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conférence

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**VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION II
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DE LA CONFÉRENCE
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DE LA CONFERENCIA**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE DES MATIERES

INDICE

FIRST MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE
PRIMERA SESION
(14 November 1989)

Page/Página

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION

2

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION

12. Review of Regular Programme 1988-1989 (C 89/8; C 89/INF/12; C 89/LIM/17)

12. Examen du Programme ordinaire 1988-1989 (C 89/8; C 89/INF/12; C 89/LIM/17)

2

12. Examen del Programa Ordinario 1988-1989 (C 89/8; C 89/INF/12; C 89/LIM/17)

SECOND MEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE
SEGUNDA SESION
(14 November 1989)

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

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

36

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

12. Review of Regular Programme 1988-1989 (C 8; C 89/INF/12; C 89/LIM/17) (cont'd)

12. Examen du Programme ordinaire 1988-1989 (C 89/8; C 89/INF/12; C 89/LIM/17) (suite)

36

12. Examen del Programa Ordinario 1988-1989 (C 89/8; C 89/INF/12; C 89/LIM/17) (cont.)

THIRD MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE
TERCERA SESION

(15 November 1989)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
II. <u>ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION</u> (continued)	
II. <u>ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION</u> (suite)	74
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION</u> (continuación)	
12. <u>Review of Regular Programme 1988-1989</u> (C 89/8; C 89/INF/12; C 89/LIM/17) (cont'd)	
12. <u>Examen du Programme ordinaire 1988-1989</u> (C 89/8; C 89/INF/12; C 89/LIM/17) (suite)	74
12. <u>Examen del Programa Ordinario 1988-1989</u> (C 89/8; C 89/INF/12; C 89/LIM/17) (cont.)	
13. <u>Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 and Medium-Term Objectives</u> (C 89/3; C 89/3-Sup.1; C 89/3-Sup.2; C 89/3-Sup.3; C 89/3-Sup.4; C 89/LIM/18)	
13. <u>Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 et objectifs à moyen terme</u> (C 89/3; C 89/3-Sup.1; C 89/3-Sup.2; C 89/3-Sup.3; C 89/3-Sup.4; C 89/LIM/18)	85
13. <u>Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 y objetivos a plazo medio</u> (C 89/3; C 89/3-Sup.1; C 89/3-Sup.2; C 89/3-Sup.3; C 89/3-Sup.4; C 89/LIM/18)	

FOURTH MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE
CUARTA SESION

(15 November 1989)

II. <u>ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION</u> (continued)	
II. <u>ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION</u> (suite)	108
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION</u> (continuación)	
13. <u>Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 and Medium-Term Objectives</u> (C 89/3; C 89/3-Sup.1; C 89/3-Sup.2; C 89/3-Sup.3; C 89/3-Sup.4; C 89/LIM/18) (continued)	
13. <u>Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 et objectifs à moyen terme</u> (C 89/3; C 89/3-Sup.1; C 89/3-Sup.2; C 89/3-Sup.3; C 89/3-Sup.4; C 89/LIM/18) (suite)	108
13. <u>Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 y objetivos a plazo medio</u> (C 89/3; C 89/3-Sup.1; C 89/3-Sup.2; C 89/3-Sup.3; C 89/3-Sup.4; C 89/LIM/18) (continuación)	

FIFTH MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE
QUINTA SESION
(16 November 1989)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
II. <u>ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION</u> (continued)	
II. <u>ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION</u> (suite)	144
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION</u> (continuación)	
13. <u>Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 and Medium-Term Objectives</u> (C 89/3; C 89/3-Sup.1; C 89/3-Sup.2; C 89/3-Sup.3; C 89/3-Sup.4; C 89/LIM/18-Rev.1) (continued)	
13. <u>Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 et objectifs à moyen terme</u> (C 89/3; C 89/3-Sup.1; C 89/3-Sup.2; C 89/3-Sup.3; C 89/3-Sup.4; C 89/LIM/18-Rev.1) (suite)	144
13. <u>Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 y objetivos a plazo medio</u> (C 89/3; C 89/3-Sup.1; C 89/3-Sup.2; C 89/3-Sup.3; C 89/3-Sup.4; C 89/LIM/18-Rev.1) (continuación)	

SIXTH MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE
SEXTA SESION
(16 November 1989)

II. <u>ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION</u> (continued)	
II. <u>ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION</u> (suite)	158
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION</u> (continuación)	
13. <u>Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 and Medium-Term Objectives</u> (C 89/3; C 89/3-Sup.1; C 89/3-Sup.2; C 89/3-Sup.3; C 89/3-Sup.4; C 89/LIM/18-Rev.1) (continued)	
13. <u>Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 et objectifs à moyen terme</u> (C 89/3; C 89/3-Sup.1; C 89/3-Sup.2; C 89/3-Sup.3; C 89/3-Sup.4; C 89/LIM/18-Rev.1) (suite)	158
13. <u>Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 y objetivos a plazo medio</u> (C 89/3; C 89/3-Sup.1; C 89/3-Sup.2; C 89/3-Sup.3; C 89/3-Sup.4; C 89/LIM/18-Rev.1) (continuación)	

SEVENTH MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE
SEPTIMA SESION
(17 November 1989)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
II. <u>ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION</u> (continued)	
II. <u>ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION</u> (suite)	214
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION</u> (continuación)	
13. <u>Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 and Medium-Term Objectives</u> (C 89/3; C 89/3-Sup.1; C 89/3-Sup.2; C 89/3-Sup.3; C 89/3-Sup.4; C 89/LIM/18-Rev.1) (continued)	
13. <u>Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 et objectifs à moyen terme</u> (C 89/3; C 89/3-Sup.1; C 89/3-Sup.2; C 89/3-Sup.3; C 89/3-Sup.4; C 89/LIM/18-Rev.1) (suite)	214
13. <u>Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 y objetivos a plazo medio</u> (C 89/3; C 89/3-Sup.1; C 89/3-Sup.2; C 89/3-Sup.3; C 89/3-Sup.4; C 89/LIM/18-Rev.1) (continuación)	
14. <u>Review of Field Programmes</u> (C 89/4; C 89/LIM/19)	
14. <u>Examen des programmes de terrain</u> (C 89/4; C 89/LIM/19)	235
14. <u>Examen de los Programas de Campo</u> (C 89/4; C 89/LIM/19)	

EIGHTH MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE
OCTAVA SESION
(17 November 1989)

II. <u>ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION</u> (continued)	250
II. <u>ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION</u> (suite)	
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION</u> (continuación)	
14. <u>Review of Field Programmes</u> (continued) (C 89/4; C 89/LIM/19)	250
14. <u>Examen des programmes de terrain</u> (suite) (C 89/4; C 89/LIM/19)	
14. <u>Examen de los Programas de Campo</u> (continuación) (C 89/4; C 89/LIM/19)	

NINTH MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE
NOVENA SESION

(20 November 1989)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
II. <u>ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION</u> (continued)	
II. <u>ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION</u> (suite)	316
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION</u> (continuación)	
15. <u>Conclusions of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations</u> (C 89/21; C 89/21-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/20-Rev.1)	
15. <u>Conclusions de l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO</u> (C 89/21; C 89/21-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/20-Rev.1)	316
15. <u>Conclusiones del examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAO</u> (C 89/21; C 89/21-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/20-Rev.1)	

TENTH MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE
DECIMA SESION

(20 November 1989)

II. <u>ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION</u> (continued)	
II. <u>ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION</u> (suite)	352
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION</u> (continuación)	
15. <u>Conclusions of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations</u> (C 89/21; C 89/21-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/20-Rev.1) (continued)	
15. <u>Conclusions de l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO</u> (C 89/21; C 89/21-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/20-Rev.1) (suite)	352
15. <u>Conclusiones del examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAO</u> (C 89/21; C 89/21-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/20-Rev.1) (continuación)	

ELEVENIH MEETING
ONZIEME SEANCE
UNDECIMA. SESION
(21 November 1989)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
II. <u>ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION</u> (continued)	
II. <u>ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION</u> (suite)	386
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION</u> (continuación)	
15. <u>Conclusions of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations</u> (C 89/21; C 89/21-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/20-Rev.1) (continued)	
15. <u>Conclusions de l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO</u> (C 89/21; C 89/21-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/20/Rev.1) (suite)	386
15. <u>Conclusiones del examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAO</u> (C 89/21; C 89/21-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/20-Rev.1) (continuación)	

TWELFTH MEETING
DOUZIEME SEANCE
12ª sesion

(21 November 1989)

II. <u>ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION</u> (continued)	
II. <u>ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION</u> (suite)	418
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION</u> (continuación)	
15. <u>Conclusions of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations</u> (C 89/21; C 89/21-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/20-Rev.1) (continued)	
15. <u>Conclusions de l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO</u> (C 89/21; C 89/21-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/20-Rev.1) (suite)	418
15. <u>Conclusiones del examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAO</u> (C 89/21; C 89/21-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/20-Rev.1) (continuación)	

THIRTEENTH MEETING
TREZIEME SEANCE
13ª SESION
(22 November 1989)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>ADOPTION OF REPORT</u>	
<u>ADOPTION DU RAPPORT</u>	478
<u>APROBACION DEL INFORME</u>	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART I (C 89/II/REP/1)</u>	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - PARTIE I (C 89/II/REP/1)</u>	478
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE I (C 89/II/REP/1)</u>	
<u>13. Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 and Medium-Term Objectives (paras 1-36)</u>	
<u>13. Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 et objectifs à moyen terme (par. 1 - 36)</u>	478
<u>13. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 y objetivos a plazo medio (párrs. 1-36)</u>	
<u>Context (paras 1-6)</u>	
<u>Contexte (par. 1-6)</u>	480
<u>Contexto (párrs. 1-6)</u>	
<u>Programme Budget Process (paras 7 and 8)</u>	
<u>Procédure d'établissement du budget - programme (par. 7 et 8)</u>	485
<u>Proceso de presupuestación por programas (párrs. 7 y 8)</u>	
<u>Approach (paras 9 - 12)</u>	
<u>Approche (par. 9 - 12)</u>	485
<u>Criterios (párrs. 9 - 12)</u>	
<u>Priorities (paras 13-19)</u>	
<u>Priorités (par. 13 - 19)</u>	485
<u>Prioridades (párrs. 13 - 19)</u>	
<u>Programme activities (paras 20-24)</u>	
<u>Activités au titre des programmes (par. 20-24)</u>	487
<u>Actividades del programa (párrs. 20-24)</u>	
<u>Financial framework (paras 25-31)</u>	
<u>Cadre financier (par. 25 - 31)</u>	487
<u>Marco financiero (párrs. 25 - 31)</u>	
<u>Budget level (paras 32 - 36)</u>	
<u>Montant du budget (par. 32 - 36)</u>	511
<u>Cuantía del presupuesto (párrs. 32 - 36)</u>	

FOURTEENTH MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE
14ª SESION

(23 November 1989)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
II. <u>ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION</u> (continued)	
II. <u>ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION</u> (suite)	514
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION</u> (continuación)	
17. <u>Relations and Consultations with International Organizations</u>	
17. <u>Relations et consultations avec les organisations internationales</u>	514
17. <u>Relaciones y consultas con organizaciones internacionales</u>	
17.1 <u>Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO</u> (including the International Conference on Nutrition) (C 89/27; C 89/LIM/21)	
17.1 <u>Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies et intéressant la FAO</u> (y compris la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition) (C 89/27; C 89/LIM/21)	514
17.1 <u>Novedades recientes en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO</u> (incluida la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición) (C 89/27; C 89/LIM/21)	
17.2 <u>Relations with Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations</u> (C 89/9; C 89/17)	
17.2 <u>Relations avec les organisations intergouvernementales et les organisations internationales non gouvernementales</u> (C 89/9; C 89/17)	514
17.2 <u>Relaciones con organizaciones intergubernamentales y organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales</u> (C 89/9; C 89/17)	
16. <u>United Nations/FAO World Food Programme</u> (C 89/LM/5; C 89/LIM/30)	
16. <u>Programme alimentaire mondial Nations Unies/FAO</u> (C 89/LIM/5; C 89/LIM/30)	552
16. <u>Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO</u> (C 89/LIM/5; C 89/LIM/30)	

FIFTEENTH MEETING
QUINZIEME SEANCE
15ª SESION

(24 November 1989)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
II. <u>ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION</u> (continued)	574
II. <u>ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION</u> (suite)	
II. <u>ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION</u> (continuación)	
15. <u>Conclusions of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations</u> (continued) (C 89/21; C 89/21-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/20-Rev.1; C 89/LIM/39; C 89/LIM/40; C 89/LIM/42; C 89/LIM/45)	574
15. <u>Conclusions de l'examen de certain aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO</u> (suite) (C 89/21; C 89/21-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/20-Rev.1; C 89/LIM/39; C 89/LIM/40; C 89/LIM/42; C 89/LIM/45)	
15. <u>Conclusiones del examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAO</u> (continuación) (C 89/21; C 89/21-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/20-Rev.1; C 89/LIM/39; C 89/LIM/40; C 89/LIM/42; C 89/LIM/45)	

SIXTEENTH MEETING
SEIZIEME SEANCE
16ª SESION

(24 November 1989)

<u>ADOPTION OF REPORT</u> (continued)	
<u>ADOPTION DU RAPPORT</u> (suite)	594
<u>APROBACION DEL INFORME</u> (continuación)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 2</u> (C 89/II/REP/2)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - PARTIE 2</u> (C 89/II/REP/2)	594
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 2</u> (C 89/II/REP2)	
12. <u>Review of the Regular Programme 1988-89</u> (paras 1-19)	
12. <u>Examen du Programme ordinaire 1988-89</u> (par. 1 - 19)	595
12. <u>Examen del Programa Ordinario 1988-89</u> (párrs. 1 - 19)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 3</u> (C 89/II/REP/3)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - PARTIE 3</u> (C 89/II/REP/3)	599
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 3</u> (C 89/II/REP/3)	
14. <u>Review of Field Programmes 1988-89</u> (paras. 1-13)	
14. <u>Examen des programmes de terrain 1988-89</u> (par. 1 - 13)	599
14. <u>Examen de los Programas de Campo 1988-89</u> (párrs. 1 - 13)	

SEVENTEENTH MEETING
DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE
17ª SESION

(27 November 1989)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>ADOPTION OF REPORT</u> (continued)	
<u>ADOPTION DU RAPPORT</u> (suite)	611
<u>APROBACION DEL INFORME</u> (continuación)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 4</u> (C 89/II/REP/4)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - PARTIE 4</u> (C 89/II/REP/4)	611
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 4</u> (C 89/II/REP/4)	
15. <u>Conclusions of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations</u> (paras 1 - 7)	
15. <u>Conclusions de l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO</u> (par. 1 - 7)	611
15. <u>Conclusiones del examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAO</u> (párrs. 1 - 7)	
A. <u>FAO's Objectives, Role, Priorities and Strategies</u> (paras 8 - 20)	
A. <u>Objectifs, rôle, priorités et stratégies de la FAO</u> (par. 8 - 20)	614
A. <u>Objetivos, función, prioridades y estrategia de la FAO</u> (párrs. 8 - 20)	
B. <u>FAO's Field Operations</u> (Resolution .../89) (paras 21 - 34)	
B. <u>Opérations de terrain de la FAO</u> (Résolution .../89) (par. 21 - 34)	639
B. <u>Operaciones de campo de la FAO</u> (Resolución .../89) (párrs. 21 - 34)	

EIGHTEENTH MEETING
DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE
18ª SESION

(27 November 1989)

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>ADOPTION OF REPORT</u> (continued)	
<u>ADOPTION DU RAPPORT</u> (suite)	650
<u>APROBACION DEL INFORME</u> (continuación)	
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 4</u> (continued) (C 89/II/REP/4)	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - PARTIE 4</u> (suite) (C 89/II/REP/4)	650
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 4</u> (continuación) (C 89/II/REP/4)	
15. <u>Conclusions of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations</u> (continued)	
15. <u>Conclusions de l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO</u> (suite)	650
15. <u>Conclusiones del examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAO</u> (continuación)	
A. <u>FAO's Objectives, Role, Priorities and Strategies</u> (continued) (paras 8 - 20)	
A. <u>Objectifs, rôle, priorités et stratégies de la FAO</u> (suite) (par. 8 - 20)	650
A. <u>Objetivos, función, prioridades y estrategias de la FAO</u> (continuación) (párrs. 8 - 20)	
B. <u>FAO's Field Operations</u> (continued) (Resolution .../89) (paras 21 - 34)	
B. <u>Opérations de terrain de la FAO</u> (suite) (Résolution .../89) (par. 21 - 34)	651
B. <u>Operaciones de campo de la FAO</u> (continuación) (Resolución .../89) (párrs. 21 - 34)	
C. <u>Relations with other Institutions</u> (paras 35 - 36)	
C. <u>Relations avec d'autres organisations</u> (pars. 35 - 36)	670
C. <u>Relaciones con otras instituciones</u> (párrs. 35 - 36)	
D. <u>Resource Implications</u> (Resolution .../89) (paras 37 - 43)	
D. <u>Ressources</u> (Résolution .../89) (par. 37 - 43)	674
D. <u>Repercusiones sobre los recursos</u> (Resolución .../89) (párrs. 37 - 43)	

	<u>Page/Página</u>
<u>DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 5 (C 89/II/REP/5)</u>	
<u>PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - PARTIE 5 (C 89/II/REP/5)</u>	678
<u>PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 5 (C 89/II/REP/5)</u>	
16. <u>United Nations/FAO World Food Programme - World Food Programme: Proposed Pledging Target 1991-92 (Resolution .../89) (paras 1 - 9)</u>	
16. <u>Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO (PAM) - Programme alimentaire mondial: Objectif de contributions proposé pour 1991-92 (Résolution .../89) (par. 1 - 9)</u>	678
16. <u>Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas /FAO - Programa Mundial de Alimentos: Objetivo propuesto de promesas de contribución para 1991-92 (Resolución .../89) (párrs. 1 - 9)</u>	
17. <u>Relations and Consultations with International Organizations</u>	
17. <u>Relations et consultations avec les organisations internationales</u>	679
17. <u>Relaciones y consultas con organizaciones internacionales</u>	
17.1 <u>Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO (paras 10 - 22)</u>	
17.1 <u>Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies intéressant la FAO (par. 10 - 22)</u>	679
17.1 <u>Novedades recientes en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO (párrs. 10 - 22)</u>	
- <u>International Conference on Nutrition (paras. 23 - 28)</u>	
- <u>Conférence internationale sur la nutrition (par. 23 - 28)</u>	698
- <u>Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición (párrs. 23 - 28)</u>	
17.2 <u>Relations with Intergovernmental and International Non-governmental Organizations (paras 29 - 31)</u>	
17.2 <u>Relations avec les organisations intergouvernementales et les organisations internationales non gouvernementales (par. 29 - 31)</u>	698
17.2 <u>Relaciones con organizaciones intergubernamentales y organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales (párrs. 29 - 31)</u>	

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

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Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
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25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

FIRST MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE
PRIMERA SESION
(14 November 1989)

The First Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 10 heures
sous la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la primera sesión a las 10.00 horas
bajo la presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II

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

- 12. Review of Regular Programme 1988-1989
- 12. Examen du Programme ordinaire 1988-1989
- 12. Examen del Programa Ordinario, 1988-1989

LE PRESIDENT: Excellence, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais souhaiter la bienvenue au sein de la Commission II à tous les représentants des Etats Membres et aux observateurs. Le fait que de nombreuses délégations soient présentes dans cette salle témoigne de l'intérêt que vous accordez aux travaux de cette Commission.

Cela est normal lorsqu'on sait que notre Commission a la lourde mission d'évaluer les activités passées de l'Organisation grâce aux points sur le programme ordinaire et le programme de terrain, le débat du Programme de travail et du budget de l'Organisation ainsi que de ses objectifs à moyen terme pour permettre à celle-ci de vivre. Avant de nous pencher sur l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO, sur lesquels je reste persuadé que, grâce au dialogue que j'entends susciter et instaurer, nous arriverons à des solutions acceptables par tous, car chacun de nous veut d'une FAO toujours plus solide, toujours plus dynamique et en tous cas plus performante.

Ce débat devra rester courtois et éviter les attaques personnelles afin de favoriser le consensus que nous tous appelons de nos vœux. Je lance donc un appel au début de cette séance à chacun de vous pour travailler dans ce sens. Pour en venir à notre assemblée de travail, bien entendu nous nous efforcerons de le respecter car, comme vous le savez, il a été adopté par la séance plénière de la Conférence et pour cela j'invite chacun de vous à faire preuve de concision et à éviter la redondance. A cet égard, je propose que chaque point inscrit à l'ordre du jour fasse l'objet d'une intervention unique par chaque délégation, le temps qui nous est imparti ne permettant pas un examen chapitre par chapitre. Je vous laisserai tout le temps nécessaire pour concentrer vos commentaires sur l'essentiel, mais sachez que l'on est au total - mais tout le monde n'est peut-être pas encore là - 154 délégations disposant d'environ 51 h réparties en 17 séances pour traiter de 6 points, pendant que le Comité de rédaction aura environ 8 h de séance pour l'adoption du rapport. Autant dire que la coopération de tous est sollicitée, si nous voulons mériter la confiance que la Conférence a placée en nous.

Pour ce qui concerne le Programme de travail et budget, c'est-à-dire le point 13 de l'Ordre du jour, le calendrier est particulièrement rigide. En effet, le rapport de la Commission II sur le point 13 devant être adopté en plénière le mercredi 22 novembre au matin, la Commission elle-même devra procéder à l'adoption de son rapport sur cette question le mardi 21 novembre dans l'après-midi. Ceci impose en conséquence un rythme de travail serré au Comité de rédaction qui devra commencer ses discussions le plus tôt possible après la fin du débat en Commission.

En ce qui concerne nos travaux nous devrions connaître en principe les noms des Vice-Présidents qui auront à me seconder dans la direction des débats. Ces noms vous seront communiqués dès que la plénière de la Conférence les aura élus très certainement ce matin.

Pour ce qui concerne le Comité de rédaction, comme de coutume le Comité pourra être nommé après consultation entre tous les groupes. J'espère que d'ici ce soir ou au plus tard demain matin cela sera fait. Les horaires de travail sont de 9 h 30 à 12 h 30 le matin et de 15 h 30 à 17 h 30 l'après-midi. Le Programme de travail de la Commission II est contenu dans la partie 2 de l'Ordre du jour de la Conférence couvrant les points 12 à 17. Le calendrier de nos travaux est contenu dans le document C 89/12, et la liste des documents de notre Commission est contenue dans un document qui est sorti ce matin C 89/INF/12.

Pour ce matin nous allons aborder le point 12, c'est-à-dire l'examen du programme ordinaire. Les documents sont le C 89/8 et le C 89/LIM/17. Je rappelle que le Conseil n'a pas pu discuter ce document faute de temps, et qu'il a donc décidé de transmettre à la Conférence les observations du Comité du programme financier précisément contenues dans le document C 89/LIM/17. J'espère que tout le monde a bien relevé ces documents et les a devant lui.

Raymond ALLEN (United Kingdom) : In general we agree we should only speak once but we hope that where there is difficulty with clarification of points or answers from the Secretariat we shall, as is the normal practice, be able to come back again.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais dire au Représentant du Royaume-Uni que de toute façon je demande que l'on intervienne une fois et après cette première intervention vous aurez les réponses du Secrétariat aux questions que vous aurez posées, et l'on redonnera la parole aux membres de notre Commission qui le désirent pour pouvoir apporter un complément d'information aux réponses que le Secrétariat aura données. Je pense que cela sera possible.

Puisqu'il n'y a plus d'intervention sur cette partie introductive, je voudrais inviter M. Shah, Sous-Directeur général, chargé du Programme, du Budget et de l'Evaluation, à nous présenter ce point 12 de l'examen du Programme ordinaire.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation) : The document C 89/8 Review of the Regular Programme 1988/89 is the 6th edition of the Review marking a decade since its inception in 1979. The Review was conceived and has served as the main mechanism for keeping the governing bodies informed comprehensively on the programme implementation, of the achievements and results within the continuing process of reviewing the past and proposed Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization. For this reason, it has become recent practice for the Governing Bodies to consider the Review immediately before the proposed Programme of Work and Budget.

The Review forms an important part of FAO's overall evaluation system. This system comprises, apart from the Review of the Regular Programme, the other biennial Review of Field Programmes, auto-evaluation of the Regular Programme which is conducted annually by programme managers, evaluation of selected programmes, such as those on three Special Action Programmes, the reports of which were submitted to the last Conference, evaluations by Joint Inspection Unit and evaluations of field projects, including thematic evaluations conducted by independent missions.

The format and structure of this Review have been progressively improved to meet the desires of the Governing Bodies. For example, whereas the first edition of the Review comprised two parts governing performance reports of major Programmes and in-dept reviews of selected Sub-programmes, this has been expanded to contain a third part, providing thematic or programme reviews of selected FAO activities cutting across the programme structure. Similarly, efforts have been made to improve the coverage and presentation, especially the in-dept reviews of selected Sub-Programmes and thematic/programmes so as to provide more detailed analysis of implementation results and effects.

While the focus remains on the Regular Programme, efforts have also been made to provide an integrated coverage of related activities under the Field Programmes. This is not only because the two Programmes are inseparably linked in substance, but also because tangible results are more directly observable in the field.

Turning to the structure of this Review the structure has remained the same as in the last two Reviews. However, some modifications have been introduced and permit me to draw the attention of other Commissions to these; in Part One of the Review which contains performance reports of major Programmes, a new chapter, Chapter 4, has been introduced to present in a combined way quantitative information on selected aspects of Programme implementation, such as training, meetings etc., under the three technical major Programmes. This information covers also, for the first time, a list of computerized data bases; secondly, in Chapter One, covering the major Programmes on Agriculture, a section has been introduced to draw attention to the inter-disciplinary nature of activities under various Programmes; and thirdly in view of substantial Programme adjustments necessitated by the severe financial constraints during the recent years, their effects on Programme implementation have been highlighted, especially in Part One.

Part Two covers in-depth reviews of four selected Sub-Programmes, one each from the Sub-Programmes implemented by the Departments of Agriculture, Economic and Social Policy, Fisheries and Forestry. Part Three contains comprehensive reviews of FAO activities on two subjects which are of special interest to the Governing Bodies, that is "FAO's Policy and Planning Support to Member Countries" and "FAO Support to Member Countries in Conservation and Amelioration of the Natural Environment and Introduction of Environmental Considerations into FAO Projects and Programmes". The two topics covered in this Part Three of the Review are intended to make contributions to the on-going deliberations on FAO's future work in these two priority areas.

Since the first Review, a substantial part of FAO's technical Programmes and activities have been covered, two Programmes, 25 Sub-Programmes, 40 percent of all technical Sub-Programmes, five Programme elements and 11 thematic topics.

Permit me to make a few more remarks on each part of the Review to facilitate your tasks.

With regard to Part One - the Performance Reports on the Five Major Programmes, let me be quite clear that these performance reports are not, and do not pretend to be evaluations. Rather they are intended to provide a summary account of the progress in programme implementation, highlighting major achievements. In order to provide concrete information on the implementation progress such as data on selected aspects, the Regular Programme resources allocated and expenditures, training, meetings, publications, direct support to member countries, technical support to field projects and computerized data-bases, have been given. Some of the data of this nature are given for the last four biennia to indicate trends in these activities.

The effect on programme implementation during the biennium of the budgetary cuts during 1989 and 1988, totalling some US\$ 45 million, are noted under each Chapter. During 1988, 115 professional posts were frozen, including 54 under the three technical major programmes, and non-staff costs for operations were reduced on an average by 7.1 percent.

In each chapter there are indications and examples of the activities reduced or eliminated. But I would hasten to add, there are also extensive examples of successful and innovative activities. Each chapter then reviews the salient issues from the viewpoint of the programme management.

In Part Two, four sub-programmes cover Food and Agricultural Industries and Forestry Training and Institutions. These in-depth reviews of the sub-programmes reflect an attempt to analyze concrete achievements and results of the Regular Programme, with special attention to the effects at the country level.

Turning now to Part Three, as I said earlier, the two subjects are of especial significance in the work of the Conference. The two chapters demonstrate FAO's capability of performing wide-ranging activities in an integrated manner - from providing a technical and planning framework at global/regional levels to technical assistance on specific problems at the country level. They also underline the integrated nature of work under Regular and Field Programmes.

As regards Policy and Planning Support, which is in Chapter Eleven of the Review, the thrust of FAO's work is in the formulation and promotion of technically sound policy and planning framework at global, regional or sectoral levels, which forms the basis for assistance to individual countries. The main role of FAO is its ability to combine this work with international consensus building and technical support to individual countries in adapting and implementing their policy and planning framework.

Between 1984 and 1989, an estimated amount of US\$ 82 million of the Regular Programme resources or 13 percent of the Regular Programme resources to the three technical major Programmes has been allocated to policy and planning activities. Some 1 100 advisory missions were launched, over 300 consultations and meetings held, some 200 training activities organized and over 600 guidelines and other publications prepared during this period. In addition, over 400 field projects with a total value of US\$ 270 million have been backstopped.

Among the major conclusions and issues which arise from this analysis, the need is highlighted to ensure greater harmonization of the institutional framework for policy and planning, both at national and international levels. Within FAO, assistance to the member countries, it is recognized, must be multi-disciplinary and placed within a sector framework, buttressed by intensive sector reviews.

With regard to the Conservation and Amelioration of Natural Resources, FAO has been involved in activities relating to this area since its inception. As you all know the conservation of natural resources is one of the constitutional functions of the Organization and the activities in this field gained new momentum in recent years in the light of the international action, which has been focused on the environmental issues.

Since 1982, FAO has promoted major international agreements relating to the natural environments, and to give as an example the World Soil Chapter, International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, Strategies from Fisheries Management and Development, the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

As the first UN agency to do so, procedures for environmental assessment of planned FAO projects are being introduced.

Between 1984 and 1989 some US\$ 17 million of Regular Programme resources have been allocated to environment related activities. Nearly 60 percent of this has been for technical backstopping and direct support to member countries.

During the same period, some 140 projects with a total budget of US\$ 143 million, or 6 percent of FAO's total project portfolios, have been implemented in this field.

Several areas are identified for potential effective FAO contributions, such as analysing causes of environmental degradation in rural areas as well as the pace and level of environmental losses. The importance of closely-knit inter-departmental activities is evident and is stressed.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, as you indicated, the Programme Committee in particular examined this Review of the Regular Programme at its September Session, and the Council felt that these views would be of interest to your Commission. They are accordingly reproduced in document C 89/LIM/17 together with the views also of the Finance Committee.

Mr Chairman, the document before you is a very full one, full in terms of information which we felt we should submit to you. It is also a fairly lengthy one. But I hope that this introduction may serve to facilitate your debate and in any case, as you have seen, all my senior colleagues and our many other colleagues from departments and divisions are here to respond to any requests there may be for clarification.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais, au nom de toute la Commission, remercier Monsieur Shah pour cette introduction. J'espère qu'elle apporte beaucoup de lumière sur les points d'ombre éventuels que vous auriez décelés dans les documents. En tout cas nous ouvrons la liste des intervenants pour que vous puissiez vous exprimer sur cette importante question.

Gerard Phirinyane KHOJANE (Lesotho): Mr Chairman, I would first like to express the satisfaction of my delegation to see you in the Chair. We wish to commend the FAO Secretariat for a professionally well arranged document C 89/8 which is concise and provides stimulating reading. We find the document to be a fair assessment account of FAO operations during the time under review. We have no doubt that a careful consideration of the contents of document C 89/8 should enable well thought-out proposals of direction for 1990-91 biennium and beyond. This observation is without prejudice on the outcome of the review exercise.

