Programa de Labores que apoyamos implica una asignación de recursos que incrementa en forma significativa la cuota que le corresponde pagar a la República Argentina, que ha visto, asimismo, aumentado su porcentaje de contribución a los presupuestos ordinarios de las organizaciones del sistema de Naciones Unidas y, entre ellas, la FAO.

Por otra parte, los cambios introducidos recientemente en las estimaciones no han podido ser adecuadamente analizados por las áreas competentes de mi Gobierno. Ello impide completar el proceso de decisión interna. Esta circunstancia, unida entonces a la dificultad de absorber mayores gastos por parte del Estado Nacional, constituyen la única motivación de la posición argentina, que, de ninguna manera, debe interpretarse como abvocando la tesis del crecimiento cero de los presupuestos de ésta o de cualquier otra organización del Sistema de Naciones Unidas.



**Gerhard LIEBER (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German):** Like the delegate of Argentina, I also thought you had forgotten me, Mr Chairman, because I asked for the floor much earlier.

As for the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91, we voted in favour of it. My government did this in order to demonstrate that we greatly appreciate the important work carried out by FAO, and because we all need this Organization. FAO is an important instrument in the worldwide fight against hunger and poverty, which must be continued.

However, although we voted in favour of the Programme of Work and Budget, we have objections to certain aspects of the budget, especially the lapse factor. We have made statements to this effect both in Council and in Commission II. Therefore, I shall not repeat these details in Plenary. By approving the budget, we hope first of all that in the next biennium FAO will take the necessary measures in order to take advantage of the various positive initiatives which are the result of the review.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Participamos por primera vez en representación de mi país en una Conferencia de la FAO y hemos podido observar hoy la forma democrática, amplia y clara como que se produjo esta votación, así como la manera abrumadora en que fue aprobado el presupuesto de la FAO; pero no podemos permanecer impasibles sin manifestar algunas consideraciones.

Entre las cosas que más nos han llamado la atención de todo este proceso, en estos días de Conferencia, está haber oído a países que ondean consignas de “democracia” -entre comillas- opinar que una mayoría abrumadora puede estar equivocada o es irresponsable. Esto es no respetar la soberanía misma de los Estados Miembros aquí representados. Y luego de esto, y lógicamente no nos sorprende nada, oírles decir que no se sienten comprometidos por esta mayoría y por esta aprobación mayoritaria, en contraste con otras ilustres delegaciones que, muy honestamente, han manifestado su posición.

En nombre de mi delegación, rechazo estos desafortunados criterios, al mismo tiempo que felicito a la FAO por sus textos básicos y a la presidencia de esta Conferencia por la forma democrática y libre en que son aprobados, así como la manera en que se ha desarrollado, de plena libertad, que es como lo hemos sentido los países soberanos.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El representante de un país, que no pudo estar presente durante la votación, ha solicitado la palabra para explicar esa situación y creo que, con la flexibilidad acostumbrada, podemos concedérsela.

Tiene la palabra Guatemala.

**Oscar Ernesto P. VIDAURRE (Guatemala):** Pedimos excusas por haber llegado un poco tarde para depositar nuestro voto, pero queremos dejar constancia del apoyo de nuestro país, Guatemala, al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, let me congratulate and thank you all for completing your work on the Programme of Work and Budget with an overwhelming positive vote in favour of my proposals. Regrettably, this vote included some "noes" and some abstentions, but that is nothing unusual in the history of voting on the Programme of Work and Budget at United Nations organizations. This is not to minimize either my disappointment or yours, at not being able to join a consensus, but rather to put it into perspective.

It appears that those who voted against or abstained did so not on account of differences over the programmes or priorities, but because of the lapse factor or the minimal programme increases. Their views merit our respect, but I have to be able to manage and it is obvious that the vast majority of member countries share my concern regarding the continued insistence of some major contributors on real zero growth.

Mr Chairman, this point is particularly relevant to all that we are being asked to do as a result of the review of goals and strategies. Mere assurances in general terms about being able to absorb activities, to carry out additional priorities, while not impairing others are easy to make, but difficult to execute in the absence of additional resources.

You have given me the responsibility to execute your decisions, to reconcile in practice what is irreconcilable in theory. But I do not own an Aladdin's Cave to which I can resort at will, nor a magic wand with which I can create the necessary ways and means at will. Hard decisions are and will be involved, and as usual I am willing and I think able to take them in due course, subject to a willingness on your part to accept realities and feasibilities.

In this connection, I cannot fail once again to remind you of the unprecedented contributions situation. Many of the poorer countries have made exceptional efforts, even during the course of the Conference, to pay up.

Their contributions may be small in amount, but the spirit of their efforts to conform to their legal obligations and give the Organization their support is heart-warming, while the sacrifice involved for them is disproportionately larger than in the case of the very rich countries.

I do not share the views that the decision taken today by those poor countries toward the budget derives from an irresponsible optimism. As you know, the largest amount still due is attributable to one Member Nation for reasons which they have said themselves is beyond the control of the Administration. Whatever the reasons it is an unprecedented situation and an unprecedentedly large amount.

And what is worse for all of us is that there is no information forthcoming, even at this late stage, on any schedule for payment of the contributions due for previous biennia or the coming one. To say the least, this makes the planning of programmes, priorities and even routine daily operations, extremely difficult. We have outstanding bills to pay - more than US\$100 million. At the end of the year, the Special Reserve Account and the Working Capital Fund will be empty and awaiting replenishment for the next biennium. I need more than general exhortations to be able to manage this Organization and to carry it forward in facing the challenge of the future as identified by you at this Conference.

I want to thank all Member Nations who have been paying their contributions early in the beginning of the biennium, and those are the majority of contributors. I want to thank all of them because they have put us in the position of being able to continue to function.

I thank you again for your efforts and for this renewal of your confidence in the Secretariat and myself in confiding this new and very important Programme of Work and Budget to us the basis for all of our efforts to serve you well in the coming years.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Hay otro país que no pudo votar y que ha pedido tener la oportunidad de explicar su posición.

Tiene la palabra Ghana,

**Y.K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana):** Ghana has already demonstrated its unfailing support for the FAO in general and for the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91.

During the course of the Conference it has become very obvious that all Member Nations have given support for the objectives and principles of FAO, and have indicated at the Plenary and Commission levels their support for the Organization. In doing so we have to recognize that, as the American saying goes, it takes money to make money. Indeed, it requires money to enable the Organization to move ahead and implement the programmes that we have defined for it.

Although we regret that I was absent during the vote, I wish to put on record that Ghana would have voted to support the Programme of Work and Budget, and I would like the Secretariat to note that fact.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que la interesante y afirmativa declaración del Director General debe inducirnos a todos a serias reflexiones. Creo interpretar el sentimiento de la Conferencia al expresar la conveniencia inmodificable de que todos los Estados Miembros, al haberse adoptado el proyecto de Resolución esta mañana, han adquirido el compromiso legal y moral de pagar y que lo harán, que honrarán ese compromiso.

Pienso también que, no obstante el resultado de la votación de esta mañana, al cual ya estamos acostumbrados en los últimos bienios, todos coincidimos en reafirmar nuestra fe inquebrantable en el futuro mejor de esta Organización, dirigida con eficacia y competencia por usted, Sr Director General.

Al concluir la reunión de esta mañana, no voy a caer en la tentación de decir, con la franqueza y claridad que me caracteriza, lo que pienso en este momento, porque debo respeto a la accidental responsabilidad que se me ha confiado. Como no puedo físicamente, como tanto lo desearía, ocupar el sitio de Colombia en esta sala, prefiero declarar cerrada esta sesión.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 1, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, la première partie est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte 1, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 11.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 11 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.45 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 89/PV/18**

Twenty-fifth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-cinquième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

25° período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
DIX-HUITIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE  
18ª SESION PLENARIA

27 November 1989

The Eighteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours  
Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Chairman of Conference, presiding

La dix-huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45  
sous la présidence de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-président de la Conférence

Se abre la 18ª Sesión Plenaria a las 14.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

- IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS
- IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS
- IV. NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES
- 25. Election of Council Members
- 25. Election des membres du Conseil
- 25. Elección de miembros del Consejo

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Buenas tardes colegas y amigos. Declaro abierta la 18ª sesión plenaria y me complace en dar nuestra más cordial bienvenida a esta Conferencia a nuestro Presidente Independiente del Consejo Lassaad Ben Osman.

Cumplo el doloroso deber de informarles que ha dejado de existir el Presidente de Comoras, Estado Miembro de la FAO. Ruego a ustedes se pongan de pie para guardar un minuto de silencio.

TRIBUTE TO HIS EXCELLENCE AHMED ABDALLAH ABDEREMANE  
PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF COMOROS  
HOMMAGE A MONSIEUR AHMED ABDALLAH ABDEREMANE  
PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE FEDERALE ET ISLAMIQUE DES COMPRES  
HOMENAJE AL EXCMO. SR. AHMED ABDALLAH ABDEREMANE  
PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA FEDERAL ISLAMICA DE LAS COMORAS

ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE  
UNE MINUTE DE SILENCE  
UN MINUTO DE SILENCIO

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Las Comisiones I y III han completado sus trabajos. La Comisión II debe todavía concluir la adopción de parte de su informe. Por consiguiente, ruego a los miembros de la Conferencia que después de que hayan concluido la primera votación para la elección de los miembros del Consejo, asistan todos a la Sala Roja para que la Comisión II pueda terminar la adopción de su informe.

La Secretaría calcula que en el término de una hora se podrán conocer los resultados de la primera votación. Por ello sería muy deseable, como les ruego encarecidamente, que en esa hora, ojalá se concluyeran los trabajos de la Comisión II, a fin de que luego pudiésemos pasar a una segunda votación y continuar así nuestro programa.

Como está anunciado en el diario de la Conferencia pasamos ahora al Tema 25 de nuestro programa: Elección de miembros del Consejo. El documento, que espero tengan todos ustedes, es el C 89/LIM/35 Rev. 1, que fue aprobado por esta Plenaria la semana pasada. A fin de que esta importante elección se realice de la manera más clara y ordenada posibles voy a rogar al Señor Secretario General que explique el procedimiento.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Merci Monsieur le Président. 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 distribués. Nous pourrions procéder en deux étapes. Tout d'abord la Conférence va élire pour la région Afrique un membre pour le siège vacant pour la période qui va de novembre 1989 au 31 décembre 1990 et pour la période qui va de novembre 1989 au 31 décembre 1992, cinq pays pour l'Afrique, cinq pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes, trois pour l'Europe, deux pour le Proche-Orient, deux pour l'Amérique du Nord.

Nous procéderons à autant de tours de scrutin qu'il sera nécessaire. Une fois cette phase achevée, nous passerons à la deuxième phase, c'est-à-dire à l'élection pour chacune des six régions intéressées où plusieurs membres siégeront au Conseil pendant une période allant du 1er janvier 1991 à novembre 1993. Là encore, nous procéderons à autant de tours de scrutin qu'il sera nécessaire.

Conformément au par. 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 au par. 3(a) ou (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. Lorsque le nombre de 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 sera 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 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. Ensuite nous procéderons de la même façon pour la dernière période. Je vous remercie.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Procedemos ahora a la votación para cubrir el puesto vacante en la Región de Africa para el periodo comprendido entre noviembre de 1989 y 31 de diciembre de 1990. También para los puestos vacantes en cinco regiones para el periodo comprendido entre noviembre de 1989 y 31 de diciembre de 1992.

Además de las disposiciones pertinentes que les ha leído el Secretario General, desearía señalar a la atención de los delegados el párrafo 14 del artículo 12 del Reglamento General de la Organización, en el que se establece que una vez comenzada una votación ningún delegado o representante podrá interrumpirla, salvo para plantear una cuestión de orden relacionada con la misma.

Deseo recordar que el artículo 12 del Reglamento General de la Organización establece que el quorum para estas elecciones es la mayoría de los Estados Miembros, que es 80. Se me ha comunicado que por lo menos se hallan ahora presentes en la sala 135 delegaciones.

Desearía también nombrar como es costumbre cuatro escrutadores para que ayuden a la Secretaría en el proceso de la elección. De manera cordial y respetuosamente, y agradeciendo de antemano su cooperación, voy a pedir a las Delegaciones de la República Islámica de Irán, Chipre, República Federal de Alemania y Malasia para que por favor actúen como escrutadores.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, entiendo que la situación está clara y vamos a proceder a la votación.

Ruego a los escrutadores citados que se dirijan al ángulo derecho de esta sala. Ahora pasaremos a llamar a los países para votar en orden alfabético; después de llamar al último país que es Zimbabwe, se llamará por segunda vez a aquéllos que no hayan votado para que tengan la oportunidad de hacerlo.

VOTE

VOTE

VOTACION

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Señores Delegados, ha terminado la votación. Los escrutadores saldrán de la sala para contar los votos. Como les había dicho antes, la Secretaría calcula que el recuento de los votos podría durar aproximadamente una hora.

Ruego de manera muy cordial y respetuosa a mi distinguido colega y amigo el embajador Tchicaya, del Congo, dinámico Presidente de la Comisión II, y al señor S. Theolin, de Suecia, Presidente del Comité de Redacción de esa misma Comisión, así como a todos ustedes, que por favor se trasladen a la Sala Roja, para continuar los trabajos de la Comisión II, con la esperanza de que en la hora necesaria para contar los votos pueda esa importante Comisión concluir sus labores.

Les espero en esta misma sala, a las 5 de la tarde; pues, como saben ustedes, de todas maneras hay que celebrar hoy una segunda votación. Si no hay comentarios, nada más. Gracias por su comprensión.

The meeting was suspended from 15.45 to 17.00 hours.

La séance est suspendue de 15 h 45 à 17 heures.

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.45 a las 17 horas.



**EL PRESIDENTE:** Reanudamos nuestra sesión. Les ruego ocupen sus lugares.

Se me ha suministrado el resultado de la votación primera para elegir a miembros del Consejo. El resultado es el siguiente:

089/RS/1

<b>REPORT OF BALLOT</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS</b> <b>AFRICA REGION</b>
<b>RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL</b> <b>REGION AFRIQUE</b> 11.89 - 31.12.90
<b>RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION</b>		<b>ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO</b> <b>REGION AFRICA</b>

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	135
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	4

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	131
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	131

7. Majority	131	+	1	=	66
Majorité	1	+	1		
Mayoría					

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
NIGERIA	131				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Encrutadores

Signature .....  
Firma .....  
C. LOIZIDES (Cyprus)

27.11.89  
Date  
Fecha

Signature .....  
Firma .....  
T. SHIRVANIAN (Iran, Islamic  
Rep. of)

B. Linley  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

089/BS/2

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 distribues Papeletas distribuidas	135
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuis Papeletas defectuosas	10
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	125
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	5
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	625

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	625	+ 1 = 105
	5 + 1	

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Eligidos			
CAMEROON	125				
GABON	125				
GHANA	125				
MADAGASCAR	125				
MOROCCO	125				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Scrutadores

Signature C. LOIZIDES (Cyprus)  
Firma .....

Signature T. SHIRVANIAN (Iran,  
Firma ..... Islamic Rep. of)

27.11.89.  
Date .....  
Fecha .....

B. Linley .....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire electoral  
El oficial de elecciones

C89/RS/3

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 11.89 - 31.12.92  ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION EUROPA
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	135
2. Defective ballots Bulletins viciés Papeletas defectuosas	15
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	120
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	360

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	360 3 + 1	+ 1 = 91
------------------------------------	--------------	----------

Elected - élus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas élus - No Elegidos			
NETHERLANDS	120				
POLAND	120				
PORTUGAL	120				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Encrutadores

Signature .....  
Firma .....

C. LOIZIDES (Cyprus)

Signature .....  
Firma .....  
Rep. of)

T. SHIRVANIAN (Iran, Islamic

27.11.89  
Date  
Fecha

B. Linley  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

089/RS/4

REPORT OF BALLOT	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION
RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN	1	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: REGION AMERIQUE LATINE ET CARAIBES 11.89 - 31.12.92
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION		ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribues Papeletas distribuidas	135
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	10
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

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

3.A Papeleta no devuelta 1

7. Majority Majorite Mayoria	620 5 + 1	+1 = 104
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Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Eligidos			
BRAZIL	121	CUBA	101		
MEXICO	118	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	91		
COLOMBIA	111	COSTA RICA	78		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Recrutadores

Signature M. DERUS (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)  
Firma .....

27.11.89  
Date  
Fecha

Signature Mohd. ZULKIFLI MOHAMMED  
Firma .....  
(Malaysia)

B. Linley  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

Elected - Plus - Eligible		Not Elected - Plus Plus - No Eligible			
LEBANON	126				
LIBYA	126				

.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire electoral  
El oficial de elecciones

C89/RS/6

REPORT OF BALLOT  RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN  RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.  1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: NORTH AMERICA  ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: AMERIQUE DU NORD  ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: AMERICA DEL NORTE
---	--------------	---

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	135
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	8
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	5

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	122
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	244

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	$\frac{244}{2 + 1} + 1 = 82$
------------------------------------	------------------------------

Elected - élus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas élus - No Eligidos			
CANADA	122				
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	122				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Scrutadores

Signature C. LOIZIDES (Cyprus)  
Firma .....

27.11.89

Date  
Fecha .....

Signature T. SHIRVANIAN (Iran,  
Firma ..... Islamic Rep. of)

B. Linley

.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gomo les habia anunciado antes, ahora pasaremos a una segunda elección que el Secretario Auxiliar, Señor Tedesco, va a explicar.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL ADJOINT:** On voudrait suggérer, afin d'aller plus vite, de procéder aux élections pour la période qui va du 1er janvier 1991 à novembre 1993; puis à l'élection des membres du Conseil pour la région d'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes, pour les deux postes qui restent à pourvoir durant la période de novembre 1989 au 31 décembre 1992.

Cela veut dire que nous allons maintenant distribuer sept bulletins: un pour la période de novembre 1989 au 31 décembre 1992, pour les deux sièges à pourvoir pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes; et les six autres bulletins de vote pour la deuxième période de 1993.

Je voudrais me permettre de rappeler aux délégués qu'ils doivent mettre autant de croix qu'il y a de postes à pourvoir. Je signale que beaucoup de bulletins ne sont pas valables parce que le nombre de croix ne correspond pas au nombre de postes à pourvoir. Je voulais dire tout cela pour que les délégués en soient informés.

Si vous en êtes d'accord, nous pouvons procéder au vote.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Entiendo que la propuesta que acaba de hacer la Secretaria es la más práctica.

**Ilan HARTUV (Israel):** With regard to Latin America, we are told that for the year beginning 1 January 1991 we shall elect the country which is not elected on the 1990 ballot. What happens if we have to vote for everybody? What happens on the third vote for Latin America?

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Señor Secretario General va a responder a las inquietudes manifestadas por el Representante de Israel.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL ADJOINT:** Le délégué d'Israël a raison. Pour ce qui est de la période 1991 à 1993, pour le groupe d'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes, il faudra attendre le résultat du deuxième tour de la votation pour savoir quel est le pays qui peut être inséré pour la votation. Et ce sera fait probablement au plus tard ce soir ou demain matin.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Lamentablemente ésa es la única alternativa existente. De manera que les propongo que apoyemos la propuesta de la Secretaría de hacer ahora una segunda votación para América Latina y el Caribe y la votación para las otras seis regiones para el segundo periodo.

Si miro el reloj creo que actuando con sentido práctico sería más conveniente que después de concluir esta segunda votación de hoy, se reanudara la Comisión II y mañana a primera hora, veremos a la luz de los resultados cuál será el resto de nuestra función en cuanto a la elección de los miembros de Consejo.

Entiendo que los mismos escrutadores seguirán ofreciendo sus valiosos servicios.

Tiene la palabra Bangladesh.

**A.K.M. Fazley RABBI (Bangladesh):** I am sorry, I could not follow the Assistant Secretary-General's explanation regarding Latin America. There are five seats, and three have been declared elected. We are now to elect two from Latin America. Will the ballot paper now contain three names or five names?

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Espero que quede claro. De América Latina y el Caribe han sido elegidos tres de los cinco puestos que había disponibles. Ustedes ahora en cuanto a la Región de América Latina y el Caribe recibirán una papeleta con tres nombres: Cuba, Trinidad y Tabago y Costa Rica y de entre esos tres países deberá excluir dos. Por favor les ruego de nuevo que voten solamente por el número de países que estén indicados; quien vota por un número de países mayor o menor anula su papeleta.

No obstante las inquietudes planteadas ahora, creo que cumplo con mi deber de felicitar de manera muy cordial a los representantes de aquellos países que han sido elegidos en esta primera votación.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, reitero mi cordial solicitud a los cuatro países que sirvieron de escrutadores en la primera votación para que cumplan igual función en esta segunda votación. Sus representantes, como de costumbre, deberán colocarse en el ángulo derecho de esta sala y procederemos a llamar a los países para que voten de nuevo.

El Secretario General va a llamar a los países por orden alfabético.

VOTE

VOTE

VOTACION

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Ha concluido la segunda votación para elegir Miembros del Consejo. Rogamos a los señores delegados que regresen bajo la guía del Embajador Tchicaya y del colega Theolin, Presidente del Comité de Redacción, a la Sala Roja, para que continúen los trabajos de esa Comisión, que deberán concluir de todos modos esta noche. De manera que les ruego que apoyen los esfuerzos que hizo el Comité de Redacción de la Comisión II, que trabajó el día sábado hasta las horas de la noche, y que ojalá se adopte el Informe de la manera más rápida y desde luego adecuada posible.



Si como lo espero, la Comisión II completara sus trabajos esta tarde, mañana habrá Sesión Plenaria a las 9.30 de la mañana. El programa será anunciado en el diario, pero entiendo que comenzaremos con una nueva votación; espero que sea la última, nadie puede saber de antemano los resultados, una nueva votación para completar la elección de Miembros del Consejo. Luego, en espera de los resultados de esa primera votación, iniciaremos la discusión para adoptar los Informes de las Comisiones, y más tarde se procederá a la elección de Presidente Independiente del Consejo de la FAO.

Si no hay ningún comentario, creo que si la Secretaría no tiene ningún anuncio, podemos levantar nuestra sesión, insistiéndoles en que muy juiciosos y a la vez eficientes regresen a la Sala Roja. Gracias, y hasta mañana.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18 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 89/PV/19

Twenty-fifth Session

PLENARY

Vingt-cinquième session

PLÉNIÈRE

25º período de sesiones

PLENARIA

## NINETEENTH PLENARY MEETING DIX-NEUVIÈME SEANCE PLENIERE 19ª SESION PLENARIA

28 November 1989

The Nineteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours  
Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dix-neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45  
sous la présidence de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 19ª Sesión Plenaria a las 9.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)  
 IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)  
 IV. NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

25. Election of Council Members (cont'd)  
 25. Election des membres du Conseil (suite)  
 25. Elección de miembros del Consejo (cont.)

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Buenos días, colegas y amigos. Declaro abierta la 19ª sesión plenaria.

Recordarán ustedes que ayer, al final de la tarde, hicimos la segunda votación para elegir miembros del Consejo. Ahora voy a leer los resultados de esa votación.