Commenting on the contents of document C 89/8, the Lesotho delegation expresses a general disappointment on the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89. This disappointment is the product of the apparent lack of support for the approved FAO Programme of Work and Budget by some of its membership despite the fact that they have means to honour their contribution obligations and that they participated at the conference where the programme was democratically approved. Document C 89/8 reveals that growing financial constraints necessitated cutting of programmes due to insufficient financial resources put at the disposal of FAO to implement the agreed programmes. We regret that victims of these cuts were important programmes such as country representatives offices, research and technical development including training, crop production, rural development, fisheries, and Freedom from Hunger Campaign/Action for Development.

It would however be remiss of us if we could not show appreciation for the important contribution of those countries which paid their assessed contributions on time to enable FAO to at least continue with its indispensable service to small farmers of the developing countries. We also want to commend the donor countries which operated joint programmes with FAO during the 1988-89 Programme of Work and Budget period because these joint programmes kept FAO going and ameliorated the effects of programme cuts. Without reducing the importance of other joint programmes, we want to single out FAO/Italy mechanization projects, SIDA (of Sweden) supported projects in the development of farm building structures, and FAO/DANIDA fertilizer programmes. It is our strong desire that similar arrangements could also be worked out in favour of Lesotho. FAO and donor countries are therefore urged to consider Lesotho in their future joint programmes.

We also wish to express satisfaction that FAO Secretariat continued to display a determination to perform to the best of their ability and made their full service available to those who need it even under very difficult conditions. We in particular take note of the encouraging developments regarding the prevention of food losses (PFL) programme during 1988-89. We agree that pest management has an important role to play in the prevention of food losses. Lesotho witnessed this fact just recently when efforts to make the best of the setback caused by unusually heavy rainfall at the beginning of 1988/89 summer ploughing season were frustrated by unexpected widespread and severe infestation of cutworms which caused incomplete crops establishment resulting in poor densities.

This is why we are happy that a new initiative has been launched for coordinated international programme to strengthen long-term capacity in pest management in Africa. There is no doubt that food supply conditions can be improved with effective pest control. Our appeal is however that all efforts should also be made to involve the largest population of farmers in training programmes for biological control of pests. This could be achieved through well established and effective extension systems.

We at the same time endorse the recommendation that sufficient attention should also be given to projects which go beyond plant protection and encourage farmers and small entrepreneurs to improve their post-harvest techniques for drying, handling, storage and processing of food items. We welcome the promise from FAO management that an increasing number of the prevention of food losses (PFL) projects will take account of the total post-harvest system, with emphasis on cereals, roots, tubers, fruits and vegetables. Food processing units in Lesotho have proved to be an incentive to farmers to engage in intensive farming of both staple and cash crops to improve nutrition for local communities and to secure foreign exchange through export trade.

We, however, wish to underline that there are continuing adverse external environment and economic difficulties affecting developing countries' food supply situation, calling for renewed efforts to bail out these countries and assist them to recover, rehabilitate and promote their agriculture in order to reach self-sufficiency in food supply. Although Lesotho was among the developing countries which had achieved a reasonable degree of recovery in food production during 1987/88, 1988/89 has been a disappointing period. The unusually heavy rainfall at the beginning of the 1988 ploughing season for summer crops, which we have alluded to in our earlier remarks, restricted and delayed planting operations. As a result, much of the sorghum and maize crops were planted extremely late. The rainfall also interfered with the smooth harvesting of the exceptionally promising wheat crop and consequently the bulk of it was damaged. Another setback was shortage of harvesters to cope with the pressing demand during the rainfall intervals.

Abnormally cool growing conditions also slowed down growth of the already late summer crop and unexpected early frost and snowfall caused serious damage and heavy losses. This catalogue of Lesotho's hazards in 1988/89 has indeed exacerbated the difficulties of this low income and food deficit country and prompted the government of Lesotho to declare "staple food supply shortage emergency situation".

We are happy that FAO, through its effective global information and early warning system, in close cooperation with the Lesotho national early warning unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperatives and Marketing, has been monitoring events in Lesotho and has already reported the matter in its publications. We are grateful for FAO's efforts in assisting the government of Lesotho to recover from the effects of the said catalogue of calamities and rehabilitate the country's agricultural productivity. We are also aware of action in place to mobilize the necessary resources to complement the serious shortage of food supply in Lesotho.

While there is nothing much which can be done about natural calamities, we nevertheless believe that their effects could be reduced through crop insurance policies covering small farmers in developing countries. We believe practical ways and means should continue to be explored by FAO to promote crop insurance schemes for small farmers in developing countries at reasonable and affordable costs. We would be happy to benefit from those who have acquired the necessary expertise in this regard.

With reference to the policy advisory activities of FAO, we wish to express our delegation's deep concern about the effects of Structural Adjustment Programmes on food security. This IMF and World Bank medicine is not only bitter but it suffocates. There is an absolute need for a caring mother like FAO to provide developing countries with advice on how to implement

Structural Adjustment Programmes without eroding even their little prospects of food security, as seems to be the case under present arrangements. India's success story in food production cannot be repeated in countries with Structural Adjustment Programmes which limit fresh investments in research, provision of credit facilities for modern inputs like improved seeds and fertilizers, irrigation, and marketing infrastructures.

A decrease in lending for agriculture by the African Development Bank, referred to in paragraph 5.42 of document C 89/8, is a direct result of economic restructuring and reduction in external borrowing by sub-Saharan Africa as advised by IMF and the World Bank. We are, therefore, happy to learn that FAO is already aware of its call and is allocating more resources under its Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 to step up its policy advisory role in member countries particularly those which are involved in the structural adjustment process. The budget with this important provision merits support.

The Lesotho delegation fully endorses the statement that TCP assistance has proved its worth and we reiterate our satisfaction with its performance. We do so because Lesotho has been a direct beneficiary of the Programme. We are also happy that a regional distribution of TCP assistance during 1988-89 has followed the priority set by FAO member countries with Africa receiving the largest share - 42.5 percent. We hope that this pattern will be followed as long as regional economic conditions remain unchanged.

As for sectoral allocations, it is significant that the provision for advisory services enjoyed the most favoured status - 33.7 percent. The indications are that more resources will be needed in this area as scores of developing countries find themselves trapped in the web of a Structural Adjustment Programme.

The amount of investment in agriculture for developing countries mobilized by the FAO Investment Centre under TCP arrangement - the amount is US\$ 3 003.5 million - shows the increasing importance of this area and justifies a significant upward trend for future programming of TCP funds, as proposed in paragraph 5.8 of document C 89/8. This conclusion is, of course, on the understanding that the inconsiderate pressure on food deficit countries involved in Structural Adjustment Programmes, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, to suspend external borrowing, even for agricultural development, will be lifted as a result of FAO intervention. We regret the strict criteria which limit TCP funds being used for TCDC projects, and hope that a way out will be found to assist concerned governments to meet their local costs. Donor countries are urged to consider contributing trust funds to facilitate utilization of TCP funds for TCDC projects.

In conclusion, we wish to place on record our appreciation that at long last a final agreement has been reached between FAO and the Government of the Republic of Italy for construction of new FAO facilities to ease congestion in the old buildings and to accommodate all headquarters staff in one location. We believe this will somehow improve working conditions and contribute towards boosting up of staff morale.

Mrs Birgit SCHJERVEN (Norway): Document C 89/8 before us - containing a review of the Regular Programme 1988-89 - is a comprehensive one. The large amount of information, on a variety of activities in many fields, contained in the document, makes it difficult to do justice to it all in a short statement. I will, therefore, to cooperate with the Chairman, limit myself to some general remarks on the way the information is presented and to a few specific comments.

Generally, we find that the document presents the activities and achievements during the period under review in a well-structured and informative manner. The new chapter containing an information base on the performance of technical and economic programmes is very useful, especially as a reference guide. We also find the information on cross-sectoral issues in Part Three particularly useful.

We are pleased to see that the different chapters start with a presentation of objectives and strategies and, at the end, present main Conclusions and Issues. This format makes it easier to relate the different activities to the defined objectives, and to draw lessons from experience to benefit future work. However, the quality of the description of objectives, and especially of the strategies, varies in the document. For instance, the way in which the objectives as well as the strategies are presented in Chapter Three on Forestry could serve as a model for future presentations. Generally, however, although the document to some extent helps to clarify priorities, it is still somewhat difficult to see clearly the priority setting in the sections dealing with concrete activities.

There is one exception to the general positive impression of the information provided, namely the chapter on the Technical Cooperation Programme - the TCP. The TCP represents 13 percent of Regular Programme resources, and a review of less than two pages in a document of 265 pages is not satisfactory. This problem is even more evident when considering that, unlike the other programmes, the governing bodies do not participate in the planning and budgeting process of this Programme. We will have the possibility of discussing the TCP later during the Conference, but we would request that a fuller review of TCP should be included in future Regular Programme reviews.

I would now like to turn to some more specific comments. Throughout the document, the effects of the difficult financial constraints are visible. As we have stated on several occasions before, we expect all members to fulfil their obligations and we have urged those who have not done so to pay their contributions as soon as possible. However, when we read on page 50 that "The unpredictable budget shortfalls have not lent themselves to rational planning" we recall that it was already clear when the Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89 was discussed at the 1987 Conference that the financial situation would be difficult. We believe it would have been possible by contingency planning to avoid these problems affecting priority areas such as training and women in development activities, especially health.

Another feature emerging from the Review is the heavy backstopping load on Regular Programme staff. As an average, it seems that over one-third of Professional staff time is spent on backstopping, and for some programmes more than half of the staff's time. Obviously, this is an unsatisfactory situation, regardless of the financial situation. The most important remedies include better focusing of activities by improved priority setting, and decentralization of decision-making.

As mentioned before, we appreciate the inclusion in Part Three of information on cross-sectoral issues. The "Review of FAO's Policy and Planning Support to Member Countries" in our mind supports the view that this is an area where FAO has comparative advantages. We agree that decisions on policy are of the very essence of national sovereignty, and that this must be kept in mind when discussing FAO policy activities at national level. However, although FAO can only intervene in response to a request from a government concerned, FAO has a responsibility to make it clear to governments which problems FAO is best placed to assist in solving, and when assistance from other organizations or agencies would be more appropriate.

On page 204, we are informed that "policy and planning projects are heavily concentrated on Africa", followed by Near East, North Africa and Europe. It would be interesting to know whether this distribution reflects the number of government requests for assistance or whether some geographic priorities are given by FAD.

The "Conclusions and Issues" in Chapter Eleven contain a number of important and useful issues, and it would be tempting to comment upon this part more fully. However, I will limit myself to complimenting the authors for preparing this section which contains views and thoughts with a perspective most relevant for the coming discussion on the future roles, objectives and strategies of FAD.

Finally, Mr Chairman, a few remarks on Chapter Twelve on Conservation and Amelioration of the Natural Environment. Sound management of the resource base and promotion of sustainable development are probably the most central challenges we will face in the 1990s. The presentation of FAO's work in the past biennium is a useful background for the discussion we will have later this week on the state of food and agriculture.

One striking conclusion in this chapter is that the total Regular Programme budget for environmental activities represents only 3 percent of the total approved Regular Programme budget. We are aware of the complex statistical problems involved in defining "environmental activities", and also that cuts have been necessary in the Regular Programme. Nevertheless, it would be interesting to hear some further comments from the Secretariat on this percentage.

We are pleased to see that FAD, as the first UN agency, from 1989 has initiated a systematic review of its projects having potential negative environmental consequences. It is particularly important that such consequences are considered before the project activities start and are not just reviewed in retrospect. A further challenge will be to include environmental considerations also in other planning processes than project planning. We will come back with more comprehensive comments on FAO's activities in the field of environment and sustainable development under the Agenda item dealing with the state of food and agriculture.

Jacques WARIN (France): Permettez-moi de vous féliciter pour votre nomination à cette très importante commission. Je veux remercier également M. Shah pour l'introduction très claire qu'il nous a présentée tout à l'heure.

Sur ce point, la délégation française se félicite des nouvelles améliorations apportées à la présentation et à la méthode d'examen du Programme ordinaire.

Avant de commenter les évaluations particulières à cet examen, ma délégation souhaite présenter quelques observations générales sur les activités de la FAO durant cet exercice qui s'est inscrit sous le signe, à la fois des difficultés de trésorerie et de la procédure d'examen des rôles, des objectifs, des stratégies et des priorités de la FAO.

Dans ce contexte difficile, le Secrétariat s'est attaché à renforcer la capacité de suivi et d'évaluation des programmes de l'Organisation.

Ma délégation l'en félicite et l'encourage à tirer un meilleur profit des examens en tant qu'instruments de gestion pour améliorer les programmes et les opérations.

A cette occasion, je souhaite rappeler, une nouvelle fois, toute l'importance que nous accordons à l'évaluation et souligner le rôle accru que le Comité des programmes devrait jouer à l'avenir pour nous permettre de mieux évaluer l'impact des projets mis en oeuvre. Il est vrai qu'au cours de cet exercice, le Comité du programme a largement été accaparé par la mise en place de la nouvelle procédure de préparation du budget-programme ainsi que par le pilotage de la procédure d'examen de la FAO.

Pour en revenir au point qui nous préoccupe, comme à l'habitude la majeure partie des activités des programmes techniques (Agriculture, Forêts, Pêches, programmes non techniques) a permis d'appuyer directement et le plus souvent de façon efficace les activités de terrain.

La délégation française se félicite de cette orientation permanente qui traduit la préoccupation de la FAO, dans une situation pourtant difficile, d'apporter une aide concrète aux Etats Membres sous la forme de services consultatifs ou d'appui technique et opérationnel de qualité.

Cet examen, comme celui du programme de terrain auquel nous procéderons dans quelques jours, montre que les difficultés financières de la FAO ont affecté les capacités opérationnelles du programme de terrain dont certains projets ont permis de colmater les brèches du Programme ordinaire.

Cette observation me conduit à rappeler que malgré les liens toujours étroits existant entre le programme de terrain et le programme ordinaire, ces deux programmes poursuivent en fait des objectifs sensiblement différents.

Le programme de terrain répond pour l'essentiel à des besoins précis des Etats Membres tandis que le Programme ordinaire - qui constitue la capacité de réflexion de synthèse et d'orientation de la FAO - vise des objectifs plus généraux dans une perspective à plus long terme.

Le renforcement, que nous souhaitons, du rôle du Comité du programme pourrait permettre au Programme ordinaire d'être le tuteur des projets de développement agricole du programme de terrain trop inféodé à la fois à la diversité et à l'urgence des requêtes des bénéficiaires et aux approches et objectifs parfois différents des donateurs.

En d'autres termes, ma délégation considère que le Comité du programme, gardien du Programme ordinaire, doit permettre de veiller à ce que la flexibilité du programme de terrain n'en altère pas la cohérence.

En ce qui concerne l'examen du Grand Programme agriculture, ce programme reste à juste titre le plus grand programme technique de la FAD. Il fournit par ailleurs une base complète d'informations et de données pour l'analyse des politiques, priorité judicieuse de notre Organisation.

Ce programme à l'évidence a été particulièrement affecté par la crise financière de l'Organisation.

La délégation française s'interroge toutefois sur les ajustements de programme qui n'ont peut-être pas toujours été opérés par le Secrétariat en parfaite conformité avec les décisions de notre dernière Conférence. Si la consigne de priorité au développement de l'Afrique a été respectée, comme dans une moindre mesure et plus récemment, celle d'une priorité au programme de sécurité alimentaire, les moyens consacrés n'ont pas permis, semble-t-il, d'accorder la priorité qu'il convient à la production vivrière (cessation d'activité au siège dans de nombreux secteurs culturels, difficultés du programme d'amélioration des semences...).

Par ailleurs ma délégation regrette que les coupes les plus sévères aient été faites dans le domaine de la formation (près de 40 pour cent de stagiaires en moins) même s'il est vrai qu'en ce domaine, comme je l'ai indiqué auparavant, le programme de terrain est parfois venu au secours du Programme ordinaire.

La délégation française se déclare également préoccupée par la réduction tant des activités d'assistance technique que de soutien direct aux Etats Membres (respectivement de 6 et 7 pour cent) qui sont au coeur du mandat de notre Organisation.

Enfin il serait utile, me semble-t-il, qu'à l'occasion de cet examen notre Commission se penche sur les difficultés croissantes que rencontre la FAO pour assurer à partir du siège la conduite générale et la cohérence de projets de plus en plus petits mais exigeant des connaissances souvent très spécialisées et comportant de moins en moins de personnel permanent expatrié. Ma délégation, pour sa part, reviendra sur cet important sujet lors de l'examen du programme de terrain.

Pour ce qui est de l'examen du Grand Programme forêt, la délégation française se félicite de la priorité accordée au Plan d'action forestier tropical qui reste au coeur des activités du Département des forêts. Ce programme est également un exemple remarquable de coordination que ce soit entre les divisions de l'Organisation ou entre les institutions concernées.

Sans doute peut-on regretter qu'en raison de la crise financière traversée, le Plan d'action forestier tropical n'ait pas trouvé toutes les ressources attendues du Programme ordinaire comme cela avait été demandé lors de la dernière Conférence.

La délégation française se félicite également des efforts importants consacrés à l'inventaire des ressources forestières notamment grâce aux travaux préparatoires de l'évaluation mondiale des ressources forestières de 1990 et à la promotion de l'agroforesterie par la recherche d'une meilleure liaison entre les activités forestières et les objectifs de développement rural.

Quant à l'examen du Grand Programme pêche la délégation française note avec satisfaction le renforcement tout particulier des priorités dans ce domaine en faveur notamment de l'évaluation des ressources, du développement de la pêche artisanale, du développement de l'aquaculture dans les PMA de l'Asie et du Pacifique.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique et de soutien du développement, lors de sa dernière session notre Conseil a noté que la part du Programme de coopération technique (PCT) dans le budget proposé, baisse au moment même où la demande de projets de ce type renaît. Ce renversement de tendance doit être souligné car le dernier exercice s'est inscrit sous le signe à la fois d'une baisse du nombre de demandes d'assistance du PCT et d'une baisse du nombre des projets. Il est vrai que cet exercice a vu la suppression, en mai 1988, du Programme de relèvement de l'agriculture en Afrique (PRAA) dont le secrétariat pourrait d'ailleurs présenter le bilan et l'évaluation lors d'une prochaine session.

La délégation française rappelle, en cette occasion, tout l'intérêt qu'elle accorde au PCT qui se prête avec souplesse à certaines catégories de projets de durée limitée et de coût modeste: formation, situation d'urgence, CTPD.

La délégation française apprécie les analyses approfondies des chapitres consacrés aux quatre sous-programmes traités dans la deuxième partie du volumineux rapport que nous examinons. Il s'agit là d'évaluations objectives et utiles car dépassant le stade de la simple analyse pour déboucher sur l'identification des facteurs limitant l'efficacité des programmes.

La délégation, sans s'attarder sur cet intéressant sujet, retiendra à titre d'exemple:

- l'intérêt d'une collaboration renforcée avec l'ONUDI dans le domaine des industries agricoles et alimentaires;

- l'utilité de la contribution du sous-programme "situation et perspectives" de la FAO en matière d'information et d'analyse sur les produits au nouveau round des négociations commerciales multilatérales du GATT;

- la nécessité d'une meilleure prise en compte des aspects socio-économiques et écologiques du sous-programme "Politique et Planification des pêches" qui devrait également s'attacher davantage au développement de l'aquaculture.

Enfin, ma délégation tient à féliciter le Secrétariat qui nous propose l'examen plus au fond de deux sujets particuliers qui sont d'actualité et revêtent une importance capitale pour l'Organisation: l'assistance en matière de politiques agricoles et alimentaires et de planification d'une part, l'appui pour la protection et l'amélioration du milieu naturel et l'introduction de considérations écologiques dans les programmes et projets de la FAO d'autre part.

Concernant le premier de ces thèmes, sur lequel la délégation française a régulièrement attiré depuis quelques années l'attention du Secrétariat, il apparaît que l'importance des activités de la FAO lors des derniers exercices n'est pas en cause.

La délégation française reste cependant préoccupée par la précarité des capacités d'analyse et de planification des politiques de notre Organisation dont la coopération avec les autres institutions internationales doit être renforcée.

Comme l'a relevé le Comité du Programme, il est urgent d'améliorer la formation sur l'analyse des politiques dispensées par les institutions nationales et de permettre à la FAO d'apporter l'appui nécessaire à cette formation. Mon gouvernement a signé à cet effet lors de cet exercice un important accord de coopération avec la FAO.

La délégation française se réjouit toutefois de constater que la FAO ne cesse d'intensifier son appui aux pays en développement pour leur programme d'ajustement structurel.

Enfin, concernant les mesures de protection du milieu naturel et de promotion des objectifs de développement durable, la délégation française relève avec satisfaction que la portée et la fréquence des activités de la FAO ont augmenté ces dernières années et que des premières dispositions ont été prises pour coordonner les différents sous-programmes ayant un impact sur l'environnement.

Ma délégation souhaite à cet égard que la FAO participe activement à la préparation de la Conférence mondiale des Nations Unies pour l'environnement prévue en 1992.

Telles sont, Monsieur le Président, les premières observations et recommandations que la délégation française souhaite soumettre à cette Conférence pour que les programmes de l'Organisation riches de leur diversité, soucieux d'une meilleure intégration, permettent de relever les défis audacieux du développement.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Etant donné que c'est la première fois que nous intervenons au sein de cette Commission II de la 25ème Conférence générale de la FAO, la délégation congolaise voudrait pour commencer, autant que l'ont fait les délégués précédents, vous adresser à vous-même M. le Président, ses vives et chaleureuses félicitations pour votre élection ainsi qu'à tous vos collègues par anticipation, membres du bureau qui seront élus bientôt. Pour notre part, nous vous promettons de ne pas ménager nos efforts pour vous faciliter la tâche. Nos félicitations s'adressent aussi à M. Shah pour son exposé introductif clair et précis sur l'examen du sujet. M. le Président, c'est avec une attention particulière que nous avons parcouru le document C 89/8 consacré par le Secrétariat à l'examen du Programme ordinaire 1988-1989 de la FAO point 12 de l'Ordre du jour de la Conférence.

Ainsi qu'il convient de le rappeler, le Programme ordinaire a pour objectif principal d'appuyer les activités de terrain de notre Organisation.

En aval de ce précieux instrument de travail qu'est le Programme ordinaire de l'Organisation, l'examen constitue avec les mécanismes de planification et de suivi, les principaux instruments destinés à faciliter une gestion judicieuse des ressources et des programmes de l'Organisation. Tout comme les éditions précédentes, la présente édition de l'examen du programme ordinaire 1988-1989 de la FAO représente de par sa présentation plus claire, de par sa teneur toujours pertinente, un pas de plus dans le sens de son amélioration. De ce fait, cet examen constitue une fois de plus un exercice fort utile.

De l'analyse du présent examen, l'impression générale qui se dégage de notre délégation est celle selon laquelle la crise financière qui a été imposée à la FAO par certains Etats Membres de l'Organisation a sérieusement gêné la mise en oeuvre à un niveau élevé du programme ordinaire 1988-1989. Cette gêne à l'exécution pleine du programme constitue un fâcheux gachis sans précédents. En effet, à très peu d'exceptions près, les activités de l'Organisation ont pratiquement accusé une baisse générale de leur taux de réalisation. Sans conteste c'est sur les activités de formation que les effets de cette crise financière ont été les plus immédiats et les plus graves.

Devant la gravité et la sévérité de cette crise financière nous saluons le courage et le dévouement du Directeur général et avec lui celui de tout le collectif du personnel de la FAO qui ont su malgré tout garder confiance pour réussir les nombreuses réalisations dont on trouve le bilan dans les paragraphes 28 à 34 du résumé du Secrétariat, document C 89/8.

A nos considérations de portée générale qui précèdent, nous aimerions ajouter des commentaires plus spécifiques ci-après.

Concernant le programme 2.1 Agriculture, nous nous félicitons des efforts déployés par le Secrétariat pour les activités réalisées dans les domaines tels que les ressources phytogénétiques où ces activités ont permis l'adhésion d'un plus grand nombre d'états de l'Organisation à l'engagement international des ressources phytogénétiques. Pour le second domaine, nous nous félicitons également de la mise en oeuvre de la convention internationale sur la protection des végétaux et du code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides. Nous apprécions également la lutte entreprise par l'Organisation contre la lucilie bouchère américaine dont la récente apparition et la fulgurante propagation inquiètent à plus d'un titre; du suivi de la CMRADR, nous nous félicitons des efforts déployés par l'Organisation dans le domaine de la nutrition où 80 profils par pays ont été dressés.

Concernant le grand programme 2.2. Pêches, nous aimerions exprimer notre appréciation au regard de la qualité des activités menées par la FAO pour poursuivre la mise en oeuvre de la stratégie et des 5 programmes d'action approuvés par la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches en 1984, tout en mettant l'accent sur les aspects écologiques de la pollution des mers, l'aquaculture et les problèmes du commerce international des produits de la pêche.

Concernant le grand programme 2.3 Forêts, notre attention a été favorablement retenue par les plans nationaux sous-régionaux et régionaux, réalisés par le Secrétariat dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'Action Forestier Tropical.

En revanche, nous sommes très peignés par le coup porté par la crise financière aux grands programmes 3.1 et 3.4 portant sur la coopération technique et le soutien au développement, programmes dont l'incidence et l'ampleur ont été considérablement réduites dans les pays en développement.

Nous réitérons notre appui au PCT et souhaitons un renforcement de ses ressources; dans ce dernier cas nous ne pouvons nous empêcher d'exprimer notre haute appréciation à l'égard du Gouvernement italien et du Gouvernement des Pays-Bas, respectivement premier et deuxième donateur des fonds fiduciaires de la FAO, l'exemple de ces deux gouvernements mérite bien d'être suivi par les autres donateurs.

Nos regrets s'appliquent aussi aux grands programmes 5.1 Information et Documentation, et 5.2 Administration, qui n'ont pas échappé eux non plus aux méfaits de la crise.

En guise de conclusion à notre propos, nous lançons un vibrant appel à tous les Etats Membres pour que chacun s'acquitte de sa cotisation à temps, d'abord pour aider l'Organisation à sortir de la crise financière actuelle, et pour donner ensuite à cette Organisation les moyens de continuer à remplir comme il se doit sa tâche de lutte contre la pauvreté, la malnutrition et la faim dans le monde.

Raymond ALLEN (United Kingdom) : I think there is no other organization which has this excellent retrospective review of the Regular Programme. We welcome the opportunity to examine it. The production of this document is a wise practice we think in FAD. It is a practice we think could be replicated by other sister organizations. It raises many interesting issues and gives an account of what the organization has or has not been able to do with the budget resources paid for by Member States. What comes over first from reading the review is the extent to which Regular Programme and Field Programme activities seem almost inextricably intertwined. The same point, of course, will arise when we come to examine the draft Programme of Work and Budget. It is virtually impossible in many areas to disentangle the costs and activities which have essentially provided backstopping or technical contributions to field activities and those which form an independent caucus of work which can and must go on even if there were no Field Programme at all.

Now that a much wider debate on agency support costs and their future in the UN system is underway, FAO simply must have a detailed picture of these costs right down to sub-activities. Some information has been provided in the newly introduced Chapter Four which gives the overall apparent contributions from the Regular Programme to the Field Programme. But we are not in a position to see the breakdown of individual activities.

Much is said throughout the Review about the activities which have had to be postponed because of FAO's financial problems. I would like to congratulate the management first for having obviously given priority to field programme backup. Here and there, however, there are indications that this backup suffered. If one compares the degree of sacrifice each activity has had to endure because of these problems, their impact seems rather uneven. It was clearly right to treat some as of relatively low priority. Elsewhere the impact may have done real damage. What this underlines is the need to apply the same tests across the board and not just ask each Division to apply a quota of savings. Regrettable though the delay of some publications may be, it is not in the same category of urgency as vital backstopping to field activities. In our opinion this should always come first. FAO is under an obligation not to blunt the cutting edge of its help to individual Member States and to important regional and sub-regional projects for which outside finance has been attracted.

For the rest, what we need to see in the next biennium is the systematic application of the principles of selectivity proposed by the Expert Groups and endorsed by the Programme and Finance Committees in their study of the Review. I say "systematic" because it is important that Member States should

know precisely why certain activities have been given priority, and others not, if financial stringency continues due to the regrettable arrears situation. We shall want to know how these activities score according to the tariff of priority criteria.

This brings me to evaluation - a subject tremendously important to the United Kingdom, and to all of us. Dr Shah, Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation, mentions in his introduction that the Review itself does not pretend to be an in-depth evaluation of all activities such as practised in the Field Programme. That may be one of its weaknesses. In particular, we can find only a list of Programme outputs. There is no assessment whatsoever in this document of their impact. Still more important, there is no assessment about their effectiveness in relation to their cost.

There is no indication whether the Programmes can be considered cost-effective, as distinct from achieving narrow technical objectives. We miss here all sense of value for money. Now for some services, of course, like the Global Information Early Warning System, which is unique, the value of the work is obvious because nobody else is doing it and everybody is using it. But even here I do not think the FAO is dispensed from the requirement to consider all the time whether impact and use effectiveness can be measured and quantified as against cost. The results, of course, need to be fed back into the whole mechanics for selecting priorities.

Turning to another aspect, we welcome the increased work being done on sub-sectoral strategies for individual countries mentioned in paragraph 1.49 which is, of course, partly a Field Programme activity. Feedback from these individual strategies, and the collection and dissemination of relevant technical information must be a valuable part of FAO's work. We think this approach, which reflects a greater focus on the problems in individual countries, could be applied more widely in most other sub-programmes in agriculture.

Chapter Two of the Review has a most interesting discussion which is summarized in paragraph 87 on page xxi, at the beginning, and I will quote, "the implications of the above for FAO are clear. Global and regional studies and strategies do contribute to policy harmonization between countries and a better understanding of the development process in agriculture and need to be pursued, (11.124). However, difficulties arise when global policies and strategies are applied at national level; few countries have succeeded in formulating a coherent set of development objectives and related programmes for coordinating external assistance. As a result, requests to FAO for assistance have often been generated on a mono-disciplinary basis when a multi-disciplinary approach was required, (11.125-11.128).

"For greater effectiveness, FAO's planning assistance should be multi-disciplinary and well placed within a sector framework. More sector reviews are needed. The effectiveness of FAO's assistance in a stabilization programme, a structural adjustment loan or a sector structural adjustment loan would also be enhanced if the Organization was brought into the process from its inception, with the consensus of the government and the funding agency. One way of strengthening FAO's capacity to deliver policy and planning advice to member countries is through the creation of country task forces to ensure a multi-disciplinary approach and coordinate policy and planning activities at country level". This conclusion underlines very strongly a lesson which we and several other Member States consider vital - the failure of the Organization, because of its internal structure, to address properly the FAO-related problems and needs of individual countries

or sub-regions across the board. Note that one element of the problem is the need for a multi-disciplinary approach. This is extremely difficult to achieve when there is no internal geographical chain of command in the FAO management which can draw in all the necessary expertise from all the technical services - including those dealing with socio-cultural aspects. The Review suggests that the answer is inore "country task forces". That approach was tried in the ARPA, but the Review of Field Programmes shows clearly why it only took things so far, and then failed. Country task forces are all very well, but they need to be led by country specialists in headquarters who spend all their time on this perspective. We note to our dismay that even what little geographical expertise there is is split between the DDF and ESPS, paras. 5.16 and 8.12. This is hardly good enough.

Connected with this is what the Review tells us about the interplay between macroeconomic and sectorial policy factors and FAO-supported activities. Paragraph 8.16 points out that in FAO these capacities are limited. The Expert Group reports attached to the review document make clear their strong views that FAO should have the standing capacity to carry out such country policy analysis, and should draw as a matter of course on the macroeconomic information available to the Bretton Woods Institutions. We strongly agree, and we believe a specific Conference conclusion to this effect is needed. What happens when FAO does not have and use this information? An example of the answer is given in paragraphs 7.55 and 7.26. These show how FAO's technical work on producing local food composites cannot possibly be effective in the absence of the right macroeconomic framework.

As regards remarks made earlier by the delegate of Lesotho about structural adjustment programmes, we agree that it is a particularly valuable function for FAD, probably financed by UNGP for country IPF's, to provide assistance to governments to prepare and implement structural adjustment measures within the scope of its competence. It should not, of course be asked to hold the ring between the Bretton Woods Institutions and governments.

The Review has a short and interesting piece on the ICP and here we agree with the comments made by the delegate of Norway. We shall return to this when we come to look at the Field Programme. What is striking is its increasing use for investment support, including projects formulation. Here is an instrument ready to hand to carry out the project identification and formulation work mentioned yesterday by the Director-General, of course in so far as TCP does not have to be used for emergencies.

Finally I turn to Forestry. We warmly commend the FAO Forestry Department for the reorganization of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan Coordination Unit at a high level in the Organization, reporting directly to the Assistant Director-General. It is tremendously important to maintain high standards in implementing Tropical Forestry Action Plan sector reviews. We are especially concerned that policy and cross sectoral issues should be properly addressed and that the various projects proposed should be critically appraised. As a result of the IDA 9 negotiations, I can tell you that the World Bank expects to be much more heavily involved in this work alongside FAD.

The 1990 Global Forestry Resource Assessment will be crucial in providing an up-to-date assessment of the rate of deforestation. This work should be given the highest priority because it will provide basic data for policy decisions about the environment relating to tropical forest conservation, increases in carbon dioxide and rates of reforestation.

To sum up, this document teaches us a good deal about ways in which FAO's work could be improved, and we should bear these lessons in mind as we proceed to other items on our Agenda.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci, Monsieur le Représentant du Royaume-Uni. Avant de poursuivre le débat, je voudrais vous livrer les informations suivantes:

- 1) La séance plénière vient d'élire deux Vice-Présidents:
 - un représentant du Danemark: M. Carl THOMSEN, membre du Comité national danois de la FAD, Copenhague;
 - et un représentant du Bangladesh: M. A.K.M. Fazley RABBI, Conseiller économique et commercial, Représentant permanent suppléant auprès de la FAD.

Nous avons donc deux Vice-Présidents. Je leur présente mes félicitations au nom de toute la Commission; j'entends collaborer étroitement avec eux.

2) Une information que vous aviez déjà dû découvrir: Son Excellence Hissen Habré, Président de la République du Tchad, parlera cet après-midi devant la Conférence à 15 h 15. La séance plénière vient de décider que tout le monde est appelé à prendre part à cette intervention en séance plénière. Nous ne pourrions donc pas travailler avant cette heure-là. Au lieu de commencer notre séance à 14 h 30, je propose que nous puissions reprendre nos travaux après l'intervention du Président Hissen Habré à 16 heures pour les poursuivre jusqu'à 19 heures ce soir. C'est la proposition que je vous fais. Je fixe 19 heures pour finir nos travaux mais nous continuerons jusqu'à ce que nous épuisions ce point de l'Ordre du jour.

Voilà ce que je propose. Si vous êtes d'accord, nous pouvons donc poursuivre ce débat sur le point 12. Je vois que tout le monde est d'accord. Je voudrais demander au représentant de l'Angola de bien vouloir prendre la parole.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola): Puisque c'est la première fois que je prends la parole, je voudrais associer ma voix à celle des délégués qui m'ont précédé pour vous féliciter de votre élection à la présidence de notre commission.

Nous croyons fermement que, sous votre direction, nos travaux seront couronnés de succès.

Comme vous venez de l'annoncer, nous profitons de cette occasion pour adresser nos félicitations aux deux autres Vice-Présidents qui viennent d'être élus. Nous voudrions remercier le secrétariat de nous avoir présenté le document dont nous sommes saisis. Ce document est très clair et d'une grande utilité car il nous fournit des informations très importantes sur l'activité et les objectifs atteints par l'Organisation. Nous ne pouvons que reconnaître les efforts d'améliorations que mène le Directeur général et qu'il a toujours menés pour renforcer la capacité d'évaluation et de suivi de l'Organisation.

Malgré la difficulté financière que connaît l'Organisation, celle-ci s'est efforcée d'atteindre ses objectifs afin de pouvoir satisfaire les besoins de ses Etats Membres et particulièrement des pays en développement.

Par ailleurs, nous voulons faire part de nos préoccupations, notamment de certaines réductions, particulièrement dans le domaine de la formation - élément essentiel pour nous, car il occupe une place de choix. Elle est définie dans notre programme de développement et de formation des paysans qui constitue une composante indissociable des objectifs que nous nous sommes assignés.

Mous n'allons pas entrer de manière très détaillée dans l'analyse de toutes ces questions dont l'ensemble constitue le programme ordinaire. En fait, nous tenons ici à exprimer notre satisfaction d'une manière globale, et nous appuyons les conclusions.

D'une manière générale, ma délégation voudrait attirer l'attention de la Conférence et du Secrétariat sur un point que nous avons soulevé au niveau des différents organes directeurs de notre Organisation. Considérant l'extrême carence des cadres dans les pays d'expression portugaise d'Afrique, dans presque tous les domaines, nous souhaitons que, lors de la planification par le secrétariat des ateliers sur la formation et de séminaires dans certains domaines prioritaires, tenant compte évidemment de la situation financière de l'Organisation, ces pays ne soient pas oubliés.

Dans le chapitre "Vulgarisation forestière et éducation du public", il est dit au paragraphe 1024 qu'un atelier régional sur la formation en matière de vulgarisation pour les pays francophones d'Afrique sera organisé en 1990-91. Nous souhaitons qu'un atelier du même genre soit aussi organisé pour nos pays, ce qui permettrait un grand nombre de participations.

Nous insistons sur ce point parce que ces pays ont accédé à l'indépendance avec un pourcentage élevé d'analphabètes. En Angola, il était à 90 pour cent.

Ainsi la formation et les cours de perfectionnement sont très importants pour nous. A cet égard, nous suggérons que notre proposition figure dans les rapports de cette commission.

S'agissant du PCT, nous voulons profiter de cette occasion pour exprimer notre satisfaction et remercier la FAO de la place de choix qui est toujours accordée à notre région. Nous réitérons notre appui au PCT et nous souhaitons le renforcement de ses ressources.

En ce qui concerne le Fonds fiduciaire, nous ne pouvons que féliciter et remercier l'Italie, les Pays-Bas, l'Arabie Saoudite et la Banque Mondiale pour leur contribution à ce Fonds. Exhortons les autres donateurs à suivre l'exemple de ces derniers.

En ce qui concerne le développement durable, nous avons constaté les efforts que la FAO déploie dans ce domaine. Nous sommes d'avis que la FAO n'entreprenne rien dans ce domaine d'activité, ce qui ferait double emploi avec d'autres organismes qui perdraient leur spécificité, ou entraînerait un gaspillage de ressources limitées.

Il n'est pas douteux que le soutien international à l'action en faveur d'un développement durable est indispensable car il doit compléter les efforts nationaux et régionaux déployés pour aider les pays en développement à protéger leur environnement. A cet égard, des ressources supplémentaires sont nécessaires.

Bashir El Mahrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabie): I would like, on behalf of my delegation, to congratulate you on your election to the chair at this important Commission. We are conscious of your high qualification and of your experience and that is the reason why my delegation has supported you in your nomination.

As this is the first time we speak, I would like to express our appreciation to Mr Shah for his clear and exhaustive introduction and explanations. The delegation of my country feels that this Review represents an important element to evaluate the achievements which have been fulfilled throughout the preceding period. In this context, we would like to commend the efforts made by the Secretariat, the achievements fulfilled by it in the context of difficult financial circumstances. This is but a confirmation of the capability of the Secretariat to conciliate between urgent needs of the developing countries and the financial crisis of the Organization.

In addition to the critical analysis of the problems which were faced by FAO on the Review of the Regular Programme throughout the preceding two years, we can see that there have been great improvements included in this Review. We have participated in the work of the Programme Committee during the last two years and the delegation of my country had the opportunity to make known its observations and its opinions as to this Review and therefore there is no need for me to repeat them. All I have to say is to support the recommendations of the Programme Committee. Despite that, we must join those delegations who have expressed their concern as to the adverse effects of financial constraints on these programmes, especially in two fields which my country supports - that is, training and research development programmes.

As we look at this document we find that the training programme has decreased by about 40 percent and this in fact makes us feel a great concern, since training is directed towards the development of human resources and we are all aware of the importance of the human resource in the development process.

Another issue I would like to refer to concerns the TCP and the decrease of requests and approvals. To a great extent this programme in fact focuses on the provision of assistance to developing countries. It is greatly supported by these developing countries but despite that we have noticed that Africa is still being given the first priority and that the Organization has given special interest to field and technical projects.

One other observation concerning Part Three of this Review, and that is the role of FAO in the policy and planning support to solve agricultural problems. We would like to emphasize here that the Organization must continue its enormous contributions in preparing its analyses which we have approved previously.

We have emphasized repeatedly in the past that the involvement of FAO in structural adjustment programmes is an issue which we should all commend and insist upon, for the institutions which are not competent in the field of agriculture may not solve agricultural problems. This will lead to imbalances

due to the fact that those institutions involved in structural adjustments, such as the World Bank and the IMF, do not take into account the social and human conditions of our countries. This will only lead to political upheaval and disturbances.

Jilali HASSOUN (Maroc): Permettez-moi de joindre mes félicitations aux orateurs qui sont intervenus avant moi pour votre nomination comme Président à la tête de cette Conférence. Je joins aussi mes félicitations aux deux Vice-Présidents qui viennent d'être nommés ce matin. Mon intervention sera brève vu que la plupart des points que je viens de soulever ont été traités en partie, du moins durant les interventions précédentes.

En lisant les documents qui nous ont été remis et en les comparant avec les documents qui ont été transmis, au cours des années précédentes, aux différents Etats Membres, nous constatons que l'essentiel de ce qui a été retenu par les orientations de la FAO à l'occasion de la précédente conférence, l'essentiel a été suivi et dans la majorité des cas avec succès.

Les objectifs bien sûr n'ont pas tous été atteints à 100 pour cent, mais cela est indépendant de la volonté de la FAO et ceci est dû à certaines contraintes notamment des contraintes financières.

Je voudrais donc pour faciliter mon intervention citer un certain nombre de points sur lesquels je voudrais être précis. D'abord, le document est presque parfait, mais le fait d'être parfait n'existe pas à 100 pour cent. Il manque à ce document la notion d'évaluation, évaluer les incidences des programmes de l'Organisation sur le développement des pays en cause. Ce point a été soulevé je crois durant l'intervention du Royaume-Uni. Il serait peut-être intéressant à l'avenir de comparer l'exécution de ce programme avec ce qui se fait dans les pays en voie de développement. En outre, un autre point à soulever consiste dans la comparaison des programmes, et notamment pour les pays en développement, dont il faudra renforcer le programme en matière de protection des forêts. Le fait est simple parce que comme vous le savez la situation des forêts est devenue tellement alarmante que détruire une partie de la forêt actuellement est un crime contre l'humanité et il faudra renforcer les activités de la FAO en ce domaine, celui de la protection de la forêt et son développement, de la défense et de la restauration des sols, l'intervention sur les bassins versants, la recherche, et notamment en ce qui concerne les plans ligneux adaptés aux zones à climat difficile, de conjuguer les efforts relatifs aux interventions en forêt afin de limiter la pression exercée par le cheptel sur les forêts.

Le dernier point, si vous le permettez, concerne le déroulement de la séance, je voudrais proposer que le temps d'intervention soit limité parce que même si l'on a plaisir à intervenir sur ce dossier qui est très vaste et large, on serait tenté de parler sans s'arrêter. Je suggère que le temps soit limité, quitte à ce que les travaux soient repris par la suite.

DONG QING SONG (China) (original language Chinese): Mr Chairman, first I would like to congratulate you on your election to the chairmanship of Commission II. I would like to thank Mr Shah for the excellent and very clear presentation of the document which he made.

The delegation of China has carefully studied document C 89/8. In our view it is a document which is very full of information and it covers not only the results achieved but also existing problems and has also made proposals for improvement. This is very helpful for us and enables us to have an improved knowledge of the activities of the Regular Programme. Also it helps us to make suggestions for further improvement and we should like to make some comments on this.

First, we have noted with satisfaction that the Regular Programme for the current biennium has shown improvement in various sectors and this was achieved after special measures were taken which were those of carrying out programme adjustments and in restricting administrative spending in order to ensure that priority programmes had the right resources. This shows that the Organization has achieved results and improved its efficiency in fields such as action oriented programmes and strengthening the management of programmes, and we wish to express our appreciation and congratulations on this.

However, we have also noted with concern that the activities of FAO's Regular Programme were seriously affected by financial difficulties. In 1988 115 projects were frozen; 64 for agriculture, fishery and forestry were to be cut. The expenditure, apart from that on staff, has also been cut by 7.1 percent and this has had negative effects not only on training activities, meetings, and publication, but also on the support which is given to member states and support for field projects. We hope therefore that FAO and member states will together make efforts in order to all contribute to putting an end to the negative effects of financial difficulties.

The first part of the document reviews the results achieved by FAO on the major programmes in 1987-89. This covers technical and economic programmes, support programmes and development support programmes and technical cooperation programmes. These are the very heart of the Regular Programme and cover 75 percent of the resources allocated to this programme. We note that the activities undertaken are in accordance with the strategies and objectives of promoting food production and in promoting rational use of agricultural resources. It is our view that the working principles mentioned are perfectly correct and I would like particularly to underline here the fact that the Organization has during the current biennium undertaken many activities in the protection of the environment and the rational use of agricultural resources in the framework of the Regular Programme.

Protection of the environment has always been a major element in all programmes of the Fisheries and Forestry Departments and progress has been made in implementing the Code of Conduct on the Use of Pesticides and also the international activities on plant genetic resources. At the moment the world is facing the threat of the deterioration of the environment and there is particular concern on the use of pesticides and the danger that these pesticides imply for the environment for the loss of genetic resources.

Implementation of this code on the reduction of the negative effects of pesticides on the environment, and the strengthening of the protection of, and the rational use of, plant genetic resources, are extremely important. We support FAO's activities here, and at the same time we would also like to note that a large number of developing countries are at the moment experiencing difficulties of a human financial institution and also of a material physical nature as to the strengthening of this matter of pesticides and the protection of plant genetic resources.

We hope, therefore, that the international community will give them real and effective help.

We note in Chapter Seven of the present document that there is a review of Programme 2.1.2.6, Food and Agricultural Industries. The development of rural industries is of great importance in improving living conditions in rural areas, employing the surplus work force in the areas and increasing incomes. The processing and marketing of agricultural products is relatively little developed in developing countries and it is therefore very necessary to strengthen the work in this area.

Thirdly, the Technical Cooperation and Development Programme is a very important tool in FAO to help developing countries promote their agricultural production, and it is highly appreciated by developing countries. We have noted that during the last two years the TCP has shown considerable improvement and progress. Here I would like to point out that, firstly, training of staff is extremely important for developing countries in increasing agricultural production. However, the percentage of training projects has gone from 32 percent in 1979 to 23 percent in 1988, and so we hope that FAO will particularly stress these activities. Secondly, TCDC and ECDC have an important future and FAO can play a greater role in this through the TCP.

Fourthly, we note with satisfaction that FAO has carried out fruitful activities concerning assistance to Member States in policy and planning. This covers activities in the three main sectors: one, policies and strategies on a global level; second, policies on a regional level; and, third, policy advice and support for planning to Member States.

We support the views expressed in Chapter Eleven, Conclusions and Issues, that is to say that the activities globally, regionally and nationally should be coordinated and supplement one another. Global strategies need to be followed up on regional and national bases, and in particular in the establishment of policies and strategies it is necessary to work out detailed, properly designed plans and to mobilize all available resources in order to get them working efficiently. We hope that FAO will continue to strengthen its activities in this sector and will also provide more effective and specific aid to developing member countries.

Malek BEN SALAH (Tunisie) (langue originale Arabe): Mes chers collègues, je voudrais tout d'abord adresser à notre Président nos vives félicitations à l'occasion de son élection à ce poste de confiance. Je félicite de même Messieurs les Vice-Présidents élus. Je voudrais vous faire partager un certain nombre de réflexions s'inspirant du document dont nous sommes saisis ce matin. Je serai bref.

Les programmes à l'étude se caractérisent souvent pour leur caractère de priorité et par leur grand réalisme, pour ne pas dire en fait réalisme minimal puisqu'il s'agit d'un seuil d'intervention minimal pour la FAO. Aussi, recommanderions-nous au Secrétariat de s'efforcer de trouver les financements supplémentaires autant que possible pour assurer l'expansion. Nous saisissons cette occasion afin de mettre l'accent sur un certain nombre de rôles dont s'acquitte l'Organisation et que la délégation de la Tunisie juge très important notamment pour les pays africains et pour la zone méditerranéenne.

Tout d'abord, l'utilisation du rhizobium: Ce programme revêt une grande importance pour notre pays et l'aide incontestablement à améliorer la productivité des légumineuses par une méthode fondée sur les ressources naturelles essentiellement plutôt que sur des intrants chimiques néfastes pour la nature. Ce programme rejoint deux grands objectifs de l'Organisation, d'une part amélioration de la productivité et de la nutrition et d'autre part protection de l'environnement.

Secondo, pour ce qui touche à l'aide fournie aux Etats Membres, afin de maîtriser davantage leur politique agricole, la délégation tunisienne juge cette oeuvre très utile; nous en reconfirmons l'importance.

La fourniture d'expertises et de documents doit aller de pair avec l'aide à l'exécution de ces programmes, avec l'aide de recherche de ressources financières ainsi que de la promotion des relations avec les différents fonds de financement.

Par conséquent, nous recommandons d'établir un mode de travail intégré qui prenne en compte les divers aspects que je viens d'évoquer.

Troisièmement, pour ce qui est des projets de vulgarisation et de programmes, de vulgarisation et de formation, il s'agit là d'un mode magistral pour les sols cultivés dans nos pays. Nous recommandons donc la consolidation de ces programmes en les dotant de ressources financières et de personnels supplémentaires tout en recommandant par ailleurs une meilleure implication des agriculteurs en tant qu'associations ou en tant qu'individus, afin d'accompagner la vulgarisation officielle avec une orientation bien adaptée, que nous nous efforçons d'intensifier progressivement.

Quatrièmement, pour ce qui est maintenant des PCT, programmes de coopération technique, la délégation tunisienne rejoint les délégations qui ont mis en exergue le caractère modeste des ressources dont est doté ce programme, 13 pour cent guère plus. Nous espérons que l'Organisation aboutira à améliorer le financement susceptible de donner à ce programme ce qu'il mérite de ressources.

Enfin, pour ce qui est des forêts, j'estime que, s'il existait un rôle important pour la FAO dans le domaine de la lutte contre la désertification, l'érosion du sol et la sauvegarde de la nature, je vous recommande vivement d'accorder davantage d'attention aux recherches qui sont par trop modestes dans ce domaine. En Tunisie par exemple, le reboisement d'un hectare de forêt coûte à peu près 1 000 dollars. Il s'agit là d'une somme très importante. Par conséquent il est important de trouver des programmes de recherche technique et économique susceptibles de réduire ce coût unitaire et qui s'efforcent de donner une véritable impulsion au reboisement, afin de mettre un terme à cette détérioration des terres à laquelle nous assistons actuellement. Merci.

Antonio Rodrigues PIRES (Cap-Vert): La délégation du Cap-Vert est fière et heureuse de vous voir à la tête de cette très importante commission. Notre commission abordera tous les thèmes pertinents confiés avec succès. Qu'il me soit permis également, Monsieur le Président, d'adresser mes vives félicitations à M. Shah pour la présentation succincte, éclairée et équilibrée de ces documents. Mes félicitations vont aussi au Secrétariat pour les efforts déployés pour présenter à cette auguste assemblée un document extrêmement bien élaboré.

Effectivement ce document nous permet de donner des points de vue et des suggestions concrètes. Et la délégation cap-verdienne s'associe à l'intervention de l'Ambassadeur de France, du Lesotho, en ce qui concerne les conséquences négatives sur les programmes suite à des coupures de ressources, en particulier en ce qui concerne certains aspects du programme formation, soutien de la FAO aux Etats Membres en matière de politique et de planification, le programme de la conservation et de la planification agricole, le programme de l'environnement, de l'énergie, le programme de conservation des milieux naturels.

Nous regrettons que l'important programme international d'approvisionnement en engrais fourni en étroite liaison avec l'assistance technique connaisse de sérieuses difficultés financières et que les ressources actuelles ne permettent plus au programme de bien fonctionner. Cela est regrettable. Nous lançons un appel aux contributeurs habituels pour appuyer davantage ces programmes si importants, notamment pour les petits exploitants et producteurs agricoles. Nous félicitons la FAO pour les actions entreprises dans le cadre des actions de ce programme 1.31 sur les ressources génétiques et en particulier le programme de formation financier dans le cadre de la formation internationale. Nous soutenons la déclaration du représentant de l'Angola en ce qui concerne l'organisation des séminaires et ateliers techniques destinés aux pays africains de langue officielle portugaise en Afrique.

Nous soutenons la déclaration de l'Ambassadeur de France très pertinente et intéressante en ce qui concerne le rôle du Comité, je dis bien le rôle du Comité pour le programme des orientations des priorités sur le Programme ordinaire; la réduction de l'assistance technique vitale aux Etats Membres, en particulier les pays les moins avancés à cause du manque de ressources est très regrettable. Nous nous félicitons des efforts réalisés dans le cadre du Grand Programme des pêches et en particulier, des actions menées au Cap-Vert conjointement en collaboration avec le Centre d'investissement de la FAO et le soutien aux pays du Sahel à travers le Centre d'intervention antiagression d'urgence dans la lutte contre les sauterelles qui a su associer le Comité international pour aider les pays au moment voulu et précis. Dans les activités concernant l'environnement, l'énergie rurale, les actions entreprises sur l'industrie alimentaire et agricole, en particulier le Chapitre 7, les points 7 et 8, je tiens à appuyer la déclaration de la Chine tout à l'heure figurant aux points 1.119, 1.120 et 1.115 concernant la participation des femmes aux productions agricoles.

Les activités de la FAO dans le cadre de la vulgarisation agricole figurant au point 1.119, et les missions consultatives très louables envoyées sur le terrain en particulier en Afrique méritent tout notre soutien et tout notre intérêt.

Parlant du programme vital pour nos pays, nous regrettons fermement que le programme de coopération technique, qui constitue un instrument catalyseur vital pour nos Etats et en particulier les Etats africains, ne puisse plus répondre aux multiples sollicitations des Etats bénéficiaires car il n'a plus de moyens suffisants.

Nous nous félicitons des actions menées par le Département des forêts, en particulier du Plan d'action forestier tropical figurant au chapitre 3 Grand Programme 2.3. Nous adressons nos remerciements à la délégation de la Belgique pour le support qu'elle a donné au Cap-Vert financièrement à travers le fonds de dépôt, depuis notre indépendance, programme qui nous a permis de reboiser une grande partie de notre territoire national.

Je lance aussi un appel vibrant à tous les Etats pour qu'ils s'acquittent à temps de leurs cotisations, en vue de permettre à l'Organisation de la FAO de pouvoir réaliser nos objectifs en faveur de la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition. Je vous remercie, M. le Président.

Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): Thank you very much. The Biennial Review of FAO's Regular Programme provides members with the unique opportunity to render judgements on how FAO is doing its work, looking at highlights and shortfalls, measuring accomplishments versus plans and evaluating what FAO's main contributions have been during the past two years. Taking a good look at Regular Programme performance will help us make more sound judgements when we consider the 1990-91 Programme of Work and Budget later this week. Our views on FAO's most important activities have been stated many times already this year and were reinforced during Secretary Yeutter's address earlier today. To reiterate a few of them, they include activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the global information and early warning system data, information-related activities, pest and disease eradication, forestry and fisheries work, interdisciplinary studies, policy analysis and advice and various initiatives in support of the current GATT Round. Training is greatly valued by member countries. We share concerns voiced by previous speakers that training was reduced by 36 percent during the past biennium. The summary of research and technological development in paragraph 8 of the Summary gives a useful overview of FAO's appropriate role in coordinating, distilling and publicizing relevant agricultural research. We support FAO initiatives on animal genetic resources, including the conclusions reached in the September Expert Consultation. We believe that work on animal genetic resources should be separate from work on plant genetics, as reflected in the conclusion of the Expert Consultation.

Frequent mention is made in the document before us of the importance of various uses of biotechnology in FAO's work. Opportunities for appropriate utilization of proven biotechnology certainly exists, but this is a complex and rapidly developing field that can hinder as well as help agricultural performance if not employed correctly. The United States would like to work closely with FAO on biotechnology issues. In that regard, our Department of Agriculture will soon release a document entitled "Guidelines for Research with Genetically Modified Organisms Outside Contained Facilities". We would be pleased to share that document with FAO.

Many of our interventions during the Conference will emphasize the importance of Codex standards as a point of reference in non-tariff barriers to international trade. The Regular Programme Review contains many useful references to this important work. The work described on pages 15, 38 and elsewhere relating to scientific support of the current GATT Round has our full and complete support and endorsement and will provide FAO with the deserved recognition in the area of plant protection in food quality and

standards. World Agricultural Information Centre development is characterized as ambitious in the document. Apart from the financial constraints noted, we are somewhat disappointed that WAICENT activities have not progressed further during the past biennium.

Integration of the World Food Report into the State of Food and Agriculture appears to be a good move. We would be interested to hear the Secretariat's view. The United States welcomes SOFA's greater analytical focus on policy oriented issues in strengthening regional analyses. Paragraphs 83 to 87 of the Summary provide an excellent description of FAO's complex and far-reaching activities in policy analysis and advice and show how policy harmonization ideally can be the result.

FAO's ability to deliver agricultural policy and planning advice to the field has received considerable discussion during the past year. The idea of developing task forces to deliver policy advice to the field may have some merit but we would like to hear other views on how effective any response to this approach would be. Formulation of country task forces should lessen the need for project task forces. Cooperation on environmental issues is extremely important. If FAO believes that cooperation with UNEP on biological diversity issues is lacking, as suggested in paragraph 92, we would like to hear more about that problem. It is hard to visualize how financial constraints could have curtailed progress in as many areas of the Regular Programme as suggested by the text. A careful reading of the document leads us to believe that many of these activities would not have been accomplished even if resource flows had been more normal.

Discussion of some programmes seems to play up the financial difficulties more than others. If some estimate of savings associated with various programme reduction could have been given members would have had a clearer indication of the Secretariat's sense of relevant priority. Nevertheless members can make some judgements on the relative programme priorities from the information given. In general we assume that programmes not significantly reduced represent the highest priority areas. Evaluations such as those described on page 11 dealing with the prevention of food losses are useful in providing guidance for future project development and operations.

The Emergency Centre for Locust Operations has been very effective in containing the locust plague, but this may be an area where fewer resources will be required in the near future. We support the preparation of nutritional country profiles as noted on page 37 and would like more information on their prospects of completion. Will further development of the WAICENT system make preparation of various types of profiles an easier task? The strength of FAO's interdisciplinary capability was demonstrated in preparing the plan of action for Latin America and the Caribbean at the 1988 Regional Conference. We support the key objectives of the study, as highlighted on page 44. FAO's role in genetic resources must be carefully developed, based on members' desires and the roles assigned to other institutions. The planned Genetic Resources Programme appears to be making substantial progress, perhaps doing more than is warranted with a limited amount of resources. The increased attention on animal genetic resources has our full support. We are pleased to see more resources being channelled to the animal side of the house.

In future reviews more discussions on the interrelationship between Regular and Field Programmes would be desirable. Their close linkages are apparent from the Review. The statistical summaries presented in Chapter 4 provide useful comparisons and should be presented periodically in the Regular

Programme Review. The United States continue to accord high priority to the work being done in the Fisheries and Forestry Departments, The Tropical Forest Action Plan is particularly important in formulating global activities. The United States accord high priority to FAO's situation and outlook activities and we would find those activities, as recorded in Chapter 8, to be most appropriate. Some reformatting to make the work more timely has been most valuable to end users. The importance of S and O information to FAO policy makers is well described in the section on Effects and Impact. We would recommend that more sections briefly describing impact assessment be included in other parts of the Review. The chapter on Policy Planning and Support describes in somewhat cumbersome detail the complex global, regional and country policy advisory activities which bear on the decision-making processes of member countries. From this analysis it appears that FAO has tremendous potential to influence member countries' agricultural policy options and strategies through its multifaceted efforts. Members are counting on FAO to devote appropriate resources to this important effort.

Finally, we would share the comments made by other delegations such as Norway on the importance of the environmental consideration in FAO's future work and the need for a more complete review of TCP activities.

Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): In the name of God the clement and bountiful, the delegation of my country would like to express to you, Mr Tchicaya heartfelt congratulations on your election as Chairman of the Second Comiission and I should like also to congratulate the Vice-Chairman and to thank Dr Shah for the very clear introduction he has made to the subject. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for preparing this document. My delegation would like to stress the fact that 75 percent of the funds have been made available for the Technical Assistance Programmes. We also note that a lot of programmes have been implemented in spite of the financial restraints and adverse conditions which prevail.

Paragraph 5.12 which refers to the TCP is something that we welcome. We have noticed that 4.8 percent of the resources have been allocated to it which is an increase compared to 1986-87. As for sustained development there has been 0.5 percent resources. The same applies for Africa, 42.5 percent of the resources of the TCP.

As paragraph 5.11 mentions, we hope that the resources under this programme will continue at the same levels. Nonetheless we note that for 1990-91 a relative decrease has been forecast. This is a matter of concern for us and we would like to see that paragraph 5.13 is respected. Further, as far as this Programme is concerned, we have taken note of the progress to be made in investments, 3.2.

We would also like to talk about the very useful role of representatives in the member states of FAD. We would like to have an increase in the mandate of these experts as mentioned in 5.58 and we would insist on the fact that it is essential to provide the knowledge when it is necessary and when it will benefit most. We also support the conclusions of the Review of the role of the FAO as far as FAO representatives are concerned.

As for the Review of Policy and Planning Support to Member Countries, we are satisfied with the efforts made in this area. We are aware of FAO's full commitment to implementing development programmes in Africa as mentioned in paragraph 11.3 of the Table. We would also like to welcome the support of

domestic forces. We participated in the preparation of Chapter Twelve of FAO's Support to Member Countries and Conservation and Amelioration of the Natural Environment and the fact that 3 percent of the budget of the FAO have been earmarked for protection of the environment and this is something we welcome.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Je voudrais tout d'abord très cordialement et très sincèrement vous féliciter pour la nomination au poste important que vous occupez maintenant à la Commission II. Vous portez une lourde responsabilité dans l'examen des problèmes les plus importants, problèmes auxquels la FAO est actuellement confrontée parfois dans des situations particulièrement délicates et difficiles. Nous voudrions vous dire que nous sommes de tout coeur à vos côtés pour vous aider dans cette tâche importante et pour vous dire, en toute amitié, combien nous apprécions que vous ayez accepté cette lourde tâche.