VOTE

VOTE

VOTACION

089/RS/4/A

REPORT OF BALLOT	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION
RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN	2	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: REGION AMERIQUE LATINE ET CARAIBES 11.89 - 31.12.92
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION		ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	132
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	2
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	129
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	258

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	$\frac{258}{2 + 1} + 1 = 87$
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Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos		
CUBA	97	COSTA RICA	65	
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	96			

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Encrutadores

Signature .....  
 Firma .....  
 Mohd. ZULKIFLI MOHAMMED (Malaysia)

27.11.89  
 Date  
 Fecha

Signature .....  
 Firma .....  
 C. LOIZIDES (Cyprus)  
 B. Linley  
 Elections Officer  
 Fonctionnaire électoral  
 El oficial de elecciones

089/RS/7

REPORT OF BALLOT	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AFRICA REGION
RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN	1	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION AFRIQUE 1.1.91-11.93
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION		ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION AFRICA

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribues Papeletas distribuidas	132
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	3
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	128
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	4
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	512

7. Majority  $\frac{512}{4+1} + 1 = 103$   
Majorite  
Mayoría

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
CAPE VERDE	128				
COTE D'IVOIRE	128				
KENYA	128				
ZAMBIA	128				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature M. PERLES, (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)  
Firma

27.11.89

Date  
Fecha

Signature T. SHIRVANYAN (Iran, Islamic  
Firma Rep. of)

B. Linley

Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire electoral  
El oficial de elecciones

C89/RS/8

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  ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION ASIA
		1.1.91-11.93

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribues Papeletas distribuidas	132
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	4
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas valides	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  $\frac{375}{3+1} + 1 = 94$

Elected - Elus - Eligidos	Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Eligidos	
INDIA	125	
PAKISTAN	125	
PHILIPPINES	125	

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurutadores

Signature  
Firma

M. DEMUS (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)

Signature  
Firma

T. SHIRVANIAN (Iran, Islamic  
Rep. of)

27.11.89

Date  
Fecha

B. Linley

Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire electoral  
El oficial de elecciones

C89/RS/9

REPORT OF BALLOT	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: EUROPE REGION
RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN	1	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: REGION EUROPE 1.1.91-11.93
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION		ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION EUROPA

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	132
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	6
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2
Papeleta no devuelta	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	123
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	4
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	492

7. Majority  
Majorité  
Mayoría  $\frac{492}{4+1} + 1 = 99$

Elected - élus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas élus - No Elegidos	
FRANCE	123		
ITALY	123		
SPAIN	123		
UNITED KINGDOM	123		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Scrutadores

Signature  
Firma

M. MERRY (Germany, Fed. Rep. Of)

27.11.89

Date  
Fecha

Signature  
Firma

T. SHIRVANIAN (Iran, Islamic

B. Linley

Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

C89/RS/10

REPORT OF BALLOT	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: NEAR EAST REGION
RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN	1	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 1.1.91-11.93 REGION PROCHE ORIENT
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION		ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION CERCANO ORIENTE

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	132
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	4
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3

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  $\frac{375}{3 + 1} + 1 = 94$

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos		
EGYPT	125			
SAUDI ARABIC (KINGDOM OF)	125			
SUDAN	125			

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Mohd. ZULKIFLI MOHAMMED (Malaysia)  
Signature .....  
Firma .....

27.11.89  
Date .....  
Fecha .....

G. LOUZIDES (Cyprus)  
Signature .....  
Firma .....  
B. Linley  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

C89/RS/12

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: REGION PACIFIQUE DU SUD-OUEST ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION PACIFICO SUDOCIDENTAL
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	132
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	12

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas validas	120
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	120

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	$\frac{120}{1+1} + 1 = 61$
------------------------------------	----------------------------

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
AUSTRALIA	120				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature M. DEHRY (Germany, Fed. Rep. of)  
Firma

27.11.89

Date  
Fecha

Signature T/ SHIRVANIAN (Iran, Islamic  
Firma Rep. of)

B. Linley  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones



En nombre de la Conferencia, felicito a los representantes de los Gobiernos de aquellos países que han sido elegidos miembros del Consejo.

Como les había anticipado antes, será necesario proceder a otra votación para elegir los miembros del Consejo. Hay 96 delegaciones en la sala. Voy a pedir a los distinguidos representantes de la República Federal de Alemania y de Irán que nos hagan el favor de servir de escrutadores. Espero que esta votación tarde menos y que los resultados puedan ser conocidos lo más pronto posible.

Les propongo a ustedes el siguiente programa para nuestra sesión de esta mañana. Después de completada la votación, y en espera de los resultados, pasaremos a la adopción del informe de la Comisión III. He tenido ya el privilegio de entrar en contacto con el colega y amigo Rudolf de Pourtalès, de Suiza, Presidente de la Comisión III, que nos acompañará en el podium para adoptar el informe de dicha Comisión. Una vez terminada la adopción del informe de la Comisión III y conocidos los resultados de la votación para miembros del Consejo, pasaremos al tema 26, nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

A la luz del tiempo que necesitemos para estas actividades que les he indicado, continuaremos nuestro programa de trabajo.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, y como se me informa que hay el quorum suficiente -unas nuevas delegaciones están presentes-, creo que puedo pedir a nuestro Secretario Auxiliar, el señor Tedesco, que comience a llamar a los países por orden alfabético y a los distinguidos escrutadores de la República Federal de Alemania y de la República Islámica de Irán, para que, por favor ocupen sus sitios, al ángulo derecho de esta sala.

Hemos concluido así el primer punto de esta mañana. Los escrutadores se han retirado de la sala y esperamos que cuanto antes nos transmitan los resultados, en espera de los cuales y, como habíamos convenido, vamos a pasar a la adopción del informe de la Comisión III.

Quiero rogar al distinguido colega y amigo de Pourtalès, de Suiza, y al señor Stein, Secretario de la Comisión III que vengan al podium para que nos ayuden en la adopción del informe de la Comisión III.

Espero que todos ustedes tengan los documentos que constituyen el informe de la Comisión III. Se trata de los REP/6 y REP/9, que contienen todo el informe de esta Comisión, a cuyo Presidente voy a pedir que nos presente este fruto de los trabajos de la Comisión III.

#### ADOPTION OF REPORT

#### ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

#### APROBACION DEL INFORME

**Rudolf DE POURTALES (Président de la Commission III):** La Commission III a tenu deux séances pour réaliser ses travaux, le mercredi après-midi 22 novembre et le jeudi matin 23 novembre. Les travaux se sont déroulés dans une atmosphère très opérationnelle, toutes les délégations ayant eu à coeur de ne pas trop prolonger les débats.

Le Comité de rédaction s'est réuni le vendredi matin, sous la présidence efficace de M. Carandang, que je remercie encore une fois de ce travail.

L'approbation du rapport par la Commission a eu lieu seulement hier matin. Nous n'avons pas trouvé le quorum vendredi soir et nous avons dû faire ce travail lundi matin. L'adoption s'est déroulée assez rapidement, une heure et demie a été nécessaire pour cette adoption. Tous les points ont trouvé une solution de compromis.

Pour cette raison, j'aimerais vous proposer que la séance plénière adopte ce rapport de la Commission III en bloc.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 6 (from Commission III)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE 6 (émanant de la Commission III)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 6 (de la Comisión III)

Paragraphs 1 to 4 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 4 son aprobados

Paragraphs 5 to 9, including Appendix, approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 9, y compris l'annexe, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 9, incluido el Apéndice, son aprobados

Paragraphs 10 to 13, including Appendix, approved

Les paragraphes 10 à 13, y compris l'annexe, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 10 a 13, incluido el Apéndice, son aprobados

Paragraphs 14 to 18, including Appendices, approved

Les paragraphes 14 à 18, y compris l'annexe, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 14 a 18, incluido el apéndice, son aprobados

Paragraphs 19 to 21, including draft resolution and appendix, approved

Les paragraphes 19 à 21, y compris le projet de résolution et l'annexe, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 19 a 21, incluidos el proyecto de resolución y el apéndice, son aprobados

Paragraphs 22 to 24, including draft resolution and appendix, approved

Les paragraphes 22 à 24, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 22 a 24, incluidos el proyecto de resolución y el apéndice, son aprobados

Paragraph 25, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 25, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 25, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 6 from Comm.III, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, 6<sup>o</sup> partie dela Comm.III, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte 6 de la Comisión III, es aprobado

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias, señor de Pourtalès, Presidente de la Comisión III.

Espero que la forma ordenada y el espíritu de cooperación que reinaron en esa Comisión van a seguir vigentes en esta plenaria.

Han escuchado ustedes la propuesta que ha hecho el Presidente de la Comisión III, que entiendo consiste en que se adopten en bloque los REP/6 y REP/9 que contienen la totalidad del informe de esa Comisión III.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 9 (from Commission III)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE 9 (émanant de la Commission III)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 9 (de la Comisión III)

**R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom):** I have no objection to the proposal to accept the Report as a whole, and presumably we do not have to go through it paragraph by paragraph if other delegations have had time to read it. But there is one paragraph where I think the text does not represent the agreement reached in Commission III. I will go straight to that particular paragraph. This is Rep. 9 on page 18, and paragraph 15 I think has not been amended as was agreed. There was an additional paragraph, or just an additional sentence. What has been left out is at the end of paragraph 15, "and considered it important to adhere to this timetable". Then it ran on "it was pointed out that this schedule of decision-making might require consultation between the FAO Secretariat and Member Nations in the Programme and Finance Committees so as to ensure that the interests of the Organization should be adequately reflected in the decisions to be taken in the UNDP Governing Council". I think this was agreed and has just been left out.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si la observación del Reino Unido se refiere solamente al párrafo 15 del REP/9, entiendo que sigue vigente la propuesta del Presidente de la Comisión III a quien concedo la palabra para que explique la situación sobre el párrafo 15 del REP/9.

**Rudolf DE POURTALES (Président de la Commission III):** Effectivement, la correction apportée par le Royaume-Uni a été oubliée par le Secrétariat. La correction doit être faite.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Bien, como ustedes han oído, se trata solamente de una corrección que se introducirá adecuadamente en el párrafo 15 del REP/9. Si no hay ningún otro comentario sobre los REP/6 y 9 que contienen el Informe de la Comisión III, declaro que la Conferencia, con la adición que se hará en el párrafo 15 del REP/9, adopta por aclamación los REP/6 y 9 del Informe de la Comisión III. Queda así decidido.

Paragraphs 1 and 2, including Appendix, approved

Les paragraphes 1 et 2, y compris l'Annexe, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 y 2, incluido el Apéndice, son aprobados

Paragraphs 3 to 7, including draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 3 à 7, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 a 7, incluido el proyecto de Resolución, son aprobados

Paragraphs 8 to 10 approved

Les paragraphes 8 à 10 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 8 a 10 son aprobados

Paragraphs 11 to 15, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 11 à 15, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 15, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 16 to 20 approved

Les paragraphes 16 à 20 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 16 a 20 son aprobados

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

Paragraph 24 approved

Le paragraphe 24 est approuvé

El párrafo 24 es aprobado

Paragraph 25, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 25, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 25, incluido el proyecto de Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 26 to 30, including draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 26 à 30, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 26 a 30, incluido el proyecto de Resolución, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 9 from Commission III, as amended, was adopted  
Projet de rapport de la plénière, 9ème partie de la Commission III ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte 9 de la Comisión III así enmendado, es aprobado

**EL PRESIDENTE:** En nombre de la Conferencia, quiero agradecer muy sinceramente a nuestro colega y amigo Rudolf de Pourtalès de Suiza, la manera pragmática, ponderada y a la vez eficaz como ha dirigido la Comisión III. El método de trabajo del Sr. de Pourtalès ha reunido las características de precisión, corrección y seriedad que honran a su tradición, especialmente a la tradición suiza. Gracias por este valioso servicio que el Sr. de Pourtalès y el Gobierno de Suiza han ofrecido a la Organización. Estamos todos igualmente agradecidos también a los Vicepresidentes de la Comisión III, a los señores Lamptey de Ghana y Ahmed de Sudán.

Gracias también al Sr. colega y amigo Horacio Carandang de Filipinas quien presidió con su competencia habitual el Comité de Redacción. Nuestros agradecimientos son extensivos también a los miembros de ese Comité. Gracias a usted, Sr. Stein, Secretario de la Comisión III y a su asistente el Sr. Mitchum. Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, declaro así adoptado el Informe de la Comisión III.

En espera de los resultados que la Secretaría me ha dicho llegarán a esta sala de un momento a otro a fin de avanzar en nuestros trabajos les propongo, si todos tienen a la mano, el documento C 89/REP/10. Se trata del Proyecto de Informe de la Plenaria, la primera parte de la que ha tenido lugar en Plenaria.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 10

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - PARTIE 10

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 10

Tienen todos el documento C 89/REP/10? ¿No pueden las mensajeras traerlo a la sala, el C 89/REP/10?

Creo que la mayoría de las delegaciones tienen este documento. Esperamos unos minutos para que aquellos colegas que no lo tengan puedan obtenerlo.

Espero que ya todos dispongan del REP/10. Iremos muy lentamente, sección por sección. Repito, son hechos que espero no van a ofrecer ninguna controversia.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 approved

Les paragraphes 1 et 2, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 y 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

Paragraphs 5 to 8 approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 8 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 8 son aprobados

Paragraphs 9 and 11 approved

Les paragraphes 9 et 11 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 y 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 and 15 approved

Les paragraphes 14 et 15, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 14 y 15, son aprobados

Paragraph 16 approved

Le paragraphe 16 est approuvé

El párrafo 16 es aprobado

Paragraph 17 approved

Le paragraphe 17 est approuvé

El párrafo 17 es aprobado

Paragraphs 18 to 22 approved

Les paragraphes 18 à 22 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 18 a 22 son aprobados

Paragraphs 18 and 19 approved  
Les paragraphes 18 et 19, sont approuvés  
Los párrafos 18 y 19 son aprobados

Paragraph 20 approved  
Le paragraphe 20 est approuvé  
El párrafo 20 es aprobado

Paragraphs 21 and 22 approved  
Les paragraphes 21 et 22 sont approuvés  
Los párrafos 21 y 22 son aprobados

Paragraph 23 approved  
Le paragraphe 23 est approuvé  
El párrafo 23 es aprobado

Paragraphs 24 to 29 approved  
Les paragraphes 24 à 29 sont approuvés  
Los párrafos 24 a 29 son aprobados

paragraphs 30 and 31 approved  
Les paragraphes 30 et 31, sont approuvés  
Los párrafos 30 y 31 son aprobados

Paragraph 32 approved  
Le paragraphe 32 est approuvé  
El párrafo 32 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 10, was adopted  
Le projet de rapport de la plénière, 10ème partie, est adopté  
El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte 10, es aprobado

**J.A. DE MEDICIS (Brazil):** I think we should also include a tribute to the President of Comoros.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** La observación del distinguido Embajador De Médicis es correcta. Esta es la primera parte del Informe de la Plenaria. Luego habrá una segunda parte en la cual se incluirán hechos posteriores de esta primera parte.

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

IV. NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

25. Election of Council Members (cont'd)

25. Election des membres du Conseil (suite)

25. Elección de miembros del Consejo (cont.)

Tenemos ya los resultados de la votación para América Latina y el Caribe, segundo turno.

C89/RS/11

REPORT OF BALLOT  RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN  RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.  1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION  ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: REGION AMERIQUE LATINE ET CARAIBES 1.1.91-11.93  ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	127
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	3
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	14

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	110
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	110

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	56
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Elected - Elus - Eligidos	Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos	
COSTA RICA	110	

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature Hamid Reza NAMVAR, (Iran, Islamic Rep.of)  
Firma

28.11.89

Date  
Fecha

Signature M. DEBUS (Germany, Fed.Rep. of)  
Firma

B. Linley  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire electoral  
El oficial de elecciones



**EL PRESIDENTE:** En nombre de la Conferencia felicito al distinguido representante de Costa Rica por su elección a los Miembros del Consejo. Con este resultado que les acabo de leer, se ha completado así el tema de la Elección de los Miembros del Consejo.

- IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (cont'd)
- IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (cont'd)
- IV. NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)
- 26. Appointments
- 26. Nominations
- 26. Nombramientos
- 26.1 Appointment of Independent Chairman of the Council
- 26.1 Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil
- 26.1 Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Les ruego ahora que se preparen para proseguir nuestros trabajos como habíamos convenido, con el tema 26.1: Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Pasamos ahora al tema 26.1: Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Con arreglo a lo establecido en el párrafo 2 del Artículo V de la Constitución, la Conferencia nombra el Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Hay dos candidatos a esa importante posición. Según se indica en el documento C 89/15, se efectuará el nombramiento por votación secreta, con arreglo a lo especificado en el párrafo 9 A) del Artículo 12 del Reglamento General de la Organización.

Al tenor de dicho Artículo, el quorum para las elecciones lo constituye la mayoría de los Estados Miembros que es 80. En este momento, se hayan presentes en la sala por lo menos 127 delegaciones; por lo que ruego al Secretario General, si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, que lea las instrucciones pertinentes para este importante tema.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Les délégués vont être appelés à se rendre au podium où ils recevront chacun un bulletin de vote avec le nom de deux candidats. Les votants devront indiquer leur choix en marquant une croix à l'emplacement indiqué à côté du nom du candidat qu'ils voudront voir nommer.

Conformément au paragraphe 4 d) de l'Acte constitutif, est nul tout bulletin de vote portant plus de suffrages qu'il n'y a de postes à pourvoir. Les bulletins de vote ne doivent porter aucune indication, ni aucun signe autre que ceux par lesquels s'exprime le suffrage.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias señor Alessi. Espero que estén claras las indicaciones que ha ofrecido el Secretario General, y que cada delegación puede expresar su voto de manera ordenada y satisfactoria.

Vamos ahora a iniciar la votación; votación que de acuerdo con el Reglamento no podrá ser interrumpida hasta su conclusión.

Quiero rogar a los representantes de Chipre y Malasia, por favor, a que actúen como escrutadores y se acerquen al lugar de las votaciones. Después de lo cual, el Secretario auxiliar procederá a llamar a los países por orden alfabético.

VOTE

VOTE

VOTACION

C 89/RS/13

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	131
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	129
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	129

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	65
------------------------------------	----

Elected - Elus - Eligidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
A. SAINTRAINT	75	D. AMSTUTZ	54		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature  
Firma

C. LOIZIDES (Cyprus)

Signature  
Firma

Mohd. ZULKIFLI MOHAMMED  
..(Malaysia) ..

28.11.89.....  
Date  
Fecha

B. Linley  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos colegas y amigos, vamos a reanudar nuestra sesión de esta mañana. Tenemos ya el resultado de la elección para Presidente Independiente del Consejo de la FAO. Ha sido elegido Presidente Independiente del Consejo el Señor Embajador Antoine Saintraint, de Bélgica.

Applause

Appludissements

Aplausos

Sé que muchos de ustedes desean hacer uso de la palabra para felicitar al nuevo Presidente Independiente recién elegido y también para agradecer los valiosos servicios que ha prestado a la FAO nuestro Presidente saliente, el distinguido y querido colega y amigo, Lassaad Ben Osman, de Túnez.

A fin de organizar nuestra sesión de esta mañana les pido que se atengan a una selección de oradores que hemos establecido, a través de la cual los representantes de los distintos grupos regionales van a intervenir a nombre de los Estados de cada una de sus regiones; de lo contrario la lista de oradores podría ser interminable.

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les délégués, par le processus démocratique prescrit dans nos textes fondamentaux, la Conférence vient de nommer Président indépendant du Conseil Monsieur l'Ambassadeur de Belgique Antoine Saintraint.

Lorsque dans une élection il s'agit d'opérer un choix entre deux personnes de grande valeur, le regret de voir écarté l'un des candidats se mêle à la joie de voir l'autre élu.

C'est bien le cas aujourd'hui. Aussi dans le même temps que j'adresse mes cordiales félicitations au Président indépendant du Conseil nouvellement élu, je voudrais saluer et remercier Monsieur Daniel Amstutz, le candidat qui n'a pas obtenu la majorité.

L'action de Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Antoine Saintraint, en sa qualité de représentant permanent de la Belgique auprès de la FAO, vous est trop connue pour que j'en parle longuement. S'il a pu jouer un tel rôle, c'est parce que sa longue et riche expérience de la coopération et du développement lui a donné une connaissance directe et une profonde compréhension des problèmes que vivent l'Afrique, l'Amérique latine et l'Asie.

Vétéran d'innombrables activités, réunions et conférences de diverses institutions de la famille des Nations Unies, il en connaît à fond les procédures et le fonctionnement et il en partage les idéaux. En servant son pays, il a su servir la cause de la communauté internationale. Dans le choix de la Conférence est aussi intervenu, j'en suis sûr, le fait qu'à la FAO il s'est toujours montré homme de concertation et de dialogue, n'épargnant aucun effort pour concilier les sensibilités diverses et rapprocher les points de vue.

Votre élection, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, atteste avec éclat que la Conférence vous fait confiance pour exercer en toute impartialité et indépendance la haute fonction de Président du Conseil.

A mes cordiales félicitations, permettez-moi de joindre mes vœux les plus fervents pour le succès et la fécondité de cette nouvelle mission. Soyez assuré que dans son accomplissement vous pouvez compter sur notre entière coopération. (Continue en arabe - Interprétation)

Monsieur le Président, Excellence et cher ami Monsieur Lassaad Ben Osman, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, chers frères. Parler de Lassaad Ben Osman, de ses qualités, de ses dons est sujet inépuisable. En des occasions récentes j'ai parlé de lui, de manière limitée, sans flatter la modestie de l'homme; mais en la ménageant, j'ai dû laisser de côté nombre des éloges qu'il méritait et j'ai compris que tout hommage adressé à sa personne ne saurait être à la mesure de ce que nous lui devons, ni refléter la place qu'il occupe dans nos coeurs.

Les distingués Représentants des Etats Membres de l'Organisation, et surtout les Membres du Conseil, se joindront à moi pour dire que le Président indépendant a exercé son rôle avec une sagesse rare, un courage, une objectivité modèle.

Bien que son mandat ait connu durant quatre ans des circonstances extrêmement difficiles, il a été capable d'orienter le Conseil vers la bonne direction, fidèle ainsi à sa mission et aux objectifs de l'Organisation, digne de son authenticité et de sa noblesse.

Je suis confiant que mon ami Lassaad Ben Osman remerciera comme d'habitude et à juste titre les Membres du Conseil et rendra hommage à leur coopération constructive. Ainsi et à mon tour, j'ai le plaisir de rendre hommage à la compétence du Conseil et à son admirable travail.

C'est pour moi un grand honneur d'exprimer, en mon nom propre et au nom de cette élite internationale présente ici, les sentiments d'une amitié profonde qui nous liera toujours au Président Lassaad Ben Osman. Demain, lorsque l'on dira de lui que c'est une personne remarquable, qui a assumé de grandes responsabilités au sein de l'Organisation jusqu'au jour où le devoir l'a appelé ailleurs, nous lui souhaiterons plein succès et nous dirons même qu'il est l'un des piliers de l'Organisation, l'un de ses supports inébranlables, impérissables.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Estoy seguro de que todos los miembros de la Conferencia comparten las elocuentes palabras que el Director General acaba de pronunciar.

En primer lugar, quisiera ahora conceder la palabra al Señor Khan, de Pakistán, quien hablará a nombre del Grupo de los 77.

**Muhammad Saleem KHAN S. (Pakistan):** Mr Chairman, in the democratic principle of elections, there is always a winner and a loser, and Dr Antoine Saintraint has today been elected as a result of the practice of this democratic principle. As the Director-General said, this does not mean that the other candidate is any the less qualified.

On behalf of the Group of 77, on behalf of myself and on behalf of my country, I wish to congratulate Dr Saintraint on his election as Independent Chairman of the Council. His appointment to this post is a fitting tribute to his important contribution to the work of FAO during his prolonged association with the Organization.

Dr Saintraint has had a long and impressive career, both in the Government of Belgium and in various international organizations, not the least FAO. We are confident that his wealth of experience, together with his skilled conception of global food and agricultural issues, and his hope and vision for a better world for all, will result in the further strengthening of the FAO Council. We in the Group of 77 wish him all success in the discharge of his new and onerous duties and responsibilities; we are sure that he will continue in the finest traditions associated with the position of the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council.

In welcoming Dr Saintraint, we also wish to pledge our full cooperation and our full support for the realization of the objectives of the Council.

On behalf of the Group of 77 and on my own behalf, it is also a great honour to take this opportunity to pay tribute to His Excellency Lassaad Ben Osman for the magnificent services he has rendered FAO in his capacity as Independent Chairman of the FAO Council. Lassaad Ben Osman assumed the charge of Independent Chairman of the Council during the most difficult era of FAO's existence, a period in which the Organization was faced with the most serious financial crisis, while the demand on its resources and capacities grew rapidly. Discussions in Council sessions were often characterized by extreme divergencies and often with charged situations. It was with great respect and admiration that we saw Mr Osman use his considerable experience and aptitude to overcome these difficult situations and to guide our deliberations through fruitful avenues.

His patience and composure in these moments were exemplary, and his decisions just and fair. There were numerous worthy occasions when we benefitted from his presence and his advice and sage counsel. We thank you, Mr Ben Osman, for all your patience and forbearance, and congratulate you on your considerable success.

Finally, on behalf of my country, Pakistan, I would like to congratulate Tunisia, a country with whom we have always remained tied in a fraternal and close relationship, on producing such a distinguished and eminent son.

**Sumiji NAKAZAWA (Japan):** On behalf of the members of the OECD group, which I am now chairing, I would like, first of all, to express our congratulations to His Excellency Ambassador Saintraint, on his election to the Independent Chairmanship of the FAO Council for the next two years. We hope that under his leadership the Council will successfully fulfil its duty until the next Conference.

On the understanding that it is now the turn of the OECD group to present the candidacy from Member States to the post, the Group has been striving to reach agreement on a single united candidacy for this post. But, the problem of double candidacy has not been solved in the group and comes to the voting which has taken place, for the first time, in the history of the Organization. I am afraid that such situation has caused deep concern among the Member Nations about the management of the Council in the future.

On this occasion, I would like to remind the members of the good job which we have done under the Chairman, His Excellency Lassaad Ben Osman, during a very severe period. We have succeeded in reaching agreement in many controversial issues, including the FAO Review, thanks to his excellent leadership and the spirit of the cooperation prevailing among the Member Nations.

Here we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to His Excellency Ben Osman for his efforts of four years.

Finally, we sincerely hope that the Council will overcome difficult situations under the new Independent Chairman and will be able to actively and constructively respond to the challenges of the future.

**Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh):** The Director-General has expressed, in his remarks, congratulations. I would also join him in saying that in the finest tradition of democratic process of the Organization, we have elected Ambassador Antoine Saintraint, the Permanent Representative of Belgium as the Independent Chairman of the Council for the next two years.

As in any democratic election, democratic process, there is a winner and there is a loser, and it certainly does not say that the loser is any worse a candidate. In this case, Mr Amstutz, the US candidate, was equally good with his experience, but the winner, Ambassador Saintraint, is an outstanding Ambassador, and his contribution that we have seen in the past years since I have come to Rome has impressed me. Besides, I have seen him even before. I met him in Rome. He has been to our part of the world, among many, as a country representative, as a representative of the EEC, in search of finding common ground in the promotion of international efforts in improving the quality of life in the developing countries.

Ambassador Saintraint, with you and with your country, with the members of Asian countries, we have excellent relations, in your personal capacity and as a representative of the EEC before you came to Rome. We have no doubt that you are going to make an equally good contribution, important contribution, constructive contribution in your new capacity as the Chairman of this important body, and thereby in the finest tradition of your country, he will contribute to the promotion of international cooperation and harmony in Rome and with other organizations of the UN system.

While welcoming you Ambassador Saintraint, I would also like to place on record the important services that have been rendered by the outgoing Chairman, His Excellency El Lassaad Ben Osman of Tunisia I have seen him in very difficult situations, particularly in the last years while tackling one of the most sensitive issues, one of the most delicate issues that the FAO had to deal with since its inception, and that was the question of the review process of the FAO. Your Excellency, Mr Ben Osman, you have done it well in the midst of a difficult situation; you have given guidance; you have given the right amount of balancing to all the groups, all the interests, and thereby you have set an example, which will be very difficult to emulate, but I am sure the Chairman we have just elected will be equally gifted and equipped to emulate examples which you are leaving behind.

Moreover, I have, in my own capacity, a very special privilege to represent my country to your great country as my country's ambassador. That also has given me added pleasure to see you working so well and working well for the promotion of international and professional harmony. With these few words I welcome Ambassador Saintraint again, and wish you well in your job.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie):** Je suis heureux et orgueilleux d'avoir été appelé à prendre la parole aujourd'hui, au nom de tous les pays européens, de l'ouest comme de l'est.

Je voudrais, à cette occasion, tout d'abord remercier encore une fois le Président indépendant du Conseil sortant, Monsieur Ben Osman, qui pendant quatre ans a si vaillamment travaillé au service de tous. Il a donc bien mérité de l'Organisation ainsi que de tous ses Etats Membres et il a su, en outre, hausser le prestige de son pays natal, la Tunisie, pays avec lequel l'Italie entretient de si cordiales relations. Nous lui souhaitons donc plein succès pour ses activités futures et nous espérons le revoir ici, à Rome, parmi nous .

Tout en regrettant la nécessité d'avoir dû recourir à une élection, il m'est tout aussi agréable maintenant, au nom de tous les Etats amis qui m'en ont chargé, de féliciter l'Ambassadeur Saintraint qui vient d'être élu nouveau Président indépendant du Conseil pour les années 1990-91. Nous lui souhaitons tous un bon travail dans cette nouvelle charge très importante et très délicate qu'il est appelé maintenant à remplir. Sa longue expérience pourra certainement l'aider et nous sommes sûrs qu'il saura accomplir avec succès son travail futur.

**Carlos FERREIRA CANOBIO (Chile):** En nombre y representación de los países miembros del Grupo Latinoamericano y el Caribe y de la delegación de Chile, en primer lugar deseo dejar constancia de nuestro vivo reconocimiento y admiración por la gestión realizada por el distinguido Sr. Lassaad Ben Osman. Ello por cuanto en el período en que le ha correspondido presidir el Consejo de la FAO, la Organización vivió momentos muy difíciles.

No cabe duda que la amplia preparación profesional y los méritos que precedían al Sr. Ben Osman han contribuido notablemente a orientar los trabajos del Consejo; y repito, en un período que sin temor a equivocarme, puedo definir como el más difícil por el que haya atravesado la Organización desde su fundación.

Es por ello que una vez más, deseo rendirle un homenaje de gratitud por la inteligencia, capacidad, y sobre todo buen criterio con que el Sr. Ben Osman supo ejercer el cargo de Presidente Independiente del Consejo en pro de los altos y nobles objetivos de nuestra Organización.

Es igualmente con gran placer que tengo el honor de dar la bienvenida al Embajador Antoine Saintraint, a pesar de que, después de muchos años, la cuestión ha sido definida por una elección, lo que no resta en caso alguno los méritos del Dr. Amstutz.

Debo congratularme muy sinceramente con un gran amigo, no sólo del que habla sino de todo nuestro grupo, que ha sido elegido para el cargo de Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

El distinguido Embajador de Bélgica, Antoine Saintraint, el Dr. Saintraint ha demostrado en innumerables ocasiones su notable buena disposición hacia los países que transitan por el difícil camino hacia el desarrollo. Y más aún, ha respaldado con hechos concretos tal disposición.

En estas ocasiones, es lógico emitir expresiones de buena voluntad, alabanzas y otras. Sin embargo, deseo dejar constancia que el Embajador Saintraint constituye una garantía, para todos los países miembros que tienen un sincero interés en la Organización, de que su período como Presidente del Consejo será pleno de aciertos y realizaciones positivas.

No creo necesario hacer resaltar aquí los méritos profesionales y la amplia experiencia del Embajador Saintraint. Ya muchos oradores lo han dicho; pero sí quiero dejar constancia de sus notables cualidades humanas, su simpatía, su profundo respeto por todos y cada uno de los miembros de esta Organización; y especialmente su inteligencia que le ha permitido ganarse el cariño y estima de todos los presentes. Muchas gracias, Señor Presidente.

**Mme Carole THEAUVETTE (Canada):** La région nord-américaine se joint aux autres délégations pour exprimer ses remerciements et son appréciation au Président sortant, Monsieur Lassaad Ben Osman. Pendant une période difficile, Monsieur Osman a présidé le Conseil avec dévouement et vigilance, sans compromettre l'impartialité de cette position. Sa présence nous manquera sûrement et nous lui souhaitons bonne chance dans ses projets d'avenir. Tel que nous le connaissons, nous sommes convaincus qu'il fera entendre sa voix sur la scène internationale en faveur des plus démunis.

Permettez-moi aussi d'offrir les félicitations de la région nord-américaine à Monsieur Antoine Saintraint pour son élection au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil. Nous attachons de l'importance aux travaux du Conseil et espérons donc établir des relations productives avec son nouveau Président.

Notre région tient à signaler que, lorsqu'à nouveau les pays de l'OCDE auront à présenter un candidat au poste de Président indépendant, ce candidat devrait selon vous venir de la région de l'Amérique du Nord puisque c'est la seule région n'ayant jamais détenu ce poste.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos



**Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic):** I wish to express my sincere gratitude and happiness at the election of our dear friend Mr Antoine Saintraint as Chairman of the Council and to extend to him on behalf of myself, my delegation and the Near East Region our heartfelt and sincere congratulations. We have known Mr Saintraint for many years and have seen his confidence and high degree of competence and wisdom, which we believe will be the best guarantee, with the help of God, that our Council will continue to be successfully presided over. The Near East Region will support him in every possible way to serve the Organization and its Member Nations. Once again, I express our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for his success.

We all remember with deep feeling the outgoing Chairman of the Council, His Excellency Lassaad Ben Osman. On behalf of myself and of the Near East Group, I wish to say this to Mr Ben Osman. You have been the best ambassador and most sincere representative of your country. You have rendered service to this Organization under severely difficult conditions, but with the best of qualifications. We are proud of you in the face of all Member Nations. You have stood by your principles, and in turn countries have fully supported you. Dear friend, from the bottom of our hearts we wish you every success, good health and peace of mind.

**René Gilbert RALISON (Madagascar):** C'est un grand honneur mais aussi un immense plaisir pour moi de m'exprimer au nom du groupe africain et, bienentendu, au nom de ma délégation, pour adresser à Son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur Antoine Saintraint les félicitations les plus sincères pour sa brillante élection en qualité de Président indépendant du Conseil de la FAO.

Connaissant sa grande expérience dans les domaines qui nous occupent au sein de l'Organisation, nous n'avons aucune hésitation à lui accorder notre confiance. Son Excellence Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Saintraint a déjà fait montre de sa grande compétence lorsqu'il a présidé des sections de plusieurs Comités et ses déclarations ont toujours été de grande valeur. Par ailleurs, dans ses actes la Belgique a toujours démontré son soutien à l'Organisation, ce qui justifie amplement le soutien du groupe africain à son Excellence l'Ambassadeur Saintraint.

Nous voudrions lui souhaiter bonne santé et une inépuisable réserve de persévérance, de patience, de souplesse et de compréhension durant le mandat qui sera le sien. En tout cas, nous l'assurons de notre appui et de notre concours actif ainsi que de notre franche collaboration.

Nous ne pouvons clore notre intervention sans manifester à son Excellence Lassaad Ben Osman, Président indépendant du Conseil sortant, notre reconnaissance la plus profonde pour les services inestimables qu'il a rendus à l'Organisation. Nous avons trouvé en lui les qualités inhérentes à un grand homme au fait des Affaires internationales et à même de faire régner l'harmonie, tout en préservant l'objectivité au sein d'un organe aussi important qu'un Conseil. Nous voudrions, au nom du groupe africain et en notre nom, lui souhaiter santé, bonheur et prospérité. Nous adressons les mêmes souhaits à sa famille et à tous ceux qui lui sont chers.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Voy ahora a conceder la palabra al último Delegado que la ha solicitado, el representante de Túnez. Luego, yo mismo haré una breve declaración a nombre de la Conferencia y procederemos a oír las intervenciones del señor Expresidente Ben Osman, y del Presidente recién elegido, señor Saintraint.

**Amor BEN ROMDHANE (Tunisie)(langue originale Arabe):** La délégation tunisienne souhaite adresser toutes ses félicitations à Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Antoine Saintraint, nouveau Président indépendant du Conseil de l'Organisation. Nous pensons que Monsieur Saintraint assurera la meilleure succession à ce poste et nous espérons qu'il pourra diriger les travaux du Conseil dans les conditions les meilleures et au bénéfice de l'Organisation.

Le Gouvernement de la Tunisie renouvelle ses remerciements à tous les membres qui avaient élu l'un de ses honorables fils, à savoir Monsieur Ben Osman, et qui l'ont aidé à accomplir sa tâche et à remplir sa mission en tant que Président indépendant du Conseil pendant un mandat de quatre ans au cours desquels l'Organisation a connu de grandes difficultés.

Je ne manquerai pas d'exprimer au Secrétariat et au Directeur Général, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, toute notre reconnaissance, notre respect et notre estime pour la collaboration et l'appui qu'ils ont accordés à Monsieur Ben Osman.

La délégation tunisienne présente ses vœux d'excellente santé à Monsieur Ben Osman, et lui souhaite pleine réussite dans ses fonctions futures.

Nous souhaitons également une réussite continue à Monsieur Antoine Saintrain dans sa nouvelle mission, au sein d'une Organisation forte et solide.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Después de las declaraciones que se han hecho, es muy poco lo que puedo agregar como Presidente de la Conferencia. Tal como lo dijo el Director General y muchos de ustedes, el veredicto democrático de las urnas, mediante una libre elección, ha decidido que nuestro colega y amigo el Embajador Antoine Saintraint, de Bélgica, haya sido elegido Presidente Independiente del Consejo de la FAO. El intenso aplauso con que esta Conferencia ha recibido esa elección confirma la general simpatía, la merecida popularidad y el gran prestigio con que cuenta el Embajador Saintraint. Por experiencia personal, puedo afirmar que ser Presidente Independiente del Consejo es una gran responsabilidad, constituye un inmenso honor y a la vez comporta derechos, deberes y obligaciones que estoy seguro el Embajador Saintraint sabrá cumplir con entereza, independencia, inteligencia y dignidad.

En nombre de la Conferencia, felicito muy cordialmente al nuevo Presidente Independiente del Consejo, a quien me unen vínculos de personal amistad, deseándole todo buen éxito en sus altas e importantes funciones. En nombre de la conferencia, deseo también agradecer muy sinceramente al honorable Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América el hecho de haber propuesto un candidato, igualmente merecedor de haber sido elegido, persona muy respetable y competente.

Distinguido colega y amigo Embajador y Ex-ministro Ben Osman, el discurrir inexorable de la vida de esta Organización va consagrando figuras, personajes, todos respetables, que se incorporan a la historia de la FAO. Usted, distinguido amigo Ben Osman, dilecto hijo de Túnez, país fraterno en el Tercer Mundo, ha cumplido sus cuatro años de Presidente Independiente del Consejo con gran altura, toda independencia y notable inteligencia.

Para mí, personalmente, constituye un gran privilegio compartir con el Ex-presidente Ben Osman nuestra común pertenencia a la galería de retratos en la Sala Roja. Así, este gran hombre, Lassaad Ben Osman, todo corazón, pura nobleza, dignidad e independencia, dinamismo y competencia, será perennemente recordado por los valiosos servicios prestados a nuestra Organización. En nombre de la Conferencia, mil y mil gracias al colega y amigo Ben Osman, con todos nuestros mejores deseos por sus nuevas actividades en el porvenir, y mil y mil gracias al honorable Gobierno de Túnez, por habernos ofrecido el concurso de un exponente tan sobresaliente del pueblo tunecino.

Con gran placer, quiero ahora pedirle de manera muy cordial y respetuosa al Ex-presidente Ben Osman que se dirija a la Conferencia.

**Lassaad BEN OSMAN (Président indépendant sortant du Conseil) (langue originale Arabe):** Monsieur le Président, Honorables Délégués, Messieurs les Observateurs, en ma qualité de Président indépendant du Conseil de l'Organisation pendant les quatre dernières années, permettez-moi d'être parmi les premiers à exprimer mes félicitations les plus chaleureuses à M. Antoine Saintraint pour sa brillante élection par la Conférence au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil de l'Organisation pour la période 1990-1991.

A travers cette élection et à cette occasion je voudrais saluer Monsieur Amstutz connu pour sa grande compétence dans le domaine de l'agriculture.

Cette élection est le témoignage de reconnaissance par les honorables délégués des hautes qualités dont Monsieur Saintraint a fait montre dans toutes les responsabilités qu'il a exercées au cours de sa carrière fort riche. En effet, pendant de longues années, il a été responsable auprès du Gouvernement de Belgique des questions relatives à la coopération avec les pays en développement; il a ensuite été responsable des questions relatives à la faim dans le monde, et enfin représentant de son gouvernement auprès de notre Organisation. Dans toutes ces fonctions fort importantes il a toujours démontré une sensibilité particulière vis-à-vis des questions relatives à la coopération avec les pays en développement, et par rapport aux campagnes ayant pour objectif de combattre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde.

Il peut à juste titre être considéré comme membre de la grande famille de l'Organisation; il est Représentant permanent auprès de celle-ci, ce qui est de nature à l'aider à assumer cette nouvelle et importante responsabilité qui vient de lui être confiée en tant que Président indépendant de l'Organisation. Il saura jouer un rôle efficace dans la vie de l'Organisation, la préparation et l'exécution de résolutions importantes et dans certaines situations qui sont vitales pour l'auguste Conférence. Sans aucun doute on peut considérer que M. Antoine Saintraint est une personne tout à fait indiquée pour garantir la continuité du travail de l'Organisation sur la base des résolutions de la Conférence et du développement de la situation internationale sur la nutrition et l'agriculture.

Il est à noter que la prochaine période sera très importante et riche d'activités en vue de l'exécution des résolutions de la 25ème Session de la Conférence de la FAO, et qui portent sur l'application des résultats de l'examen du rôle de l'Organisation et de ses activités, dans le but de renforcer son efficacité et son rayonnement.

L'objectif est également de continuer à examiner la situation financière de l'Organisation ainsi que bien d'autres questions fort importantes pour son existence et pour la réalisation de ses nobles objectifs.

Je suis d'ores et déjà certain de la réussite de M. Saintraint d'une part grâce à l'appui des honorables délégués, mais également grâce à sa patience et sa grande compréhension de toutes les prises de position, à son analyse profonde de tous les problèmes, grâce à sa volonté de servir et de donner le meilleur de lui-même à l'Organisation dans un climat de dialogue constructif et positif.

D'avance je félicite M. Saintraint pour le succès qui couronnera sans doute ses activités et son travail.

Honorables Délégués, Messieurs les Observateurs, permettez-moi à cette occasion particulière alors que je viens de terminer ma mission de Président indépendant du Conseil de notre Organisation, d'exprimer mes remerciements et toute ma reconnaissance à mon pays la Tunisie, qui avait présenté ma candidature à ce poste fort important, et aux Pays membres qui m'avaient investi de leur confiance précieuse en m'élisant à deux reprises successives à ce poste de Président indépendant du Conseil de l'Organisation.

J'ai été conscient de la lourde responsabilité dont vous m'aviez chargé et j'ai déployé tous les efforts en mon pouvoir pour être à la hauteur de la confiance que vous avez placée en ma modeste personne, et pour réussir à maintenir un climat sain et des relations constructives entre les membres du Conseil, entre le Conseil et le Secrétariat.

J'ai le devoir de remercier tous les membres du Conseil avec qui j'ai eu l'honneur de travailler de leur profonde prise de conscience de l'importance de leur rôle, car leur participation dans les débats du Conseil a été à la fois fort riche et fort enrichissante; je les remercie de l'attention intense et continue qu'ils ont portée aux questions soulevées devant le Conseil et qui a permis à ce dernier de procéder à l'analyse et à l'examen approfondi de toutes les questions dont il était saisi.

Je suis également reconnaissant à tous les honorables Représentants pour l'esprit de compréhension de toutes les exigences de la Présidence du Conseil dont ils ont toujours fait montre pendant quatre années. Tous ces nobles sentiments ont été le plus grand appui pour moi afin de pouvoir participer aux travaux du Conseil et que m'a dicté la conscience, pour m'aider à chercher les solutions qui obtiennent l'accord du Conseil, afin de permettre à l'Organisation d'accomplir sa mission de la meilleure manière. L'espoir qui m'anime en ce moment est d'avoir réussi à assumer mes responsabilités, rempli ma mission et d'avoir été fidèle, à la hauteur de la confiance des pays membres et de mon propre pays qui avait présenté ma candidature à ce poste.

Je suis très touché par toutes les paroles aimables qui ont été exprimées à mon endroit et je suis franchement incapable d'exprimer une réponse à cet égard. Je pense que ces aimables paroles m'ont dépassé pour toucher mon pays qui a présenté ma candidature par ce poste et qui a toujours cru à la coopération internationale et dans les nobles principes de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. Permettez-moi de me considérer à cette occasion comme l'un des fils de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. Je voudrais exprimer mes remerciements et ma gratitude à M. Edouard Saouma, Directeur général, pour l'esprit de coopération et de conciliation remarquable dont il a fait montre pendant toute la durée de mon mandat à la Présidence du Conseil.

Je voudrais exprimer mes remerciements pour les aimables paroles qu'il a prononcées à mon endroit. Je les considère comme un appui moral remarquable dont je suis très fier.

Je voudrais également exprimer mes chaleureux remerciements au Secrétariat pour tous les efforts continus et inlassables qu'il a déployés pour faciliter la tâche du Président du Conseil.

Dans tout ceci je vois une preuve de plus de la bonne volonté et de la détermination de tous pour permettre à l'Organisation de jouer son rôle dans les meilleures conditions pour participer à la campagne lancée pour combattre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias señor ex presidente, Ben Osman. En nombre de la Conferencia puedo asegurar a usted que en esta Organización le recordaremos siempre con gratitud y cariño, ya lo hemos adoptado como hijo predilecto de la FAO, con la esperanza de que en el futuro usted siga ofreciendo a nuestra Organización y a la Comunidad Internacional todos los valiosos recursos de su inteligencia, lucidez y competencia.

Ahora voy a conceder la palabra al recién elegido Presidente Independiente del Consejo, Embajador Saintraint, de Bélgica.