Le Royaume de Belgique, comme vous le savez, s'est toujours particulièrement intéressé aux programmes de terrain. Nous n'avons certainement pas l'intention de traiter l'ensemble des problèmes et l'ensemble des facettes du programme ordinaire 1988-89. Mais il nous paraît toutefois important dans la perspective de discussions non pas d'aujourd'hui, non pas d'hier mais de demain, de prendre position concernant certains problèmes qui nous tiennent particulièrement à coeur, peut-être parce qu'ils sont davantage mis en cause et contestés par certains.

Comme vous le savez, depuis toujours la Belgique a soutenu le Programme de coopération technique et le Programme du PCT. Nous avons suivi ce programme et nous savons combien il tient au coeur des pays en développement parce que c'est un programme important dans lequel il était évidemment impossible de programmer, comme le voudraient certains, l'improgrammable, c'est-à-dire toute une série de situations d'imprévu, et toute la mise au point d'un certain nombre de projets.

Je l'ai dit souvent, le budget de la FAO est globalement un budget peu important, mais il sert essentiellement de catalyseur pour un certain nombre de sources de financement et ces sources de financement ne pourront être utilisées efficacement que si les projets sont efficacement utilisés et préparés par les services de la FAD.

Et je voudrais souligner à ce propos, quand on parle d'évaluation, combien il est important d'associer les comités de programme, mais surtout d'associer les pays intéressés. On parle beaucoup d'évaluation, on parle de nouveaux services, mais je crois dans le monde de demain que ceux qui sont le mieux à même d'apprécier la qualité des services sont les responsables politiques des pays bénéficiaires car eux seuls savent ce qui est bon pour leur pays. Il serait quand même quelque peu prétentieux de vouloir leur imposer des normes qui ne correspondent pas nécessairement à ce dont ils ont véritablement besoin.

Je crois donc qu'il faut essentiellement tenir compte de la volonté des pays et tenir compte également de tout un contexte international à la fois à dimensions régionale et internationale.

Il est bien sûr extrêmement important d'assurer une bonne coordination entre les programmes du Programme alimentaire mondial et tout l'apport de l'acquis scientifique du groupe consultatif de la recherche agronomique internationale qui joue un rôle éminent et pour lequel la FAO doit assumer une tâche de coordination, de présence et de réalisation dans les projets de terrain; car, comme je l'ai souvent dit, je crois que les projets de terrain sont essentiels à la vie de l'Organisation et sont également essentiels à la tâche qu'elle assume en matière de conseils et en matière de politique. Car c'est sur la base de l'expérience de terrain qu'on peut élaborer un certain nombre de normes valables et parfaitement acceptables.

Nous avons soutenu, dès le début, le programme en matière de plan d'action forestier tropical. Il s'agit d'un long programme. Je crois également qu'il devrait disposer de moyens financiers plus considérables et qu'on devrait progressivement en arriver à développer cette formule.

On a parlé et on parle beaucoup des différentes facettes de la coordination interinstitutions. Nous croyons - et cela a été dit hier par le Directeur général de l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique - qu'il existe une excellente coordination entre les activités de la FAO et celles de l'AIEA. Nous l'avons constaté à différentes reprises, notamment dans le laboratoire qu'ils ont en Autriche. Et je crois que dans le secteur de l'agro-industrie également, une collaboration avec l'ONUDI est absolument indispensable. Il existe d'ailleurs un accord qui fonctionne bien et qui serait appelé à se développer.

Et là soulignons rapidement le rôle important que joue le centre d'investissements de la FAO "FAO/Banque mondiale".

Je voudrais rapidement dire un petit mot des programmes d'ajustement structurel parce que je crois que dans l'approche de l'ajustement structurel, il est indispensable d'avoir une vision multidisciplinaire, de veiller à ne jamais compromettre les programmes de sécurité alimentaire et, en tenant compte d'ajustements structurels, de se dire que l'ajustement structurel se réalise non pas au niveau de pays, même pas au niveau de régions, mais dans le cadre d'une vision planétaire car il n'y a pas d'ajustement structurel possible si un certain nombre de préalables ne sont pas réglés comme la régulation des marchés, le soutien et les accords sur les produits de base. Je crois qu'on se trouve dans une dimension internationale mais il faut tenir compte de l'ensemble de ces éléments.

Nous savons aussi que cette matière est vaste, que cette matière est complexe, que la tâche assumée est une tâche extrêmement lourde. Nous sommes conscients de ces responsabilités et c'est pour ça que nous sommes pleinement satisfaits du Programme ordinaire de la FAO, en étant conscients que toute l'expérience qui a été accumulée au cours de ce biennium servira de base pour la discussion plus fondamentale dans laquelle nous interviendrons de manière extrêmement active pour le programme à venir dans une perspective à court et à moyen terme.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois qu'avec cette intervention, nous allons arrêter là les débats de ce matin.

Je voudrais vous rappeler que nous avons convenu de reprendre notre séance cet après-midi à 16 heures, tout en invitant chacun de vous à participer à l'allocution que prononcera le Président de la République du Tchad, cet après-midi à partir de 15 h 15 et que nous poursuivrons jusqu'à ce qu'on termine ce point de l'Ordre du jour.

The session rose at 12.30

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 hs

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/II/PV/2

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

SECOND MEETING DEUXIEME SEANCE SEGUNDA SESION

(14 November 1989)

The Second Meeting was opened at 16.15 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 16 h 15
sous la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la segunda sesión a las 16.15 horas
bajo la presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II

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

- 12. Review of the Regular Programme 1988-89 (continued)
- 12. Examen du Programme ordinaire 1988-89 (suite)
- 12. Examen del Programa Ordinario, 1988-89 (continuación)

E.Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): Since this is my first intervention, I wish to congratulate you warmly at seeing you in situ on the job.

Mr Shah reminded us this morning that the Review is the main mechanism for keeping us informed of the work of this Organization.

In this regard I endorse the views already expressed on the work of the Secretariat in the preparation of this document. The question which first comes to mind is how can this Organization accomplish so much with a continuity of dwindling resources. I can only confess that any reasonable comprehension of this report enables us to understand the shower of praises given to the talent and dedication of the Director-General and his Secretariat, indeed the Organization as a whole, by the distinguished Secretary of State for Agriculture of the United States this morning in the Plenary Session.

The Director-General, Mr Shah, Mr Crowther, Mr Dutia have explained to us, in all possible ways over the past few days in Council, the financial problems of this institution, and against this background, a matter which this delegation, like others, will comment upon at an appropriate time, the document before us, C 89/8, is simply further testimony to the dynamism, the relevance, the global significance of the FAD.

Some brief comments on a few items, especially on the Major Programme - Agriculture, in the first instance. It is difficult to single out to any great extent specific areas of activity; perhaps what anyone can ask of the Organization is, within the limits of your resources, to facilitate, to expedite the transfer of your findings, your field performance packages, to the various countries.

The activities on farming systems development, fertilizer, water conservation and management and reclamation have tremendous potential for increased food production and are especially relevant to the on-going concerns with the impact of agriculture and the environment. The work on "block demonstrations" among groups of farmers with appropriate agricultural inputs is of special significance.

With reference to the programmes on irrigation technology, the work on manuals is endorsed. However, my delegation wishes to suggest that the programming of resources for the training of frontline field staff, para-professionals, will greatly facilitate the application of the technologies.

In this regard, with limited resources available, FAO may wish to consider a well-structured programme on the training for trainees, including para-professionals on a regional or sub-regional level.

The work on pesticides control including integrated pest management is of particular importance to developing countries and again in the context of environmental concerns. I must inevitably make reference to the endorsement of work in this area in the particular context of the fragile ecology of small island states.

The quality, the range of activity on livestock production, agricultural extension, including special attention to women involved in a variety of activities on the farm, cannot be over-emphasized.

It is very difficult to ask FAO to consider additional special conferences, but except it is already planned, a conference or a series of regional conferences on the nature and effectiveness of programmes and projects for women in agriculture, nutrition, and forestry could perhaps be co-hosted by governments and appropriate organizations.

The work on fisheries and forestry is fully endorsed. In the area of fisheries there may be a need to look more at national institutional infrastructure for fisheries development and management.

The effects of financial constraint on the nutrition programme, page 44, fisheries programme, page 59, and again on forestry, page 73, leave us with disappointment. At this time when the world - developed and developing countries - is getting increasingly close to Red Alert on the environment we are seriously concerned with the curtailment of activity on FAO's vital work on the management of forest plantations, forest fires, upland conservation, and mangroves which are particularly relevant to fisheries development and coastal stability.

This delegation has already clearly indicated its support for the TCP programme. The Review simply highlights its importance and significance to countries which I lead.

I have noticed the comments on page 96 of the document C 89/8 at paragraph 5.9 on TCDC. Given the real stringent financial difficulties which many countries face, the question arises as to whether it may be possible to relax the requirements somewhat with respect to local costs in those instances where it is clear that the programme requirement is beyond the capacity of the host country. In such difficult circumstances every effort ought to be made to facilitate the TCDC process with a reduced level of input on the part of the host country.

I have a final comment. I refer to technological improvement and adaptation to new technologies. We endorse the R and D activities of the programme and consider that in some instances it is the result of this programme, properly applied, which can push growth and development in the agricultural sector beyond the stage of a good production base. The relevance of this activity in integrating local and indigenous products into the stream of semi-processed and processed convenience foods cannot be over-emphasized. The alternative is an expanding clamour for imported foods by a rising urban and sub-urban middle class at the expense of the local agricultural sector.

This delegation wishes to indicate its broad satisfaction with the outcome of the Review of the field programme.

Muhammad Saleen KHAN (Pakistan) : Let me also congratulate you on your election to chair this very important Commission of the Conference both in your capacity as the delegate of Pakistan and also as Chairman of the Group of 77. We have seen you working in so many instances and we are sure that your presence in the chair will facilitate our work and take us to a happy conclusion.

We welcome the Review Report on the Regular Programme 1988-89 and would like to commend the Secretariat on the comprehensiveness of its coverage and the clarity of its descriptions. The improvements over the years and the improvement of thematic topics, the addition of a new chapter containing quantitative information on selected aspects of programme implementation, help to widen our perspectives and help us in lining up our thoughts for future course of action.

We note with concern the effects on programme implementation of the cuts of US\$ 45 million in 1987 to 1988, which resulted in the decline under the Major Programme of Activities by 20 percent, trainees by 34 percent, meetings by 3 percent, publications by 4 percent, and work months for technical backstopping by 15 percent. The adverse impacts of these cuts on activities, like the establishment of computer link-up to enable continuous immediate access to the Global Information and Early Warning System, support to countries in developing fisheries information centres, development of new remote sensing technologies and productivity zoning for forest resources, suspension of UNASYLVA, are regrettable.

However, despite the adverse repercussions of the cuts, we note with satisfaction a number of commendable successes. The role of the Emergency Centre for Locust Operation, in containing the locust menace in Africa, is noteworthy as are the efforts made in the preparations for the establishment of the World Agricultural Information Centre. In fisheries, amongst others, the support to development of aquaculture in the least developed countries of Asia and the Pacific, and in forestry the extensive support to countries in implementation of TFAP, are satisfying examples.

We note from paragraph 1.175 under Chapter One (Agriculture) the collaborative arrangements initiated to offset the impact of the budgetary cuts and welcome these measures. We agree with suggestions in paragraph 1.176 in relation to more efficient framework and joint planning and harmonization of procedures. Likewise under Chapter II on Fisheries, we endorse the need for closer integration within FAO units in promoting coastal fisheries.

The performance of TCP, despite constraints of resources and closure of ARPA, is satisfactory although we would like to see a larger share for the Asia and Pacific region than the present 21.7 percent. We endorse the emphasis on TCP allocation for investment support and for Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries.

We note the key role of the Investment Centre in Technical Programmes but would like to underline the need for an increased role for the Centre in sector and sub-sector studies to provide a framework for launching strategies and policy discussions between the financial institutions and the member countries. The important role of the FAO representations in providing specialist advice to countries is well-recognized and we would stress on an expanding role for the country representatives and for efforts to strengthen their offices.

Turning to Part Two and the in-depth reviews under Chapter Seven, we note the contribution of the sub-programme to rural development by expanding marketable products and income earning activities, improving the value of farm produce and promoting appropriate technologies and would call for increased assistance to developing countries in planning and programming investments and projects preparation in the field of agro-industries.

On Chapter Eight, Situation and Outlook, we would like to express our satisfaction on the improvements in the quality and coverage of both SOFA and the Commodity Review and Outlook. FAO's work on commodity intelligence has made a major contribution to the member countries and UN agencies within the framework of the ongoing multilateral trade negotiations, which merit our commendation.

In Chapter Nine, from paragraphs 9.44 and 9.45, we note the progress and difficulties in attaching more importance to fisheries management and the dangers of overfishing. We hope that the next meeting of COFI will be able to reach sane conclusions in this respect.

Chapter Ten, Forestry Training and Institutions, brings to our notice key efforts under this sub-programme in the context of the compilation of information and data collection on forestry manpower development institutions at the regional and national level through various surveys and studies. We also note the useful technical guidelines prepared and disseminated in the field of training curricula from a range of technical personnel, extension workers and policy makers. We feel that assistance to developing countries in reviewing and revising national forestry policies and related legislation is of high importance and needs to be further strengthened.

In the context of Part Three - thematic reviews of special topics - we have already spoken on the usefulness of these reviews. In terms of Chapter Eleven, on Policy Planning and Support, we note with satisfaction the allocation of thirteen percent Regular Programme resources between 1984 and 1987. In terms of outputs, we also note the several important global level efforts, particularly the ones on International Agricultural Adjustment Guidelines, Agriculture: Toward 2000, WCARRD and TFAP, etc. We endorse the need expressed to ensure greater harmonization of the institutional framework for policy planning both at national and international levels.

Finally, on Chapter Twelve on Conservation and Amelioration of Natural Resources, we commend the FAO on the work it has already done, particularly on promoting international agreements such as the International undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, Fisheries Management and Development, Code of Conduct on the Use of Pesticides and the TFAP. We also commend FAO on the introduction of procedures for environmental impact assessment of planned FAO projects.

Horacio Daniel FIGUEIRAS (Argentina): La delegación de Argentina desea expresarle su felicitación como Presidente de este Comité con la certeza de que su conducción llevará esta tarea a feliz realización. Felicitación que extendemos a los señores Vicepresidentes. Estamos también satisfechos por la excelente labor que llevó a cabo el equipo redactor del documento 89/8 en análisis hoy por la claridad y concisión que supo resumir la gran diversidad de temas del examen. Cabe destacar y apoyar la acción de FAO en la continuidad de los planes de trabajo a pesar de las reducciones presupuestarias de negativa incidencia en algunos programas. Nuestra

delegación encuentra algo artificial o quizá forzada esta discriminación analítica entre el programa ordinario y el de campo puesto que ambos son francamente complementarios y carecería de sentido un desbalance entre ellos. Por otra parte existirá una reiteración conceptual entre los diversos documentos que analizaremos en el transcurso de la Conferencia dada la superposición temática existente entre algunos de ellos. Nos limitaremos a expresar apoyo a los temas que nuestra delegación considera de interés más mirando al futuro que desde una posición crítica respecto del informe. Especial y favorable mención meritan las realizaciones de los tres programas principales técnicos sobre agricultura, pesca y montes así como el de apoyo al desarrollo y los PCT. Nos parece importante reforzar el criterio de apoyo directo que tiene el programa a las actividades de campo bajo la forma de asesoramiento y apoyo técnico a los Estados Miembros. En general a nuestro parecer la evaluación del programa en su vinculación con el de campo debería tener en consideración ya como un seguimiento sistematizado sus efectos en el impacto económico y/o de mejora en la calidad de vida local. Una suerte de antes y después en la comunidad.

Nos alarma por otra parte, la baja asignación de recursos para Latino América que suponemos altamente correlacionada con el valor que representa el PCT en su actividad de campo para la región. No obstante es interesante observar una tendencia a mejor en los aportes del PNUD y fiduciarios para proyectos de política y planificación para el programa ordinario en la región.

El programa agrícola, programa principal 2.1, nos parece fundamental en todos sus aspectos aunque alguno de sus componentes muestran dinámicas diferentes. Expresamos especial apoyo a las gestiones para la Convención Internacional sobre Protección Fitosanitaria y el Código de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas.

La acción en ganadería debería promover más los sistemas silvopastoriles quizá como complemento permanente de las acciones del plan de acción forestal en los trópicos y los sistemas de pastoreo en zonas semiáridas. Algunos temas de biotecnología son alentadores en especial los de apoyo a la erradicación de antroponosis o de sus vectores, brucelosis, garrapatas, etc. y los de estandarización de vacunas y métodos de diagnóstico, especialmente de aquellas enfermedades consideradas excluyentes por algunos bloques comerciales, caso de la fiebre aftosa, etc. Excelente nos parece la adecuación temática de la división conjunta FAO/OIEA. El plan de acción forestal en los trópicos ha demostrado su viabilidad y como modelo operativo y debería ser reforzado y no limitarlo solamente a los trópicos sino a todas las regiones boscosas y forestales. El programa principal 2.3 Montes y el subprograma 2.3.3.1 es uno de los más promisorios para generar mano de obra y asentamientos rurales puesto que la demanda de sus productos tiene una tendencia firme en el futuro. La actividad también avanza sobre la conservación y aprovechamiento de un recurso cien por cien ecológico. Especial apoyo nos merece el subprograma 2.1.2.6 Industrias alimentarias y agrícolas como intento de agregar valor local a diversas producciones primarias, así como el 2.1.7.2 Informador de commodities agrícolas y alimentarias mundial especialmente por medio del SOFA y situaciones perspectivas, publicaciones que intentan evidenciar con claridad el efecto de las políticas comerciales macroeconómicas sobre la producción y el desarrollo rurales.

Para terminar, señor Presidente, con esta exposición donde tratamos de seguir el orden del informe C 89/8, nos complace el firme y prudente ecologismo de los programas y que la FAO continúe hablando cada vez con mayor soltura de políticas si bien con el respeto expreso por las voluntades nacionales de sus

Estados Miembros. Apoyamos calurosamente los cuatro aspectos que tana en esta área: el normativo general, el de planificación zonal o regional como organizador de foros y servicios y la asistencia directa a solicitud de los Estados Miembros. Enfatizamos nuestra solicitud de que se institucionalicen lo más sólidamente posible las relaciones de la FAO con organismos reguladores del comercio mundial como el GATT, la IJNCTAD, etc. con otros componentes de Naciones Unidas relacionados, el PNUD, el ONUDI y otros, regionales como la OEA, el AIADI, el I ICA y financieros multilaterales u otros como el Banco Mundial, el Fondo Monetario Internacional, etc. a efectos de racionalizar recursos humanos y financieros que hagan a los fines y objetivos de la Organización.

Una reflexión final sobre la dinámica de la captación y distribución de recursos. Los programas de información, planificación mundial y regional, de apoyo, etc., deberían aún más enlazarse operativamente con estructuras funcionales de los países que cuentan con ellas (por ejemplo, universidades, institutos de investigación, organizaciones no gubernamentales de todo tipo, etc.), lo cual aliviaría a la FAO de algunos costos en estos programas.

En lo que hace a los países en desarrollo, es necesario un esfuerzo diferenciador entre aquellos de mayor capacidad de respuesta a la propuesta de FAO y los que la tienen menor. En este último caso, no sólo se trata de asignar mayor cantidad de recursos, sino también de interpretar en profundidad las causas del atraso y reevaluar la acción del Organismo para adecuarlo a las necesidades y a la dinámica de esas comunidades.

Cornelius B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands): Allow me first of all to congratulate you on your election as Chairman. May I extend the same congratulations to the Vice-Chairmen of this Cormission.

Agenda item 12 reads "Review of the Regular Programme 1988-89". unfortunately, in the last biennium the Programme has not always been that regular as a consequence of the financial problems FAO faced in the period under review. Therefore, in discussing and commenting on the implementation of the Regular Programme we should realize that the Programme has been executed based on somewhat different financial assumptions.

My country is of the opinion that, given these financial circumstances, FAO has really done a good job. We do understand that parts of the Programme have not been implemented through lack of financial means, and we are convinced that the need for choice finds its origin in these financial problems. This is very topical for the whole Review process, and we shall certainly come back to this matter in the next few days.

It has been stated during various committee meetings that the financial problems have been tackled through cuts across the board in the implementation of the Regular Programme, with the result that clear priorities and posteriorities are not always easily identified. The priority of FAO in the field of training is obvious, and here the developments - as another delegation has already mentioned - are of concern also. In virtually all Programme areas training activities were reduced. This led to a reduction of 36 percent in the number of trainees. In our country the importance of education and extension is very well known, and my Minister of Agriculture touched on this point this morning when he made his statement in Plenary.

Extension and education have been so well known over a long period, and from our own experience we would urge FAO to restore these activities to the required level as soon as possible.

As perhaps is known, we consider it important for FAO to give policy advice. Therefore, we welcome the increase in requests for this advice. But can all the requests be honoured?

There are other priorities we would like to dwell upon. Pesticides need our special attention with regard to environmental aspects.

The progress in the field of Prior Informed Consent is encouraging and we hope to find it soon in the Code of Conduct. Related to this is integrated pest management, and that plays an effective role in sustainable development, and the support for it is appreciated. We see that more priority is needed here and this attention to integrated pest management should not suffer from financial constraints. Work in the field of residue tolerances has great value with regard to possible trade barriers, and must continue. Secondly, biotechnology is supported from our side but only when activities in this field are not at the expense of further agricultural research. Thirdly, we consider rural development to be an important area in the field of FAO's tasks. Here progress has been made in a number of activities. The attention to extension of cooperatives, people's participation projects and the related training activities of FAO staff are appreciated. However, cuts in the field programmes for agrarian reform and land settlement are of concern to us. Their activities are of direct importance for food security.

In the COAG meeting, my delegation strongly advocated the importance of Women in Development. Therefore, I once again express our opinion that this programme deserves more attention than it has received during the period under review. In this context the assistance for training programmes and curricula has been reduced by cuts in personnel. This needs special attention. Finally, as regards fisheries, we welcome the attention to aquaculture development during the last biennium.

V.K. SIBAL (India): We are pleased to see you in the chair and we are sure that your skills and experience will help to steer the deliberations in this Commission on productive and fruitful lines. We would like to offer our congratulations to you and to your able Vice-Chairman, on whom you can depend to give you effective assistance in the discharge of your responsibilities. We would also like to take this opportunity to compliment Mr Shah on his very precise presentation of this item.

As regards document 89/8, we had the privilege of looking at it in depth as a member of the Programme Committee and our views are fully reflected in the Report of the Committee given in document C 89/LIM/17. We therefore have no hesitation in reaffirming our view and expressing our satisfaction over a job competently done by the Organization in spite of severe financial restraints, and over its prudent and efficient management of its programme within its truncated resources. The Review constitutes a crucial component of FAO's evaluation mechanisms. We are satisfied to note the improvements in its content and presentation over the years.

We welcome the innovations in the 6th Review under discussion, in presenting consolidated, quantitative information over the period 1982-89 of key implementation outputs under the three major technical programmes, as also the additional information on interdisciplinary activities. It is, however, with some disappointment and regret that we note the effects of financial constraints over the past two years on programme implementation given in the Review.

The sweep, extent and range of these evaluative reviews is clear from the fact that, over the last twelve years, 40 percent of all the technical sub-programmes, and also eleven special subjects, have been evaluated and comprehensively studied. We also note with approval the efforts made to further integrate key achievements of field projects connected with programmes, sub-programmes, special programmes and special teams in the areas of concentration in that document.

The Review we have before us is rich in information and analytical insights. We would encourage further effort to increase the analytical content of the document. We recognize that the Performance Report in Part one of the Review is in the nature of a monitoring exercise. The evidence in the document of the regrettable effects of budgetary cuts of US\$ 45 million in the Programme of Work and Budget makes somewhat sorry and disappointing reading. The freezing of 115 Professional posts and the reduction of 7.1 percent in non-staff costs compelled by the budgetary cuts are a story of opportunities lost, assistance muted, technical expertise weakened and development needs not met or inadequately responded to.

The effects of these cuts in the crucial areas of training to support women in rural development, in technical backstopping and in meetings point to how and why the Organization was forced to reduce or eliminate certain essential activities in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. The pursuit of zero growth has hurt growth where it hurts most, though that may not have been persisted in. It has also made it difficult for FAO to effectuate orderly and coherent programming and implementation of the Regular Programme activities.

In the long term, the likelihood of the adverse effects of budgetary cuts on the technical capacity of FAO, as also the regrettable drop in quality material which may be available for publication in the future, is a source of worry and concern. However, we would like to compliment the Organization on its significant achievements, despite the stress of the financial situation.

In this context we recall with satisfaction that work on the comprehensive regional study on the Asia Region will be initiated in the next biennium. In response to the point made in paragraph 2.14 of document C/89/LIM/17, the evaluation in Part Two of the document give useful, frank and detailed comments. They identify the areas that need further improvement. Under sub-programme 2.1.2.6 on food and agriculture industries, we agree with the analysis pointing to the need for closer coordination both in-house and with other UN agencies, particularly UNDP.

On sub-programme 2.7.2 we welcome the progress in the improvement of SOFA and the Commodity Review and Outlook, the merger of the World Food Report into SOFA. We appreciate the work done under this programme in respect to the ongoing GATT negotiations. Sub-programme 2.3.1, regarding fisheries policy and planning, has allowed FAO to give valuable assistance to all relevant countries, strengthening self-reliance in planning and the management of fisheries. We appreciate the work done under the programme.

Sub-programme 2.3.3.1 forestry training and institutions: the programme has complemented effectively the work of the DFAB. However, the decline in the resources for the sub-programme, especially in respect of extra budgetary resources, is a matter of concern which we fully share.

Part Three gives an analysis of policy support and the environment, showing that these activities are major concerns of FAD. FAO has a long history of policy analysis and substantial resources have been devoted to such activities over the years. In this context 13 percent of the Regular Programme resources, representing US\$ 82 000 000 which have been applied to support policy and planning activities over the last three biennia, show the priority which has been accorded to these activities, particularly when we keep in mind that an additional four hundred field projects with a total value of US\$ 270 000 000 have been backstopped into this area. In this context it needs to be borne in mind that 40 percent of the field projects have received funding from TCP. We hope this will enhance and give a further edge to the acceptability of TCP towards those who are not such warm supporters of its growth as we are, considering the emphatic support for the work of FAO on policy advice which they endorse.

We find the contents of Chapter 5 on TCPs informative. Perhaps to a large extent, the number of pages devoted to the programme has a relationship with its non-programme nature and therefore the unsuitability of its relatively unstructured nature to the same system which is normal for the structured components of the Regular Programme. We agree on the need to adjust and adapt the findings of global and regional policy studies and strategies for specific problems, the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach to planning and policy, and also the need for larger budgetary resources to support this programme. We are also in favour of the early involvement of FAO in structural adjustment work and for improving training on policy analysis by helping national institutions through FAO so as to increase national self-reliance in this field.

On the environment, we are impressed with the depth of information and analysis presented by FAO on institutional functions related to the conservation of national resources. FAO's activities in the environment span over nineteen programmes, and US\$ 17 000 000 have been spent on this during the last three biennia. Although we are fully in favour of deepening FAO's role in this area, we also believe that FAO has a responsibility to build international awareness of the need for the provision of economic incentives, particularly in poor communities to support sustainable development measures. The need is seriously felt for the provision of external financial assistance for the support of global conservation to lower the financial impact of such conservation on developing countries, as also to offset the burden of integrating environmental concern with development projects. So far, the financial contributions in this area have been tardy as well as inadequate. In this context, the 1992 World Conference on the Environment is of special importance. We would encourage FAO to assume a key role commensurate with its extensive involvement in world sustainable development in the preparatory work of this Conference.

Srta. Mery HURTADO (Colombia): Permítame felicitarle en nombre de mi delegación. Conocemos sus calidades profesionales y su experiencia. Estamos seguros del éxito rotundo en la dirección de esta Comisión. Al Sr. Shah agradecemos su excelente presentación, pues ha servido para clarificar nuestros conceptos, para documentarnos y conocer más a fondo todos los temas que son de vital importancia en nuestra Organización. A la Secretaría, por los excelentes documentos, por su claridad y precisión.

Este sexto examen del Programa Ordinario confirma, en general, las valiosas realizaciones de la FAO y demuestra el cumplimiento de los Programas, dentro de los objetivos de nuestra Organización, e indica igualmente que toda esa importante tarea se ha llevado a cabo con gran eficacia.

Tal como dice el Director General en el prólogo, reconocemos que este examen ha ido mejorando a través de cada Conferencia, debido a que la Secretaría ha tenido en cuenta las observaciones y sugerencias de los órganos rectores.

Los representantes de Colombia lamentamos que todo ese esfuerzo del Director General y del personal de la FAO se haya visto considerablemente afectado por la crisis de liquidez que impuso drásticas reducciones en el Programa Ordinario en el bienio 88-89.

Es deplorable que esas desafortunadas reducciones en el Programa, hayan sido aplicadas notoriamente a la capacitación, que es uno de los aspectos más interesantes y útiles de la labor de la FAO.

Apoyamos plenamente el contenido del párrafo 79 sobre la función de la FAO en asesoramiento, en materia de políticas, a los Estados Miembros.

Si bien las decisiones políticas corresponden a la soberanía de los gobiernos, la FAO ha venido demostrando, con beneplácito de esos gobiernos y a su solicitud, que está en condiciones de asesorar muy válidamente a nuestros países para que adopten políticas y planifiquen adecuadamente sus actividades de desarrollo agropecuario.

Opinamos que deben continuar y potenciarse las misiones asesoras en materia de política y planificación, a que hace referencia el párrafo 82.

Los representantes de Colombia opinamos que este examen presenta, de manera muy adecuada, los resultados de las principales actividades del Programa Ordinario, sometidos a auto-evaluaciones por los directores de programas, las evaluaciones de programas especiales, la revisión de la Dependencia Común de Inspección y las evaluaciones por temas llevadas a cabo por misiones independientes.

En esa forma hemos podido analizar los logros del pasado, para hacer sugerencias útiles en cuanto al trabajo futuro de la Organización. Naturalmente, confiamos en que no sólo en el próximo bienio, sino en todo el porvenir de la FAO, no irá a repetirse la grave crisis financiera que, como se dice en la Introducción, "ha tenido efectos desfavorables generales que se observan a todo lo largo del examen".

La parte final de la Introducción, que habla de "cómo se ha afectado la capacidad global de la Organización que ha sufrido un grave revés, y la necesidad de tiempo considerable y esfuerzos intensivos para lograr la recuperación y ganar el terreno perdido", indica cómo han sido de funestas para la FAO esas reducciones y con cuanta preocupación se proyectan hacia el porvenir.

Esperamos que, durante la discusión del próximo tema en esta Comisión, se produzca una rectificación en el sentido de que se adopte un nivel de presupuesto aceptable, y cuyas contribuciones sean pagadas por todos los Estados Miembros, para evitar reducciones que afecten al Programa Ordinario.

Al concluir nuestra intervención sobre este examen, los representantes de Colombia deseamos reiterar una vez más nuestro reconocimiento a la FAQ por la forma eficaz, oportuna y valiosa cómo prestó su asistencia a Colombia dentro del Programa Ordinario, en el bienio que terminó, seguros de que también en el futuro la FAO continuará sirviendo muy adecuadamente a nuestro país.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Je vous remercie et je vous félicite ainsi que vos deux Vice-Présidents pour votre élection à la tête de l'importante Commission II.