**Antoine SAINTRAINT (Presidente Independiente del Consejo).** Señor Presidente, quisiera agradecerle primero por su presencia que será para mi país y para mí un recuerdo inolvidable el verle presidiendo esta Conferencia. Usted ha sido Presidente Independiente del Consejo durante cuatro años. Desde mi llegada a Roma hemos tenido muchas y buenas relaciones y podemos decir que somos buenos amigos. Es para mí un gran honor verle como Representante de un continente al cual tengo mucho cariño, continente que es para mí un poquito mi patria también. He vivido durante tantos años con mi esposa y con los chicos en los países de América Latina que nunca podré olvidarme de la cordialidad, de la apertura, de la amistad y de todos los sentimientos que he tenido, que tengo, y tendré siempre para ese continente que tiene tantos problemas.

No tengo la intención de pronunciar un discurso ahora porque tengo bastante emoción; pero quisiera decirle a usted, señor Presidente, muchas gracias. (Continúa en francés).

Je redirai de manière plus complète, lors du prochain Conseil, toute l'estime et toute l'admiration que je porte à mon prédécesseur M. Lassaad Ben Osman. Il a toujours été pour moi un exemple de modération, de conciliation, mais aussi d'une ferme volonté de conduire la FAO, dans des chemins parfois extrêmement difficiles, vers le succès. Il connaît admirablement l'Organisation, de plus il l'aime profondément. Je crois que je ne peux lui dire qu'une seule chose: Monsieur le Président Ben Osman, vous serez toujours pour moi un guide et un modèle. Je sais que je ne suis qu'un modeste fonctionnaire, que j'essaierai d'imiter votre exemple, que je ne suis pas sûr d'y réussir, et que je ne pourrai y réussir qu'avec l'appui de tous.

Je voudrais dire également qu'il y a eu deux candidats; ce n'est certainement pas pour la première fois que la Conférence est amenée à choisir entre deux candidats; c'est la troisième fois que cela se produit dans l'histoire de la FAO, et je crois qu'il est bon que la démocratie puisse jouer son rôle.

Je voudrais dire également ce que j'ai déjà eu l'occasion de dire, c'est que jamais il n'y a eu compétition entre pays. Le Président indépendant du Conseil, vous le savez Monsieur le Président de la Conférence, Monsieur le Président Ben Osman, est indépendant de son pays à partir du moment où il assume cette charge et cette mission. Je voudrais toutefois remercier mon pays d'avoir présenté ma candidature, et surtout de l'avoir maintenue.

Je voudrais dire à l'autre candidat, M. Amstutz, que je souhaitais pouvoir le rencontrer et discuter avec lui. J'espère que les circonstances de la vie, si elles ne m'en ont pas donné l'occasion jusqu'à présent, me le permettront à l'avenir.

Je suis à la fois heureux et un peu craintif. Heureux parce que j'ai entendu nos amis les délégués du Pakistan, du Japon, du Bangladesh, de l'Italie, du Chili, du Canada, de l'Arabie Saoudite, de Madagascar, de Tunisie, et que je sens un réel soutien de grande amitié. Heureux, parce qu'on ne peut être qu'heureux de se voir confier une mission importante, mais également quelque peu craintif de ne pouvoir l'assumer comme l'a fait mon prédécesseur dans les circonstances difficiles que continue à traverser la FAO. Je crois que nous sommes conscients que ces circonstances ont été extrêmement difficiles et qu'elles le restent encore à l'heure actuelle, qu'elles sont peut-être plus difficiles, réellement dramatiques. (Continue en anglais).

I should like to greet all the friends who have voted for me and who have voted against me. Thank you very much, and I will try to do my best to cooperate with all the Members of FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Al distinguido colega y amigo, Embajador Saintraint, gracias por sus generosas referencias a la región de América Latina y el Caribe a la cual pertenece mi país, Colombia. Reitero en nombre de la Conferencia nuestras más cordiales felicitaciones al recién elegido Presidente Independiente del Consejo, seguro de que los representantes de los Gobiernos de todos los Estados Miembros de la FAO le ofreceremos nuestra cooperación y apoyo para que él pueda cumplir de la mejor manera posible sus altas e importantes responsabilidades.

Hemos llegado al final de una mañana intensa, y si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, creo que sería conveniente levantar la sesión de esta mañana, ya que todos merecemos un buen almuerzo. Nos reencontraremos aquí a las 14.30.

The meeting rose at 12.15 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.15 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 89/PV/20

Twenty-fifth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-cinquième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

25º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

## TWENTIETH PLENARY MEETING VINGTIÈME SEANCE PLÉNIÈRE VIGESIMA SESION PLENARIA 28 November 1989

The Twentieth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours  
Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La vingtième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 15  
sous la présidence de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 20ª Sesión Plenaria a las 15.15 horas  
bajo la presidencia de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia



**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos colegas y amigos declaro abierta la vigésima sesión plenaria.

Vamos a seguir nuestros trabajos de acuerdo con el orden convenido que apareció esta mañana en el Diario de la Conferencia, Seguiremos ahora con el tema 26.2, luego trataremos el tema 27 y el tema 28 para pasar luego a la adopción del Informe de la Comisión II.

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

IV. NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

26. Appointments (continued)

26. Nominations (suite)

26. Nombramientos (continuación)

26.2 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee

26.2 Nomination des représentants des Etats Membres au Comité de la caisse des pensions

26.2 Nombramiento de representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Tema 26.2: Nombramiento de representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal. Espero que todos tengan el documento C 89/16 Rev.1. Para presentar este documento concedo la palabra al Señor Crowther.

**Dean K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department):**

Members should have before them the document just referred to, C 89/16-Rev.1 which has to do with the appointment of representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee. I will give a brief background on this. The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund provides retirement, death, disability and related benefits for the staff of the United Nations and the other related organizations such as FAO that have been admitted to membership in the Fund. The Pension Fund is administered by the UN Joint Staff Pension Board and Staff Pension Committees in each of the member organizations. The Board's membership is drawn from these Committees, whose members and alternate members are chosen by the governing bodies, the executive heads of the organizations and the participating staff of each organization. In the case of FAO, the Conference appoints three of the nine members and three of the alternate members of the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

The Secretariat has been informed that the following candidates have been proposed to serve as members or alternate members representing the FAO Conference on the FAO Staff Pension Committee for a two-year term which would end on 31 December 1991. Those members would be, if approved by the Conference:

Mrs Astrid Bergquist from Sweden, who is the Counsellor for Agricultural Affairs and a Permanent Representative to FAO, from Sweden; Mr Waleed El Khereihi from Saudi Arabia, the Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO; Mr Antonio Garrido Acuña from Chile, who is First Secretary and Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO from Chile.

The members who are proposed above are to be approved by the Conference.

Secondly, we have three alternate members who have been proposed. They are: Mr John Lungu of Zambia who is the First Secretary and Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO from Zambia; Mr Bahar Munip of Malaysia who is the Agricultural Attaché and Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO from Malaysia; and Mr Steven Hill from the United States who is First Secretary and Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO from the United States.

You may wish, Mr Chairman, to ask the Conference to proceed with the election of the members and alternate members to serve on behalf of the Conference of the Joint Staff Pension Board from FAO.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han oído ustedes la propuesta que se hace para integrar la nómina de representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal. Los nombres que se han leído corresponden a consultas entre la distintas delegaciones y regiones también. Espero, por lo tanto, que esta Conferencia pueda aprobar las propuestas que se han hecho.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, queda así decidido.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

As se acuerda.

V. OTHER MATTERS

V. QUESTIONS DIVERSES

V. OTROS ASUNTOS

27. Date and Place of the Twenty-sixth Conference Session

27. Date et lieu de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence

27. Fecha y lugar del 26° período de sesiones de la Conferencia

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Tema 27: fecha y lugar del 26° período de sesiones de la Conferencia. Señor Secretario General ¿tiene usted alguna propuesta que hacernos?

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Il est proposé que la prochaine session de la Conférence, qui sera la vingt-sixième, se tiendra à Rome du samedi 9 novembre au jeudi 28 novembre 1991.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han oído ustedes la propuesta de la Secretaría para el 26° periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia - del 9 al 28 de noviembre -. Espero que estas fechas sean aceptables para todos.

Así queda decidido.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

28. Any Other Matters

28. Autres questions

28. Otros asuntos

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasamos ahora al tema 28: Otros asuntos.

Antes de que las delegaciones que así lo deseen puedan referirse a cuestiones que correspondan a este tema 28, quiero decirles que como es tradición, en cada periodo de sesiones de nuestra Conferencia, se rinde homenaje a la memoria de los funcionarios de la Organización que han fallecido estando al servicio de la FAO desde la última Conferencia. Les ruego se pongan de pie para observar un minuto de silencio.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasaremos ahora a adoptar el Informe de la Comisión II. El Informe de la Comisión II está contenido en los documentos REP/1 Sup.1 y REP/1 Sup.2, así como en los REP/7, 8, 11 y 12. Recordarán ustedes que el REP/1, más el Suplemento 1, fueron adoptados por esta Plenaria de la Conferencia el viernes pasado. De manera que ahora quedan pendientes los REP/1 Sup.2 y los REP/7, 8, 11 y 12.

Tengo el honor de contar aquíen el podium con la honrosa presencia de mi distinguido colega y amigo el Embajador Tchicaya, del Congo, Presidente de la Comisión II, y también con la competente Secretaría de esa Comisión, la Señora Killingsworth, quienes nos ayudarán en esta parte de nuestros trabajos.

Ruego al Presidente Tchicaya presente la parte restante del Informe de la Comisión II.

**Joseph TCHICAYA (Président de la Commission II):** Le rapport que nous vous soumettons au nom de la Commission II est le fruit d'un travail laborieux, faisant suite à des débats intenses mais courtois, que les membres ont abordé avec la pleine mesure des responsabilités qui leur incombent. Il constitue, en réalité, le résultat d'un vaste compromis, résultat d'un dialogue constructif que j'ai encouragé, instauré et entretenu au sein de la Commission II qui, comme la Conférence le sait, avait la lourde mission non seulement d'examiner le Programme de travail et budget que nous avons déjà adopté, mais surtout de mener à son terme la réflexion sur l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO.

Ceci a été fait dans le strict respect des opinions de chacun, avec pour objectif final d'aboutir à des conclusions acceptables par tous les Etats Membres et compatibles avec les ressources potentielles de l'Organisation.

C'est donc avec optimisme que j'ai l'honneur de soumettre à votre attention un rapport équilibré à l'élaboration duquel pratiquement tous les Etats Membres ont activement participé. A cet égard, je n'oublie pas le rôle et le concours précieux que le Directeur général et les membres du Secrétariat m'ont apporté pour permettre le bon déroulement des travaux de la Commission.

Je me félicite aussi de l'appui inestimable que nous ont apporté les interprètes et les messagers qui ont facilité la communication entre nous.

Dans les conclusions de nos travaux, la Résolution sur l'Examen de la FAO est le résultat d'un travail achevé issu d'un dialogue serein au sein du groupe de travail, animé d'une volonté ferme d'offrir à la communauté des Etats Membres un modèle de concertation que la Commission II a salué et que la Conférence, j'en suis sûr, va consacrer en avalisant cet important travail que ce groupe a accompli sous ma direction personnelle. Je voudrais remercier ici solennellement ses membres, pour leur compétence, leur esprit de sacrifice et leur sens aigu du compromis, qualités grâce auxquelles on a pu parvenir à la résolution adoptée à la Commission II par consensus.

Je suis persuadé que les discussions qui ont précédé la mise au point de tout ce Rapport sont le signe évident d'un travail approfondi et fouillé.

Quoi qu'il en soit, je vous le sou mets au nom de la Commission II, et me tiens à votre entière disposition pour répondre à d'éventuelles questions.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, Presidente Tchicaya. Yo estoy seguro de que todos quienes están presentes en esta sala, reconocen la validez de los términos de su declaración al registrar complacido el hecho de que usted dirigió la Comisión II con mucha ponderación e inteligencia, y que este Informe es el resultado de compromisos generalmente aceptados por todos.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 7 (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - PARTIE 7 (émanant de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 7 (de la Comisión II)

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Vamos a empezar entonces por el REP/7. Se trata de la parte 7 del Informe de la Comisión II. Contiene un solo tema del programa. El tema 12.: Examen del Programa Ordinario 1988-89. Párrafos 1 a 19. Párrafos 1 a 19 del REP/7 adoptados.

Paragraphs 1 to 19 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 19 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 19 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 7, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, Partie 7, est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe de la plenaria, Parte 7, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 8 (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - PARTIE 8 (émanant de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 8 (de la Comisión II)

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasamos ahora al REP/8, tema 14 del Programa: Examen de los programas de campo 1988-89. Párrafos 1 a 13. REP/8, párrafos 1 a 13 adoptados.

Paragraphs 1 to 13 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 13 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 13 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 8, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, Partie 8, est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe de la plenaria, Parte 8, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 11 (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - PARTIE 11 (émanant de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 11 (de la Comisión II)

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Sobre el REP/11, entiendo que la Sra. Killingsworth, Secretaria de la Comisión II, desea hacer algunas aclaraciones.

**Mme Kay KILLINGSWORTH (Secrétaire de la Commission II):** Dans les versions française et espagnole du document C 89/REP/11, il y a quelques erreurs que je voudrais corriger.

A la quatorzième ligne du paragraphe 33, la septième phrase de ce paragraphe devrait se lire comme suit: "Certains Etats Membres ont en outre appuyé l'utilisation croissante du PCT pour l'identification et la formulation de projets." La phrase qu'elle remplace était une mauvaise traduction de l'anglais.

Ensuite, la note de bas de page du paragraphe 37 - toujours dans la version française - devrait être la suivante: "C 89/21, page xix".

En la versión española, Sr. Presidente, en el párrafo 34, la frase debería leerse como sigue: "La Conferencia aprobó sin embargo, la siguiente Resolución".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Espero que todos ustedes hayan tomado nota de las aclaraciones y correcciones pertinentes que ha hecho la Secretaria de la Comisión II. Si así fuere, podemos ahora iniciar la discusión del REP/11.

Paragraphs 1 to 20 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 20 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 20 son aprobados

Paragraphs 21 to 32 approved

Les paragraphes 21 à 32 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 21 a 32 son aprobados

Paragraphs 33 and 34, including resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 33 et 34, y compris la résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 33 y 34, incluida la resolución, son aprobados

Paragraphs 35 and 36 approved

Les paragraphes 35 et 36 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 35 y 36 son aprobados

Paragraphs 37 to 41 approved

Les paragraphes 37 à 41 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 37 a 41 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 42 AND 43, INCLUDING RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHES 42 ET 43, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

PARRAFOS 42 Y 43, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

**Gerald MONROE (United States of America):** Mr Chairman, I am not certain as to the order of procedure, but with your kind permission my delegation would like to make a statement with respect to the consensus resolution on the review. I would be pleased to wait until you have completed the report of Commission II if that is what you would prefer. If you would advise me when I might make this statement I would be in your debt.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que el distinguido Sr. Monroe, Representante de los EE.UU. de América, podría ahora hacer su declaración.

**Gerald MONROE (United States of America):** I should like to refer the group to the consensus resolution on the review, which is in REP/11. If I may, I should like to explain the reasons why the United States joined in that consensus resolution.

In so doing, we wish to compliment the Chairman of the Commission and the many delegates who have worked tirelessly over the past weeks to create the resolution on the review of the FAO which we have just adopted. My delegation and my Government consider this effort is promising evidence that the FAO membership can work together in common purpose, but we feel it is important that the Conference at this point make a realistic assessment of the extent of the consensus we have achieved.

We believe that we should not permit ourselves to overlook the important differences that remain to be resolved, because we feel a lasting and comprehensive consensus is not necessarily rhetorical; it is not created in late-night drafting committees.

I have to be quite frank. The review process was not as comprehensive as we would have hoped and as we envisaged, perhaps, when we began discussing the matter in 1987. However, we are encouraged by the real dialogue that appears to have begun during this Conference. We hope to continue this dialogue with all members because our objective is to seek to strengthen the FAO.

We believe that for all members, for all delegations, effective consensus will be achieved if we are able to convince our authorities and capitals, and ultimately the citizens to whom they are answerable, that the major issues of contention which remain within the reports upon which this consensus is based have been resolved or are on their way to being resolved. In the judgement of my delegation, we should not attempt to hide our problems behind words. They exist and must be faced.

I can make no secret of the fact that we were disappointed that the Conference again adopted a budget which in all likelihood cannot be financed. We have made our view clear that the FAO along with other UN agencies should find a means to operate within available resources during a protracted period of financial stringency. The improvements in the budget process are a helpful first step. However, the United States believes that there is always room for further improvement in the presentation process of any budget of FAO or any other public institution.

The recommendations of the experts, for example, point in a constructive direction. We believe that the early establishment of a budget level should become a permanent practice in the FAO, and we therefore hope that the outline process will be so accepted in the future.

On a related note, as indicated in the Special Joint Session report and in the resolution, we belong to those who believe that the FAO should emphasize those tasks where its specialized expertise equips it to function more effectively than other agencies. In our judgement, only on the basis of comparative advantage can the UN system as a whole function cost-effectively while optimizing services to the membership. Changes are taking place within the multilateral technical assistance community, changes which we believe will enhance efficiency. We also believe and are hopeful that the FAO will be prepared for those changes.

With respect to roles, we have agreed with and underscored in consultation with our colleagues the essential character of the three roles identified in the Special Joint Session report. We would like to underscore at this opportunity our sense that Regular Programme activities serve the interests of the entire membership, developed and developing countries alike. For example, the work of setting standards to assist international trade and agriculture, undertaken by FAO's participation in the Codex Alimentarius, will benefit all exporting countries and make a significant contribution to development.

To conclude, we interpret paragraph 10 of the Resolution above as establishing the implementation of this Review as a priority undertaking for the Organization. We believe that work on realizing the benefits of the Review can begin at once, and we expect and hope that the Director-General will take rapid and concrete steps to follow up the conclusions and recommendations within the existing resources.

Mr Chairman, thank you for giving my delegation the opportunity to state its views.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, Sr. Monroe, de los Estados Unidos de América. Yo creo que la Conferencia toma nota de la declaración que acaba de hacer el Sr. Representante de los Estados Unidos de América, el cual tiene pleno derecho como cualquier otro delegado. Se ha producido después de la adopción del Informe de la Comisión II. De manera que el texto de esa declaración, de acuerdo con los procedimientos habituales, constará en las actas taquigráficas.

Estamos al final de una Conferencia en la cual todos hemos trabajado con espíritu constructivo, y no creemos que sea el momento de abrir debates que puedan quebrantar este sentimiento general de unidad y cooperación que debe unirnos en estos momentos. ¿Si no hay ningún otro comentario?

**Ian BUIST (United Kingdom):** I did not want to follow the same line of discussion, nor to continue the debate, but I would like to say in my personal capacity how honoured and delighted I was to have been chosen part way through the procedure by our distinguished friend and colleague, Ambassador Tchicaya, to help him in that little, select group which did work for this extensive consensus Resolution. All right, so it does not meet the views of everybody or all of us, but it does establish where we have got to now. As the text of our Report says, we are going to continue to have a discussion on these other matters in the months and years to come.

However, I wanted - and I am sure Ambassador Tchicaya would not quarrel with this, nor any of our other collaborators - to put on record my special appreciation for the work of two members of that little group: Doña Margarita of Mexico and Mile Faouzia of Algeria. I think that, sitting side by side in the little group we had in that room, you would have been as astonished as I was not only to hear the flexibility and eloquence with which they spoke, but the fact that when one spoke the other was almost always ready to say, "Well, that is exactly what is on my mind and you took the words out of my mouth". They gave us a very practical demonstration of



the active impact of women on development; in fact, on the development, in this case, of our own Organization. I hope you will forgive me if I ask everyone to join in a personal applause for those two members of Ambassador Tchicaya's group.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Ian BUIST (United Kingdom):** In the light of paragraph 10 of the Resolution which calls for "particular efforts" from all concerned. I can announce that the United Kingdom is ready in principle to consider the possibility of offering technical cooperation to the Organization in the form of management advice to the Director-General to help him examine all the issues necessary to fulfil paragraph 8 of the Resolution in the most efficient and effective way.

I hope that my government will confirm this offer to the Director-General in writing in due course.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, colega y amigo señor Buist, del Regio Unido. Creo que todos apreciamos el generoso ofrecimiento de su importante Gobierno, y sin duda el Director General, a la luz de sus responsabilidades, tendrá en cuenta ese ofrecimiento. Creo también que todos los miembros de la Conferencia han acogido con singular satisfacción su referencia a Margarita, de México, y Faouzia, de Argelia, dos distinguidas damas que cuentan con general simpatía y respeto entre todos nosotros.

Paragraph 44 approved

Le paragraphe 44 est approuvé

El párrafo 44 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 11, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, Partie 11, est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe de la plenaria, Parte 11, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 12 (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - Partie 12 (émanant de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 12 (de la Comisión II)

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasamos ahora al REP/12. Creo que la Secretaria de la Comisión II tiene que hacer también algunas aclaraciones y correcciones sobre el REP/12.

**Sra. Kay KILLINGSWORTH (Secretaria, Comisión II):** Solamente en la versión española, en el párrafo 23, tercera frase, faltan algunas palabras. La frase debería leerse: "Algunos Estados Miembros eran de la opinión que no había motivos ...". Y el resto de la frase quedaría igual.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** La aclaración de la Secretaria de la Comisión II afecta solamente el texto castellano.

Paragraphs 1 to 9, including resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 9, y compris la résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 9, incluida la resolución, son aprobados

Paragraphs 10 to 22 approved

Les paragraphes 10 à 22 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 10 a 22 son aprobados

Paragraphs 23 to 28 approved

Les paragraphes 23 à 28 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 23 a 28 son aprobados

Paragraphs 29 to 31 approved

Les paragraphes 29 à 31 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 29 a 31 son aprobados

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si no hay ningún otro comentario por parte de los miembros de la Conferencia, creo que podemos concluir la adopción del informe de la Comisión II. Estoy seguro de interpretar el sentimiento de todos los miembros de la Conferencia al expresar a mi colega y amigo el Embajador Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II, nuestro reconocimiento profundo y sincero por la forma intensa, dinámica, inteligente y ponderada como dirigió esa Comisión. Me honro de ser amigo del Embajador Tchicaya desde los primeros años, cuando él llegó a Roma - ya casi me alcanza en antigüedad en sus actividades ante esta Organización -, y por ello he tenido ocasión de conocer muy de cerca todas las actividades del Embajador Tchicaya, distinguido colega, quien representa un legítimo título de orgullo para su país, el Congo, para toda la región de África y también para el Tercer Mundo. Gracias, Embajador Tchicaya.

Estamos igualmente agradecidos a los dos Vicepresidentes de la misma Comisión, al Profesor Thomsen, de Dinamarca, y al colega y amigo Fazley Rabbi, de Bangladesh. Gracias también al colega y amigo señor S. Theolin, de Suecia, país nórdico que goza de general respeto y simpatía, como todos los países nórdicos. El Sr. Theolin presidió el Comité de Redacción con mucha competencia y gran responsabilidad.

Gracias igualmente a nuestra gentil Secretaria, la señora Kay Killingworth, y a su Secretario Asistente, el Sr. Savini.