L'examen du document C 89/8 donne à notre délégation l'occasion d'adresser ses vives félicitations au Secrétariat pour l'élaboration d'un document bien présenté et fort riche en informations.

Nous sommes à prime abord, frappés par les répercussions très graves des contraintes financières sur la réalisation du Programme ordinaire 88-89.

Cette situation a provoqué une regrettable réduction budgétaire en particulier dans le programme de formation, dans celui du PCT, et a aussi compromis le renouvellement du personnel technique qualifié de notre Organisation.

Nous nous joignons aux précédents orateurs pour exprimer notre reconnaissance aux pays qui participent à la constitution des fonds fiduciaires. Le maintien de l'Afrique comme région prioritaire dans l'assistance de la FAO doit être fermement soutenu par une aide au développement plus conséquente de la part de la communauté internationale. Ainsi, sans ressources, la FAO est impuissante.

Pour revenir aux activités du Programme ordinaire, nous encourageons les travaux du groupe de travail sur la biotechnologie des végétaux. Ainsi, les travaux expérimentaux sur les méthodes d'amélioration de lutte contre la trypanosomiase animale.

Le programme pour la prévention des pertes de produits alimentaires est une action dont le rôle est très important dans nos pays où il est indispensable de préserver et de rentabiliser le peu que le faible rendement des cultures permet d'obtenir avec les moyens du bord. Il faut donc renforcer le réseau subrégional pour la technologie d'après récolte du riz. Dans ce cadre, ma délégation remercie le Gouvernement italien dont le fonds fiduciaire permet la poursuite d'un tel programme en Guinée.

Concernant la représentation de la FAO dans les pays, il s'agit là d'une question d'importance capitale.

Le Guinéen en général connaît la FAO à travers la qualité du travail de son représentant.

Cela est certainement valable pour plusieurs pays de notre région. C'est pourquoi nous n'insisterons jamais assez sur les qualités professionnelles et sociales du représentant de la FAD.

Aussi nous adhérons parfaitement aux propositions et perspectives formulées à la page 120 quant à la diversification et la qualification des interventions des représentations FAO dans les pays.

En Guinée, le Gouvernement apprécie hautement la participation de la représentation qui se comporte en partenaire efficace.

Enfin nous espérons que l'examen des résultats du Programme ordinaire 1988-89 permettra à notre Conférence de tirer les leçons qui s'imposent en dotant la FAO des ressources nécessaires pour l'exécution intégrale du prochain programme de notre Organisation.

Carl THOMSEN (Denmark) : The Danish delegation would like to assure you of our full support and collaboration in your important task as Chairman of this Commission. We would also like to thank Mr Shah for his introduction to the document under discussion C 89/8 and the comments of the Programme and Finance Committees.

This introduction has indeed helped us get a better overview of the comprehensive and somewhat lengthy documentation which has been provided to us. We wish to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for the considerable and solid work which has gone into its preparation.

The Danish delegation shares the view that this is a very important background document which should form the basis of the following discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget in order that the lessons learned may influence the future Programme. At the same time it contains such a wealth of information that in some respects it will serve as a valuable reference document also.

In the interest of brevity and according to your wish, Mr Chairman, we will make only a few comments and suggestions of a more general nature. Firstly, as already expressed earlier in the Committee of Agriculture, my delegation accepts the fact that such reports on past activities tend to become very much quantitative in character. Nevertheless, we would like to urge that more and more qualitative aspects are introduced. The number of meetings, of courses and of trainees are not always a good measure of the results achieved. Secondly, as indicated in the foreword by the Director-General, the evaluations are especially important as a management tool to provide a feedback into future programmes and operations, as I have already referred to. We acknowledge that considerable efforts have gone into this already but would like to recommend that even more evaluations with external input be undertaken and reported upon similar to the separate evaluations of special action programmes which were put before the last Conference. Thirdly, like other delegations, we attach much importance to the interaction between the Regular Programme and the Field Programme and consider that one of the important functions of the Regular Programme is to provide backstopping to the Field Programme. This may also be interpreted to mean that the size of the Field Programme should not be allowed to exceed the capacity of the Regular Programme for this backstopping. In our view, increased reporting on this type of interaction would be very desirable and should receive high priority in the future.

Lastly, as also stated in the foreword, there is obviously scope for further improvements in the implementation and presentation of the Review. In our view, a very important challenge would be to provide more information about how the lessons learned have been taken into account as a management tool in reorientating the work of the Organization and in the planning of its future programmes. As resources will always be limited compared to the demand for activities, the setting of priorities will inevitably lead to some activities being abandoned in order that other and new activities can gain support. In this normally very painful process the results of the Review can serve a most useful purpose.

Soumaila ISSAKA (Niger): Ma délégation se réjouit de vous présenter à son tour ses chaleureuses félicitations. Celles-ci s'adressent aussi aux deux Vice-Présidents.

Mon intervention sera brève. D'abord parce qu'il n'est nul besoin de reprendre les aspects positifs très nombreux des réalisations de la période 1987-89, en dépit des moyens relativement limités dont a bénéficié l'Organisation. Ensuite, parce que nous partageons beaucoup de commentaires qu'il nous a été donné d'entendre dans cette salle.

Nous allons nous livrer tout d'abord à une remarque d'ordre général. Beaucoup d'intervenants ont loué les améliorations apportées à la méthodologie du présent examen du Programme ordinaire. Nous nous reconnaissons dans cet avis. Cependant l'évaluation n'est évidemment point une fin en soi. Le Directeur général rappelle fort bien cela dans l'avant-propos consacré aux documents sous revue quand il indique que les éléments constituent des "instruments de gestion pour améliorer les programmes et les opérations".

A cet égard, une attention accrue devrait être accordée à cet exercice de "feed-back". Nous considérons que la dynamique de suivi de l'application des enseignements de l'évaluation devrait être consolidée. Nous sommes persuadés qu'en tirant parti de toutes les améliorations possibles, basées sur le document C 89/8 et enrichies par les contributions pertinentes des délégations, on minimiserait les besoins fondés ou non, de recourir à des études spécifiques sur le fonctionnement de la FAO.

Ceci dit, nous voulons aussi formuler à grand trait quelques remarques particulières sur les volets PCT, Pêche et Protection des végétaux:

- le PCT: il nous semble que la volonté d'impliquer les ressources humaines des pays bénéficiaires n'est pas suffisamment probante. Il faudrait que les PCT soient mieux l'occasion de valoriser les compétences techniques dans les pays et aident à forger plus le potentiel d'expertise de ceux-ci.
- la pêche: nous soulignons l'insuffisance relative du programme en matière de pêche continentale et de pisciculture.
- la protection des végétaux: nous relevons que le programme présente quelques faiblesses sur le front de la lutte contre les sauteriaux. Or le binôme prolifération des sauteriaux et conditions climatiques favorables ne serait pas une donnée nouvelle, car cette relation a toujours existé au Sahel de façon endémique. Par contre ce qui serait une réalité nouvelle, c'est la

pression exercée systématiquement et de plus en plus sur les cultures en raison de l'appauvrissement croissant du couvert végétal non agricole. Nous estimons que cette préoccupation devrait se refléter davantage dans la planification des programmes et opérations,

A.K.M. Fazley RABBI (Bangladesh) : First of all we congratulate you on your election to the chair. I take this opportunity to thank the members for the confidence placed in me by electing me to be the second Vice-Chairman of the Commission. I would like to assure you and the members of the Commission of my utmost cooperation in order to facilitate the smooth and successful functioning of the Commission.

Coming to the agenda item under discussion my delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for providing such an excellent comprehensive document, which is yet another example of the transparency of the management and the activities of the FAO. We also thank Mr Shah for his easy, lucid presentation of the subject. After an extensive discussion on the Review of the Regular Programme 1988-89 we would at this stage only like to put on record our appreciation for the format and structure, the content and the presentation of the Review, and also the innovations and successful implementation of the Programme. While doing so we express our disappointment about the Programme cuts and adjustments that had to be made during the biennium due to financial constraints. The budget cuts affected very important Programmes which I need not list again which have already been mentioned by several delegates, particularly in view of your warning for the night sessions, but we would like to mention about two specific points only; number one, FAO's support for food and agricultural industries which is of vital importance for developing countries, including Bangladesh, needs to be further extended. There is a need to cooperation with the Ministry of Industries to develop this area more. Secondly, it is gratifying that the FAO provides also policy and planning support to member countries; special projects like development of a policy framework for developing the seed sector could be an opportunity. Training programmes for those involved in policy analysis and planning could be another field where FAO could concentrate.

Since the Review should be an indicator and guidance for the future programme of work and as stated by the representative of Denmark, that we should utilize the lessons learnt from the Review, and what are the lessons learnt from the last Review, we think there is a need for fulfilment of Member Nations' commitment and so we would also like to urge upon all Member Nations to fulfil their commitments to the Organization and to the management to keep up and increase their vigilance in ensuring the relevance and cost effectiveness of FAO's programmes and operations.

Harmut STALB (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): Mr Chairman I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election to the chair of this Commission. My delegation is convinced that under your wise guidance we will be able to cope with the difficult tasks before this Commission in a spirit of tolerance and mutual confidence and our efforts will be crowned with success. My delegation would also like to congratulate the two Vice-Chairmen on their respective elections and we

would like to thank Mr Shah for the outstanding introduction of this document. Our delegation would like to thank the Secretariat altogether for this document on the Review of the Regular Programme biennium 1988-89, and I have now a few important points that I would like to highlight quickly.

We regret that the Programme has had to be cut in some important aspects because of the financial situation of FAO and that consequently the Programme of Work could not be implemented to the full extent that had been decided upon by the Twenty-fourth FAO Conference Session. Savings that have to be introduced after a decision has been taken can cause great damage to priority measures. This is particularly the case when, for instance, posts were frozen simply because they happened to fall vacant.

In addition, we feel that the work load that has been performed by the professional staff responsible for backstopping of field projects has grown out of proportion. We feel that this is a trend that must be turned around. The Regular Programme is intended after all to fulfil the Organization's role as a leader in intellectual comprehension and analysis and this role will disappear if people are practically all the time busy backstopping field projects.

We have looked with particular interest at Part 3 of the Review which reports on FAO's policy advice and planning support of Member Nations and also the Organization's work on the conservation of the environment. The Report on these matters shows however that it is quite out of proportion to the priorities described in the Programme of Work and Budget 1988-89 which would seem to indicate that there is a tremendous need for information on these fields from Member Nations and information that has to be supplied by FAO.

You know well that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany attaches great priority to the preservation of tropical rain forests. We took part in the session of the CFDT in September 1989 and at that time we reported that the Federal Republic of Germany had made available in 1988 over US\$ 145 million for this purpose. The Federal Government is maintaining the same level for the budget next year which means we will be in a position to enter into substantial financial commitment on a worldwide basis in this field. At the CFDT session our authorities also expressed the hope that there would be swift and effective implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan under the leadership and coordination of FAO and in order to really stress the importance of this activity which is of vital importance for global climatic developments we have offered to the Secretariat of FAO trust fund resources. However, we feel that the coordinating work of FAO in the Tropical Forestry Action Plan is such an important part of the work of the Organization that in principle it should be the Organization itself which should be able to make available the necessary resources for the effective coordination, guidance and evaluation of these activities from the Regular Budget of the Organization, and we are also looking forward to having as soon as possible an up-to-date financial framework for the Plan of Action.

Andras SZABO (Hungary) : Having the floor for the first time let me associate myself with all the delegates who have congratulated you on your election.

Turning to our agenda item on behalf of the Hungarian delegation, first of all I would thank and congratulate the Secretariat for the preparation of the excellent document before us. The Review, due to its comprehensive and informative structure, enables us to evaluate the activities FAO performed during the last biennium and to draw some conclusions for future actions.

Having studied the document we are going to make the following few remarks : we welcome the innovative methods applied and the incorporation of new elements and data into the Report which not only improves the quality of the document, but also strengthens the integrated approach required for the right evaluation of FAO's activities. Within FAO's policy and strategy work on the global level Hungary gives high priority to the policy analysis and advice given if requested by FAO to the developing countries. Such assistance might take two forms. First, it may appear in the form of the elaboration of guiding principles for decision-makers in the developing countries and secondly, it may take the form of training planners or training the future planners in the field of planning.

In this context, the budgetary cuts for training purposes give rise to our deep concern. We are aware of the serious financial situation of FAO and the need for adjustments and new priority setting in its programme. Nevertheless, we consider that any further cuts in this area would bring about unforeseeable consequences. It would seriously impede the developing countries' efforts towards self-reliance based on sustainable development.

At the same time, we think that there is still much room left for FAO to make use of its experience from the lessons it gained in policy advice throughout its existence and to make this knowledge available for the developing countries in a more effective way.

The next issue I want to raise is environmental protection. It is needless to say how closely agriculture, forestry, fisheries or food production are connected with environmental issues. The Review reveals that FAO has taken up this challenge. However, we think that more interrelated actions are needed in all of its various programmes and subprogrammes with environmental implications. In our opinion, the developing countries, among them those in Europe, have gained lots of experience in the prevention, control and elimination of environmental damage in the field commensurate with FAO's activities. We would suggest FAO should study and summarize its experiences and make them available to the developing countries. It would be an excellent example how, among others, the results of East-West cooperation may have a positive impact on the processes in the developing countries, helping them to avoid the same mistakes we made before.

Last but not least, I want to stress Hungary's keen interest in FAO's active participation in the talks of the Uruguay Round of GATT. We are convinced that our Organization cannot be indifferent in the key issues of international trade in agricultural products. Its advice for the elimination of artificial barriers impeding trade in these commodities seems to us indispensable.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Algérie): Il m'est tout particulièrement agréable de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de cette commission qui est connue pour ses débats délicats. Notre délégation est persuadée que, sous votre présidence, nos travaux seront couronnés de succès.

Permettez-moi également de féliciter et de remercier M. Shah pour la présentation claire et concise qu'il nous a faite ce matin.

Nos félicitations s'adressent enfin au Secrétariat qui nous a présenté un excellent document.

Tout comme bon nombre de délégations qui l'ont précédée, la délégation algérienne voudrait en premier lieu exprimer son souci de constater que le programme prévu n'ait pu être entièrement exécuté. Les réductions sur le programme, lorsqu'elles concernent notamment les activités de formation si utiles pour le développement durable et intégré de nos pays, sont particulièrement regrettables.

Il en est de même pour la suppression d'ateliers, notamment ceux prévus au Proche-Orient et en Afrique du Nord dans le cadre du développement et de l'amélioration des semences tel que relaté au paragraphe 1.54.

La délégation algérienne est toutefois consciente qu'en cette période si difficile en matière de ressources financières, le Secrétariat n'avait d'autre choix que de procéder à ces ajustements dans le programme; et ce, d'autant plus qu'en cette période de crise de l'économie mondiale qui les frappe de plein fouet, les pays du tiers monde ne peuvent apporter de contributions supplémentaires.

Dans ce contexte, la délégation algérienne félicite les Gouvernements italien, néerlandais et saoudien pour leurs généreuses contributions au Fonds fiduciaire, et a pris note au paragraphe 38 que la troisième d'entre ces contributions égale, avec 8 pour cent, l'apport de la Banque mondiale.

La délégation algérienne, qui s'est déjà exprimée récemment en faveur des PCT, tient à rappeler qu'elle souhaiterait voir augmenter leur niveau global. A ce propos, elle souhaiterait savoir s'il y a un lien de cause à effet entre le manque de liquidités que connaît l'Organisation et la baisse du nombre de projets exécutés dans le cadre du programme de coopération technique.

Mon pays tient à remercier le Centre ECLO qui, sous la direction de M. Pradel, a apporté un soutien efficace dans la lutte antiacridienne pendant la campagne de 1988. Certes, tout danger imminent paraît aujourd'hui écarté et la nécessité d'agir pourrait sembler moins pressante. Il n'en demeure pas moins que, compte tenu de l'expérience acquise en la matière, mon pays est en faveur du renforcement des activités à long terme prévu au paragraphe 1.48 afin de parer à la recrudescence des acridiens et autres ravageurs, notamment par la mise en place d'une station pour la surveillance et la prévision agrométéorologique à l'échelle régionale.

En outre, la délégation algérienne souhaite exprimer son intérêt pour le Grand Programme des forêts. Notre délégation encourage particulièrement le renforcement et le développement d'actions telles que celles décrites aux paragraphes 3.3 et 3.11 concernant respectivement l'intégration des arbres et des forêts en zone aride et dans les bassins versants de montagne, et la lutte contre les incendies de forêt.

A ce propos, notre délégation est très intéressée par le rôle du RNEA sous les auspices de Sylva Mediterranea tels que décrits au paragraphe 3.12.

Par ailleurs, la délégation algérienne encourage et approuve tout effort visant à l'intégration des femmes au développement. Et c'est avec satisfaction que nous avons relevé l'exécution d'un programme spécial dans le domaine des pêches en faveur des femmes au paragraphe 2.44.

Enfin, mon pays souhaite poser une question supplémentaire sur l'état d'avancement des études que la FAO devait entreprendre sur la situation d'une part des paysans palestiniens dans les territoires arabes occupés et, d'autre part, sur celle des populations d'Afrique australe conformément aux recommandations de la Conférence.

Notre délégation souhaite également obtenir des informations sur les actions réalisées en faveur de ces populations par la FAO.

David DRAKE (Canada): Permettez-moi de m'associer à toutes les délégations qui vous ont félicité ainsi que les deux Vice-Présidents du Comité.

My delegation welcomes the report prepared by the Secretariat on the Review of the Regular Programme for the Biennium 1988-89 and appreciates the scope and content of the Review. The Report points out that the Review of the Regular Programme forms an important part of FAO's evaluation system. We also welcome the continued efforts to improve the Organization's capacity for evaluation and monitoring as pointed out by the Director-General in his remarks contained in the Foreword section of the Report. Our views on evaluation are in line with those expressed earlier by the distinguished delegates of France and the United Kingdom.

The Report, in our view, provides a good overview of FAO's major programmes in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Considerable attention has been focused on the impact of programme reductions. We regret that the budgetary cuts have affected, in particular, the key areas of training and the support to the enhanced role of women in development.

We are generally pleased, however, with the achievements in a number of areas related to three major programmes, despite the budgetary reductions. In the major programme of agriculture, my delegation would like to express its support for the work undertaken by the FAO/WHO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Residues in food and the environment. The efforts made to control the larger grain borer in Africa, the emphasis placed on the integrated approach to pest management and work carried out by the Emergency Centre for Locust Operations. In the livestock programme, my delegation notes the adoption of an integrated approach to the control of African trypanosomiasis, which may prove to be more cost-efficient. Importance is also attached to the work undertaken to the use of fodder trees in arid and semi-arid areas and the campaign for global eradication of rinderpest.

FAO's research and technology development activities deserve mention, including the installation of the Artemis Environmental Monitoring System, assistance provided to the Technical Advisory Committee of the CGIAR and the research undertaken on the application of nuclear techniques in agriculture.

FAO's work relating to rural development, along with nutrition, is also of significance, including the potential contribution of the use of CODEX standards as a point of reference in the context of GAIT negotiation on non-tariff barriers to trade. FAO's continued work in the area of agriculture information and analysis is of prime importance, including the progress made in strengthening the Global and Early Warning System and the World Agriculture Information Centre.

Implementation of FAO's fishery programme is in our view consistent with the objectives set in the World Conference on Fisheries Development and Management and in line with the objectives of the Canadian International Development Agency. We welcome in particular the priority given to environmental aspects related to marine pollution.

We join others in commending the FAO once again for the important role it has played in bringing the Tropical Forestry Action Plan to maturity. This Plan represented the primary focus of the Forestry Department's activities in the current biennium and we are pleased to note that this will continue to be the case in the coming biennium.

We agree with the point made by the delegate of the United Kingdom on the extent to which the Regular Programme Field Activities are clearly intertwined. We would also welcome a clearer picture in future documentation of the extent to which the activities undertaken are in direct support of the field programme.

Similarly, we associate ourselves with the concern raised by the delegation of Norway and Denmark on the limited information provided on the FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme activities, which account for a significant proportion of Regular Programme expenditures.

The in-depth review of four selected subprogrammes is once again a welcome component of the Review document. The role of agro-industry in promoting economic development is highlighted including activities undertaken in food processing and upgrading of food technologies and the efforts made toward the development of products from indigenous flour and composites. The need to strengthen coordination and cooperation with other UN agencies in this area is also noted. Under Situation and Outlook we are encouraged by the further steps taken to improve the quality and coverage of SOFA and the Commodity Review and outlook.

Last, but by no means least, the two subjects included in Part Three, FAO's Policy and Planning Support to Member Countries and FAO's Involvement in the Conservation and Amelioration of the Environment, along with introductions of environmental considerations in FAO projects and programmes, are timely, in that they relate to priority areas identified for the next Programme of Work and Budget as well as the Review of the FAD.

Increased emphasis on environmental impact assessment procedures, the intention to upgrade the Interdepartmental Working Group on Environment and the overall increased emphasis on environmental concerns are to be commended. As referred to by the distinguished delegate of France, we are fully supportive of the FAO's involvement in preparation for the Environment and Development Conference in 1992.

Issan Eldin MOHAMED EL SAYED (Sudan) (original language Arabic): First of all, may I congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the Chairmanship of this Commission. We would also like to congratulate the two Vice-Chairmen.

First, we would like to say how very satisfied we are concerning the content of the documents before us, and we would like to congratulate the Secretariat on the efforts they have made to improve the review through analysis, self-evaluation, which is characteristic of FAO's activities and which gives it the necessary dynamic approach.

We would also like to express our regret concerning the negative effects of the budgetary cuts which have been damaging to Programme implementation, particularly concerning the role of women in development and training activities. These cuts in programmes - in agriculture, fisheries and forestry - were also very damaging for those countries dependent on FAO's assistance in these matters.

I would also like to pay tribute to FAO on the efforts to develop natural resources. This has been done in full harmony with national and international efforts. This cooperation is extremely efficient because this is the basis of the improvement in the current situation, and it is the best method to put an end to desertification,

I would also like to welcome the increase which has been given to the Technical Cooperation Programme and to technical cooperation among developing countries. We hope that the budgetary allocations will remain at the levels they were in the past.

We would also like to express our satisfaction concerning FAO's support of policy and planning assistance.

Walid Abdel RABOH (Jordan) (original language Arabic): At the outset, Mr Chairman, I would like to congratulate you and the Vice-Chairmen on your election to chair this Commission. I would also like to thank Mr Shah for his clear and excellent presentation of the document under discussion.

Please permit me to support what was said previously by several of my colleagues as to the need to emphasize the training and research activities of the Organization. We also feel that there is a need to prepare a comprehensive regional study for the Near East region similar to those studies prepared for other regions, in view of the benefits that arise from them for the countries of the region.

The delegation of my country attaches special importance to the planning and policy analysis activities of the Organization, as well as the activities in the field of the conservation of the environment, especially under the present circumstances where agricultural policies and strategies are undergoing a re-evaluation and review process due to the economic adjustment process faced by a great many states. That is why we feel that increasing training courses and workshops in planning and policy analysis must be given high priority within the activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization. This is particularly important in order to develop and train national expertise in planning and policy analysis and in the field of agriculture, and in order to improve access to food.

The delegation of my country also sees a need to strengthen and expand the role of regional officers of FAO to enable them to carry out the tasks they are entrusted with in an appropriate manner.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Mi delegación se complace de verle presidir esta Comisión II. Estamos seguros que bajo su Presidencia podremos llevar a buen puerto nuestras importantes tareas. Mi delegación se empeñará con el mejor espíritu.

El tema que nos ocupa reviste gran importancia, ya que evalúa la ejecución del Programa Ordinario de nuestra Organización en el bienio que termina. Mi delegación se asocia a la constructiva declaración del distinguido Embajador de Francia, particularmente a las interacciones y papel del Programa Ordinario en relación con el Programa de Campo.

Felicitemos a la Secretaría por la presentación del documento C 89/8, cuya estructura e información contenida reflejan el progresivo mejoramiento. Consideramos muy importantes las evaluaciones en profundidad de algunos subprogramas contenidos en la Parte II y en los temas especiales de la Parte III, que han llegado al 40 por ciento de todos los subprogramas técnicos, además del estudio en detalle de 11 temas especiales.

Por lo que se refiere a la Parte I relativa al examen, la abordamos en un contexto en donde se mezclan, por un lado, las expresiones de preocupación por la repercusión de la crisis financiera sobre la ejecución del Programa y, por otro, las felicitaciones por los numerosos logros en programas muy importantes.

Los documentos que analizamos nos permiten observar el impacto que los recortes presupuestarios por 45 millones de dólares han tenido sobre la ejecución del Programa, y que en 1988 habían provocado la congelación de 115 puestos de categoría profesional. Esta sangría necesariamente vulnera la capacidad de nuestro Organismo y contradice los pronunciamientos que hacemos por reforzarla.

La semana pasada, durante la celebración del Consejo, el Director General nos anunció que, dada la persistencia de la crisis, se había visto obligado a hacer recortes por 23 millones de dólares más, lo cual significa que, a estas fechas, el deterioro es mayor.

Haciendo una revisión rápida, en aras de la brevedad, expresamos nuestra preocupación en particular por los efectos de los recortes presupuestarios en la capacitación en los tres programas técnicos principales y en la promoción de la función de la mujer en el desarrollo rural. Así, también, en la reducción o eliminación de algunas actividades esenciales en los programas de Agricultura, Pesca y Montes. Coincidimos en la importancia del stoping técnico que nuestros países han tenido que sufrir durante este bienio. Coincidimos en la preocupación del Comité del Programa por el efecto negativo de los recortes, no sólo en este bienio sino en adelante, ya que esto debilita la capacidad del Programa Ordinario para responder pronta y eficazmente a las peticiones de los Estados Miembros que solicitan la ayuda de la FAO y que hacen imposible la continuación ordenada y coherente de la programación y ejecución del Programa Ordinario, y esto a su vez repercutirá en el apoyo a los proyectos de campo.

De otra parte, nos congratula que a pesar de las limitaciones de recursos experimentadas durante el bienio, se hayan conseguido importantes logros y que hayan surgido nuevas iniciativas en el ámbito de los tres programas principales técnicos.

En lo que respecta a la Parte II, concerniente al examen en profundidad de los cuatro programas, nos complacen los resultados alcanzados en el subprograma de industrias alimentarias y agrícolas, particularmente en el área de molienda de cereales indígenas, elaboración de frutas y hortalizas, especialmente porque se ha incluido la ayuda a varios países para planificar, programar y preparar proyectos de inversión para agroindustrias.

Respecto a su programa de situación y perspectivas, nos complace particularmente la contribución de la FAO en materia de información y análisis sobre productos básicos para las negociaciones en el ámbito del GATT.

Particular importancia reviste para México, ya que nos hemos beneficiado directamente, el subprograma sobre política y planificación pesquera, el cual ha centrado su atención en el reforzamiento de la capacidad nacional de planificación y ordenación de la pesca, así como la inclusión de los aspectos socioeconómicos y ambientales de la pesca, la extensión acuícola y el desarrollo de la acuicultura.

En lo que respecta al subprograma de capacitación a instituciones forestales, se ha prestado apoyo a unos 160 proyectos de campo, dando especial relevancia al subprograma sobre desarrollo forestal comunitario, que lamentablemente ha tenido que sufrir la reducción de recursos.

Nuestra delegación expresa su satisfacción por las evaluaciones en profundidad de los temas sobre asistencia en materia de política y planificación a los Estados Miembros, y por la mejora y conservación del medio ambiente natural e introducción de consideraciones ecológicas en los proyectos y programas de la FAO, donde se reconoció la importancia y complejidad que éstos entrañan.

Sra. Mercedes FERMÍN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Nunca como en este momento yo debo expresar mi satisfacción por verle a usted presidiendo esta Comisión, porque consideramos que su presencia al frente de la Comisión es una garantía de la efectividad y de la eficacia de los trabajos que podemos realizar en beneficio de la FAO y de quienes esperamos una mejor eficiencia en su trabajo.

Este examen que nos ocupa, con relación al desarrollo de los programas, es una nueva demostración de la eficacia de las labores de la Secretaría y de la capacidad administrativa del Director General que ha sabido, con una minúscula capacidad de presupuesto, hacer frente a todas o a la mayor parte de las necesidades que tienen los países que confían todavía en seguir adelante en las labores de la FAO. Sin embargo, podemos lamentar que tengamos que hacer frente a una disminución en estos recursos, y queremos llamar cordialmente a la buena voluntad de los países que han provocado esta disminución por no cumplir con sus cuotas para que lo hagan a la brevedad posible, porque son muchos los países que dependen de los recursos de la FAO para nutrir su presupuesto ordinario, a fin de que, en el futuro, podamos tener el cumplimiento de las aspiraciones de todos estos países.

Yo no voy a dedicarme a analizar punto por punto al programa, ya que los demás que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra lo han hecho perfectamente. Quiero sí puntualizar algunos asuntos que considero de la mayor importancia.

En primer lugar, quisiéramos hacer notar que los ajustes presupuestarios que están propuestos por el Banco Mundial y por el FMI no atienden verdaderamente al aspecto social, en el cual repercuten notablemente estos reajustes. Ellos, en el plano financiero, en el plano económico, no revelan los efectos que se producen en las comunidades que los sufren, y por esa razón sería de desear que en el futuro sean hechos con un criterio -lo digo con claridad- más humano.

La disminución de que hablamos en la participación del presupuesto de los programas de capacitación, especialmente en lo que se refiere al Programa de la Mujer, es otro de los aspectos negativos que nosotros podríamos anotar con relación a este examen que hacemos. Consideramos que es uno de los aspectos indispensables en el trabajo de la FAO, si es que aspiramos a hacer efectivo el desarrollo sostenido de que venimos hablando. Sin la participación de la mujer en el trabajo de sus comunidades, sin la capacidad de la mujer para que sea posible su integración al desarrollo en el medio rural, la FAO no podrá realizar a plenitud el trabajo a que está llamada, y que ha venido desempeñando tan eficientemente.

Otro punto, en el que queríamos hacer hincapié es en la posibilidad de que los reajustes que se han hecho en el Programa de Cooperación Técnica sean subsanados para el futuro, porque realmente éste es un programa que atiende las mayores necesidades de los Países Miembros y la cobertura que ha tenido ha sufrido, a consecuencia también de la disminución de los recursos que ha recibido la Organización.

Asimismo, hacemos notar las voces adversas al Programa de trabajo de campo. Nosotros consideramos que éste es un programa esencial para FAO, que el trabajo de campo es la base fundamental de todo el trabajo que puede realizar la FAO en beneficio de la asistencia técnica, puesto que es el primer paso para la obtención de la información directa in situ, a fin de que se puedan elaborar los programas de asistencia técnica. Uno de los oradores que me antecedió en el uso de la palabra hablaba de la posibilidad de revisar o de nombrar una especie de cuerpo externo que pudiera evaluar estos trabajos de campo. Yo pienso que tendría dos aspectos negativos: primero, contribuiría a aumentar los gastos de la Organización, que no puede cubrir ya los que tiene para el propio trabajo de campo. Un comité externo, tal como ha sido el Comité de Expertos que nos ha producido este examen costaría una cantidad agregada que disminuiría también los recursos de la FAO y, por otro lado, es muy difícil que las labores del trabajo de campo sean examinadas por elementos ajenos a la Organización, puesto que, de acuerdo con los datos de la FAO, son más o menos unos ciento cuarenta y cuatro programas los que actualmente tiene la FAO en trabajo de campo, lo que significaría un excesivo gasto en viajes, en traslados y además una multiplicidad en cuanto a la capacitación, porque cada uno de estos trabajos de campo implica una especialidad diferente. Por esa razón creo que no es viable la sugerencia que se hizo en esta discusión esta tarde con relación a este comité externo para estudiar los trabajos de campo.