Creo que así podemos terminar el informe de la Comisión II y reiterar nuestro agradecimiento al Presidente Tchicaya. Gracias.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 12, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, Partie 12, est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe de la plenaria, Parte 12, es aprobado

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos colegas y amigos, sé, por la frecuencia con que me mantengo en contacto con muchos de ustedes, que todos estamos ansiosos de saber cuándo va a terminar esta Conferencia y cuándo se va a reunir el Consejo. Creo que hoy me corresponde a mi, en cumplimiento de esta responsabilidad accidental, invocar el espíritu de cooperación y de entendimiento, sobre el cual insistió durante toda una semana el Presidente titular, el honorable J.C. Kerin, de Australia. Basado en ese espíritu, que todos hemos compartido - y, repito, todos, sin distinción, porque esa es mi propia convicción -, deseo informarles que, como ustedes saben, en la Comisión I, presidida por el Embajador de Médicis, del Brasil, se discutieron algunos asuntos que, por la naturaleza misma de los temas de que se ocupa esa Comisión I, tienen ciertos matices que podríamos llamar políticos y que han preocupado algunas Delegaciones.

Considero que es deber de todos nosotros tratar de que cualquier preocupación, cualquier controversia que subsista después de clausurada la Comisión I y antes de que el informe de esa Comisión pase a la Plenaria, bien vale la pena ensayar todos los medios posibles, hacer esfuerzos adicionales para que esta Conferencia concluya sus labores de la mejor manera posible y en el mayor entendimiento; que todos anhelamos.

Algunos distinguidos representantes de Gobiernos y de grupos regionales de países han manifestado su intención de celebrar consultas, a fin de que algunas de las resoluciones que fueron adoptadas en la Comisión I puedan experimentar algunas ligeras modificaciones, con objeto de que la Plenaria las pueda adoptar definitivamente, sin que a ningún Gobierno - por lo menos, esperamos - quede resentimiento o preocupación.

Estoy seguro de que todos ustedes comparten conmigo la necesidad de apoyar esas gestiones que están haciendo respetables representantes de Gobiernos. Y si así fuere, como lo deseo, podríamos levantar ahora esta sesión plenaria, conceder tiempo a los representantes de los Gobiernos para que prosigan sus consultas; nos reuniríamos de nuevo mañana, miércoles, en Plenaria, a las 9.30; adoptaríamos entonces el informe de la Comisión I y creo que otro breve REP de la plenaria, y de todas maneras confío en que la Conferencia podrá terminar mañana, miércoles, al final de la mañana.

Si este plan se cumpliera, la Secretaría necesita de algunas horas de respiro, después del intenso trabajo en que ha estado empeñada, para preparar la reunión del Consejo, que tendría lugar el jueves 30, en las horas de la mañana. Como ustedes saben, esa breve reunión del Consejo está dedicada general y casi exclusivamente a votaciones, que espero no ocuparán más de la mañana del jueves. Así, de todas maneras, habremos ganado por lo menos un día dentro del calendario previsto para la Conferencia y el Consejo. Espero que todos comprendan este plan de trabajo que les propongo y que me ofrezcan, una vez más, su apoyo y su cooperación.

Si no hay ningún comentario, declaro terminada esta sesión Plenaria y les invito de nuevo a que nos reunamos aquí mañana, a las 9.30. Mil gracias por su apoyo y cooperación.

The meeting rose at 16.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 16 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.00 horas.

# conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

# conférence

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

# conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

**C 89/PV/21**

Twenty-fifth Session

PLENARY

Vingt-cinquième session

PLÉNIÈRE

25<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones

PLENARIA

## TWENTY-FIRST PLENARY MEETING VINGT ET UNIÈME SEANCE PLENIERE 21<sup>a</sup> SESION PLENARIA

29 November 1989

The Twenty-first Plenary Meeting opened at 10.00 hours

Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-chairman of the Conference, presiding

La vingt et unième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 00

sous la présidence de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Sé abre la Vigésima primera sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas

bajo la presidencia de Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 13

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - TREIZIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 13

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Buenos días, colegas y amigos. Declaro abierta la 21a. Sesión Plenaria. De acuerdo con el resto de nuestro programa y tal como aparece en el diario de la Conferencia, les propongo que empecemos nuestra reunión de esta mañana con el REP/13 que es la Aprobación del Informe de la Plenaria. Se trata de hechos que no merecerán ninguna discusión. Luego pasaremos a la Adopción del Informe de la Comisión I. Ya están en el podium con nosotros el Embajador de Médicis del Brasil, Presidente de la Comisión I, y el Sr. Hancock, Secretario de esta misma Comisión. El Informe de la Comisión I está contenido en cuatro REP que están indicados en el diario de hoy. Si todos están de acuerdo, como espero, después de la adopción del REP/13 seguiremos con los cuatro REP de la Comisión I en el siguiente orden: REP/3, REP/4, REP/5 y finalmente REP/2.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, vamos entonces a estudiar el REP/13, Informe de la Plenaria, Parte 13. La primera sección: Elección de los Miembros del Consejo, comprende los párrafos 1 y 2. Se trata de registrar el resultado de las votaciones que tuvieron lugar sobre la Elección de los Miembros del Consejo. Párrafos 1 y 2 adoptados.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 approved

Les paragraphes 1 et 2 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 y 2 son aprobados

Paragraphs 3 and 4, including resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 3 et 4, y compris la résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 y 4, incluida la resolución, son aprobados

Paragraph 5 approved

Le paragraphe 5 est approuvé

El párrafo 5 es aprobado

Paragraph 6 approved

Le paragraphe 6 est approuvé

El párrafo 6 es aprobado

Paragraphs 7 to 9 approved

Les paragraphes 7 à 9 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 7 a 9 son aprobados

**Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabie):** Looking at the document 13, I do have a point to make. There are one or two rather flagrant errors in REP/13 in the Arabic version. Now it would appear we have the period November 1989 to 1992, and instead of mentioning Libya and Lebanon in the Near East, it is only Egypt and Libya, but not Lebanon. There does seem to be a mistake in the Arabic language version and it is not the first time that this has occurred that we have had errors slipping into the Arabic

version. I would like to make my protest about that: these are not only mistakes regarding typing errors but these are mistakes regarding the names of countries which have been inserted into the Arabic text, and I trust that this will not happen in the future in these parts of the report in Arabic. We can certainly realize that there would be typing errors, there might be printing slips, but we would not accept that there are mistakes made regarding the names of countries, and we would certainly ask that our colleagues who work in the Arabic Section would be very much on the look-out for this.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Todos han tomado nota de la observación que ha hecho el distinguido representante de Libia. Se procederá a la corrección indispensable. Es un error lamentable, pero estoy seguro que también es involuntario. Sin embargo, concedo la palabra a la Secretaria.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Monsieur le Président, je voudrais présenter les regrets du Secrétariat aux représentants de la Libye et des autres pays qui se servent de la langue arabe. Je veux les assurer que nous avons pris bonne note des observations faites par le Représentant de la Libye.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que toda la Conferencia toma nota de los comentarios del colega representante de Libia en la seguridad de que los nombres de todos los Estados soberanos merecen igual respeto.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 13, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, 13ème partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte 13, es aprobado

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Y hemos así terminado la adopción del REP/13, y con ello completado la adopción de todo el Informe referente a las actividades de la Plenaria.

Como habíamos convenido, pasamos ahora a la adopción del Informe de la Comisión I. Quiero rogarle de manera muy cordial al Embajador de Médicis de Brasil, Presidente de la Comisión I, cuya ecuanimidad e inteligencia todos hemos reconocido, que presente el Informe de la Comisión que él presidió tan acertadamente.

**João Augusto DE MEDICIS (Chairman, Commission I):** I think, at this late stage, I do not have much to say, but I just want to thank the Conference for the confidence in choosing me to chair Commission I of our Conference. I believe that I would speak for all who participated in our debate in saying I think we had a very fruitful debate on the issues before us, and a rather lively debate on a number of items. But it was a quiet session that allowed us to finish our work on time. I think the results of our discussions are reflected in our reports and I believe that the best thing to do is to adopt them right now.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, Señor Presidente de Médicis por su breve y adecuada presentación.

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 3 (from Commission I)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - Partie 3 (émanant de la Commission I)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 3 (de la Comisión I)

Paragraphs 1 to 21 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 21 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 21 son aprobados

Paragraphs 22 to 33, including resolutions, approved

Les paragraphes 22 à 33, y compris les résolutions, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 22 a 33, incluidas las resoluciones, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 3, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, 3ème partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte 3, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 4 (from Commission I)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - 4ème partie

(émanant de la Commission I)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 4 (de la Comisión I)

Paragraphs 1 to 11, including resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 11, y compris la résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 11, incluida la resolución, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 4, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, 4ème partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte 4, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 5 (from Commission I)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA CONFERENCE - 5ème partie

(émanant de la Commission I)

PROYECTO DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 5 (de la Comisión I)

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 10. INCLUDING RESOLUTION

LES PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 10. Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

LOS PARRAFOS 1 a 10. INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

**Sra. Maria Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador):** Estamos satisfechos de la aprobación de la Resolución, sobre la cual mucho hemos trabajado, Señor Presidente. Sin embargo, lamentamos que se haya introducido el párrafo 10. Nuestra Delegación considera que el contenido de esa declaración es más que obvio, Señor Presidente, y por lo tanto la estimamos innecesaria. Además, estos conceptos podemos decir que ya están contenidos en el párrafo 7, que ya hemos aprobado. Mi Delegación, sin embargo, vera con mucho agrado la eliminación de este párrafo.

No obstante, como no podemos impedir a nadie reflejar lo que ha dicho, creemos que este párrafo 10 debería ser introducido en nuestro informe de la manera en que fue solicitado por el señor Moreno, Subdirector General, o sea, como una nota a pie de página. Si leemos el PV 17 de la Comisión I,



veremos que el señor Moreno, al solicitar esta cuestión en dicha Comisión cuando aprobaba su informe, dijo: "...colocar una pequeña inserción después de la Resolución misma, que quedase como una nota que se leyese de la siguiente manera." Esas fueron las palabras del señor Moreno. Después, el Subdirector General reitera, al final de su párrafo: "...y es sólo colocar la nota a nombre de la Secretaría.

Señor Presidente, de no eliminarse el párrafo, mi Delegación desearía que se incluya como una nota a pie de página, que, repito, fue lo que solicitó el Subdirector General.

**Mme Ivone DIAS DA GRACA (Gabon):** Je voudrais appuyer la proposition de la déléguée d'El Salvador; nous pensons que le paragraphe 10 est l'équivalent, en plus long et plus détaillé de la formule que la Commission a choisi de supprimer de la résolution à savoir "sous réserve de ressources disponibles". De plus elle se trouve en conclusion de notre rapport après qu'un consensus ait été atteint sur cette résolution, et en amoindrit les termes. Voilà pourquoi nous préférons la suppression du paragraphe 10.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Mientras concedo la palabra a otra Delegación que la ha pedido, creo que está claro para todos nosotros la propuesta de El Salvador, que ha sido apoyada por Gabón.

**Carlos GARCIA DE ALBA (México):** Señor Presidente, es simplemente para manifestar nuestro pleno acuerdo con la propuesta que han expresado las distinguidas Delegadas de El Salvador y de Gabón. Estaríamos de acuerdo en que se eliminase la introducción de este párrafo en el informe del REP/5.

**B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Division):** During the course of the discussion on this item in Commission I, after the adoption of the resolution, the Secretariat had requested the insertion of this particular paragraph. As far as I recollect, it was agreed by the Chairman and the Commission and as such it truly reflects the discussion on this item in Commission I.

**João Augusto DE MEDICIS (Chairman, Commission I):** I very much regret that this point has been raised now. When the report of Commission I on this issue was discussed and adopted and the statement by Dr Moreno was made, no delegation commented or asked that any insertion, amendment or statement to the contrary should be included in our report. We had a similar case on another issue. A very attentive delegate asked that her remarks should be included as the last sentence of the Secretariat's report and this was done. There is no doubt that the Conference has sovereignty to decide on its own report. I regret that, when we discussed and approved our report, no proviso of this kind was suggested and that the point should be raised here while we are adopting the report. I repeat that in any case the Conference is certainly sovereign and can change its report.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, señor Presidente De MediCis. Tengo todavía tres oradores, cuatro en este momento. Les voy a conceder la palabra, rogándoles que sean breves para tratar de concluir este asunto. En primer lugar, Argentina.

**Sra. Mónica DEREGIBÜS (Argentina):** Señor Presidente, la Delegación argentina participó de la sesión en la que fue aprobada la resolución que figura en el párrafo 9 y en la cual varias delegaciones, muchas delegaciones, solicitaron que se eliminara una frase que hablaba de la existencia de recursos para poner en ejecución el Plan de Acción. Con posterioridad a la aprobación de esa Resolución, el Sr. Moreno Rojas hizo una declaración diciendo algo similar a lo que ahora figura en el párrafo 10. Después de eso, se reunió el Comité de Redacción de la Comisión I, y el Comité de Redacción de la Comisión I acordó incluir en el párrafo 7 la única mención que consideraba necesaria incluir en el informe acerca de los recursos. La frase en cuestión fue redactada por la Secretaría conjuntamente con las delegaciones. Llegó así el proyecto de informe a la Comisión I, y en ese momento no figuraba el párrafo 10. Es entonces cuando el señor Moreno Rojas pide que se incluya una nota con los puntos de vista de la Secretaría.

Evidentemente ha habido una mala interpretación de lo solicitado por el señor Moreno Rojas, que, a nuestro juicio, por otra parte, estuvo hecho fuera de término, puesto que él estuvo en la reunión del Comité de Redacción de la Comisión I cuando se acordó la última frase del párrafo 7.

Ha habido, de todas maneras, una mala interpretación de la Secretaría, al incluir como párrafo 10 la declaración efectuada por el señor Moreno. El señor Moreno, como nos ha sido explicado hace un minuto pidió solamente que se pusiera una nota de la Secretaría. Mi Delegación, señor Presidente, apoya la sugerencia que se elimine el párrafo 10, por dos razones: la primera, porque es redundante; la segunda, porque es discriminatorio. Si se queda el párrafo 10 en su lugar, la Delegación argentina va a pedir que quede constancia, en una nota a pie de página, de que considera que esta mención es discriminatoria.

Vamos a dar las razones para ello. Las razones son muy sencillas, señor Presidente. Esta es la única actividad para la cual ha habido recursos calculados en el Presupuesto Ordinario, la única actividad, repito, en la cual la Secretaría se ha molestado en reafirmar, en repetir y en insistir en que, si no hay recursos, no se va a poder llevar a cabo el Plan de Acción. Nosotros creemos que eso es discriminatorio, y así queremos que conste, señor Presidente.

**David COUTTS (Australia):** I support what has been said by Argentina. Australia would also prefer that this paragraph be deleted. It is certainly our understanding that it would be better not there. Providing it is the clear will of the Conference, I think it should be deleted.

**R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom):** I asked for the floor on another point but, since I have it, I will say that my delegation agrees with those who have already spoken that paragraph 10 should be a footnote or at any rate not in the main body of the report.

The main point of my intervention was to say that we could, with this change, accept the adoption of this section of the report on the understanding that paragraph 7 is intended to be fully in keeping with paragraph 3 of Article VIII of the Constitution.

**Richard SEIFMAN (United States of America):** I will simply indicate our support for the position and points which have been made by El Salvador, Gabon, Mexico, Argentina, Australia and the United Kingdom.

**Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España):** Mi Delegación se une a lo manifestado por los anteriores oradores en la petición de que este párrafo no sea incluido en el cuerpo del texto del informe. Estimaríamos que sería mejor que se suprimiera o que quedara como una nota a pie de página.

**Ms Gunilla KURTEN (Finland):** I speak on behalf of the four Nordic countries. We wish to support what has been said by the previous speakers and wish to have this paragraph deleted.

**lian HARTUV (Israel):** Israel was not present for the whole of the discussions on this matter in Commission I, but we were there enough to say that we certainly agree with the suggestion of El Salvador, supported by so many countries, that paragraph 10 should be deleted or put as a footnote.

**Mme Amina BOUDJELTI:** La délégation algérienne n'a pas entièrement participé aux débats de la Commission I sur ce point; mais à la lecture des verbatim, et plus particulièrement du Rapport des verbatim 15, on voit clairement que M. Moreno est intervenu avant qu'il y ait consensus sur la Résolution figurant au paragraphe 9.

Il nous paraît donc souhaitable, au cas où il ne serait pas possible de biffer ce paragraphe, au moins de l'incorporer au corps du rapport.

**Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador):** Mi Delegación quería, Señor Presidente, insistir en lo que han mencionado otras delegaciones. El Señor Moreno al solicitar la inclusión de este párrafo, cuando aprobamos el Informe, lo solicitó como una nota y no como un párrafo. Por eso nuestra Delegación quiere que se introduzca esta declaración del Señor Moreno, ya que, como dijimos anteriormente, no podemos impedir a nadie que refleje su punto de vista, no podemos impedirselo a ninguna delegación, ni siquiera a la Secretaría, pero que se refleje como una nota a pie de página.

Nuestra Delegación, sin embargo, también estara de acuerdo con lo que acaba de decir la Delegación de Argelia, de que esto no venga introducido al final; este párrafo 10, como está planteado en nuestro informe parecería que es la conclusión después de la Resolución Nosotros estimamos, Señor Presidente, que si este párrafo se incluye tendría que ser puesto en el cuerpo de los debates, o como nota a pie de página.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Después del elocuente poderío de las voces femeninas prevalecientes en esta Sala, iba a conceder la palabra al Doctor Dutia, pero otra distinguida dama la Doctora Deregibus, Representante de Argentina la ha solicitado y se la concedo.

**Sra. Mónica DEREGBUS (Argentina):** Señor Presidente, sólo quisiéramos dejar aclarada nuestra disconformidad con que este párrafo se introduzca en el Informe. Nosotros no queremos que este párrafo se introduzca en el Informe, ya que la Secretaría tuvo la oportunidad, repito, durante el Comité de Redacción de redactar conjuntamente con los miembros, y si es necesario voy a nombrar a las personas que estuvieron redactándolo el párrafo 7, y de incluir lo que la Conferencia pensaba en relación a los recursos. Tuvo también en ese momento la oportunidad de hacer incluir en el Informe el punto de vista de la Secretaría si éste era diferente del de los Estados Miembros. En cambio, Señor Presidente, aparece subrepticamente el párrafo en el Informe.

La Delegación argentina no desea ver un párrafo de este tenor en el Informe de un tema sobre el cual parece ser que todos los países miembros estamos de acuerdo, pero la Secretaría no.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Yo creo que la segunda declaración de nuestra colega y amiga María Eulalia Jiménez, de El Salvador, al igual que la primera, han sido muy constructivas y podrán facilitar el entendimiento; sin embargo, antes de tomar una decisión concedo la palabra al Presidente de la Comisión I.

**João Augusto DE MEDICIS (Presidente de la Comisión I):** Gracias, Señor Presidente, yo quería únicamente protestar contra la utilización de la palabra subrepticamente que pone en duda la buena fe de la Presidencia de la Comisión I. El párrafo fue leído y aprobado por la Comisión y si en ese momento no hubo protestas de ninguna delegación, debe constar como nota o como párrafo, no sé, en el Informe. Si algunas delegaciones decidieron después de la aprobación del Informe creer que era más conveniente que se pusiera eso es otra cosa; pero decir que esto fue aprobado subrepticamente es poner en duda la buena fe de la Presidencia de la Comisión I, y la Presidencia no acepta estos términos.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Espero que todos reconocemos la integridad y la manera tan ponderada y correcta como usted presidió la Comisión, Embajador de Médicis.

Señores, ahora hay todavía cinco oradores y yo les ruego, por favor, que esta vez sí me crean que son los últimos, ya que la situación está muy clara a mi entender; pero no puedo negarme a conceder la palabra a aquellos colegas que la han solicitado rogándoles que sean muy breves.

**Sra. Delia CHEVALIER VILLAMONTE (Panamá):** Atendiendo a su llamado, Señor Presidente, seré muy breve. Primero queremos manifestarnos de acuerdo con lo señalado por el Presidente de la Comisión I. Queremos expresar que en esta Comisión hemos trabajado muy ampliamente y con toda responsabilidad y conocimiento de todos los Delegados.

Igualmente queremos manifestar nuestro apoyo a los señalamientos expresados por El Salvador en el sentido de que esta declaración de la Secretaría, la cual tiene pleno derecho, porque así fue expresado por el Doctor Moreno en el debate de la Resolución, que aparezca al pie de página y si no fuese en el cuerpo del Informe, pero al inicio del mismo.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Antes de conceder la palabra a cinco oradores que tengo en la lista, creo que el resultado del debate es muy claro y les propongo, desde luego de manera muy cordial y respetuosa, a renunciar al derecho que tienen a hacer uso de la palabra.

Me permito observarles que la frase final del párrafo 7 está encabezada por el término: "La Conferencia" lo cual, naturalmente le da fuerza a esta expresión.

Luego el actual párrafo 10 se refiere a una opinión del Representante del Director General, e incluye cifras, que puede ser la parte interesante de la posición del Representante del Director General. Entonces, y a la luz de la propuesta original de El Salvador que ha sido apoyada por todas las delegaciones que han intervenido, les propongo: conservar el párrafo 7 tal como está y el actual párrafo 10 pasaría a ser una nota a pie de página.

Si esto es aceptable para todos, ruego a quienes han pedido hacer uso de la palabra que no intervengan y que nos ayuden a concluir la adopción de este REP.

**Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador):** Disculpe, Señor Presidente, que insista en pedirle la palabra; yo estoy completamente de acuerdo con lo que ha propuesto usted, pero mi Delegación quería unirse a las palabras que ha dicho la Delegada de Panamá. Cuando hemos hecho nuestra propuesta hemos dicho que el Doctor Moreno planteó esta cuestión, que fue aceptada, pero que la planteó como una nota y que no queríamos que así se reflejase. Esto es para darle nuestro total apoyo al Presidente de la Comisión I sobre el cual no tenemos ninguna manifestación en contrario. Estamos muy contentos en como dirigió nuestros debates y creo que todos los miembros que trabajamos en la Comisión I así lo reconocemos.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias por la comprensión y el apoyo de todos ustedes y me excuso con aquellos colegas que no pudieron hacer uso de la palabra; pero su actitud ha sido constructiva.

Paragraphs 1 to 10, including resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 10, y compris la résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 10, incluida la resolución, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 5, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, 5ème partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte 5, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 2 (from Commission I)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DEUXIEME PARTIE

(émanant de la Commission I)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 2 (de la Comisión I)

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 17 INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS

LES PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 17 Y COMPRIS LES RESOLUTIONS

LOS PARRAFOS 1 A 17 INCLUIDAS LAS RESOLUCIONES

**R. HANCOCK (Secretary, Commission I):** The Secretariat would like to announce that there are two small errors in paragraph 16 of Rep.2.

The last section of operational paragraph 2 of the Resolution on Tropical Forestry Action Plan should read: "...for the formulation and implementation of programmes and projects within the framework of TFAP".

In operative paragraph 4, the first sentence should read: "Recommends to Governments, donors and international financial organizations :".

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Muchas gracias Señor Secretario de la Comisión I. Espero que ustedes habrán tomado nota de las correcciones que se nos han indicado.

**M. Stephan HUSY (Suisse):** Ma délégation aimerait mentionner que le paragraphe 2 du dispositif de la résolution relative au Plan d'action forestier tropical n'est pas identique en français et en anglais.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Tal vez el colega de Suiza quisiera indicarnos si su declaración se refiere a la observación planteada por el Secretario de la Comisión I.

**M. Stephan HUSY (Suisse):** En français on dit: "Mans le cadre des plans d'action forestiers nationaux". Ce n'est pas la même chose que TFP.

**R. HANCOCK (Secretary, Commission I)** : This was a mistake which slipped in to the French, and perhaps in other languages too. The correct phrasing of the last part of operative paragraph 2 is: "...for the formulation and implementation of programmes and projects within the framework of TFAP". A translation of that should be included in French and other language texts.

**Gerald MONROE (United States of America)**: My remarks apply to the Resolution immediately following paragraph 16. I want to make perfectly clear to the Conference the seriousness with which my Government views this matter.

The sponsors of this Resolution state that their only interest is in technical assistance for the Palestinian people, not in a political statement from the FAO membership. However, as we understand the situation, the sponsors have rejected a draft which restricted itself to that request. They have instead presented us with a document replete with inappropriate content, containing unsubstantiated assertions.

Further, the Observer from the Palestine Liberation Organization last week, in Commission I, made a speech attacking my country on a strictly political issue wholly unrelated to agriculture. In that speech, we recall, he explicitly rejected technical assistance if he could obtain a political objective.

That speech demonstrates clearly what FAO is accepting if it accepts this resolution.

The PLO observer believes that acceptance of this resolution provides licence to raise political issues in the FAO fora. Politicizing the deliberations of members of a specialized agency such as FAO distracts our attention and interferes with our ability to deal with the serious problems of agriculture and food security which confront us, and further interferes with our ability to fulfil the roles of FAO which we reaffirmed yesterday.

The sponsors of this resolution may believe that raising this political issue at FAO is acceptable because they accept the political opinions expressed. However, there is nothing which will enable us to restrict the flood of political issues if we allow this precedent.

There are people everywhere who hold themselves oppressed or injured. What is to prevent friends of theirs, or their enemies for that matter, from presenting highly politicized resolutions asking FAO to investigate their hardships following this precedent? Nothing, Mr Chairman, nothing. If that occurs, FAO will cease to be an effective instrument of its important objectives and will become one more political forum.

The danger which our delegation warned of in Commission I is already occurring. The activity in Commission I has already attracted negative public attention in the United States, and it surely will attract more attention since that is part of the desire of the political instigators of the resolution. They wish to publicize their political agenda. Some of that attention will be positive since there is support for that agenda, but whether positive or negative that attention will irretrievably mark FAO as a politicized forum, and the cost could be serious.

The resolution has been marred from the beginning. The Resolutions Committee was unable to agree that it met the criteria for a resolution. It was replaced by a new text in Commission I which caused great confusion. However, the Commission chose to vote on it and 75 members of this Organization chose to support it.

Many of those who voted for it explained their vote as supporting technical assistance only, as did my delegation which voted against it. I believe that none of us is opposed to that, and many believe that it should have higher priority than activities already proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget just approved. If that is the case, let us act on it and put this dangerous political attempt behind us.

Mr Chairman, I ask you to close the debate on this resolution with the acquiescence of the sponsors of this resolution, and instead to put into the record of this Conference a statement that we, the Members of FAO, request the Director-General to place greater priority on technical assistance to the Palestinian people, including a study mission and a seminar. Let the record of the Commission's vote guide us, but let us not as the sovereign body of this sovereign Conference put our face on this attempt to use FAO for political purposes.

I will pause here, Mr Chairman, to let you reflect whether it is possible to meet this request. If the answer is yes, then my statement is finished and we can move forward with FAO business. If the answer is no, then I should like to finish my statement.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** No me apareció claro de la declaración del distinguido señor Monroe, Representante de los Estados Unidos, si él estaba firme y oficialmente planteando una moción de cierre del debate. Porque entre otras cosas, el debate sobre este tema tuvo lugar en la Comisión I, pero no ha empezado todavía en esta Plenaria. Sin embargo, naturalmente, el representante de los Estados Unidos podrá hacer uso de la palabra nuevamente para confirmar su intención, después de que conceda la palabra a otra delegación que la ha solicitado.

**Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic):** I should like to stress from the outset on behalf of my delegation that it was not our intention when introducing this draft resolution to politicize the work of this Organization. This is what is being stressed by the body of this draft resolution submitted to the Plenary; the majority in favour of this draft resolution, namely 75 members supporting and 2 opposing it, is but a confirmation that the intent of this draft resolution which calls for extending technical assistance to the Palestinian people has no political undertones whatsoever. My delegation regrets that this has been refused by any Member State in this Organization, or that it is being used as a pretext to justify its behaviour towards the international community as well as this Organization.

It seems that some people cannot think of us living under the sun, free and with dignity. It seems also that some regret that we are sovereign when taking resolutions, and we have to take our resolutions based on free will and our political dictates. Some also are perturbed to find that all are



equal in this hall. We are sometimes dubbed irresponsible in taking resolutions, and it is said we are unaware of the gist of what we are introducing, and that they are the only ones who are cognizant of things. That is unfortunate.

After listening attentively to the previous speaker, my delegation is of the opinion that this draft resolution has no political undertones whatsoever, and it is within the framework of the objectives and action of FAO. Consequently, I should like to confirm that the draft resolution should be dealt with in the framework of our work. I reserve my right to take the floor again if necessity dictates.

**Gerald MONROE (United States of America):** Then it would appear that my earlier request is not within your power, Mr Chairman, so I must again appeal to the sovereign power of the Plenary. I must call for a roll call vote on the specific issue of whether we wish to accept the risk of politicizing the FAO. If we defeat the resolution the record of Commission I still stands as a guide to the Secretariat and a "no" vote will not be a rejection of technical assistance; it is a simple vote against politics in the FAO.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quiero preguntarle de manera muy cordial y respetuosa al representante de Estados Unidos si su propuesta concreta consiste en solicitar votación nominal sobre la Resolución. Si es afirmativa su respuesta, deberemos aplicar, salvo mejor opinión del Consejero Legal, el párrafo 7 a) del Artículo 12 del Reglamento General de la Organización y pasar en seguida a votación nominal.

**Gerald MONROE (United States of America):** It is indeed what I want, Mr Chairman.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Salvo mejor opinión del Consejero Legal, creo que a la luz del párrafo 7 a) del Artículo 12 del Reglamento General, debe procederse sin ninguna discusión ulterior a la votación nominal.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** It is true that if there is a question of a vote any member can request that the vote be taken by roll call under Rule XII paragraph 7 A) of the General Rules of the Organization. However, you may wish to consider, Mr Chairman, whether you have other speakers on your list and whether you wish to close the debate before to a vote.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Concederemos la palabra a algunos oradores que la han solicitado. Cerraremos la lista de oradores y procederemos a la votación nominal.

**Mrs Souad ABDALLAH (Syria) (original language Arabic):** I should like to stress the intention of my delegation to maintain FAO. By introducing this draft resolution we did not want it to be a political one, and it really is not a political one, but the urgent human need and the agricultural requirements as well as the conditions to which the Palestinians in the occupied territories are subjected required the assistance of this generous Organization.

Therefore, my country's delegation would like to thank all the delegations which supported us, and we hope that this draft resolution will be endorsed in view of the human need.

**Akbar Mirza KHALEELI (India):** I think the issue here is whether or not this resolution implies a politicization. Both sides to this resolution have a different opinion as to what constitutes politicization in the wording of the resolution. The sponsors claim that there is no intention to politicize the issue, and those who voted for it also confirmed that the intention is not to politicize. The representative of the United States has felt that it does constitute a politicization.

May I suggest that before we go to a vote a small group, if you agree, Mr Chairman, sit to see what constitutes not just the wording but whether they could satisfy the basic intention of the FAO Conference not to politicize an issue on which we are all agreed. I think an attempt should be made, despite having voted this resolution, to try to meet the overall requirements of FAO to assist the Palestinian people.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que todos hemos tomado nota de la propuesta que ha hecho el Embajador Khaleeli de India. Voy a conceder la palabra a los oradores que la han solicitado y veremos cómo vamos a proceder.

**Abdelrahmane BENGUERRAH (Algérie) (langue originale Arabe):** Mon pays est l'un des 15 pays qui ont appuyé ce projet de résolution relatif à l'octroi d'une assistance technique au peuple palestinien à la Commission I.

Ce projet de résolution demande à l'Organisation de fournir une assistance technique aux palestiniens dans les territoires occupés afin de soutenir leur production agricole pour leur permettre d'améliorer leur niveau de vie grâce aux revenus qu'ils tirent de leurs terres.

Ce projet de résolution n'a vraiment pas d'aspects politiques. Mon pays lui confirme donc son appui sans réserve.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El representante de la OLP ha solicitado hacer uso de la palabra con el propósito que me ha manifestado de contribuir a la clarificación y al buen espíritu dentro del cual pienso yo que se debe llevar este debate.

Si no hay objeción por ningún Miembro de la Conferencia, repito, si ningún Miembro de la Conferencia se opone, concedo la palabra al Sr. Representante de la OLP.

**lian HARTUV (Israel):** If I am not mistaken, I think it is the custom to let all members speak first and then to let observers speak.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Justamente ya no hay ningún otro miembro de la Conferencia inscrito en la lista. El Sr. Representante de la OLP solicitó la palabra desde el principio del debate, y yo he esperado pacientemente. Pero naturalmente... Israel tiene la palabra.

**lian HARTUV (Israel):** Excuse me, Mr Chairman, I did ask for the floor and I am sorry that I was not recognized. I do not want to make a long speech because most of my remarks were put before you most succinctly by the distinguished representative of the United States.

However, I still want to stress again that I do not know how members can state that the words of the preamble "Recognizing that the policies and practices of the Israeli occupation authorities impede the basic requirements for the development of the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory" is not political. I cannot understand that. It has not been said anywhere, at least not in any specialized United Nations agency. With this statement you are going to make FAO more political than any other organization, while the Director-General and all of us have always been proud that, unlike other agencies, we have not been politicized at all. I cannot see why the words "Israeli confiscation of Palestinian land and expropriation of Palestinian water resources" are not political. We had before us a draft paper which was not political and we were ready, if not to support it, to acquiesce to it, and we do support technical aid to anybody in the world, including, of course to the Arab people living in the territories. However, it is a very political preamble. There are also political points in the request itself.

If FAO wants to help the Palestinian people, why should it be in coordination with the Palestinian Liberation Organization, which is an organization which is again a very political organization, and has nothing to do with technical aid.

I have just two more comments: one is that I do not want to bring in politicization, but somebody has done so. I should like to say that I have read many, many articles saying that Libya has impeded the basic requirements of the development of the economy of Chad for many years. It has also helped Idi Amin to impede the basic requirements of the development of the economy of Uganda. There the basic requirements of the economy were impeded. They were not impeded by Israel anywhere.

The second thing I should like to say is that if the proposal of the distinguished representative from India to have a group discussion is accepted, we would like to be part of that group in some way. We feel that this draft resolution has, a lot of falsehoods about, and villifies, our State, a state that has been in good standing for many years in FAO. We would like to take part in that group.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Presento mis excusas al distinguido Representante de Israel, y puedo asegurarle que fue descuido mio al no observar que haba pedido hacer uso de la palabra.

**Hannu HALINEN (Finland):** My delegation voted for the Resolution in Commission I. We understand that there is a consensus and support for the major thrust of the Resolution as such. We should like to leave this Conference with the right message, reaffirming this support. I would refer to the very wise words of the Indian Ambassador. We are at the end of our proceedings, but perhaps we should have another try to see whether we can find a consensus on the question, which is new to the Organization. We should like to leave here with the right message.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Señores, hay dos oradores. Declaro cerrado el debate después de esas dos intervenciones.

**Jacques WARIN (France):** A ce stade du débat, je voulais simplement rappeler que nous traitons un sujet qui est purement technique, celui de l'assistance technique au peuple palestinien. Nous avons déjà étudié le problème à la Commission II et nous sommes parvenus à une décision. Je voudrais faire deux observations à ce sujet: premièrement, le vote positif de la Commission II a certainement été rendu possible par le fait que le langage utilisé dans ce projet de résolution était considérablement adouci et dépolitisé par rapport à la première version qui avait circulé et dont nous avons eu connaissance à travers le Comité des résolutions; deuxièmement, ce langage tel qu'il est utilisé dans la résolution que nous connaissons est en conformité avec celui qui est adopté dans des résolutions similaires relatives à l'assistance technique au peuple palestinien dans d'autres enceintes des Nations Unies et dans d'autres institutions spécialisées.

Je crois donc que nous aurions intérêt à passer le plus rapidement au vote, parce que tel est le voeu de la délégation américaine, sans continuer un débat qui risque, d'après une ou deux interventions que j'ai entendues, de se politiser. Je vous serais très reconnaissant, Monsieur le Président, après avoir clos la liste des orateurs, de procéder au vote sur ce projet de résolution car, si j'ai bien compris, c'est ce que vous avez l'intention de faire, et nous, pays membres de la Communauté européenne, sommes prêts à revoter sur ce projet de résolution.

**Roque CAÑADAS (Ecuador):** Mi Delegación es una de aquellas que también voté en la comisión a favor de la Resolución que está ahora en consideración, pero cree que es necesario hacer un esfuerzo más para tratar de conciliar las posiciones que no se encuentran de acuerdo con el texto de la Resolución. Mi país piensa que la FAO tiene una tarea muy específica y muy

importante que cumplir, y piensa también que esta tarea no puede ser soslayada o puesta de lado por otros intereses; de tal manera, señor Presidente, que mi Delegación estaría por que se haga un esfuerzo más, y en este sentido acoge la petición del distinguido representante de India.

**Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic):** We have certainly listened very carefully to the positive position taken by the delegate of France. I would say that at this very late stage I do not think it is going to be possible for us to set up a select group to work on this Resolution again. I do not think either that the United States of America would agree to a draft unless all the important points made in the Resolution were to be dropped. This has been said in Commission I and confirmed by a number of delegations. We are very sincere in what we are saying. We are very sincere when we say that our intention in this draft resolution was not at all to politicize the discussions or to politicize the work of this Organization.

However, there is a resolution, and in this resolution we do have to apply given criteria. We have to say why we are requesting technical assistance from the Organization, and there are certain items which have to be mentioned in any resolution. If we compare, and if you yourselves were to compare this draft Resolution with other draft resolutions which have been adopted by other United Nations organizations, you would see that this is couched in very much gentler terms than those in other specialized agencies, those agencies which are specialized in non-political areas.

Therefore, we should very much like this draft Resolution to be put to the vote, and we hope that the United States of America will not take an entrenched position on this matter.

**Antonio Rodrigues PIRES (Cap-Vert):** Je voulais appuyer la déclaration de la France et celle de l'Arabie Saoudite

**R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom):** Mr Chairman, if in your judgement there is a realistic opportunity here to extend the area of agreement to this Conference, my delegation would fully support any decision of yours to suspend this meeting in order to try to permit this.

**Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic):** My country's delegation does not at all intend to respond to certain allegations that have been made when my country was mentioned, because we do not have any intention of politicizing the debate at this Conference because of our respect for you, Chairman, and our respect for other delegations. My country's delegation should not give any importance to the allegations which we have heard. We shall completely ignore them.

I would now like to come back to the point under discussion. I agree with what was said by the distinguished representative of France, and I would like to stress the importance that we take the necessary steps so that we can have the vote. I would also agree with what was said by my friend, Mr Bukhari, from Saudi Arabia. I really think it is too late now and there really is no time to set up a select committee to look at this text.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Recordarán, señores, que ayer por la tarde les propuse que aplazáramos para esta mañana la adopción de la parte del informe de la Comisión I, a fin de hacer esfuerzos adicionales para lograr un consenso sobre este punto. El estado actual de nuestros debates y las declaraciones que se han producido por representantes de Gobiernos directamente vinculados a la consideración de estos temas parecen indicar que no existe margen para prolongar las conversaciones en busca de ese consenso. Esto no quiere decir que yo y creo que toda la Conferencia, dejemos de reconocer que el esfuerzo y el ánimo constructivo del distinguido señor Embajador Khaleeli, de India.

Por otra parte, a la luz de las disposiciones legales vigentes, ya el señor Consejero Legal confirmó el hecho de que si cualquier Delegado pide una votación nominal, se debe proceder a esa votación. De manera que quiero preguntar al representante de Estados Unidos si él mantiene su propuesta original de que se produzca una votación nominal sobre la Resolución.

**Gerald MONROE (United States of America):** I do.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Está muy clara la situación. Creo que ahora es justo, si nadie se opone, que concedamos la palabra al representante de la OLP. ¿No hay ninguna objeción? Brevemente, por favor.

**Nemer HAMMAD (Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization)(original language Arabic):** I would like to confirm that we do not in any way wish to submit a political draft resolution. As head of the PLO delegation, what I would like to do is to express to the distinguished representative of the United States that we cannot, in any way, attack the American position regarding its political stance.

We understood at the first meeting, and I think if people thought from the outset we were basing ourselves on a political objective, that was wrong, and I apologize if things were not made clear. What we are trying to do is depict the reality in occupied territories. We have the Palestinian people who are in an occupied territory. We are not just Arabs in territories, on any territories. I hope that the delegate of the United States of America would agree with us when we say that the text, which has been submitted is a technical text. It has been approved after coordination, after harmonization, and after discussion. This text describes the situation. This describes the situation as has been done in other areas, such as deforestation or the destruction of the environment. The current situation

in our occupied territories, as is well known by the United States and other delegations, is one which is something that, from the agricultural point of view and economic point of view, must be looked at, and I am not here talking about the political approach to the problem.

What I would like to do at this juncture is to appeal to the delegate of the United States of America, because we are discussing matters directly with the United States at the moment. There is no politicization within that outline. We do not want it and neither do the United States want it. Those countries which have voted for this in the Commission, who have voted for this, do not want this to become a political matter. I hope that people will remember that there are farmers, that there is Palestinian land, and these are the realities. I do not want to talk about politics. The United States consul in East Jerusalem have written reports, indeed books have been -written on this subject. I do hope I have been clear. What we wish to do is to provide support aid to Palestinian people who need technical assistance.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, señor Nemer Hammad, representante de la OLP. Antes de pasar a la votación, quiero ser justo con todos los miembros de la Conferencia. Hay tres países que aún están en mi lista. Voy a llamarlos por sus nombres. Si quieren intervenir, que, por favor, lo hagan muy brevemente. En primer lugar, Angola.

**Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola):** Je voudrais seulement rappeler la chose suivante: je pense que les délégués qui ont assisté à la Conférence générale de la FAO en 1983 se rappellent que nous avons voté une Résolution, ici, sur l'Afrique australe, et sur la politique de déstabilisation de l'Apartheid. Que l'on ne vienne pas nous dire ici que c'est la première fois qu'on fait passer une telle Résolution au sein de la FAO.

Pour moi cette Résolution est encore plus souple que celle que nous avons adoptée en 1983; ce n'est donc pas une nouvelle situation au sein de la FAO; d'ailleurs le délégué de l'Algérie qui a proposé cette Résolution l'a fait sur la base de ce qui avait été adopté à l'ECOSOC.

**Mrs Souad ABDALLAH (Syria)(original language Arabic):** I shall be brief. I would just like to support the proposal made by the delegate from France concerning the vote, and I would like to support the delegate from Saudi Arabia.

I have just one comment to make: the representative of the Zionist entity raised points which were blatant lies, and I hope that will not appear in the record of the Conference. I do not think that we can accuse 75 countries to vote on lies, and the draft resolution just depicts reality.

**Carlos FERREIRA (Chile):** Mi Delegación lamenta el giro que ha tornado la discusión, ya que se ha opuesto y se opondrá siempre a la politización de la Organización. Aunque todos quieren negarlo, esto ha tomado un cariz político; incluso algunos oradores han hablado del "debate político"; lo han dicho expresamente. Mi Delegación, mi país, comprende la situación del

pueblo de Palestina y es bien conocida su posición. Sin embargo, estima que en este foro, en el cual ve una disposición de parte de Israel y de Estados Unidos, que fueron los países que votaron en contra del proyecto en la Comisión I, ve una disposición de aceptar una resolución que hable de asistencia técnica al pueblo palestino, que se la merece y tiene derecho a ella. Mi Delegación lamenta que no se busque una solución de consenso. Apoyamos lo expresado por los delegados de India y de Ecuador, en el sentido de que sería deber de esta asamblea buscar el consenso. Tal vez si la Delegación de Estados Unidos retirara su petición de votación nominal, se podría crear un Comité que estudiara la materia brevemente.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Ultimo orador, irrevocablemente. Cuba.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Señor Presidente, solamente queremos hacer uso de la palabra buscando una aclaración antes de proceder a votar, pues no queremos repetir lo que creo ha sido ya agotado. Pero entendemos que debemos dejar clara esta situación. Nuestra Delegación cree que no ha quedado claro o no se ha comprendido bien el condicionar esta votación nominal a los objetivos de la FAO, los cuales están muy claros en sus Textos Básicos, y son de total conocimiento de todos sus Estados Miembros. No es votar sobre los objetivos de la FAO, sino por si se está de acuerdo o no el proyecto de resolución que nos ocupa la mañana de hoy; y no condicionar esta votación a esta implicación política, que no es del caso en esta discusión, sino proceder a si se está de acuerdo o no sobre la Resolución, sin entrar en otro tipo de consideraciones.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** De acuerdo con las aclaraciones que ha hecho el señor Consejero Legal, vamos a pasar a votación nominal sobre la resolución que tiene por título "Asistencia Técnica al Pueblo Palestino". Se me informa que hay 124 Delegaciones presentes. Como de costumbre, voy a escoger yo mismo el nombre del país: Chipre.

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Cyprus):** With all the statements we have heard, it is obvious that all of us agree on the main factor: aid to the Palestinian people and technical assistance. With very few exceptions, we do not agree that FAO is involved in political matters. We do not agree on politicization. Then, how would this vote be carried out? What do we vote? We vote that we all agree to give aid to the Palestinian people and the non-politization. This has to be very clear before we start voting.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Con todo respeto al Embajador Poulides, Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, y salvo mejor opinión del Consejero Legal, yo creo que ahora vamos a votar tal como está el texto de esta Resolución como ha sido enviada de la Comisión I a la Plenaria. Su título es: "Asistencia Técnica al Pueblo Palestino".

Hay 124 delegaciones presentes. Voy a escoger el país por el cual vamos a empezar: Kuwait.



**Ms Fatima H.J. HAYAT (Kuwait):** I am not yet clear what we are voting on. Are we voting on simply the resolution?

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Lo que se va a votar es el texto de la Resolución: "Asistencia Técnica al Pueblo Palestino". Aquellas delegaciones que voten si estarán aprobando este texto. Las que voten no, se estarán oponiend, y las que voten abstención se estarán absteniendo.

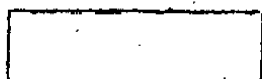
Vote

Vote

Votación



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS



ROLL CALL VOTING  
APPEL NOMINAL  
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on  
Vote sur

Résolution

.....Votación para .....  
.....  
.....