El programa, en cuanto a la capacitación también de otros elementos, además de la mujer, para que puedan hacer más efectiva la labor de la FAO.

Y finalmente, quiero referirme a la necesidad de que todos los Miembros de la Organización puedan realmente cumplir con su deber de pagar oportunamente sus cuotas, a fin de que el inmediato presupuesto del bienio que se nos avecina pueda ser efectivo en mejores condiciones que el que actualmente examinamos,

Francisco ZAMARRIEGO CRESPO (España): Le felicito calurosamente por sus funciones así como a la Secretaría y al Sr. Shah por su presentación del tema.

A estas alturas del debate ya se han dicho muchas cosas y no es fácil no recaer en la redundancia.

El documento refleja mejoras sobre documentos anteriores similares y creemos que las agregaciones hechas en el Capítulo IV son muy oportunas.

Nuestra delegación lamenta que limitaciones financieras hayan obligado a reducir determinados programas, si bien estimamos que el trabajo realizado, en su conjunto, es plenamente satisfactorio. Hacemos votos, de todas formas, por que esas limitaciones financieras desaparezcan en el futuro y todos los países paguen regularmente sus cuotas. Entre las limitaciones, lamentamos especialmente la reducción en el Programa de Capacitación y en el apoyo para promover la función de la mujer en el desarrollo rural. A este respecto, nos remitimos a lo expresado en el documento C 89/LIM/17 en su punto 2.11 donde especifica las esferas más afectadas.

Esta tarde hemos oído al Presidente del Chad y del CILS su elocuente presentación sobre los problemas medioambientales.

La FAO ha desarrollado una valiosa contribución, especialmente desde mediados de 1970, pero creemos que este tipo de actividad debería ser incrementada en el futuro.

Muchos son los logros obtenidos, pero queremos resaltar especialmente lo avanzado en relación con los recursos fitogenéticos y la utilización de plaguicidas.

Existe un aspecto en el documento que creemos debería ser objeto de mayor análisis y clarificación en el futuro, y es en lo relacionado con las labores en apoyo al Programa de Campo y que se menciona en el documento. Es difícil cuantificar los recursos asignados a esta labor. La interrelación entre el Programa Ordinario y el Programa de Campo es evidente y por ello hay unas actividades que afectan a ambos y deben ser especialmente objeto de un mayor seguimiento.

El documento es rico como ya indicamos en la enumeración de objetivos cumplidos y cuyo cumplimiento no ha sido posible. Sin embargo, debería hacerse un esfuerzo suplementario en correlacionar esto con las asignaciones presupuestarias respectivas y el nivel de gastos efectuados.

Para terminar, deseamos expresar nuestro apoyo decidido al PCT y por ello nos alarma el descenso de proyectos aprobados en 1988 y el descenso de solicitudes, aunque en el párrafo 5.7 del documento, se atribuye al cierre del Programa ARPA.

Y.Y. AL-YOUSSEFI (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): It is a pleasure for me to congratulate you and your assistants on chairing this important Commission. I should like to wish you luck in managing this work in order to finish all the items on our Agenda on time. As to the Review of the Regular Programme, my delegation has a few observations to make in order to air the view of my country.

First, we should pay particular interest to strengthening the Development Support Programme and the Technical Cooperation Programme because we have noticed a decrease in its resources of 12.8 percent, although it is particularly important to improve the skills of developing countries in agricultural production. Secondly, we should improve the interest in the conservation of natural resources and the Global Information and Early Warning System. Thirdly, the delegation of my country has noticed that there has been a decrease in the number of trainees by 36 percent, compared to the 1986/87 financial period. Training in the field of agriculture in developing countries is an important element in agricultural developments in general. We should also pay more attention to the Code of Conduct on the use and distribution of pesticides.

Fifthly, we should also give support to the fight against the desert locust, especially in emergency situations, and to the need to pay specific attention to a rapid information exchange and the provision of specialized technicians and also to focus on the need to carry out preventive measures for locust invasions and to continue prevention throughout the year. Sixthly, there is the need to pay attention to agricultural expansion and to the development of human resources, together with the marketing of agricultural produce, as an incentive for farmers to continue to work in agriculture and improve themselves, especially those in the developing world. Seventhly, we should pay attention particularly to the provision of technical support and information on fisheries, as well as paying more attention to aquaculture. We feel in Kuwait that this is particularly important. We should carry out development efforts for shrimp production. We were particularly pleased to find that interest has focused on the design of a small fishing boat.

Regarding forestry and the conservation of the environment and of natural resources, we feel that these activities should be strengthened either by increasing attention to them or by planting trees and forests and putting an end to those activities which lead to the destruction of forests and to desertification. As was said by the Representative of my own country in his statement last night, we pay particular attention to desertification due to the desert nature of Kuwait and because of the difficult climatic conditions there. We hope that all the countries will be able to pay their contributions in time.

Salim SARRAF (Liban) (langue originale Arabe): Je souhaite vous féliciter chaleureusement pour votre élection à la tête de cette commission. Je suis persuadé que votre compétence et que votre maîtrise du débat nous seront précieuses pour aboutir à l'accord général. J'aimerais également féliciter les deux Vice-Présidents à l'occasion de leur élection ce matin. Après avoir étudié le document qui nous est soumis, la délégation libanaise apporte au débat les points suivants.

Premièrement, nous ne prétendons pas commenter dans le détail les divers points contenus dans ce document qui sont aussi nombreux que primordiaux. Nous nous contenterons donc de marquer notre totale satisfaction et notre soutien à ce document ainsi que les propositions y figurant, dans le but d'améliorer l'action de l'Organisation. Il s'agit des améliorations du fond et de la présentation qui ont été qualifiées, je cite là une délégation, "d'uniques" dans leur portée, dans leur globalité et leur précision. Tout cela est tout à fait appréciable. Nous aussi, soit dit en passant, nous apprécions ces innovations et nous en félicitons le Secrétariat. Ce que nous estimons inopportun, ce sont les critiques persistantes, chroniques, dirais-je, dans la quête de je ne sais quelle perfection, ou de quête impossible. Ce sont des reproches tout à fait marginaux en comparaison des réalisations concrètes et de la portée de ces mêmes réalisations.

Deuxièmement, nous engageons donc tous les Etats Membres à s'acquitter de leur entier appui matériel et moral afin de rendre l'Organisation capable de s'acquitter des tâches qui sont les siennes, d'autant plus que nous avons remarqué des réductions nettes d'activités majeures traditionnelles de la FAO telle la formation, entre autre.

Cette réduction a été imputée au retard de certains Etats Membres dans le versement de leurs contributions annuelles, ce qui s'est reflété négativement sur les activités primordiales de la FAO.

Troisièmement, nous estimons qu'il est nécessaire que l'Organisation participe à la mise au point de politiques et de planifications d'ajustement structurel en amont avec les agences financières pour que les prestations soient intégrées et, partant, plus efficaces. Je relève que la FAO est consciente de ce problème et je vous renvoie au paragraphe 87 du document.

J'en appelle aux autres organisations concernées par ce domaine d'être en phase avec cette approche.

Quatrièmement, il est bon d'insister sur les avantages que tirent les Etats Membres - et plus particulièrement les pays en voie de développement - des activités du PCT, qui d'ailleurs n'a plus à montrer son efficacité ni les avantages qu'il offre. Il n'en est nul besoin.

En effet, les pays en développement y trouvent un soutien véritable et disponible pour leur développement et leur modernisation. Aussi bénéficient-ils de la popularité qui est la sienne, ce qui nous incite à nous y attacher et nous efforcer de le promouvoir dans l'avenir.

ABU BAKAR MAHMUD (Malaysia) : Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. I will be very brief in deference to your instruction and I am confident through your wise guidance the Commission will be able to discharge its duties and responsibilities in a most efficient manner. May I also take the opportunity, Sir, of thanking the Secretariat for preparing a very comprehensive and informative Review document, C 89/8. The clear presentation given by Mr Shah of the Review provides for a complete understanding of the contents of the document.

My delegation has studied the document C 89/8 and found that the contents reflect a balanced picture of the Programme and activities prepared and undertaken for the biennium 1988-89 and I would like to compliment the FAO on having executed such a vast range of programmes for the benefit of Member

States, particularly developing ones. Despite the prevailing financial constraints the FAO has honoured its commitments in the interests of Member States which urgently require the Organization's expert advice and assistance.

Briefly, Sir, I would like to express my delegation's support for all FAO programmes, specifically FAO Regular Programme especially the following; the work on planned genetic resources, seed improvement and development programmes, or SIDP, plant protection, particularly that concerning the Code of Conduct on distribution and use of pesticides, biotechnology in the livestock sector, development of support communication and integration of women in development.

Lastly, Sir, I noticed the effects of Programme reduction are mentioned in respect of all programmes, presumably because of financial constraints and/or cancellation of vital FAO activities for the same reason. I think it is fair at this stage that Member States should honour their obligations to assist the FAO to correct this adverse financial situation.

Hideki ITO (Japan): Yesterday I noticed that the Chairman of the Conference asked us at the Plenary to refrain from congratulating him in the statements to save time. With high respect to you, Mr Chairman, I would like to obey Mr Kerin's advice since I believe this can be a step forward, though small, toward making the procedure of the Conference more efficient.

My delegation would like to present in this intervention our general view on this very well prepared document. FAO's Regular Programme activities range from technical assistance such as training, research, the collecting and disseminating of information and analysis, etc. In order to make such wide activities most effective in solving problems regarding the food and agricultural situation, it is vitally important to review their implementation and results periodically. This review process would also help in this Organization to implement its activities as effectively as possible within the limited resources available.

I would like to make comments on the first part of document C 89/8 which deals with the results of the FAO's main activities in general. I wish to congratulate the Organization on the improvement of contents and the useful information provided. However, regarding its publication activities I am concerned that they are not given enough financial priority. My delegation believes publication activities is one of the main aspects of FAO's role.

As to Chapter Three entitled Forestry, my delegation highly appreciates the accelerated formulation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. I would like to refer to my country's participation in TFAP. My Government has contributed US\$ 390 000 a year to the national TFAP mission projects in 1988 and 1989 and actively participated in the missions to Cameroon, Panama and Tanzania, and in the round tables held in Honduras, Argentina and Peru. Furthermore, in 1988 a TFAP advisory meeting was held in Tokyo for the first time in Asia. My country is determined to continue to assist FAO in this programme.

With regard to Chapter Five entitled Technical Cooperation and Development Support, the issue of TCP is one of the topics most frequently raised by many delegations both in this Committee and also in the Plenary. It is really regrettable that the information provided in the Chapter on this important issue is rather scanty, as was pointed out by several delegations before me.

We would like to know, for example, what projects are being carried out through TCP and what are the achievements. Lacking this kind of basic information on the whole picture it is very hard to make any sound judgement on the issue. My delegation hopes that the Secretariat will provide us with sufficient information in its future documents.

With regard to Part Two of the document C 89/8, we would like to give our view on Chapters Seven and Eight briefly. With reference to Chapter Seven entitled Food and Agricultural Industries, my country stresses the importance of the promotion of agro-industries such as processing of crops in local areas and the introduction of biotechnology with a view to promoting employment, improving nutrition, improving trade balances of developing countries and ensuring food security. We fully support the FAQ's efforts made in this area and hope FAO will continue to play an important role and cooperate efficiently with other international organizations such as UNIDO.

At present, my Government is also carrying out economic cooperation for the agro-industry development in developing countries through bilateral channels such as technical cooperation and grants.

As for Chapter Eight entitled Situation and Outlook, in my country FAO publications such as The State of Food and Agriculture, The Commodity Review and Outlook and others are translated into Japanese and are utilized very widely. It would be more useful if these documents, covering a very wide range of agricultural crops, be published more promptly and timely. Finally, I would like to hope for the Secretariat's continued efforts in this Regular Programme Review and its further improvement.

Garry SOARES DE LIMA (Brazil): Let me first express the satisfaction of the Brazilian delegation to see you chairing this meeting. I would also like to congratulate Mr Shah for his clear and comprehensive presentation on introducing the subject under discussion.

Due to constraints of time, instead of making general remarks about document C 89/8 my delegation prefers to express its full support to the previous statements on this matter made by the delegations of Argentina, Mexico, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. Nevertheless, I would like to make some specific comments dealt with in Chapter Five of the document concerning the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme. Brazil attaches great importance to FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme as it has been mentioned on many occasions by my delegation and we think it must be strengthened and expanded.

We agree that these activities must be implemented at the request and in accordance with the Member Governments' priorities and in conjunction with those government authorities so as to avoid duplication with other cooperation programmes. In this sense we consider that strong coordination must exist between FAO's cooperation programmes and the ones implemented by other multilateral organizations. This coordination becomes even more important now that we, from the developing world, are facing difficulties resulting from budget constraints and the scarcity of resources for multilateral technical cooperation activities. Another coordination aiming at, among other things, a rational utilization of resources would benefit all parties involved in this process.

Although TCP was created as a mechanism to provide quick answers to specific and/or emergency situations, in my delegation's opinion this characteristic would not be affected if a kind of planning process could be established in order to give government authorities a more effective instrument in support of each country's developing needs. I believe that similar remarks were made this morning by the distinguished delegate of Norway supported by the United Kingdom and we would be glad if the Secretariat would give due attention to the concerns expressed on the matter. We think that a well planned TCP process, together with the standardization of the project procedures and documents, would give greater impact to a country's development efforts and could also encourage other countries to make additional voluntary contributions for its implementation.

We also think that the Field Office should be strengthened in order to expedite and provide more efficiency and effectiveness to a project's approval and implementation process. However, these processes should also be accompanied by the strengthening of the coordination that must exist within government authorities in this area. It will be of little use for governments to have a strong FAO Field Office acting in parallel to its directives and priorities for technical cooperation. If Field Offices are strengthened and cooperation with governments could be met, TCP and other FAO activities would benefit from it. It would also help the implementation of government executed projects since the conditions would have been settled for a smooth interaction between FAO and local governments. In this way the Organization could play in a more efficient way, one of its major roles, that is, to provide technical assistance to member countries.

Dragoljub DIMITRIJEVIC (Yugoslavia): Allow me to express, on behalf of the Yugoslav delegation, our congratulations for your election to the chairmanship of the Commission.

The Yugoslav delegation supports the proposal of the Regular Programme 1988-89, aware of the fact that the implementation of the Programme of Work adopted at the previous Conference was greatly aggravated, primarily, due to the financial crisis which was the result of the delayed payment of contributions to FAO by the major contributors.

In spite of the financial crisis the realization of the Regular Programme was very successful. Although some activities were suspended or postponed by the austerity plan, although many vacated jobs remained so and the number of administrative workers was reduced to a level which seriously threatened the normal functioning of the Organization, the Regular Programme was successful in effectively implementing the set strategy, objectives and priorities arising from the needs of the member countries.

Giving careful consideration, before all, to the substantial programmes, the programmes on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, it is evident that the selected priorities were consistently observed. Unfortunately, the effects of the financial crisis were left in a number of fields, for instance the training of agricultural personnel, where the number of those who attended training courses decreased by 36 percent as compared to the period 86-87. Similar effects were registered even in the implementation of the most important activities, such as the undertaking for plant genetic resources, assessment of economic losses due to the soil erosion, etc. Regardless of that, the fact that up to March 1989, 87 countries joined the International

Undertaking for Plant Genetic Resources and 24 countries are ready to put at the disposal of the international community collections of germ plasm is encouraging. I would like to point out that Yugoslavia has joined the International undertaking for Plant Genetic Resources this year.

Likewise, the development of the central geographical information system is continued, and guidelines have been issued on the planning of soil utilization, etc. In the field of animal husbandry, biotechnology is a new field of activity. In other fields as well, for example, in research and technological development, rural development, nutrition, much has been achieved. Of particular importance is the initiation of the concept of the World Agricultural Information System as well as the continued activities on the World Agricultural Census in 1990.

The situation is similar in the field of fisheries. Although activities on the follow-up and implementation of five action programmes have been continued, the financial crisis resulted in the cutting down of many activities. Accordingly, 24 sessions and meetings scheduled for 1987 were postponed for the period 88-89.

Programmes in forestry were in a similar position, although in spite of the crisis many programmes were successfully continued, before all the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, and programmes on forest resources, and the environment, forest industry and trade, investment and institutions in forestry, etc.

Although all these cuts did not result in substantial modifications of the Organization's programmes, the overall downward trend was evident in the decrease of the total number of activities.

At the same time a number of technical and organization innovations was introduced.

The Yugoslav delegation fully supports the establishment of the World Agricultural Information Centre, Tropical Forestry Action Plan, expansion of activities for the inclusion of environmental protection measures in agricultural policies and technologies, actions of direct technical and financial assistance to developing countries through programmes of technical cooperation and other FAO activities.

On behalf of the delegation I wish to underline the quality of two specially elaborated fields : firstly, Review of FAO policies and support to member countries and secondly, conservation and improvement of the environment and the inclusion of these issues into FAO programmes.

In conclusion, I should like to give credit once again to the Organization for the comprehensiveness and analytic quality of the prepared Review.

Alberto DE CATERINA (Italy): The Italian delegation hopes that you consider our congratulations to you and the Bureau as implicit. We wish also to assure you of our full cooperation for the successful completion of the work of this commiission. We are also grateful to Mr Shah for his brief but exhaustive presentation. Under Item 12 we have under our eyes the document prepared by the Secretariat for the sixth Review of FAO's Regular Programme. It is now ten years since 1979, since this kind of document has been introduced and

obviously its format and context have steadily improved, gaining experience from their impact with both Council and Conference. We think that this year also the Secretariat has performed a good job, notwithstanding the difficulties that all of us know very well.

In Part One of the C 89/8 document my delegation was particularly interested in examining Chapter Four, which has been introduced this year to present together all the performance data base related to the activities of the three technical FAO Major Programmes. As it is well-known FAO is an animal with three legs: agriculture, fisheries, forestry. This chapter Which contains data referring to the last three biennia is and will be, I am sure, a very useful tool for member countries. It will render this document useful also in the years to come since it gives us a good point of reference.

Another chapter which attracted the attention of our delegation is number twelve in Part Three. We share the importance of the increasing role of FAO in supporting member countries for conservation and amelioration of the natural environment. We are also convinced that the introduction of environmental considerations into FAO projects and programmes is of utmost and paramount importance.

In view of the late hour I will limit myself to these two main observations for the sake of brevity and also not to repeat what many other delegations have already said in a very adequate manner.

Tommie SJOBERG (Sweden): I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Commission and I would like to congratulate the two Vice-Chairmen on their elections.

At the outset I would like to commend the Secretariat for document C 89/8. The document is descriptive and provides good information of on-going activities of the Regular Programme. The format and structure of the document deserves appreciation. The Summary is comprehensive with extensive references to the following chapters and paragraphs which make the document easy to read.

However, when reading the document I agree with the Director-General that there is scope for further improvement of the evaluation processes, including the Review of the Regular Programme, especially as to evaluation as a management tool for feedback into future programmes and operations and as a means for the Member States to consider future activities.

To attain this, the results of the Review now presented might, in the opinion of the Swedish delegation, have led to more clear-cut conclusions as to future policy. Likewise we would have liked to see more explicit accounts for the progress and achievements of the Major Programmes - Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. This would have made it easier for us to make the correct assessment of the need for future actions.

As is said in the document, the Review highlights the effects of the financial crisis on programme implementation. The approved programme for 1988-89 has not been implemented fully due to a lack of resources. Many important activities have been cancelled or postponed during the biennium. Important and even unique publications have been deferred or suspended. The list of the results of budgetary shortfalls in executing the planned

activities is comprehensive. Thus, some tough decisions have been made by the Secretariat. However, the Director-General has not informed the Member States according to which criteria or priorities these decisions have been made. There is a need for clarification on this.

In recent years, Sweden has advocated the need for FAO to strengthen the priority function of the Organization in collecting, analysing, interpreting and disseminating information on food and agriculture. FAO has an important role as an international centre of information in the field of its competence. Chapter Eight gives many examples of the effects and impact of the information disseminated by FAD. Swedish authorities attach great importance to this kind of information. Further elaborated, it might be useful in the international machinery.

The Swedish delegation has read Chapters Eleven and Twelve with great interest. In our opinion the lessons which have emerged from FAO experience in policy and planning, which are accounted for in paragraphs 11.123-11.124, might form the basis of further strengthening this priority function.

As to Chapter Twelve, we cannot see how and in what way environmental consideration has been integrated in different programmes as an overall objective. Furthermore, it is a weak explanation in paragraph 12.150 that the progress has been gradual due to the limited interest shown by donors in recipient countries. FAO has a control position as to environmental issues concerning agriculture and should therefore more accurately take initiatives and put forward proposals to decision-making bodies.

Finally, the Swedish delegation welcomes the proposed upgrading of the FAO Inter-Departmental Working Group which might enhance the inter-disciplinary approach and strengthen the coordination between the different FAO units as well as other UN agencies dealing with environmental activities.

Marcos NIETO LARA (Cuba): Permítame felicitarle, señor Presidente, por su elección, con la seguridad de que la conducción de estos debates nos van a traer momentos de trabajo muy útiles, pero también momentos de alegría por la contribución que todos sabemos que usted hará. Saludamos también a la Secretaría y, en particular al Sr. Shah, por la presentación excelente de este tema, cosa que es habitual.

El prólogo del Director General y el párrafo 1 del documento C 89/8 constituyen en sí una síntesis completamente válida para el análisis que nos proponemos en esta reunión. A pesar de los problemas de falta de liquidez y los problemas presupuestarios que viene acusando la Organización desde hace tres bienios, nos complace ver que la Secretaría ha introducido mejoras satisfactorias que merecen nuestro reconocimiento y apoyo, pero no vamos a extendernos en los asuntos financieros, que serán examinados en extenso en próximas sesiones de esta Comisión.

Nuestra delegación siempre ha venido apoyando y poniendo de relieve la importancia del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, y hoy, cuando examinamos este documento y los resultados concretos de este Programa, constatamos que las razones que tenía el Director General y todos aquellos países que de manera decisiva apoyaron firmemente la creación del PCT y su ulterior

reforzamiento se han visto coronadas con resultados satisfactorios. Nos complace mucho saber que el 75,9 por ciento se halla destinado a los programas principales y prioritarios y a la satisfacción de las necesidades de los Estados Miembros.

Por otra parte, observamos con satisfacción el apoyo que ha brindado el Programa Ordinario al Programa de Campo y cómo estos dos programas se van interrelacionando, contribuyendo a mejorar la eficacia de ambos, lo que se concreta en una mejor aplicación de la asistencia de la FAO a los Estados Miembros.

El examen particular del apoyo de la FAO en materia de política y planificación a los Estados Miembros y también el apoyo para la conservación y mejora del medio ambiente, constituyen una información extraordinariamente útil para todos ellos, y convendría que se ampliara en exámenes futuros. Merece destacarse el apoyo que brinda la FAO por intermedio del Plan de Acción Forestal en los Trópicos, y ello es una extraordinaria posibilidad para mejorar el medio ambiente mundial, con beneficio para todos sin excepción. Este Plan está siendo ya una realidad para poner remedio al deterioro creciente de nuestros recursos naturales y merece que su capacidad de gestión se aumente para cubrir las múltiples y diversas demandas y necesidades.

Es lamentable reconocer que la falta de liquidez afectó sensiblemente a todos los programas, pero más gravemente a la capacitación, según se consigna en el párrafo 3, y también en lo que hace al Programa de Incorporación de la Mujer al Desarrollo.

Señor Presidente, usted pidió brevedad y voy a concluir. Nuestra delegación apoya en toda su extensión el examen del Programa Ordinario, pero ciertamente es un examen del pasado. Creemos que el énfasis debemos ponerlo en el porvenir, cuando examinemos el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1990-91 y adoptar medidas para eliminar las lagunas y corregir las deficiencias ocurridas en 1988-89 por causas ajenas a la FAO.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Je tiens d'abord à vous féliciter de votre élection à la présidence de cette commission, commission très importante pour le résultat de la 25ème Conférence. Mes félicitations vont aussi aux deux Vice-Présidents. Je remercie Monsieur Shah, de son introduction dans le document C 89/8. Celui-ci est riche en détails. Il est descriptif mais il ne peut pas encore nous satisfaire pleinement. Il ne nous donne pas une indication claire sur les activités qui ont été un succès et celles qui sont restées sans impact notable. C'est donc assez difficile pour nous de tirer des conclusions claires pour le programme de travail proposé pour le biennium 1990-1991 sur la base des informations présentées dans le document.

Cependant le nouveau Chapitre 4 nous donne quelques informations quantitatives, et c'est un progrès que nous saluons. Mais là aussi les informations restent très limitées et ne permettent que des conclusions partielles. Aussi nous souhaiterions trouver dans le document une appréciation qualitative des résultats obtenus pour les activités décrites.

Nous sommes contents de trouver dans le Tableau 4,1 les dépenses du Programme ordinaire en 1988 dans le programme 2. Nous aimerions trouver également ces chiffres, ainsi que des estimations correspondantes pour 1989, dans le document sur le Programme de travail et budget car ils nous permettraient de voir quelle est la base de programme effective.

Comme ma délégation l'a déjà remarqué à plusieurs reprises, nous constatons qu'il y a pléthore d'activités relativement peu importantes et trop éparpillées. A notre avis nous devons trouver une meilleure concentration des activités. Je rappelle à ce sujet que les experts chargés des examens de la FAO ont fait des propositions qui vont dans le même sens. Nous trouvons dans le document dont la FAO dispose 73 bases de données informatisées. Nous les avons additionnées, on ne trouve pas le chiffre. Une certaine concentration de ces bases de données améliorerait la transparence dans ce domaine si vital de l'Organisation, et assurerait une meilleure comptabilité entre elles. Quand nous cherchons par exemple des chiffres de production dans différentes publications de la FAO nous trouvons souvent des chiffres contradictoires. Une meilleure concertation améliorerait la valeur de ces données pour l'utilisateur. J'aimerais également signaler qu'il existe encore des lacunes dans les statistiques socio-économiques au niveau des pays. Il est par exemple difficile de trouver le nombre des affamés par pays et leur part respective dans la population urbaine et rurale.

Nous espérons que le nouveau projet du centre mondial d'information agricole, appelé WAICENT en anglais, apportera des améliorations dans ce domaine. Nous considérons en effet que l'information est une base indispensable pour le travail d'analyse de la FAD.

Nous savons tous que la FAO a connu et connaît toujours une situation financière difficile. Elle a donc dû réduire certaines activités. Le document ne nous donne cependant pas une idée très claire de ce qu'ont été les critères pour ajuster tel programme plutôt qu'un autre.

Concernant la baisse des cours de formation, baisse qui est partiellement regrettable, nous constatons que la diminution du nombre des participants a été plus forte que celle du nombre des cours offerts, ce qui ne va pas dans le sens d'une utilisation plus efficace des ressources.

Finalement j'aimerais dire quelques mots au sujet des activités de soutien aux Etats Membres en matière de politique et de planification. Dans ces activités, l'élément qui nous intéresse le plus est l'assistance au niveau des pays. Nous en avons parlé dans notre déclaration générale et nous nous réjouissons que de nombreux pays en développement demandent un renforcement de ces activités. Nous aimerions encourager la FAO à augmenter massivement son action dans ce domaine. Il s'agit d'aider les pays à mieux se rendre compte dans quelle mesure leur politique favorise effectivement la réalisation des objectifs que nous nous sommes donnés tous dans le préambule de l'Acte constitutif de notre Organisation, à savoir l'élimination de la faim, de la malnutrition et de la pauvreté.

Je remercie en passant le Secrétariat d'avoir reproduit ces objectifs sur la page de couverture du document. Ce texte nous engage à porter un regard ouvert sur nos politiques et nos résultats en la matière. L'assistance aux pays dans l'analyse et les conseils en matière de politique agricole est une contribution très précieuse que la FAO est appelée à apporter aux décideurs politiques.

Dans ce contexte, nous considérons qu'il serait souhaitable de donner au PCT une orientation plus claire, par exemple en l'utilisant pour financer ce genre d'activités. Ceci permettrait aussi de renforcer les liens entre programme ordinaire et programme de terrain, et je me félicite des propositions très constructives du délégué du Brésil concernant une meilleure planification du PCT.

Finalement, comme le délégué de la France l'a rappelé ce matin, il faut que la FAO améliore nettement ses capacités dans le domaine de l'analyse et des conseils en matière de politique agricole si elle veut être à la hauteur de cette tâche si importante. Il s'agit aussi de chercher une coopération étroite avec le PNUD. Merci M. le Président.

Taghii SHIRVANIAN (Iran, Islamic Republic of): On behalf of my delegation I express my profound congratulations at seeing you in the chair and also extend my congratulations to Mr Shah, who brought us a clear statement of the subject.

The document before us contains a view of all the activités which have taken place during the last biennium 1988/89. My delegation is completely satisfied with the arrangement of priorities and other aspects of the report.

I think the last biennium experience could be a useful criteria for the future programmes. Because of the financial problems for the current biennium the programme contains cuts in some very needed items. With the reports made in the Council sessions and decisions taken on the financial dilemma, we expect more sophisticated programmes and implementation for the next biennium.

I guess the TCP programmes, which play a crucial role in the promotion of developing countries, should be enhanced and strengthened to the highest possible degree. The developing countries are badly in need of training and professional education but regrettably this important item has not attained sufficient priority.

The forests are getting destroyed extensively but forest rehabilitation and reafforestation are not sufficient to compensate for 11 million hectares of deforestation yearly, as mentioned by His Excellency, Mr Saouma, yesterday.

The desertification of 6 million hectares of arable land in the last two years is alarming to those responsible for world food and agriculture.

When assessing regional outstandings, priority should be allocated more logically. Political matters and internal conflicts within the country should not have any effect on those priorities.

Finally, as one of our colleagues mentioned this morning, my proposal is that the activities carried out by FAO - particularly those with higher investment and importance - should be quantitatively evaluated and the results considered and used for further improvements in the forthcoming programmes.

LE PRESIDENT: Avec cette intervention nous venons d'achever la liste des intervenants. Je dois avouer que je suis moi-même surpris de la vitesse avec laquelle vous avez pu intervenir, et grâce à cette vitesse nous avons pu terminer le travail pour ce soir.

Il est 19 heures, l'Australie n'était pas inscrite, je crois que je me suis avancé trop tôt. L'Australie demande la parole, nous lui cédon la parole.

Paul Richard BRYDEN (Australia): I hope I can let you continue to rejoice by being very brief. You will understand that I feel somewhat constrained to heed the views of the Chairman of the Conference regarding the issue of congratulations which are, of course, implicit if not stated.

Further, in view of the hour, and in deference to your request for brevity, I would ask your permission to incorporate my delegation's full statement directly into the verbatim records. At this point I would simply state that my delegation associates itself with the thrust of the remarks made by a number of delegations, in particular the United Kingdom, noting the interrelationship of the Regular and Field Programmes; the importance of priority setting and the need for systematic selectivity; evaluation, vital to the proper functioning of the Programme; the value of multi-disciplinary approach based on geographical structure; the importance of country analysis; and, finally, the importance of maintaining the quality of TFAP activities.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci beaucoup pour la brièveté. En tous cas votre intervention sera portée à notre procès-verbal.

Paul Richard BRYDEN (Australia): The report C 89/8 is comprehensive and well prepared in terms of providing a description of the work undertaken by the Organization during the 1988/89 biennium (to about mid-1989 as the Review was published around September 1989):

- it demonstrates the diverse and often complex nature of the work carried out by FAO within its mandate
- but it does not in many cases provide a clear assessment of performance of Programmes against their objectives or effectiveness and efficiency in implementation

..for instance there were numerous training and policy workshops held but little is said about their value or results. Also, from our reading there is very little evidence of programmes that are completing or of major shifts in programmes to reflect changes in priorities or re-evaluation of activities.

We appreciate that it is a very difficult task to compile a report which adequately assesses all the various and different activities within the Regular Programme of the Organization and we recognize the improvements that have been made in presentation of the document since it was first produced.

- the new Chapter 4 which provides the statistics on the activities of the Technical and Economic Programmes is useful and Part 3 of the report which assesses work by FAO with regard to Policy Planning and Support and Environmental Issues is a valuable aid to help members in discussing future priorities and objectives for FAO in these areas.

We are concerned at the effects that the current financial constraints facing the Organization have had on the implementation of the Regular Programme

- we would again urge all members with outstanding contributions to pay their obligations promptly to the Organization

- while noting the specific effects that the funding shortfall has had on implementing individual programmes, the review document does not explain the reasoning for deciding on which areas to be cut back. There appears to have been a general cutback in some areas and presumably in others an assessment was made against the priorities and objectives for the Programme

..this should be set out clearly for members' information.

Part 2 of the report describes in-depth reviews of four subprogrammes. We welcome such reviews but feel that more in-depth studies need to be done if members are to be able to make adequate and timely judgements about FAO's work. FAO says that they have covered 25 subprogrammes in depth over the six editions of the Review, a period of ten years

- this does not seem adequate when you consider that there are, for example, over 100 subprogrammes within the Technical and Economic Programmes Chapter of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91.

No doubt it could be argued that resource constraints prevent more reviews. It seems to us that where resources are limited the need for rigorous evaluations is that much more critical.

We would hope that the recommendations of the SJS Report on the Review of FAO as they relate to the Regular Programme will be endorsed by the Conference and implemented promptly to strengthen the operation of the Regular Programme and thereby improve the effectiveness and efficiency of FAD. /

The meeting rose at 19.00 hours

La séance est levée à 19 heures 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.00 horas

1 Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 89/II/PV/3

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

THIRD MEETING TROISIEME SEANCE TERCERA SESION (15 November 1989)

The Third Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission II/ presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45
sous la présidence de Joseph Tchicayaf Président de la Commission II

Se abre la tercera sesión a las 9.45 horas
bajo la presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II

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

- 12. Review of the Regular Programme 1988-89 (continued)
- 12. Examen du Programme ordinaire 1988-89 (suite)
- 12. Examen del Programa Ordinario, 1988-89 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Mesdames, Messieurs, bonjour!. J'espère que vous vous êtes bien reposés cette nuit, en tout cas, je pense que le Secrétariat a travaillé afin d'essayer de mettre au point les réponses qu'il doit nous fournir ce matin.

Comme vous le savez, hier nous avons terminé notre débat sur le point 12. Nous devons ce matin écouter les réponses du Secrétariat et ensuite nous pourrions conclure le débat sur cette question. Je vous signale, puisque tout de suite après nous aborderons le point sur le Programme de travail et budget, que quatre séances sont prévues à ce sujet et déjà celle de ce matin est entamée. Demain matin, également, la séance sera écourtée en raison de la visite chez le Pape au Vatican. Vous comprenez donc que le temps est court et lorsque nous aborderons ce point, je vous lancerai le même appel afin qu'il y ait beaucoup de concision dans les interventions que vous ferez sur ce sujet.

Je donne maintenant la parole à Monsieur Shah qui va apporter des réponses aux questions et aux observations que vous avez pu faire hier. Après Monsieur Shah, ce sera Monsieur Bonte-Friedheim qui, pourra également compléter ces réponses.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): It is, as usual no easy task to try and reply to a debate in Which 45 Member Nations spoke and spoke with some involvement and intensity of interventions but the Secretariat will try its best to reply to the questions raised. I would break up my replies into the two broad categories. First of all there are some issues on which comments were made and some of these comments called for a Secretariat reaction or merit a Secretariat reaction, and then there is a second category of interventions where specific questions were asked and those I deal with separately, and as you said, following me my colleague Mr Bonte-Friedheim also wishes to reply to a number of points made.

In the first category then let me start with the appreciation which was expressed to the document submitted to you. We are grateful to the Conference for the positive reaction that it has expressed as regards the document before you. I think almost every intervention of this subject noted that some improvement has been made and I am very very pleased and grateful on behalf of the Secretariat because at every discussion of the Review of the Regular Programme, despite satisfactions on the document then submitted to you, there have been requests for more analytical material, more progress to be made, efforts to be made, and I hope that any improvement that has been seen this time is also seen as evidence of the Secretariat's willingness to respond to these wishes and concerns and also ever to try and do better. So once again I

have taken very careful note of every comment made, every suggestion made and you may rest assured, and in particular the Member Nations which expressed these views may rest assured that we will take them very carefully into account in developing our next Review of the Regular Programme.

It has also been noted in the debate, and once again I think this was a part of the appreciation, that this document has no direct equivalent in other organizations in the UN system. I am glad that this comment was made by Member Nations because even though the Secretariat may think so I would not like to say it, it is not fair, it is not cricket as regards our sister agencies and our colleagues in other agencies but I refer to this comment because I hope that Member Nations who referred to this will also realize that when we, in FAD, try to make further improvements in the areas of evaluation, cost effectiveness analysis, we try also to gather on the experience of other agencies to support each other all to do the better work and quite frankly you will appreciate that it is not always easy to get progress in this area when other agencies do not have the same experience or have not embarked on the same course. Very briefly allow me to report to you, a senior colleague of mine recently went to an inter-agency meeting in which 22 UN agencies and the Joint Inspection Unit participated and it was held under the chairmanship of UNDP, which is an inter-agency working on group evaluation. I would refer to only two of the many subjects that were discussed there. One was on cost effectiveness analysis; we certainly wish to pursue our work in this area but the participants I was told were forced to conclude that this type of cost effectiveness analysis which is used mainly for capital investment projects has seen much less application in the case of technical cooperation projects and I would go further to say it has seen even less application in view of the devaluation of the regular normal programme type of activities. This is not an excuse, this is not an excuse I repeat, but I just want to show you some of the difficulties that are encountered and let us face up to them.

The other aspect that was discussed at great length was the evaluation of feedback from evaluation because we have always maintained in this Secretariat that the lessons of evaluation must not only be noted but must be learned, must be feedback and it is a very complex process, as those who have referred to it realize. Here again quite frankly in this inter-agency meeting which took place there was an interesting discussion but no agency representative expressed full satisfaction about the feedback from the evaluation exercises. Now I am sharing those comments with you very honestly. Let it not be said that there is only wrong in the UN system. I hope it will be seen that the fact that we recognize some of these problems testifies to the efforts we make and are determined to make to face up to these issues and try to resolve them.

There was a great deal of comment about the effects of financial constraints and a great deal of regret was expressed. The Secretariat in serving its Member Nations can only share this regret. We are the first ones to be disappointed that all the activities of the programmes which have been provided for in the approved Programme of Work and Budget could not be carried out and I have taken note with great care of those particular areas where Member Nations have expressed their disappointment and their regret in particular as regards the decrease in training activities. But I hope it will be realized that this process of programme adjustments was not entirely haphazard. We surely recall that it was the last Conference which in its wisdom saw the eventual need for these adjustments and adopted its Resolution 20/87 on the justification for the approved Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89. That resolution provided for the Programme and Finance

Committees to be consulted as soon as possible when the need for adjustments was apparent and the Committees were indeed consulted. The results of their considerations were then reported to the Council at its session in November 1988. One specific question that was raised was whether there were any guiding principles behind the Programmes, the activities, which were identified as having to be dropped or be postponed. The Programme Committee at its 54th session in May 1988 went into specific examination of all these points. The document which was submitted to the Programme Committee incorporated not only information on the overall saving target and the identification of effective savings, but also on the guiding principles and since there has been some reference to whether there were guiding principles let me briefly recall them. In his approach to identifying possible savings the Director-General was guided by his concern to safeguard in particular FAO's direct field action through provision of adequate backstopping of field activities and sufficient involvement in the programming of new field programmes and projects in cooperation with funding sources in recipient countries and maintaining the Technical Cooperation Programme at its approved level; ensuring the statutory requirements such as the main inter-governmental meetings and the completion of the major studies as mandated by FAO's governing bodies; FAO's role as global watch for food and agricultural matters through the Global Information Early Warning System, through the Emergency Centre for Locust Populations and recurrent assessments such as the State of Food and Agriculture.

The new priorities are identified in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1988-89, such as biotechnology applications, planned major system enhancements, both on the administrative side for financial and personal assistance and on the technical side. The Programme Committee fully endorses these guiding principles. These were reported to the Council in November 1988 and the Council agreed with them. There was also a great deal of discussion in that Council in November 1988 on the matter in which the programme adjustments were made and in particular how cuts, how economies, could only be made starting with posts which were vacant or which would fall vacant or could become vacant, relating it to non-staff resources, examining the effects on programmes and continuing this on an iterative process. It was not a simple process but it was fully explained to our governing bodies.

A number of delegations expressed their support for evaluation, and if I am correct, there was one statement which said, or said to the effect, that this Review of the Regular Programme does not represent evaluation. Let me correct, if I may, at least what I said in my introduction to this item. I said that Part One, performance report, of this document, does not pretend to be an evaluation. It does not because it is a straightforward reporting of what was done and not done, but the rest of the document is based on our evaluation work and other parts of this document and other chapters of this document I hope fully attest to this.

There are two other aspects that I would mention. First, when we are dealing with the Regular Programme of this Organization it is not a case of dealing with a project which has a two-year lifespan.

We are dealing with programme objectives, we are dealing with programme activities, which have a validity, a timespan, beyond the biennium for which provision is made in a specific Programme of Work and Budget. Therefore - and this is my second point - in looking at the evaluation of the Regular Programme I would urge Member Nations to bear in mind not only the evaluation which appears before you in one Review of the Regular Programme but in the

whole series of them that have been submitted to you, and going over these documents over a timespan I think you will find that there is a continual progression of evaluation of different programmes and different programme areas.

In view of the interest in evaluation, and particularly evaluation involving outside participation, or independent expertise, I am very happy to indicate that the Director-General has instructed us to carry out an independent external review of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, and this is being done with independent external expertise and in full collaboration with the other Organizations who are involved with us in this matter, notably the World Bank and UNDP. We are also aiming to carry this out fairly expeditiously so that the results of this evaluation can be submitted to the Committee on Forestry at its next session in June of next year.

The relationship between the Regular Programme and the Field Programme has been emphasized by us in the Secretariat and has found a ready response in many interventions which were made. This I think only serves once again to show the links between the Regular Programme and the Field Programme, the roles which are complementary, and no matter what basis of view there may be for the perceptions of individual Member Nations as to the importance of one role as against that of another for the community of Member Nations these roles are important and are interlinked. The results of evaluation work in this area which is done by the evaluation surveys are not limited to the Review of the Regular Programme.

When you get to examine the Review of the Field Programme you will find that there is a great deal which is contributed by the Evaluation Service, the synthesis of evaluation reports on field projects during 1987/88, the absorptive capacity and institutional problems relating to field activities in the least developed countries and the review of the ARPA, the Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme in Africa.

Talking of the Field Programme, a lot of interest has been expressed in receiving more information on the TCP, the Technical Cooperation Programme, in further reviews. This will be done. We will provide in further editions of this Review of the Regular Programme more information of the kind that has been desired. En passant, let me say that we always have to bear in mind that the TCP forms part of the Regular Budget, so we have to mention it under the Review of the Regular Programme, but it is essentially field activities, so we have to mention it also in the Review of the Field Programme, and the evaluation of the ARPA programme is given in the Review of the Field Programme. I only give this as an instance of the link. But the point remains that in future we will give you more information of the kind in which interest has been expressed.

Turning now to some specific questions, the delegate of Norway enquired if, as regards the distribution of policy analysis and policy projects, which is given in the table on Page 204 of the document, Policy and Planning Projects by Region and Source of Funds, whether this reflected the governments' requests or the Secretariat's own priority. My answer is that this distribution does represent the actual requests received which we were able to handle.

Mr Chairman, on the subject of policy analysis and policy advice, while taking note of the comments which were made I request your indulgence not to make too many specific comments now, because this is a subject which comes up again under the Programme of Work and Budget, which comes up again under the

item of the FAO Review, and although I have taken note of the comments made I feel in the interest of your time and in the interests of giving you the maximum clarification on our side perhaps it would be more helpful if I dealt with these matters as they came up in the course of your later discussions.

There was a request from the delegate of France about greater attention to be paid to socio-economic issues in fisheries. This aspect is indeed discussed on the Committee on Fisheries and is considered also in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. In addition, my colleague Dr Lindquist informs me that several regional FAO Fisheries bodies had included this aspect in their work and also established some subsidiary bodies for that purpose, so I trust the matter will receive the due consideration it deserves.

The delegate of the United States of America enquired about the pace of development of WAICENT, the World Agricultural Information Centre. In fact, another delegate, the delegate of Switzerland, also referred to WAICENT and to the number of data bases which are reported in the document. The report is precisely that one of WAICENT's basic aims is to coordinate and improve the relationship between the various data bases so that they are firstly improved data, more consistent data to all Member Nations and to other nations.

As regards the pace of the development of WAICENT, there is an interdepartmental working group which was established to deal with this and monitor it and it set up a time schedule on activities and in several respects I can assure you that we are even ahead of this time schedule. But the preparatory work, and in essence at this stage it is preparatory work, a lot of Secretariat work, has not given the sort of results which we are ready to report to you.

The relationship between WAICENT and nutrition country profiles has also been referred to and there was a specific question about the relationship between the two. All the nutrition country profiles will eventually be available as part of WAICENT data for direct access by users of the international computing networks. The preparation of programmes to effect this on-line availability is in process and meanwhile all the nutrition country profiles are available in final form, in the form of either hard copy or an IBM compatible diskette or can even be transmitted by electronic mail to the most convenient fax account.

Since Mr Bonte-Friedheim is going to deal with some of the other issues, I would like to stop here, once again thanking your commission for the debate that you have had and trusting that these replies, while brief, will give Member Nations enough assurance of the way the Secretariat is attentive to their views and comments.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I would like to add four points to what Mr Shah has said this morning, two of my points being general explanations of some issues which have come up during the debate on the Review of the Regular Programme, which are likely to come up when we talk about the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, when we talk about the Review of the Field Programme and when we talk about the Review. These two aspects deal (1) with sustainability and (2) with small farms. Then I will answer two specific questions.

I would like to start with sustainable development. In last week's Council Session I made a statement defending the farmers' action, which basically and on purpose will be sustainable unless they are forced or they are not knowledgeable about other action, and I have talked about FAO, which is an Organization in its mandate having one of the priorities sustainable development.

I have said that maybe our action has not been visible enough and I can report to Conference that this morning you will find outside a small publication, a bibliography, with the title "Sustainable Development and Environment: Selected FAO Publications", which has been prepared for this Conference meeting. In the Foreword the Director-General says:

"Throughout its history FAO has been active in the promotion of sustainable development and sound environmental management. Our programme has evolved over the years to address environmental problems in both developed and developing countries arising from growing population pressures or caused by agricultural practices.

"The central objectives of FAO's programme are prevention rather than cure, and on increasing food and agricultural production without degrading the environment. These objectives are pursued in a number of ways, including technical publications that are not widely available in bookshops but are well used in the field. This booklet provides a selected list of our major publications since 1980 related to sustainable development and environment to illustrate the depth and breadth of our efforts to achieve these objectives. "

That is signed by the Director-General. This list, by the way, comprises 165 major publications - and, I would like to repeat, major - since during the past ten years FAO has produced more than 5 000 publications and documents on issues directly related to sustainable development and environment.

In order to satisfy those delegates who would like to know a little bit more about what FAO has been doing, our library is preparing a computer output microfiche which contains 2 400 documents produced since 1986. It will be available to all delegates on request. They can either take it away or they can also read it in the library because we will have put up a microfiche reader in the library for consultation of this microfiche. In addition, of course, you can also search the FAO library database and the world-wide AGRIS-database through the terminals available in the library. All delegates are most welcome to benefit from these facilities.

We have said on a number of occasions that for FAO the big umbrella is sustainable development where environment, a very important subject, is one of the important sub-items under sustainable development. The question has been asked whether FAO is doing enough here, and the answer is no. Are we ever going to do enough? No. Can we do more? Yes, if we have either additional resources or if somebody else tells us what other things we should not do. I would like to repeat that there is not a single major programme in the Department of Agriculture where sustainable development is not part and parcel of it.

I have reported to Council that we have set up a working group on sustainability as a sub-group of the Inter-Departmental Working Group on Environment and Energy. We have also as a first step developed criteria for checking all major field projects on environmental assessment. We held the first staff meeting to train staff in October of this year. We are working closely with UNEP and other agencies in order (a) to make our interests known to them; and (b) to have the benefit of their own experience.

Also, as I have said in Council on many occasions, the Director-General and the Secretariat have appealed to the members in our governing bodies and other interested parties to make available extra budgetary resources to strengthen our activities, especially in environment, and I reported to Council that unfortunately response so far has been very, very limited.

A specific question stemming from this has been asked by the distinguished delegate of Norway, and that is whether it really is only 3 percent, and if it is 3 percent as reported in the document that is much too little. I would like to refer to paragraph 12.9 on page 228 of document C 89/8, the Review of the Regular Programme, where it clearly indicates that a large number of FAO's activities are not reported in this chapter, and also a considerable share of our Regular Programme activities - which are not directly linked to the support of Member Governments' activities - are not reported.

Finally, I must confess that it is very difficult in 1989 to try and go through 1984, 1985, 1986 and 1987 to find out exactly what we did with regard to support of Member Countries in terms of conservation and amelioration of the natural environment.

The final point is that it is also very difficult at the beginning of 1989, not knowing what resources we will have, to talk about what we will or will not have done in 1989.

The next specific question which was asked was from the distinguished delegate of the United States. The delegate seemed to imply that with regard to bio-diversity FAO works together only with UNEP. There exists an eco-system conservation group to which UNEP, UNESCO, IUCN and FAO contribute. They are the ones which are preparing and doing the groundwork for a draft International Convention on Biological Diversity. The next Extraordinary Session of this Group will be hosted by the FAO in the first quarter of next year.

My final explanation - as I said, in order to clarify future discussion on this point - has to do with the decreasing size of projects and the criticism about the large numbers of small projects. I have difficulty with such statements. Five, six and seven years ago a typical FAO project to start production on vaccines in a country would consist of three experts for three years, a bit of equipment which was not available in the country, and that project would cost US\$ 1 million. It was a large project. Due to the success of having national expertise available, we might still look at US\$ 100 000 of equipment because it is not available in the country, three national experts and maybe a consultant, and the total cost would be US\$ 200 000. That is a small project according to some. You cannot have it both ways. One cannot be glad about a development which allows the national government to implement more and more of its own programmes and at the same time say that the size of the projects that FAO implements is going down. I would like to repeat that I have no idea about the changing size of projects which are government projects. In the FAO we call them projects because we do not have a better name. It is a specific, small part of a government project, and I agree that

that part has gone down. It has gone down; it has to go down; and hopefully it will go further down. I also do not understand why everyone tells us that the NSOs with their smaller projects are beautiful. Small to them is beautiful and we should learn from the NGOs. When we say we have smaller projects and we are in a way pleased about it, we are criticized and told that they should be larger. In the report of the experts it recommends fewer but better funded projects. I do not know what that means and I have argued with the experts and the joint committee. Better funded means that they are not sufficiently funded. Or does it mean larger? What does "better funded" mean? In my personal view, it is the next step in having less and less technical assistance. The next step must be smaller and smaller projects and the third step must be no projects.

There is one other point which I would like to make in this respect. The major difference between the large projects and what you call the small projects is as follows. In a US\$1 million project six years ago, FAO received 13 percent for agency cost, which was US\$ 130 000, to do its work which is assistance to the government in the formulation of the project in the evaluation of the equipment, in recruiting, in backstopping and in the preparation of reports. For all this we received US\$ 130 000. Present projects cost, say, US\$ 200 000. We accept that on recruitment of nationals very little has changed. We still assist in the preparation of the project documents. We still prepare a work plan, together with the government. We still do the backstopping. We still assist in the preparation of the final report. On this US\$ 200 000 project FAO's income is US\$ 26 000. That is one of the problems we have with backstopping, that we do not have enough money.

I would like to make this quite clear because if we do not have an understanding of the development from large to small projects we will take it up again in the next three issues which are in front of us: the review of the Field Programme; the review process; and also the Programme of Work and Budget for the next Biennium. Due to this cutting down on the agency cost income, we have to use more of our own funds to backstop the field project. There is no other way I know of. Or we include much more in the project document, and all donors accept that much more of the cost to the Organization is part and parcel of the project document than we have had up to now.

I am sorry I have been a little longer than I would have liked, but I thought

I should explain this.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Bonte-Friedheim, je crois que c'était nécessaire. Cela a peut-être permis à l'ensemble des délégués d'être suffisamment informés. Y a-t-il des questions qui ont été omises et sur lesquelles vous aimeriez obtenir des renseignements?

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola): Je voudrais rappeler qu'hier Madame la déléguée de l'Algérie avait posé une question à laquelle nous n'avons pas reçu de réponse. C'était la question sur l'effet négatif de l'Afrique du Sud au niveau de l'Afrique australe et les territoires arabes occupés par Israël. Il y a deux ans de cela une étude avait été approuvée par la Conférence sur

ces deux régions. Alors nous désirions savoir ce qui a été fait et quelle est la décision qui a été prise puisque cette étude ne figure pas dans le Programme ordinaire ni dans le Programme de travail et budget pour 1990-91. Nous voudrions avoir satisfaction de la part du Secrétariat.

Raymond ALLEN (United Kingdom) : I do not want to waste the time of this Commission given that we have a very busy agenda before us and we have a very important item coming up next, namely the Programme of Work and Budget, but there are one or two points of clarification which, if acceptable to the Secretariat, I could take up after the meeting.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Mon pays a parlé du nombre pléthorique d'activités et du besoin de les réduire pour les renforcer. Il me semble que les réponses de M. Bonte-Friedheim visaient ces remarques. J'aimerais brièvement faire un certain nombre de commentaires.

Nous ne sommes pas du tout contre les petits projets. Si le même projet peut être effectué avec un cinquième des ressources, nous félicitons la FAO de cette amélioration et de cette efficacité. Cela va dans le bon sens. Ce que nous avons visé, c'était le nombre d'activités. Je n'ai pas parlé de projets mais du nombre des activités. Nous pensons que l'offre de la FAO est trop dispersée et qu'elle mérite d'être réduite. Quand M. Bonte-Friedheim a parlé des activités et des publications dans le domaine de l'environnement, je dois dire que j'ai été effrayé. Cinq mille publications sur l'environnement, cela permet plus ou moins de couvrir un délégué sous une avalanche de documents. Il y en a donc un peu trop. Faut-il vraiment avoir lu les 5 000 documents pour avoir une compréhension des problèmes de l'environnement? Je ne les ai pas tous lus et je ne les lirai jamais.

Il y a peut-être là la nécessité de préciser que de telles études et de tels documents ne devraient pas être regardés pour les décisions mais qu'ils relèvent seulement de la question technique d'envergure très limitée. En tout cas, pour nous le nombre lui-même ne représente pas la qualité. Il est mieux parfois d'avoir moins de documents pour de meilleurs résultats.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Algérie): L'honorable délégué de l'Angola qui m'a précédée a déjà parlé pour moi. Je voudrais simplement préciser que d'après les informations reçues, le Secrétariat, il y a deux ans, avait annoncé que de lui-même, et avant même qu'on le lui recommande, il avait engagé des études aussi bien sur les populations des territoires arabes occupés que sur celles d'Afrique australe. C'était cette précision que je voulais ajouter.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Secrétariat a dû noter cette question.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Thank you, Mr Chairman. Let me first take up the question of the distinguished representative of Algeria, recalled by the distinguished representative of Angola. Let me be clear that my colleagues have given me a

great deal of information about the assistance and support we give to national liberation movements in the areas of training activities, support for food production, sectoral surveys and so on. I have this information and will gladly share it with all interested delegates; but I am not replying to that because the question is much more specific. It is: what have we done about specific studies on the effects of agriculture in the occupied territories and also in regard to the front line States?

First, as regards the occupied territories, I must report that we have not been able to do more since we debated this subject at the last Conference. This has been one of the areas in which work has been affected. We have made sure that we continue our relations with the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), with whom we have a joint Division so that work can be pursued. However, at this time, I must be honest and say that I cannot report on any study being completed.

As regards the effects on agriculture in the front line States, here there is more to report. There has been a General Assembly Resolution which gave the lead to the Economic Commission for Africa and we are pursuing this not by undertaking a study ourselves but by contributing to the work done under the auspices of the ECA. I feel this is a more rational response in that the efforts of other organizations are being coordinated in a common effort, instead of our doing a study just by ourselves. I shall be happy to meet Representatives of the United Kingdom and others to take up specific questions which they wish to pursue.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agricultural Department): I should like to answer the delegate of Switzerland on two points. First, my discourse on the development from large projects to small projects was really an explanation regarding the comment made by the distinguished delegate of France and not in reply to anything said by Switzerland. Secondly, with regard to the number of publications, let me repeat that during the past ten years more than five thousand publications and documents on issues directly related to sustainable development and related matters have been produced as a result of FAO's involvement at Headquarters and in the field. These five thousand publications have not all been produced from Headquarters. A large number of them stem from specific outputs from field projects already identified in the Project Document and are aimed at specific conditions in the countries concerned. If you will look at the documents in your pigeon-holes this morning you will find a list of documents and they contain sub-headings: General, Policy and Planning, Natural Resources, Conservation and Management, Genetic Resources, Conservation, Forestry Resource Management, Pollution Control, Technological Development and Application, Production Systems Management and Social, Economic and Institutional Aspects. I hope I have not missed any out in reading the list. The point I was trying to make was that our technical progress must be recorded but I do not want anybody to read the whole of the five thousand publications: only those which may be relevant to his competence and interest.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Bonte-Friedheim et M. Shah. Je pense que les intervenants de tout à l'heure auront reçu les réponses à leurs questions. Avec ces interventions du Secrétariat nous pouvons considérer que le débat est terminé sur cette question. Est-ce bien cela? Je vous remercie.

A mon tour, au terme de cet ample et riche débat, puisque 45 orateurs ont pu s'exprimer sur cette question, je souhaite vous faire part très succinctement de ce que je crois utile de retenir. Il va de soi que le Secrétariat a pris note des observations et des propositions qui ont été avancées ici. Le Comité de rédaction saura d'ailleurs traduire cela dans le rapport qu'il soumettra à notre examen. Je crois, que dans son ensemble, la Commission accueille favorablement cet examen dont la qualité du document de par son contenu et sa forme a été vivement appréciée, même si certaines délégations ont encouragé la FAO à renforcer les effets et les aspects d'évaluation. D'une manière générale, la Commission a souligné que cet examen a mis en lumière les effets de la crise financière que traverse la EAO. Cette crise s'est traduite par des réductions de programmes (situation qui limite les capacités de la FAO à exécuter son programme de travail et à répondre aux requêtes des Etats Membres). Ceci a été source de préoccupations, même si quelques délégués ont profité de l'occasion pour demander que la FAO tienne compte de cette situation pour redéfinir ses priorités et concentrer ses activités sur un nombre réduit de questions. Idée qui n'a pas été appuyée par la plupart des délégués qui ont estimé que les priorités et activités actuelles sont valables et correspondent à des besoins réels.

La Commission a demandé qu'un soutien soit apporté au PCT, à la protection des ressources naturelles, au développement durable, aux pêches, aux ressources génétiques animales, aux ressources phytogénétiques, à la recherche et à la formation y compris les séminaires pour les lusophones ainsi qu'aux activités du CTPD. La Commission a souscrit aux conclusions du document sur le Chapitre 7 relatif aux industries alimentaires et agricoles et a souligné la nécessité de plus de coordination entre les institutions des Nations Unies et notamment avec l'ONUDI. La FAO a été encouragée à poursuivre et intensifier son appui au plan d'action forestier et tropical ainsi que la mise en oeuvre des programmes d'action approuvés par la Conférence mondiale des pêches, c'est-à-dire la Conférence mondiale de l'Aménagement et du Développement des Pêches.

Le Chapitre 4 qui traite de la base de données relative à l'exécution des programmes techniques et économiques constitue une innovation que l'ensemble de la Commission a apprécié en tant qu'instrument utile pour tous. Certains ont voulu que d'autres données utiles soient mises à la disposition des Etats Membres. Le soutien apporté par la FAO aux Etats Membres en matière de politique et de planification a été jugé exhaustif et couvre de multiples aspects des activités et divers sous-programmes. Nombre de délégués ont insisté pour que la FAO renforce sa capacité d'analyse politique et de planification. Les rôles du PCT dans les activités d'appui aux politiques et les consultations menées par la FAO avec d'autres institutions des Nations Unies ont été appréciés. La FAO a été encouragée à renforcer son assistance à la formation et à accroître son assistance aux programmes de stabilisation et d'ajustements structurels pour que la dimension de la sécurité alimentaire soit prise en compte et pour cela la FAO a été invitée à collaborer étroitement avec les institutions internationales comme la FMI, la Banque mondiale et le PNUD. Le soutien de la FAO aux Etats Membres pour la conservation et l'amélioration de l'environnement naturel a été souligné et une augmentation de ressources a été réclamée. Tout ce qui renforce le lien entre le programme de terrain et le Programme ordinaire a reçu l'appui de la Commission. Bref, la Commission a jugé satisfaisant cet examen du Programme ordinaire. Pour terminer, je propose que certaines questions qui ont été soulevées au cours de ces débats et qui seront à nouveau abordées lors de

l'examen d'autres points, ne figurent pas dans notre rapport sur ce point afin d'éviter une répétition inutile. Le comité de rédaction devra tenir compte de cette observation. Si vous êtes d'accord, nous pouvons passer à un autre point de l'Ordre du jour.

Nous avons à notre Ordre du jour le point 13 "Programme de travail et budget 1990-91" et "Objectifs à moyen terme"; vous connaissez les documents qui sont le C 89/3 et C 89/3 Sup.1, Sup.2, Sup.3, Sup.4, plus le C 89/LIM/18. Si tout le monde est prêt, nous allons aborder une question importante. Je vous l'ai déjà dit au début de cette séance, la question est que toutes les délégations vont intervenir sur la question. Je demande qu'il y ait beaucoup de concision dans vos interventions et surtout évitez de vous répéter. Vous pouvez simplement annoncer votre accord avec tel ou tel délégué. Nous en tiendrons compte.

- 13. Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 and Medium-Term Objectives
- 13. Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 et objectifs à moyen terme
- 13. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 y objetivos a plazo medio

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Mr Director-General himself would have wished to be with you at this stage and himself to present the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91. It is his responsibility to submit proposals to the Conference and it is a responsibility which he deems a very particular privilege but since he cannot be released from his obligations with the Conference he has asked me, and I am honoured, to submit on his behalf the proposed Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91.

These proposals are formulated in the light of the external and internal challenges facing the Organization, as perceived by our Governing Bodies and the Director-General.