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	96
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	2
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	14
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	45

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	98
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	50
--	----

ADOPTED  
ADOPTÉE  
ACEPTADA



Date.....29.11.99.....Elections Officer....B. LINLET.....  
Fecha.....Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

RULES 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 election, on procède à un deuxième vote en 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.

Vote on Vote sur Votación para RESOLUTION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINE PEOPLE														
COUNTRY	YES	NO	ABST.	NR	COUNTRY	YES	NO	ABST.	NR	COUNTRY	YES	NO	ABST.	NR
Afghanistan	X				Gambia	X				Oman	X			
Albania				X	Germany (Fed. Rep. of)	X				Pakistan	X			
Algeria	X				Ghana	X				Paraguay	X			
Angola	X				Greece	X				Papua New Guinea			X	
Antigua and Barbuda				X	Guatemala			X		Peru			X	
Argentina	X				Guinea	X				Philippines	X			
Australia			X		Guinea-Bissau			X		Poland	X			
Austria	X				Haiti			X		Romania	X			
Bahamas				X	Honduras			X		Rwanda	X			
Bahrain	X				Hungary			X		St. Christopher & Nevis			X	
Bangladesh	X				Iceland			X		Saint Lucia			X	
Barbados				X	India	X				St. Vincent & the Grenadines			X	
Belgium	X				Indonesia	X				Senegal	X			
Belize				X	Ireland	X				Sierra Leone			X	
Benin	X				Israel			X		Solomon Islands			X	
Bhutan	X				Italy	X				Somalia			X	
Bolivia	X				Jamaica			X		Spain	X			
Bosnia and Herzegovina	X				Japan	X				Sri Lanka	X			
Brazil	X				Jordan	X				Sweden	X			
Bulgaria	X				Korea (Rep. of)			X		Switzerland	X			
Burkina Faso	X				Kuwait	X				Sweden	X			
Burundi	X				Lebanon	X				Switzerland	X			
Cameroon	X				Lesotho	X				Switzerland	X			
Canada			X		Liberia	X				Switzerland	X			
Cape Verde	X				Libya	X				Switzerland	X			
Central African Republic	X				Luxembourg			X		Tanzania	X			
Chad	X				Madagascar	X				Thailand	X			
Chile			X		Malawi			X		Togo			X	
China	X				Malaysia	X				Togo			X	
Colombia	X				Maldives			X		Trinidad and Tobago	X			
Comoros				X	Mali	X				Tunisia	X			
Costa Rica	X				Malta			X		Turkey	X			
Côte d'Ivoire			X		Mauritania	X				Uganda	X			
Cuba	X				Mauritius			X		United Arab Emirates	X			
Cyprus	X				Mexico	X				United Kingdom	X			
Czechoslovakia				X	Moldova	X				U.S.A.		X		
Democratic Republic of Congo				X	Morocco			X		Uruguay			X	
D.P. Rep. of Korea	X				Mozambique			X		Venezuela	X			
Denmark	X				Nicaragua			X		Viet Nam	X			
Djibouti	X				Niger	X				Yemen Arab Republic	X			
Dominica				X	Nigeria			X		Yemen (P.D. Rep. of)	X			
Dominican Republic				X	Romania			X		Yugoslavia	X			
Douglas	X				Rwanda			X		Zaire			X	
Egypt	X				Senegal			X		Zambia	X			
El Salvador			X		Sierra Leone			X		Zimbabwe			X	
Equatorial Guinea				X	Spain	X								
Ethiopia				X	Sweden	X								
Fiji				X	Switzerland	X								
Finland	X				Thailand	X								
France	X				Togo			X						
Ghana	X				Trinidad and Tobago	X								
	33	0	6	13		32	1	6	14		31	1	2	18

**EL PRESIDENTE:** La Resolución sobre: "Asistencia Técnica al Pueblo Palestino", ha sido aprobada. Tengo cuatro oradores en la lista, y como creo que todos queremos terminar temprano esta Conferencia les ruego, que sean muy breves.

**Thomas YANGA (Cameroon):** I am making this statement on behalf of the Cameroon Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Cameroon to FAO. I would like to put on record a brief explanation regarding the vote my delegation just cast in favour of the Resolution presented to the Conference concerning Provision of Technical Assistance to the Palestinian People.

The timing of the presentation of this Resolution to the Conference brings me to recall the closing remarks of the Cameroon Minister of Agriculture and Chairman of the 23rd FAO Conference in November 1985.

From experience, our Honourable Minister called for a review of the Conference proceedings to allow Ministers and Heads of Delegations to be in a position to express the point of view of their delegations on very important issues. We think that the matter of this Resolution is very important and as such, ought to have been sent to member countries ahead of time before the Conference, and not be presented at the tail-end of it - as is now the case.

However, the Cameroon Government strongly believes that FAO has a universal mission to deliver humanity from hunger and malnutrition and, to be effective, should benefit all people, whatever their social and political status, their living conditions or their place of habitation. In brief, FAO intervention in this regard should have no demarcations at all.

We therefore believe that the Palestinian people, like many others, deserve technical assistance from FAO in order to enhance its agricultural and food production.

In conclusion, the vote of the Cameroon delegation is solidly based on humanitarian and technical objectives of the Resolution.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** A fin de que cada uno sepa en qué turno está la lista de oradores es la siguiente: Francia, Suiza, Polonia, Estados Unidos de América, Arabia Saudita, Israel, Uruguay y Reino Unido.

**Jacques WARIN (France):** Les onze Etats Membres de la Communauté européenne présents dans cette salle viennent de voter en faveur de la résolution qui a été adoptée. Nous étions en effet favorables aux propositions de substance qu'elle contient et qui consiste, je le rappelle, en une étude de la situation agricole dans les territoires palestiniens occupés et en un rapport aux organes directeurs sur la mise en oeuvre de cette étude.

Nous aurions cependant préféré - et j'ai déjà eu l'occasion de le dire à la Commission II - que ce genre de décision soit prise à la faveur du rapport de la Conférence et ne prenne pas la forme d'une résolution, en particulier de l'une de celles qui nous obligent à recourir à un vote, et plus encore quand il faut voter deux fois de suite.

Cela dit, notre vote positif a été rendu possible par le soin qu'avaient pris les coauteurs de cette résolution d'en rendre le langage compatible avec celui qui est en usage dans d'autres enceintes du système des Nations Unies où de telles résolutions sont appropriées. Aussi bien, la position que nous venons de prendre est-elle en conformité avec celle adoptée par les Douze sur des résolutions similaires dans d'autres enceintes des Nations Unies et dans un certain nombre d'institutions spécialisées.

Nous souhaitons enfin préciser que l'assistance de la FAO devrait en la circonstance être acheminée par les canaux les plus appropriés, en coopération avec les instances compétentes du système des Nations Unies.

**Stephan HUSY (Suisse):** La délégation suisse a voté en faveur du projet de Résolution sur l'assistance technique au peuple palestinien. S'il faut y voir de la compréhension pour les préoccupations que pose la situation dans les territoires occupés, ma délégation exprime néanmoins l'espoir que l'application de la résolution n'aura qu'un impact technique, comme l'ont souligné les auteurs de la résolution, et pas d'implications politiques qui relèvent, elles, de la compétence d'autres organes des Nations Unies.

**Tadeusz STROJWAS (Poland):** The delegation of Poland voted on the Resolution for the Provision of Technical Assistance to the Palestinian People. Our vote was "Yes" and we cannot accept an assertion that it was a political text. If there was a Resolution on the politicization of this great Organization, under any pretext, the delegation of Poland would vote against it because we are against the politicization of FAO.

**Gerald MONROE (United States of America):** The delegation of the United States requests that the following statement be added as a footnote to the Resolution entitled "Provision of Technical Assistance to the Palestinian People":

"The United States deplors the introduction of political resolutions into the technical specialized agency, FAO. We support provision of technical assistance to the Palestinian people, including by agencies like FAO, but we cannot support this Resolution, which serves a primarily political purpose.

"The US regrets that the sponsors of this Resolution have rejected several means by which they could have achieved their purported purpose in favour of a Resolution which contains an unbalanced attack upon a member of FAO, and which will decrease rather than increase the chances of successfully implementing a FAO programme.

"Noting the explanations of the vote, the US delegation understands that a majority of those wished simply to urge technical assistance for the Palestinian people, in that only a small minority wished to politicize FAO by inserting false and inappropriate rhetoric in the Resolution. The United States rejects the notion that the language of this Resolution represents the will of FAO as a whole. We call upon those who insist on politicization to desist, as it is apparent that such actions will cause serious harm to this Organization."

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Acaban ustedes de oír la declaración que ha hecho el representante de Estados Unidos de América, sobre la cual más adelante me permitiré expresar mi opinión.

**Atif Y. BURHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic):** On behalf of the Arab group, which sponsored this draft resolution, we would like to pay tribute and express our appreciation and gratitude to all the Members who supported this resolution. We are confident that their support of the content and intention of this resolution is testimony to a full understanding of the situation in the agricultural sector in the occupied Palestinian land.

I would like to reiterate once more that the minority who introduced this resolution had no intention whatever to politicize the work of this Organization. As we have mentioned in Commission I, this group, or this minority, which belongs to this Organization and to the United Nations system as a whole, is always against any resolution that politicizes the Organization and specialized agencies. This is especially true as we know that this Organization is a pioneer in the field of agriculture, and there are millions who are starving and dying every day.

We would like to stress that we did not intend to introduce this resolution as a politicization of the work of the Organization, and we call upon the Organization not to enter into such a politicization, but to concentrate its efforts towards introducing appropriate assistance in the Palestinian Arab Territories.

**lian HARTUV (Israel):** I thank the United States for not voting for this political resolution. I thank those who abstained. I thank those who voted with their feet and were not here to vote for this resolution. I thank those who have said - and perhaps will say - that their hearts were not in this resolution as it stands.

For the last forty years, there has been a custom among some Arab countries ... we have all heard that one Arab country would not even use the word "Israel" but called us by some other name, which is certainly not the custom of this Organization, of which we are members of good standing... It has been the custom of some Arab countries for the last forty years to put before the floor of the United Nations or other bodies very extreme condemnations of Israel and then change a word here and a word there to make it seem a little more non-political, more moderate; but the meaning is exactly the same, and the meaning of this Resolution which you have just

voted upon is just as bad, if you read it word for word, as the first and the second and the third drafts that were put unofficially before Commission I. Of course, it is much worse than the non-political draft which was distributed to the delegations but not officially presented.

**R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom):** The Ambassador of France has already spoken for the United Kingdom, I would add to his explanation of our vote.

We would much have preferred that the substantive proposals which the Conference has considered should have been handled in the report of the Conference rather than by a separate resolution, particularly by one which caused such difficulties in the working of our committees and required resort to voting.

The United Kingdom deplores the introduction into our governing body of resolutions reasonably regarded by Member States as political. Our action in not opposing the resolution has, as the delegate of France said, only been possible because of the care taken to ensure that the language was compatible with that used, often without objection, in other fora where such resolutions are appropriate.

From this explanation it should be clear that our vote was on the resolution itself as submitted by the Committee and not on the point at issue identified by the delegate of the United States before the voting began.

**Mrs Birgit SCHJERVEN (Norway):** The delegation of Norway voted in favour of the draft resolution, as we did when it was voted on in Commission I. In order to save time, I ask that the explanation of vote given by the Norwegian delegation in Commission I be included in the records of this meeting.

**Sra. Concha Marina RAMIREZ DE LOPEZ (Honduras):** La delegación de Honduras desea razonar su voto.

Dada la transcendental importancia de la Resolución sobre el Pueblo Palestino fue necesario para nosotros pedir instrucciones a nuestro Gobierno. Lamentablemente, por el poco tiempo disponible, hasta la fecha no hemos recibido instrucciones al respecto.

Al corto tiempo disponible, se suman las múltiples ocupaciones en las que están avocados los funcionarios de Honduras, ya que el domingo 26 de noviembre, se celebraron elecciones para elegir autoridades supremas: Presidente de la República, designados a la Presidencia, Miembros de la Asamblea Nacional y otras autoridades. Lógicamente la consolidación del proceso democrático requiere la permanente atención, en este periodo, de los altos funcionarios gubernamentales.

Por todo lo anteriormente expuesto, nos vemos obligados a astenernos. Pero si deseamos expresar la comprensión del Gobierno de Honduras a los serios problemas que atraviesa el Pueblo Palestino, y deseamos hacer una petición a las distintas partes en conflicto para que busquen, a la brevedad posible, una solución justa y adecuada a los problemas que confronta la región y sus pueblos.

**J. RYAN (New Zealand):** New Zealand has supported the resolution. It has done so with a reservation about the appropriateness of the political elements that have been identified by several delegations, but without perhaps agreeing that the extent of the politicization goes as far as the United States delegation has suggested. However, we agree that it is the General Assembly and not FAO that is the place for political calls. It is the substance of the resolution that New Zealand supports. We regard the call for technical assistance as appropriate in this case. We also agree with the United Kingdom suggestion that this could have been covered adequately and with much less stress for all of us in the body of the report.

**Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic):** If the delegate of the United States wishes to add the paragraph he proposed as a footnote to this resolution, I call upon you, the Chairman of the General Conference, to say that the statement made by the head of the Arab group should also be included as another footnote to this resolution.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Tal vez convenga, en primer lugar, oír la opinión del Consejero Legal sobre cómo se ha procedido antes en relación con las notas al pie de página.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** I have been following this matter very intently and carefully during the past few days, and it is only now that a decision has been taken that I would like to make a comment.

I share the views of those delegates who voted in favour of the resolution that their vote does not constitute a politicization of FAO. As Director-General, I am very keen to see that no harm is caused to FAO by decisions taken by our legislative body. To avoid any misunderstanding about the meaning of this resolution, I wish to draw the attention of delegates to the situation in other specialized agencies and in the United Nations, and to how the United Nations and the specialized agencies which have the same membership as FAO have dealt with the question of technical assistance to the Palestinian people. This is only for the record. It is up to you to draw any conclusions.

I shall read very quickly the paragraph I have prepared concerning the General Assembly because it is a political body, but I would remind you that the first General Assembly resolution on this subject is dated December 1978. That was referring to an ECOSOC resolution of 1976 dealing with assistance to the Palestinian people. Since then similar resolutions have been adopted each year, and yearly reports were made by the Secretary General of the United Nations on this matter.

The first report of this kind is dated 27 June 1977, and it includes one page on FAO and half a page on WFP. It includes more on UNESCO, WHO, UNIDO and other organizations. There is an annual meeting organized by UNDP, an inter-agency meeting dealing with assistance to the Palestinian people. We participate in those meetings and there is an annual report to the General Assembly on assistance to the Palestinian people, and we report also. I will not give more information about the United Nations. This is a subject which is on its agenda annually.

Let us now concentrate on the specialized agencies. WHO has passed four resolutions dealing with technical assistance to the Palestinian people. In 1985, they adopted a resolution on, I quote, health conditions of the Arab populations in occupied Arab territories including Palestine, unquote, which used rather violent language condemning Israel repeatedly. The same happened in 1986, in 1987 and 1989. The later resolution adopted strong language and referred to "Intifada" and to "a complete programme and plan in cooperation with Palestine".

I want to quote one or two paragraphs of the most recent of the WHO resolutions:

"Expressing its deepest concern at the obstacles created by Israel to the provision of basic health services,

"Recognizing the reasons behind the present Intifada of the Palestinian people,

"Recalling the previous resolutions of the WHO Assembly on the health conditions of the Arab populations in the occupied territories including Palestine,

"Expresses its grave preoccupation and concern at the deterioration in the health conditions of the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories including Palestine and the Golan."

Then two more paragraphs - there are many paragraphs -

"Deprecates Israel's inhumanity to the Arab population,

"Expresses its deep concern at the Israel refusal to permit the Special Committee of Experts to visit the occupied Arab territories."

So you see, Mr Chairman, the language is much stronger.

Then in 1987 the Governing Council of UNIDO adopted the resolution "Technical Assistance to the Palestinian People", which also referred to the national concept as well as to the PLO. A similar decision was adopted by the Industrial Development Board also. The Governing Council of UNESCO adopted a resolution on 17 October 1989 which recalls the proclamation of the State of Palestine by the Palestine National Council.



The question of assistance to the Palestinian people appears to be discussed on a regular basis in the governing bodies of ILO, UNESCO, WHO, UNIDO, UNICEF, UNCTAD, HABITAT and ESCWA. The WHO has a regular programme allocation of US\$ 1 360 000 this year for its health care programme for the Palestinians, HABITAT has taken an interest in Palestinian refugees for the past eleven years. Lastly, the PLO is a full a member of ESCWA, the economic commission for West Asia.

So I appeal to those who have indicated that harm could be caused to FAO because of this resolution, that it will not be the case, because the language of this resolution is not as strong. For me it is non-political, and we in FAO hope that FAO will never be used as a forum to settle political problems. That is for UN, not for FAO.

As Director-General I wanted to safeguard FAO, and this is why I made this statement.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que el aplauso que ha tributado la sala a la declaración del Director General indica claramente también, como conclusión del debate y como lo han indicado todos ustedes, que la Conferencia está de acuerdo en que no se debe politizar nuestra Organización, pero que es necesario ofrecer asistencia técnica al pueblo palestino.

Sobre las propuestas de notas a pie de página de los distinguidos representantes de Estados Unidos de América y de Arabia Saudita, antes de conocer la opinión del Consejero Legal, me permito hacer notar, de manera muy respetuosa, que todas las declaraciones que aquí se han hecho constan en las actas taquigráficas; que, sin desconocer el derecho de cada representante de Gobierno a hacer constar su propia posición, el agregar notas tan largas como las dos que se han propuesto, cuyos textos, sumados, serían mucho más largos que el propio contenido de la resolución, podría resultar inconveniente. Desde luego, estoy en las manos de ustedes. Quiero oír primero la opinión del Consejero Legal y hacer luego un llamado a los colegas de los Estados Unidos y de Arabia Saudita.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** As I understand it, the question is whether a footnote can be included in the report relating to an explanation of vote.

I should first like to say that there is nothing in the Basic Texts relating to the discussions of the Conference or the report of the Conference on this particular point.

It is thus a matter of practice. I should also point out that normally, as mentioned by the Chairman of the Conference, explanations of votes would be included in the verbatim records, and that in most cases this is deemed satisfactory and sufficient by the delegates concerned. I should also point out that in the United Nations General Assembly it is the general practice not to include footnotes relating to explanations of votes or resolutions. However, I should also point out that, on occasion, explanations of votes have been included as footnotes in the reports of FAO Conferences.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, señor Moore. En atención a que tanto la declaración de los Estados Unidos de América como la que se ha hecho a nombre de los países árabes constan en las actas taquigráficas, de manera muy cordial y respetuosa quiero preguntar a los distinguidos representantes de Estados Unidos y de Arabia Saudita si ellos aceptarían, con ánimo de compromiso y de cooperación, que ninguna de las dos declaraciones figurase como nota al pie de la página.

**Gerald MONROE (United States of America):** It is my Government's position that this footnote should appear. Let me clarify my request, that it be a footnote to the Resolution, not to the Report.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han oído ustedes la respuesta del representante de los Estados Unidos. Se trata de poner una nota a pie de página del texto de la Resolución aprobada. Naturalmente, éste es un informe que pertenece a ustedes, a la Conferencia, y aún dentro del respeto que merece la posición de cada Estado, la opinión de los miembros de la Conferencia, es importante y creo que también decisiva. Nadie quiere intervenir?

**Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic):** Having heard Legal Counsel, I would have liked to have thought that the distinguished delegate of the United States of America would not have insisted on his stance regarding the addition of his footnote. In my earlier statement I mentioned something in response to the proposal of the distinguished delegate of the United States of America, because he explicitly mentioned that there was a minority which wanted to politicize the work of this Organization. In my statement to you, Mr Chairman, and to all the members of the Organization, I have confirmed that this minority does not wish to politicize this Organization at all. I also said that this minority - and by that is undoubtedly meant the Arab group - that the Arab group of this minority was against this in the past, and we would like to stress here that we will adhere to this principle in the future as well. Consequently, if the United States of America insists on the inclusion of this footnote, the statement of the head of the Arab group must also be incorporated.

**Anwar Mohamed KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of) (original language Arabic):** The Legal Counsel has explained to us the legal points regarding the inclusion of explanations of vote after resolutions have been discussed. What he said was very clear, and what you have said also, Mr Chairman, because you have a great experience of meetings of this sort. We decided that it was neither necessary nor appropriate to have these statements included as footnotes after the Resolution.

If we are going to allow footnotes, it will then mean that 120 countries are going to come along and insist that their explanation of vote be written in as a footnote. I thought that footnotes were very much allowed for particularly important points, but very much as an exception. If people insist that their statements be carried as footnotes, and as these

Statements are very much the property of the Conference as a whole, I think we could certainly distribute these, discuss them, study them and reach decisions on them. However, I really think that we do not have sufficient time in which to publish all these declarations as footnotes.

**Mrs Souad ABDALLAH (Syria) (original language Arabic):** I believe that it is incumbent upon us to adhere to what was said by Legal Counsel. I really do not think that we should have any statements as a footnote.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Señores, temo que ahora vamos a prolongar este debate. De nuevo quisiera hacer un llamado a los colegas de Estados Unidos y de Arabia Saudita, así también como a otros delegados que han anunciado que harán constar su posición, en el sentido de que tal vez fuera satisfactorio para esas delegaciones el hecho de que lo que ya han dicho y reiterado aparece en las actas taquigráficas. De lo contrario, notas a pie de página, tan extensas y controvertidas, acaso no pudieran corresponder al espíritu con que ha trabajado esta Conferencia. Y yo creo que la declaración del Director General ha explicado muy bien el alcance de esta Resolución en el seno de la FAO.

Señor representante de Estados Unidos, ¿usted ha tenido tiempo de reflexionar, desea colaborar con nosotros, sumarse al llamado cordial y respetuoso que le hacemos?

**Gerald MONROE (United States of America):** I must admit that I am somewhat perplexed at the turn of events here. I think I understood Legal Counsel quite clearly. I have also read a little of the proceedings of previous Conferences. There is no doubt that footnoting resolutions is a common practice in this institution. I do not think it need be a question of debate in the Conference. It is practice, it is custom, it is a right accorded the membership.

I think that at this stage the best way to proceed is to accept the request of the governments that have asked for footnotes, and close the matter. I certainly will not withdraw my request to append a footnote to this Resolution.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Tal vez, siempre en busca del entendimiento, pudiera hacerle una propuesta alternativa al distinguido representante de Estados Unidos. Al pie del texto del proyecto de Resolución se pondría una nota indicando que el representante de Estados Unidos ha hecho una reserva, cuyo texto aparece en las actas taquigráficas, especificando la referencia y la página correspondientes del documento. Sin duda esto evitaría una nota tan extensa y complicada y entiendo que así, en esas condiciones, todos los colegas de los países árabes podrían, me imagino, prescindir de su legítimo derecho de incluir también su nota. Creo que la situación sería menos complicada y más aceptable para todos. Estoy haciendo esfuerzos adicionales; espero no menoscabar el derecho que tienen todos los representantes de gobiernos.

**Gerald MONROE (United States of America):** Thank you for your proposal, Mr Chairman. The issue is complex, and perhaps long. Therefore, I think it is altogether fitting that the footnote appear in the Resolution and in the version that I read.

**Carlos FERREIRA (Chile):** Como una forma de contribuir a su magnífica labor y a una buena conclusión de los trabajos, a la que estamos ya a punto de llegar, quisiera hacer un llamado, porque es una propuesta que me pareció sabia. La nota de pie de página, es en realidad una práctica bastante usada dentro de esta Organización en el pasado, y no veo por qué no se podrían poner las dos notas de pie de página más significativas: la de Estados Unidos y la del jefe de los países árabes, con lo cual quedarían reflejadas ambas posiciones. Esta sería una forma de zanjar este debate y creo que quedarían satisfechas todas las partes.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Dos oradores más, y queda cerrada la lista de oradores. No podemos prolongar más este debate. Por favor, Argelia; después Australia y cerraremos el debate.

**Abdelrahmane BENGUERRAH (Algerie):** Je suis opposé à ce qu'une telle note soit ajoutée à ce texte; et si on ajoute une note je demande aux 112 pays qui ont voté de présenter une note; personnellement je suis en train d'en rédiger une et j'en suis à la 26ème ligne.

**David COUTTS (Australia):** I also wanted to say that in Australia's view it is a time-honoured practice in this Organization to try to accommodate the delegations in very sensitive situations such as that covered by this Resolution. I understand from the statements that the position of the United States is one which they feel very strongly has to be followed. Australia would support the insertion of that footnote and certainly the footnote of Saudi Arabia if they so wished. I think it would send a message that this Conference would not want to send, not to allow those countries to do that. It has been done many times before. It was done in Resolution 687 in 1987. Personally, I think it would be very silly to go further and to add a hundred footnotes. I think that would completely defeat the objective of the sponsors of this Resolution by completely devaluing the exercise. Therefore, Australia's feeling is that we should allow these footnotes to be inserted, and to move on.

**R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom):** I asked for the floor, but in fact Australia has said precisely what I was going to say.

**Yaman BASKUT (Turquie):** En Turquie, il y a un proverbe qui dit que l'essentiel est de manger les raisins et non pas de battre le vigneron.

Je pense qu'il faut trouver un moyen pour satisfaire les parties intéressées et ne pas perdre tant de temps pour un sujet qui ne mérite pas tant de discussions.

D'autre part, ma délégation accepte qu'il y ait seulement deux déclarations placées en bas de page, indiquant que les déclarations faites à ce sujet se trouvent au procès-verbal.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Estoy seguro de que todos ustedes comparten conmigo la necesidad de que este informe, que representa la conclusión de tres semanas de nuestros trabajos, debe mantenerse como siempre dentro del marco de austeridad, de presentación adecuada y del respeto que merece esta Organización, en la cual nosotros representamos a nuestros Estados Miembros. Por ello, sin desconocer el derecho que tiene cada delegación a que se incluyan reservas o notas a pie de página en una u otra extensión o cantidad, creo que como conclusión de este debate lo más conveniente, lo que realmente en menor intensidad afectará el contenido en nuestro informe, es aceptar que como notas a pie de página se incluyan las declaraciones de Estados Unidos de América y de los Países Arabes.

Les ruego que todos acepten esta decisión ya que todos tenemos el deseo de concluir cuanto antes nuestros trabajos.

Paragraphs 1 to 17, including resolutions, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 17, y compris les résolutions, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 17, incluidas las resoluciones, son aprobados

Paragraphs 18 to 27 approved

Les paragraphes 18 à 27 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 18 a 27 son aprobados

Paragraph 28 approved

Le paragraphe 28 est approuvé

Párrafo 28 es aprobado

Paragraphs 28 to 41 approved

Les paragraphes 28 à 41 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 28 a 41 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 2, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, 2ème partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte 2, es aprobado

**Sra. Mónica DEREGBUS (Argentina):** La Delegación argentina, Señor Presidente, quisiera dejar constancia en actas que en ninguna de las declaraciones que formulara durante la aprobación del Informe de la Comisión I, ha tenido la intención de poner en tela de juicio la integridad, buena fe, profesionalidad y eficiencia del Señor Presidente de dicha Comisión, Embajador de Méxicos.

Le rogamos, Señor Presidente, que haga llegar al Embajador de Méxicos nuestras excusas por si nuestras palabras han podido ser interpretadas diversamente.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Una nota agradable después del debate celebrado.

**João Augusto DE MEDICIS (Presidente de la Comisión I):** Señor Presidente, solamente para agradecer la dignidad de la Delegación argentina.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Hemos concluido así la adopción del Informe de la Comisión I.

Estoy seguro de interpretar el sentimiento de todos los miembros de la Conferencia al expresar nuestro reconocimiento y gratitud a usted, Señor Embajador de Médicis, del Brasil, Presidente de la Comisión I, quien dirigió esa importante Comisión con mucho acierto, gran ponderación y notable inteligencia. Usted hace honor a la legendaria y respetable tradición de la Cancillería de Itamarati en Brasil, y permítame decirle que como latinoamericano yo me siento orgulloso de ser su compañero y amigo. Mil gracias, Presidente de Médicis.

Quiero agradecer también en nombre de la Conferencia a los dos Vicepresidentes de la Comisión I, el Señor Detraux, de Bélgica, y el Señor Sulaiman, de Iraq. Gracias también al Señor Hamdi, de Egipto, quien presidió el Comité de Redacción de la Comisión I con mucha competencia, también gracias al Señor Hancock, Secretario de la Comisión I y a su asistente la Señora Marengiu.

**Carlos FERREIRA (Chile):** Unicamente, Señor Presidente, para agradecer y rendir un homenaje al distinguido Embajador de Brasil por su extraordinaria presidencia. Nos sentimos orgullosos como miembros del GRULAC de este magnífico representante de la Región que ha permitido que los trabajos de la Comisión I llegaran a tan feliz término. Muy agradecido.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Si nadie desea intervenir concedo la palabra al Señor Director General.

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Voici la Conférence arrivée au terme de ses travaux. La fatigue ne doit pas nous empêcher de voir tout ce qu'elle a fait en ce qui concerne la concertation entre Etats Membres sur les questions de politique aussi bien que la détermination des politiques et activités de l'Organisation. Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, d'adresser mes vives félicitations à vous-même et à tous les délégués.

Dans mon souci d'être bref, je ne reviendrai pas sur les grands événements mondiaux qui ont coïncidé dans le temps avec votre 25ème session. Je me bornerai à signaler deux aspects qui revêtent pour nous une importance particulière:

Premièrement, si, à la suite de la rencontre qui va se tenir à Malte, les mesures concrètes de désarmement gagnaient du terrain, les économies qui en résulteraient devraient servir en partie à réalimenter l'aide publique au développement qui pourrait ainsi retrouver son régime de croisière.

Deuxièmement, les pays occidentaux souhaitent participer au relèvement de l'économie, et notamment de l'agriculture, de l'Europe de l'Est. Mais, comme l'a dit le Président de la République française, cela ne doit pas se faire au détriment de l'aide aux pays en développement.

Dans cet ordre d'idées, nos espoirs se trouvent confortés par la proposition qu'a présentée N. Nallet, Ministre français de l'agriculture, d'affecter les montants économisés, grâce à la réduction des mesures de soutien au titre de la Convention de Lomé, à l'aide au développement agricole.

Malheureusement, la conjoncture économique mondiale nous porte beaucoup moins à l'optimisme, je pense en particulier à la situation alimentaire, à l'endettement, aux handicaps commerciaux qui pèsent sur la majorité des pays pauvres. Je pense aux conséquences qui en résultent pour le bien-être économique et social des populations, et surtout à la sous-alimentation et à la malnutrition qui accablent tant de nos frères dans de vastes régions du monde.

A ce propos, je signale que nous attendons incessamment le retour de la mission d'évaluation que nous avons envoyée en Ethiopie pour mettre à jour les prévisions de récoltes.

Au plan des politiques, la Conférence a consacré beaucoup d'attention à ces questions, à celles qui s'y rattachent, notamment au rôle de la FAO dans la prochaine phase des négociations de l'Uruguay Round, à notre coopération avec le GATT, à l'environnement, au développement agricole soutenu, au rôle des femmes dans le développement et à la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition.

Toutes ces questions revêtent une grande importance pour la FAO, et je suis très reconnaissant à la Conférence dont les décisions viennent de tracer les grandes lignes de notre action future. En même temps, je l'avoue, l'exiguïté des ressources mises à notre disposition pour répondre aux aspirations des Etats Membres continue de me préoccuper vivement.

A cet égard, j'ai écouté avec le plus grand intérêt la déclaration de M. Braks, Ministre de l'agriculture des Pays-Bas, qui a annoncé que son pays serait disposé à organiser et à financer une conférence sur l'agriculture et l'environnement qui se tiendrait en 1991. Je serais heureux de poursuivre avec lui, comme il l'a proposé, des échanges de vues et des discussions sur ce projet.

De même je me suis réjoui d'entendre tant de déclarations à l'appui du Programme d'action forestier tropical. Tous les principaux donateurs se sont exprimés dans ce sens, en premier lieu, M. Ruffolo, Ministre italien de l'environnement, lors de la Conférence McDougall. J'espère fermement que ces paroles si encourageantes prononcées de toute part ouvriront la voie à des actes concrets et notamment à des apports de fonds.

Quoi qu'il en soit, la Conférence peut se féliciter d'avoir traité tous les points de son Ordre du jour en un débat exhaustif, franc et cordial (nous avons terminé un jour et demi avant la date fixée). Elle nous a donné des orientations nouvelles pour les activités de l'Organisation. Elle a approuvé le Programme de travail et budget pour 1990-91. Elle a mené à bien

l'Examen de la FAO qui a été approuvé par consensus. Elle a exhorté les pays à régler promptement leurs arriérés et leurs contributions courantes. Elle a donné au Secrétariat des directives et un soutien sur bien d'autres questions.

Au point où nous en sommes, je ne veux pas revenir sur toutes les questions de fond. Qu'il suffise de mentionner en passant les rapports sur les négociations commerciales multilatérales du GATT, sur les ressources phytogénétiques, sur l'introduction dans le Code international de conduite relatif aux pesticides de la clause de l'information et du consentement préalable, et sur le Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural.

Pourtant, je voudrais revenir un peu plus longuement sur l'approbation de la proposition de tenir en 1993 une Conférence internationale FAO-OMS sur la nutrition. Cette décision me paraît éminemment satisfaisante. En effet, ce sera la toute première fois que l'on organise au niveau mondial une conférence intergouvernementale sur cette importante question. Elle aura pour objet d'élaborer des stratégies et des programmes d'action qui soient réalistes et économiquement viables, et aussi de mobiliser les ressources qu'exige l'accession à une nutrition satisfaisante.

Pour préparer la Conférence avec le soin voulu, j'ai déjà fait le nécessaire pour que ces problèmes figurent à l'Ordre du jour des différentes conférences régionales de la FAO qui seront tenues en 1990 au niveau ministériel. Dans chacune de ces conférences, on va examiner les problèmes de nutrition de la région.

Nous nous efforçons, par le canal du Comité administratif de coordination des Nations Unies et de son Sous-Comité de la nutrition, d'obtenir la pleine participation, non seulement de l'OMS, mais aussi de toutes les institutions intéressées. Elles ont toutes fait savoir, au cours de notre dernière réunion à New York en octobre, qu'elles étaient prêtes à participer avec nous à l'organisation de cette Conférence, et je prends l'engagement de limiter au maximum le coût de cette Conférence. D'ailleurs, c'est seulement dans le prochain biennium 1992-93 que je proposerai un budget pour cette Conférence. Je m'efforcerai, dans la limite des ressources disponibles, d'avancer au maximum les préparatifs pendant l'exercice 1990-91. Bien entendu, je tiendrai nos organes directeurs au courant de l'avancement des travaux.

Autre sujet de satisfaction, la confirmation de l'Accord entre la FAO et l'ONUDI et le retour du Bureau régional du Proche-Orient dans la Région.

Et puis, bien sûr, il y a eu l'achèvement des débats sur l'Examen de la FAO et une discussion longue et ardue sur le Programme de travail et budget.

Loin de moi l'idée de rouvrir ces débats. Contentons-nous de relever que, sauf sur un ou deux points précis, il n'y a pas eu de véritables désaccords sur le fond, mais seulement sur les moyens et les méthodes.

Dans toute la mesure où le permettront les ressources ordinaires et extrabudgétaires, vous pouvez compter que j'exécuterai fidèlement et intégralement les décisions de la Conférence. Comme par le passé, mes collègues et moi-même allons nous efforcer d'accroître notre productivité et notre efficacité et d'économiser le plus d'argent possible pour en réserver



un maximum aux activités prioritaires. Je vais suivre de très près la mise en oeuvre de vos décisions durant l'exercice. Je ne manquerai pas de tenir au courant à cet égard le Comité du programme, le Comité financier ainsi que le Conseil.

Avant de conclure, je veux revenir une fois de plus sur la situation financière. Encore? direz-vous peut-être! Mais comprenez que c'est pour moi une véritable hantise. Toutes nos réserves sont épuisées, nos activités vitales menacées, nous sommes au bord de l'asphyxie. Non seulement il ne sert plus à rien de dresser des plans si nous n'avons pas les moyens de les réaliser mais la planification elle-même devient impossible. La raison de ce drame tient au montant très élevé des arriérés des contributions. Tout dépendra de la vitesse avec laquelle ces arriérés pourront être réglés. Je suis persuadé que les autorités compétentes des pays en cause, et surtout du principal contributeur, se rendent compte des conséquences néfastes que nous subissons déjà depuis trois ans et de celles qui nous menacent encore, et qu'elles feront tout pour y remédier.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de vous exprimer ma gratitude, à vous personnellement et aussi à Monsieur le Ministre de l'agriculture de l'Australie, qui vous a précédé à ce siège présidentiel durant cette session et qui a dirigé les débats de la Conférence pendant plus de dix jours. Je voudrais aussi exprimer ma gratitude à celui qui a occupé également ce siège avec vous, c'est-à-dire le Ministre de la Libye.

Monsieur le Président, vous avez vous-même dirigé les travaux de cette importante Conférence, je dirais, avec votre maestria coutumière. Je remercie également les délégués qui ont fait partie avec tant de dévouement du Bureau de la Conférence, de ses Commissions et de ses Comités.

Je remercie tous les délégués car chacun s'est donné à fond, chacun a contribué aux résultats obtenus par cette Conférence. Mes collègues et moi-même ne pouvons manquer de nous sentir confortés par cet attachement profond et unanime des Etats Membres aux buts, aux stratégies et aux programmes de notre Organisation, et aussi leur foi en l'importance de notre rôle face aux défis des années 90.

Nous trouvons aussi réconfort et encouragement dans les déclarations répétées d'éminentes personnalités soviétiques annonçant que l'Union soviétique a l'intention d'entrer prochainement à la FAO. Ce jour-là, notre Organisation aura vraiment organisé sa vocation à l'universalité.

A tous et à toutes, je souhaite bon voyage, bon retour dans vos patries respectives et, s'il se peut, un repos bien gagné après ce dur labeur. A tous et à toutes, j'adresse mes vœux très cordiaux de bonne et heureuse année. A tous et à toutes, enfin, merci.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Sr. Director General: En nombre de la Conferencia, quiero agradecer a usted su declaración afirmativa y positiva, como siempre. Creo que todos debemos reflexionar sobre los aspectos sobresalientes que usted ha citado en relación con la situación agrícola y alimentaria mundial. Estamos también reconocidos por la referencia hecha a la sugerencia valiosa del Sr. Braks, Ministro de Agricultura de Países Bajos, y confiamos todos en que las actividades futuras de la FAO, bajo su insigne dirección, podrán contribuir cada vez más a modificar la injusta situación que padecen los países del Tercer Mundo.

**Carlos FERREIRA (Chile):** Les ruego me excusen por hacer uso una vez más de la palabra. Sin embargo, no puedo dejar de agradecer en este foro al distinguido Embajador Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Representante de Colombia y Miembro del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe.

Gonzalo ha demostrado una vez más su maestría y su calidad que es como la de los buenos vinos, con el pasar del tiempo mejora una vez más y ya no nos sorprende.

Ha actuado con equilibrio, moderación, inteligencia y tantos otros calificativos buenos todos. Ello ha permitido en momentos difíciles que los trabajos se realizaran con gran éxito.

Gonzalo, en nombre del Grupo te felicito, y pido a la Asamblea un aplauso para el Presidente en ejercicio de la Conferencia.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Distinguidos colegas y amigos: Como ha dicho el Director General, llegamos así al final de la Conferencia. Todos juntos hemos compartido tres semanas de diálogos, debates, discusiones y también controversias.

Creo que así todos nosotros hemos cumplido la función que nos encomendaron nuestros Gobiernos para representarlos en esta reunión.

El Informe que acabamos de adoptar, representa un compromiso, en el mejor sentido de la palabra. Puede quizás no reflejar las distintas opiniones expresadas por ustedes al principio de nuestros debates; pero representa nuestro sentir colectivo y sobre todo nuestra unidad en torno a la FAO y a su Director General al concluir esta Conferencia.

Pienso que de todos modos, hemos logrado hacer recomendaciones, decidir orientaciones y tomar decisiones, cuyo cumplimiento habrá de contribuir al mejor funcionamiento de esta Organización.

A la luz de mi larga, aunque modesta, participación en la vida y en las actividades de esta Organización, quiero dejar testimonio franco, sincero y convencido de que el resultado esencial de esta reunión, ha sido la confirmación del empeño común de los representantes de todos los Estados Miembros, sin distinción, en la emulación por contribuir, cada uno con sus propias ideas e iniciativas, a fortalecer aún más la FAO, que así podrá seguir trabajando siempre mejor y con más eficacia en favor de todos los gobiernos y pueblos, particularmente de aquéllos en vías de desarrollo.

Como lo dijo el Director General, creo que todos asistimos, al final de esta Conferencia, con la inquietud de cómo la crisis financiera seguirá afectando las labores de nuestra Organización.

Creo que todos confiamos en que todos los Estados Miembros honrarán el nuevo compromiso legal y moral que han adquirido y dicen reconocer, y no retardarán el pago de sus contribuciones para evitar reajustes del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que hemos adoptado; reajustes que, como en el pasado, afectarán las necesidades, las aspiraciones y los derechos de los países en desarrollo.

Pienso igualmente que la Conferencia está reconocida a aquellos gobiernos que han pagado oportunamente sus contribuciones, y evitado así que la crisis financiera fuera de mayores proporciones.

Señor Director General: El resultado del profundo y detallado examen realizado por los expertos y los Comités del Programa y Finanzas concluyó, de manera inequívoca, que "la FAO sigue siendo una institución sólida y dinámica que merece la confianza de todos los Estados Miembros".

Usted, Señor Director General, ha dirigido esta Organización con acierto e inteligencia, y ha hecho frente a la crisis financiera con actitud firme, pragmática y decidida, que ha sido factor determinante para la subsistencia misma de la FAO.

Esta Conferencia ha reiterado a usted, Dr. Saouma, su plena confianza y yo estoy seguro de que usted, Sr. Director General, nunca claudicará, jamás será inferior al cumplimiento de sus deberes, ni vacilará en adoptar las medidas necesarias para que la FAO siga dinámica y fuerte, asistiendo a los millones de seres humanos que padecen hambre y malnutrición en el Tercer Mundo.

Corresponde a nosotros, los representantes de todos los gobiernos, rodearle a usted, Sr. Director General, con solidaridad y convicción, porque esta Organización es nuestro valioso patrimonio.

Estoy seguro de interpretar el sentimiento de toda la Conferencia, al expresar mi gratitud y reconocimiento a nuestro Presidente titular, Honorable J.C. Kerin, de Australia, a cuyo Gobierno todos agradecemos que nos haya ofrecido uno de sus miembros, competente e inteligente, para presidir esta reunión.

Gracias también a los dos Vicepresidentes, Sr. C. Kanthawongs, de Tailandia, y Sr. A.M. Al Kaoud, de Libia, quienes hicieron aportes constructivos al funcionamiento organizado y eficaz de la Conferencia.

Los colegas y amigos, Embajadores de Médicis, Tchicaya y de Pourtalès, Presidentes de las tres Comisiones, han honrado a sus países, Brasil, Congo y Suiza; y han confirmado sus excelentes capacidades de trabajo.

La forma ordenada y eficaz como los tres Presidentes dirigieron las Comisiones, han sido pilares fundamentales del buen éxito global de la Conferencia.

Nuestro agradecimiento es extensivo a todos aquellos colegas que ofrecieron sus valiosos servicios como Vicepresidentes de las Comisiones, Secretarios y Presidentes de los Comités de Redacción de esas Comisiones; al igual que a los miembros de esos Comités, Comité General, Grupos del Contacto, etc.

Mis dos vecinos de la izquierda, el Sr. Alessi, Secretario de la Conferencia, y el Sr. Tedesco, Secretario Auxiliar, han sido bases fundamentales del trabajo eficiente realizado por esta Conferencia. Mil gracias a los señores Alessi y Tedesco.

Deseo agradecer también al Sr. Sibal, de India, los eficientes servicios que nos prestó como eficiente Presidente del Comité de Resoluciones.

Los intérpretes, en sus cabinas como siempre, son factores indispensables para nuestro entendimiento; les estamos infinitamente agradecidos. Gracias también a los traductores e impresores que tan rápidamente y eficazmente han traducido e imprimido los documentos.

Las jóvenes y simpáticas mensajeras han constituido una nota de alegría en esta reunión; los mensajes que ellas distribuyen facilitan y estimulan nuestros contactos.

Ante la imposibilidad de nombrarlos a todos, Sr. Director General, deseo expresar la gratitud y el reconocimiento de la Conferencia a todos los funcionarios de la Secretaría, que de manera visible o invisible, han contribuido al buen éxito de nuestros trabajos.

Señor Director General: En nombre de todos los representantes de Gobiernos que hemos asistido a esta Conferencia, quiero reiterar a Ud. nuestra apreciación muy positiva por la manera tan dinámica y competente como han trabajado los funcionarios de esta Organización.

Al concluir esta Conferencia, en nombre de todos los Gobiernos, me honro en hacer entrega a usted, Sr. Director General, de los textos que recogen todas las recomendaciones, orientaciones y decisiones que se han adoptado.

Como usted lo ha dicho en su declaración, estamos seguros de que, como siempre, usted implementará y ejecutará estas Recomendaciones con sus reconocidas inteligencia y competencia. Los millones de seres humanos que padecen hambre y malnutrición en el Tercer Mundo, confían en que la FAO seguirá ofreciéndoles valiosa asistencia bajo su excelente dirección, Dr. Saouma.

Pienso que la función esencial de la FAO debe ser la de asistir a los gobiernos de los países en vías de desarrollo para que éstos aumenten su propia producción.

Con los colegas y amigos que permanecerán en Roma, muy pronto estaremos de nuevo juntos en otras actividades. A los distinguidos representantes de Gobiernos que han venido de sus propios países, les deseo muy de corazón, que al regresar encuentren a sus Estados y a sus poblaciones y familias, en paz, salud y alegría, y con progresos en todos los órdenes.

Me uno a los deseos del Director General para augurarles a todos un Feliz Año 1990. Y declaro clausurado el 25º Periodo de Sesiones de la Conferencia.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 13.15 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.15 horas