The challenges facing world food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries are all the more urgent to resolve because of the ceaseless growth in world population, increasing by some 80 million per year; the scant success in the fight against poverty; the increasing problems of ensuring development on a sustainable basis; heightened attention in world trade; the intolerable burden of external debt on many developing countries; and the increased complexity and difficulty of resolving problems in the present world situation.

Problems are also challenges. For FAO these problems mean a full agenda of action. The magnitude of the demands made by Member Nations on FAO attest to the confidence of these Member Nations in the relevance and efficacy of the Organization.

In recent years, as we all know, the Organization has been severely put to the test by problems of liquidity. Programmes have been cut back. The large majority of Member Nations have thus been deprived of support and services which were approved and which they were entitled to expect from FAO. The damage to the programmes since 1986 has resulted not only in curtailed services offered to Member Nations but also in damage to FAO's stock of accumulated expertise and its ability to take account of developments in a rapidly changing world.

The proposals before you this time are the result of an expanded programme budget process. The process included the additional preliminary step approved by the Council, on an experimental basis, at its Ninety-fourth Session, of submitting to the Programme and Finance Committees, meeting in Joint Session in January 1989, a brief document in the form of an Outline, indicating the budget level the Director-General intended to use in the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91, together with the main activities to be undertaken.

A number of countries have expressed support for the eventual continuation of this new procedure of Outline into the next biennium, inasmuch as the Outline appears to have permitted early consideration of the proposals and a fruitful dialogue between member countries and the Secretariat and thus paved the way for consensus on the proposed Programme of Work and Budget. Other countries, however, have expressed doubts on the value of the procedure in that no consensus is yet evident. There are additional costs involved and the objective might be through other ways. It has been suggested that the crucial test of the value of this additional consultative step would take place when the Conference considers and decides on the full Programme of Work and Budget proposals. The Council suggests that a final decision on the issue of continuing the Outline should therefore be taken at the Conference.

Irrespective of the Conference decision on the future of this experimental process, from the point of view of the Secretariat, there is little doubt that the Outline served its purpose as a policy document permitting the Programme and Finance Committees to endorse the policy approach regarding priorities and the priority areas intended to benefit from additional resources, as well as providing a first indication of the cost increases which would have to be provided for.

The remainder of the process has conformed to the well-established pattern. The Summary Programme of Work and Budget was examined, in the areas of their concern, by the Committees on Agriculture and Fisheries and in full by the Programme and Finance Committees in May and by the Council at its last Session in June.

The Director-General pursues the policy endorsed by the Conference of channelling additional resources to the technical and economic programmes, including the Technical Cooperation Programme. The provision for administrative and support services is kept at the present level.

Once again the proposals involved a net reduction of 25 posts. The proposals are the result of an active search for compromise. On the one hand, there are extensive requirements and genuine expectations for FAO action on a broad front of well-recognized problems, especially in the developing world, and on internationally agreed issues. On the other hand, the Director-General has sought to limit the request for additional resources to a minimum. His aim in attempting to balance these conflicting factors is a quest for consensus of all Member Nations.

The Programme priorities are carefully chosen on the basis of the guidance of our intergovernmental bodies and represent a concentration on activities which FAO can do best and for which it has a clear comparative advantage. They comprise: sustainable development, crop/weather monitoring,

biotechnology, crop protection, agricultural data development, policy advice, women in development, aquaculture and the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. These are also areas of work where FAO has a clear programme base of activities which require additional resources.

The Conference may well find satisfaction in the fact that there is already a remarkable consensus on the substance of the proposals as examined by various Committees to which I have referred. As always, individual countries prefer some activities to others, depending on their specific circumstances and their relevance to their own region. Nevertheless, there was a clear perception that the proposals as a whole, as a package, are well conceived and responsive to effective requirements. They were considered, moreover, in full accordance with prior guidance from FAO Governing and Advisory Bodies.

All these considerations lead the Director-General to submit proposals for the next Programme of Work and Budget involving a nominal programme increase of US\$ 5 500 000 or 1 percent over the recosted basis. Taking into account the proposed absorption of cost increases of US\$ 3 000 000, the programme increase has been considered by some to amount to only 0.45 percent. It is, however, proposed that the major programmes of agriculture, fisheries and forestry should receive a programme increase of 1.5 percent and the Technical Cooperation Programme a programme increase of 2.8 percent.

The proposed increase for the TCP has already been the subject of some considerable discussion in the bodies which have examined these proposals. You will recall no doubt that the TCP received no programme increase for the present biennium and at the last Conference regret was expressed that it had not proved feasible to increase in real terms the level of the TCP appropriation and it was hoped that this would be done in future biennia.

It is a matter of sane regret that despite the programme increase which had been proposed of US\$ 750 000, the share of the TCP in the total budget comes down. In 1986-87 it was 14.1 percent. In the present biennium it came down to 12.8 percent. In the next biennium it would further decline to 11.8 percent.

The cost increases which are provided for in the document have also been the subject of sane detailed examination. At the stage of the summary of Work and Budget the cost increases amounted to an estimate of US\$ 60 million. As noted by the Finance Committee and the Council that estimate of US\$ 60 million had been based on the established methodology and been subjected to the review of the Finance Committee and the Finance Committee had recognized that the estimate had been calculated on a conservative basis and was the best that could be made at that time. That estimate excluded an amount of US\$ 3 million of cost increases which we shall have to face in connection with the expenditure of consultants, on duty travel and the cost of small upgradings effected in the present biennium. The Director-General has deliberately excluded this amount in order to contain the level of the overall cost increase and this amount has not been reinstated in the revised estimate before you. However, the further review and the up-dating of the cost increase estimates require the Director-General to propose an increase of US\$ 16 million more than given in the Summary. Let me explain the components of this increase. Two million dollars is due to the impact of the United Nations General Assembly lifting the transitional measures on the post-adjustment system and the further increase in the scale of pensionable remuneration. Requirements for these factors have been indicated in the Summary but could not then be costed. The remaining US\$ 14 million covers the eventual results of the general salary survey which is to be conducted by the International Civil Service Commission and the results of which will be

submitted to the Council in 1990 for approval. It also includes the additional costs resulting from the eventual decision of the United Nations General Assembly at its current session following the Civil Service Commission's findings at its comprehensive review of discussions on conditions of staff service. These are costs which will have to be met and for which it is only normal and prudent that provision be made. The details are provided in the chapter on Programme Framework.

This brings me to the budget level. The total budget level as presented in the document is given as US\$ 574 million. This amount and this proposal is presented at the budget rate set by the last Conference for the present biennium, that is to say a budget rate of 1 235 lire to the dollar. At your present session, the Conference session, will set a new budget rate for 1990-91. The market rates have fluctuated this year between some 1 300-1 400 lire to the dollar but if we take the rate of the current market rate, say 1 350 lire to the dollar, the effective working budget would amount to US\$ 557 million. The assessments for Member Nations would be calculated after taking into account the estimated miscellaneous income of US\$ 12 million, therefore the part of the effective working budget to be funded on Member Nations' contributions would be US\$ 545 million.

The Conference will recognize that the Director-General's proposals have been presented with the overriding aim of promoting and facilitating their approval by Member Nations by consensus. This desire has been recognized and at all stages of the examination of the proposals by the subsidiary bodies of the Conference and the Council the Director-General expressed the fervent hope that this consensus will be realized during your deliberations.

After this introduction on behalf of the Director-General may I now offer a very few comments to facilitate the consideration of the documentation before you. The draft resolution on budgetary appropriation 1990-91 gives the text as it will be considered by the Conference when it adopts the Programme of Work and Budget in Plenary session next week. I should, however, point out that the figures in the draft resolution which is included in this document are given at the budget rate of 1 235 lire to the dollar. The text of this draft resolution will be updated. There need be no fear. This text will be updated with revised figures to permit the Conference to decide on the budget rate for the next biennium.

In the interests of time I will not comment on the three annexes which are part of the document, or on the four supplements which are before you. If you permit me, there are a few comments which I think I could include in the verbatims to facilitate the consideration of this document.

To conclude I realize I have been fairly lengthy in the consideration of this document. I crave your indulgence but this subject is of such importance to the Director-General that he felt it merited this introduction. My colleagues and I now remain at your disposal.

Kai HELENIUS (Finland): On this item I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries. The Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 as presented to the Conference is an improvement both in this presentation as well as in the preparation process leading to it. Through the outlined summary and the final document Member Governments have enhanced the possibilities to be informed of the gradual formation of the final products and participate in guiding the Secretariat in this work. Efforts have been made to increase

transparency and accountability in the presentation which we note with satisfaction. These changes appear to us appropriate and useful and the Nordic countries request the Conference to further approve the Programme of Work and Budget in the same direction. Priorities and priority setting have been a focal point in Nordic efforts to strengthen the Organization. At the outset this question has to be approached within the framework of the three main functions of FAO as described in Article 1 of the Constitution; collection, analysis and dissemination of information; formulation and promotion of food and agricultural policies and technical assistance. The nine priority areas pointed out in the budgetary document all have very specific value and some of them indeed have been the focal points of our work during the past five years. What we find missing here is the inter-connection of the set priorities with the three main functions of FAO. Furthermore the methodology in which these priority areas are taken into account in the budgetary planning and reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium is not sufficiently clarified. The Nordic countries have been consistently stressing the view that certain priorities on the issues are to be considered and reflected in a wide spectrum of FAO's activities. The cross-sectional nature of those issues, namely sustainable development, women in development, policy advice as well as bio-technology, as well as data collection is appropriately recognized in the Programme of Work and Budget. The Nordic countries do not find it justifiable that priority setting should require new resources to the Organization, whether extra-budgetary or within the Regular Programme. Secondary priorities should contribute to a better use of resources available. In the present situation priority setting may very well entail that some worthwhile activities cannot be financed in order that new activities can gain support. Based on the priorities agreed upon, the Conference can discuss and decide on the programmes for the medium-term duration. The purpose of the medium-term plan, while translating the priorities agreed upon into the FAO's activities, is to give a basis for the formulation of the Programme of Work and Budget through its various stages, at the same time it facilitates focusing member countries' attention on the priority areas and most urgent and fundamental problems in FAO's field of competence and provides practical proposals for required adjustments in the regular and field programmes.

In the Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 there is some indication of medium-term perspectives but clearly what is needed is daily incorporation in the budget document in a comprehensive and systematic manner.

A large majority of speakers at the FAO Council last week rejected the link between the review processes of FAO, including the priority setting and the medium-term plan and the Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91. At the same time, the same speakers referred to the linkage between the arrears of some member countries and the decision on the review process. To our delegation the logic behind this thinking is difficult to understand. In our view many issues under the review process as explained before, could enhance the budgetary decision making already at this Conference.

Furthermore, some recommendations in the reports before us could find many of us with unanimous support for early implementation. Therefore the Member Nations should not pre-empt their effective considerations by an early budgetary decision. On the other hand, the regrettable arrears do concern the financial situation with the Organization in carrying out its programmes according to the Programme of Work and Budget, but the discussion and decision on the scope and content of the Review does not in any way depend on payment of assessed contributions. Only at the implementation stage can the financial constraint affect the timing of the planned activities.

Finally, let me reconfirm that while considering the budget document given to us for our approval the Nordic countries put a clear preference to the content of the Programme of Work and Budget and not to the level of expenditures as such.

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand) : Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor at this early stage. At the outset I wish to thank Mr Shah for his lucid introduction to this Agenda item.

On this important item my delegation would like to offer comments as follows.

First, we are satisfied with the priorities and programmes suggested by the Director-General in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91, since he has already given due consideration to all the views that have been expressed by the various bodies of this Organization, including the Council.

Secondly, as to the budget level, we can accept a real programme increase of US\$ 5.5 million, because it is only 1 percent over recosted base of the present biennium budget and the real programme increase is entirely devoted to the technical and economic programme of direct benefit to all Member Nations.

Thirdly, we are pleased to note that there is a further net reduction in established posts, especially at the secretarial and clerical levels, although the total net reduction amounts to 25 posts have been reached.

Finally, I would like to recall that at the last Conference the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the leader of the Thai delegation, suggested that we should accept the idea proposed by the group of developing countries relating to the principle of budget allocation that FAO should allocate at least 17 percent of the total Regular Programme to the TCP. Yesterday, the leader of the Thai delegation of this session reiterated our position at the Plenary. Today we are very regretful to note that the proportion of the TCP appropriation to the total budget is below the past level. In 1986-87 the share of the TCP in the total budget was 14.1 percent, then it declined to 12.8 percent in 1988-89 and it will further decline to 11.8 percent in the next biennium. This is of grave concern for my delegation. This is because we realize that there were a lot of TCP projects pending at the year-end. For example at the year-end of 1987 and 1988 the numbers of requests pending were 191 and 200 respectively. We only hope that this would not be done in the future.

However, to stop this decreasing trend, my delegation would like to propose that at this Conference we should agree that starting from the 1992-93 biennium FAO should allocate at least 17 percent of the total Regular Programme to the TCP. I hope that this Commission can support our proposal for the benefit of the poor countries like Thailand.

Before I conclude I would like to emphasize that the issue of approving the Programme of Work and Budget does not relate to the matter of the Review of the role of FAO.

Robin Gorth Pettitt (United Kingdom) : Since my delegation has already had the opportunity as a Council Member to comment on the contents and balance of the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget, I will confine myself this morning to some across-the-board points. These are mainly where we have been helped to form a more specific view than that previously expressed through the useful explanations given by Mr Shah to Council members and in some cases repeated today.

I will deal with the questions of the budget size, the lapse factor, the Director-General's proposals in his comments on the Review, the variations in the budget which the conclusion of the review may require, and finally on providing for any salary awards. I will not dwell again on our support for the continuation of the outline budget, mentioned by Mr Shah, and I assume that the question of the methodology for the adoption of the budget rate covered in the Director-General's comments in document C 89/21 will come up somewhere else on the agenda.

On budget size, delegations will be familiar with my country's attachment to the concept of zero real growth in the budgets of the Specialized Agencies which are financed by assessed contributions from Member States. This attachment is paralleled by a willingness to see activities grow when financed by voluntary contributions, especially by those contributions put through the central funding bodies. This growth occurs with the increase in donors' contributions to development generally and to the extent to which the international community prefers to put resources into development by the multilateral rather than the bilateral route. For this reason I think we would have difficulty with the proposal just made by the delegate of Thailand over the TCP.

In our view real growth should be measured by the same means of calculating programmes and cost increases that are traditionally used by the organization concerned. Whether they are the best measurements is less important than whether they are consistently used. In FAO we have the practice of the secretariat calculating the growth using methods which the Conference has agreed upon and it is conventional to leave it to the Finance Committee to check on behalf of the membership that each year we are comparing like with like. As I read the discussion of Council, the Finance Committee are satisfied with the calculations. I also read the discussion to mean that real growth in the Director-General's proposals represents 1 percent, which was in effect said by Mr Shah today, using conventional methods of calculation. My delegation's calculations in fact give the same result.

The reference in the budget document to a growth rate of 0.45 percent taking into account some costs absorbed is in our view special pleading.

My delegation wonders if this budget increase, as put in the proposals of the draft resolution, modified by Mr Shah this morning, is the proposal on the table. There seem to be three other propositions which would increase the budgetary figure which the Conference could be asked to pass. My delegation is only able to consider supporting a budget which is pitched at an acceptable level taking account of the total costs to be covered by assessed contributions.

The first potential addition is the increase in the budget level which would result from proposals by the Director-General, not yet I believe made in financial terms, to reduce the lapse factor from 5.5 percent to 3 percent. I understand that this will increase the budget by US\$ 8.3 million. I get this figure from paragraph 3.18 of document CL 96/4, the Report of the Finance Committee.

My delegation considers that the lapse factor should reflect the reasonable expectations of the Secretariat over the vacancy rate. Historically the vacancy rate has been between 10 and 16 percent for Professional staff and between 5.8 percent and 7.6 percent for General Service staff. These details are to be found in the table in paragraph 27 of the Report of the External Auditor, included in document C 89/5. It is paragraph 27 of the Report of the External Auditor within that document, not the first part.

In the last year for which information is available in this document the vacancy rate of Professional staff was 15.5 percent and for General Service staff 7.6 percent. So in my delegation's opinion there is no call for any decrease in the lapse factor, actually rather the reverse, nor if there were any decrease would we be able to support a budgetary increase to permit it, since this would involve a further increase in real terms. In this, as in other ways in which growth is measured, it seems to my delegation to be wise to stick to conventional practices.

Secondly, we have the Director-General's proposal for increased budgetary expenditure which he puts forward following his consideration of the report of the two committees on the review of certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations, a familiar document, C 89/21. These are an additional US\$ 0.9 million for new forms of cooperation with GATT, and lesser priority US\$ 4.2 million for staff training. In my delegation's view the budget which should be considered by the Conference should include these proposals, if the Director-General considers that they have higher priority than the most marginal of the expenditures of equivalent amount already in the budget, that is to say they should be included if they can be absorbed, and if this is the right amount of money for the expenditure bearing in mind setting-up time for the two activities - the cost may be smaller than suggested.

Thirdly, the views and comments of the Director-General in document C 89/21 contain costings of proposals made in the Review document of which some US\$ 14.6 million in addition to the Director-General's own suggestions, which I have just mentioned, would be likely to fall on the Regular Budget this biennium. It is of course very proper that the costs of proposals are put to the Governing Body at the same time as the proposals are considered. However, my delegation cannot agree that the identified costs of the proposals in the Review can be taken in isolation. Leaving aside for the moment our view that the proposals in the Review document are too timid and that agreement on more ambitious changes could be reached in the present phase of the process of renewal and reform, we consider that the changes proposed could be financed by economies caused by restructuring, by greater selectivity in setting priorities, and perhaps the result of independent staffing surveys commended by the auditor in paragraph 100 of his report in document C 89/5. In any event, as I said before, the draft resolution on which the Conference could be asked to vote should include the total sum which is to be used to calculate assessments.

Next I turn to the more technical matter of handling of budgetary costs foreseen for salary increases. Provision has been made in the draft Programme of Work and Budget for an estimate of a 5 percent increase in the cost of salaries and related allowances arising from the report of the Civil Service Commission. I thought that US\$ 14 million had been allowed for this purpose and for an expected award to General Service staff, but I may have misunderstood Mr Shah this morning.

In the view of my delegation, since the key decision over Professional staff has not yet been taken in the General Assembly, either on the amounts involved or on the date of implementation, it would be inappropriate to include such a provision in the budget. Again leaving aside any wish which members may have that such mandatory cost increases be absorbed through cuts in programme expenditure, my delegation is of the view that no provision should be made for these potential claims in the Programme of Work and Budget. Instead the Director-General should use the Special Reserve Account to meet the additional cost. This I understand would have been normal practice since the establishment of the Special Reserve Account in 1977, though case law is rather short on this because there have not been pay awards for so long.

The budget figure used for assessments should be reduced by US\$ 14 million, I suppose, to some US\$ 629 million or US\$ 630 million before one takes account of the adoption of the budget rate. If my understanding is correct, the end result would be the same but we would have the advantage of acting properly and not pre-empting the decision of the General Assembly.

If there are better suggestions from the Secretariat on ways of making provision for such a contingency by making sure that such provision could only be used for this particular purpose and when the award is made, then my delegation would be interested to hear them.

Finally, I confirm that my delegation would wish to see a budget passed by consensus but it remains genuinely puzzled, however, about how we can handle the approval of a programme and a budget if we do not consider all the proposals which involve expenditure from the regular budget. There seems to be a supposition that the approval of a programme budget can be delinked from the consideration of changes which result from a review, and that somehow a resolution on the lines of that on page LVI of document C 89/3 being passed, and with all its detailed breakdowns between chapters; and also that thereafter the Commission can get down to the review and can end with another financial resolution which somehow overtakes or supplements the first appropriation. This does not seem to be practical, or at least it is not practical unless some assumption is written into the appropriation resolution to the effect that variations between chapters and to the detail of the budget could be made by the Director-General in the light of subsequent discussion of the review process. I am not clear whether this later method of proceeding would be within Conference powers set out in the Basic Texts, but even if it were, a much better solution would be to spend due time in the four sessions we have on the programme of budget as presented by the Director-General and then to suspend action until the completion of the discussion of the review. Then a simple budgetary appropriation of the conventional sort could be handled.

I find it only fair to say now that however much the United Kingdom would wish for a consensus on all things at this Conference, my delegation could not vote in favour of a budget showing any growth if it were to be only part of the bill which is to be presented by this Conference for assessed contributions by membership. Our position on the total bill would be considered in the light of the two debates.

That intervention was mainly mainly. Perhaps I ought to remind the Secretariat, through you, Mr Chairman, of my two questions. One concerns the handling of the salaries review; one is the more hidden one on how a budget resolution could properly contain within it the possibility of subsequent changes between chapters which would make possible the results of the ongoing review process.

Fotis G. POULJDES (Chypre): Permettez-moi de rejoindre les autres orateurs qui m'ont précédé car c'est la première fois que je prends la parole à la Commission II. Je voudrais vous exprimer ma joie et ma satisfaction de vous voir présider cette importante Commission, mes félicitations aussi aux Vice-Présidents élus.

Je suis certain, Monsieur le Président, que de ce fauteuil à grandes responsabilités et confiance, vous réussirez grâce à votre sagesse et à votre grande expérience à obtenir des résultats satisfaisants.

I wish also to thank Mr Shah for his, as usual, enlightened introduction to this most important item of our agenda.

I wish the position of Cyprus to be absolutely clear right from the outset of my statement. My delegation supports fully the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 as proposed by the Director-General. Everything I have to say, therefore, will only serve to show why we give it our unreserved support.

It is a well-known fact that developing countries, including my own, look to FAO and count on this Organization for help to overcome their problems in agricultural and fisheries development. We do so without hesitation because this Organization, our Organization, has a clear record of efficiency and effectiveness in assisting us, together with its record of mobilizing extra-budgetary funds for technical cooperation and investment.

We have been sorely disappointed and hurt by the financial difficulties of recent years which have obliged us to agree to programme cuts and adjustments. This represents FAO assistance which we have a right to expect since the Programme of Work and Budget of each biennium was approved by the Conference. We deeply deplore the fact that the delays in contributions of some Member Nations did not permit the full implementation of approved programmes.

Funding constraints, particularly in an approved Programme of Work and Budget, will inevitably lead to cancellation of activities - activities that have already been identified and are included in the budget - and to a deferment in the filling of posts. These actions will affect the Organization in two major ways: curtailment of work and programmes; and negative effects on staff morale. Both factors are of great significance, but I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the fact that the FAO staff is one of the most important assets of the Organization in our common endeavours to reduce poverty and malnutrition on this planet. Funding uncertainties certainly have

a negative impact not only on their morale but also on recruitment of new staff. We thus feel strongly that when programmes have had to be cut in two successive biennia we should unite to approve a Programme of Work and Budget which would compensate for these cuts.

The Programme of Work and Budget proposed by the Director-General involves a programme increase of only one percent. Indeed, since the amount for cost increases does not include all the costs, and the Director-General proposes to absorb an amount of US\$ 3 million of cost increases, the programme increase is only 0.4 percent.

My country is amongst those which had hoped for a much larger programme increase, and we would have supported it with enthusiasm. We recognize, however, that as always the Director-General is making very moderate proposals in order to assist Member Nations with different points of view to unite in a consensus. It is for that reason that, despite our own wish for a much larger programme increase, we are prepared to unite in a consensus approval of his proposals.

The programme priorities are balanced. We look at them not merely from our own point of view, but from this aspect we are satisfied that our needs will be well met. We are also looking at these priorities from the point of view of Member Nations as a whole. Here we are pleased to note the satisfaction of the Programme and Finance Committees and the fact that the views of the Council and the technical committees of the Council have all been taken into careful account.

If we have any regrets on the proposals for programme priorities, there is only one and that is that a higher increase is not proposed for the Technical Cooperation Programme. For the present biennium the TCP had no increase, and for the next biennium the increase proposed is less than US\$ 2 million. The share of the TCP in the total budget has fallen strikingly. At one time it was 14 percent. During this biennium it is 12.8 percent. In the next biennium it will be 11.8 percent. We cannot continue to accept a reduced share for a programme to which we attach the highest priority. It is for this reason that I would like to insist that the TCP share of the regular budget resources should be increased in order to reach the level of 17 percent.

I shall not dwell on the importance of the programme. This is well-known. I will simply congratulate the Organization that in using these funds to handle emergencies as a catalyst for future investment projects the return on this relatively small sum has been consistently substantial.

The debate in the Conference, and even more in Commission II, will dwell also on the amount of the cost increases. My delegation sees little point in a fruitless debate on this subject. Let us face up to the reality that cost increases are a fact of life. They are beyond the control of the Organization. They have to be met. It is no use saying that we like or do not like cost increases. The Finance Committee has carried out a detailed review. The estimates are formulated on an established methodology. We have to accept them. Similarly, as our interest is in seeing the full implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget as approved, we accept the Director-General's proposal that the lapse factor to be applied in the next Programme of Work and Budget be reduced from the level of 5.5 percent, which we consider excessive, to a more moderate level of 3 percent.

We consider that the Director-General has done everything possible, indeed more than possible, to permit approval of the Programme of Work and Budget by the Conference, if not unanimously at least in a spirit of consensus. It is in this spirit that we will join all Member Nations and urge approval of his proposals by consensus.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Pour commencer, permettez-nous tout d'abord de remercier et de féliciter M. Shah pour sa présentation claire du sujet, ainsi que tous ceux qui ont participé à la préparation du PTB 1990-91: Secrétariat, comité financier, comité du programme, COAG, etc.

Nous déplorons qu'une fois de plus nous ayons à faire à un programme de travail et budget placé sous la pression de la crise financière qui continue à secouer l'Organisation et à entraver l'exploitation des capacités de l'Organisation.

Pour des raisons d'efficacité et de sérénité de nos débats nous ne souhaitons pas que l'examen de l'adoption du programme de travail et budget par la Conférence soit lié à l'examen de la question de réforme. Nous nous garderons d'anticiper sur les autres sujets non encore ouverts au débat.

Le champ de notre débat sur le Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 et objectifs à moyen terme de l'Organisation ayant été en quelque sorte élagué par les travaux de la 96ème session du Conseil qui s'est achevée la semaine dernière, trois soucis devraient nous préoccuper à présent. Ce sont: brièveté, clarté et concision des exposés. Ce qui aura pour avantage de faciliter la prise de la décision finale par la Conférence et d'aider le comité de rédaction de la Commission II à dresser un rapport clair et reflétant fidèlement nos débats. Pour répondre à ces trois soucis, nous limiterons pour notre part notre propos à quatre points essentiels: selon nous, à savoir, la nouvelle procédure d'élaboration du PTB, les priorités pour le biennium 1990-91, le niveau du PTB 1990-91 et le PCT.

De la nouvelle procédure d'élaboration du PTB: bien que n'étant pas encore convaincus de l'utilité de l'étape supplémentaire introduite dans la procédure d'élaboration du PTB, nous ne nous opposerons pas a priori à la poursuite de sa mise à l'essai. Toutefois, nous subordonnons notre approbation pour la poursuite de cette nouvelle procédure à deux conditions, à savoir, l'adoption du PTB par consensus à commencer par celui qui nous est soumis à cette session de la Conférence et la preuve que cette nouvelle procédure aura garanti le règlement à temps des contributions des Etats Membres de l'Organisation et en particulier des contributions des principaux bailleurs qui traînent le pas jusqu'ici.

Ce faisant et étant donné que la preuve de la réunion de ces deux conditions ne pourra nous être donnée que dans deux ans, nous souscrivons à la proposition d'appliquer cette nouvelle procédure pour encore un autre exercice biennal.

Des priorités de l'Organisation pour le biennium 1990-91: nous marquons notre accord au Secrétariat pour les neuf domaines prioritaires proposés tout en notant que pour la plupart d'entre eux, ces domaines prioritaires collent à l'actualité du moment. A travers cette palette de neuf domaines prioritaires,

nous y voyons la preuve de la capacité indéniable de la FAO à s'adapter à l'évolution de la situation alimentaire et agricole mondiale sans cesse en mouvement. Nous appuyons ces neuf domaines prioritaires puisqu'ils répondent aux orientations des organes délibératifs de l'Organisation.

Du niveau du PTB 90-91: nous avons noté que le Secrétariat nous propose pour l'exercice 1990-91 une augmentation de 5,5 millions de dollars, soit 1 pour cent de plus par rapport à l'exercice précédent compte tenu de l'accroissement des coûts et seulement 0,45 pour cent si l'on tient compte de l'absorption des coûts estimés à 3 millions de dollars.

Au regard de cette proposition, nous estimons qu'il s'agit d'une augmentation très modeste. Nous considérons que cette augmentation est en quelque sorte une croissance zéro. Toutefois, bien que nous soyons toujours opposés à ce principe de croissance zéro, nous admettons que le niveau proposé pour ce PTB 1990-91 est acceptable pour susciter ainsi que nous l'espérons son adoption par consensus. Nous l'appuyons en conséquence.

Du PCT: ainsi que nous avons déjà eu l'occasion de le dire, le PCT est apprécié tant des pays bénéficiaires que des donateurs. C'est un programme qui a fait ses preuves voici plusieurs années déjà. En raison de l'importance de ce programme, la diminution de ses ressources qui passent de 12,8 pour cent à 11,8 pour cent constitue à nos yeux un grand titre de déception. Pour les bienniums futurs, nous encourageons le Secrétariat à nous proposer un niveau de PCT plus substantiel.

Quoique quelque peu déçus par la modicité des propositions qui nous ont été soumises, nous marquons notre accord pour que la Conférence adopte ce PTB 1990-91 et donnons notre feu vert pour que le Secrétariat le mette à exécution au mieux de ses possibilités. Nous espérons qu'une fois que ce PTB aura été adopté par la Conférence, chaque Etat saura se soumettre à la décision démocratique et s'efforcera de s'acquitter de sa quote-part de contribution à temps.

Comme promis tout au début de notre intervention, par souci de concision et de clarté, nous avais choisi à dessein d'être brefs. Nous croyons ainsi avoir tenu parole en mettant ici un point final à notre propos. Merci.

Gerard Phirinyane KHOJANE (Lesotho): I would ask your indulgence if I fail to comply with the appeal to be brief. I seem not to have that quality.

We all recognize that the 1990-91 Programme of Work and Budget has distinguished itself as a test case of procedure involving a number of steps starting with the Programme and Finance Committees' joint sessions early in the Conference year. While we endorse that so far the relevant Governing and Advisory Bodies, including the Council, have expressed general satisfaction with the procedure, we wish to underline that there has always been a strong feeling that a final decision for the eventual adoption of this procedure should be based on its usefulness and relative merits to evolve a mechanism for hammering out a consensus.

Notwithstanding the emerging uncertainty of the new procedure to yield consensus, as evidenced during the Council meetings and so far in this Conference, we wish to concur with the conclusions of the majority of FAO Member Nations in the relevant Governing and Advisory Bodies regarding the 1991 Programme of Work and Budget proposal before the Conference for a decision. The majority of Member Nations support the approval of this Programme of Work and Budget by consensus.

Ideally, FAO priorities should be established by the countries in most need. We are satisfied that most low-income food deficit countries, including Lesotho, had a significant input in the determination of the nine listed priority areas under Technical and Economic Programmes as proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91. The idea of prosoya bushes, lucern trees, leguminous shrubs and various acacia species on marginal lands as part of the sustainable development has been supported. The strengthening of the Global Information and Early Warning System for Food and Agriculture which has already proved an invaluable service, especially in Africa, has been advocated. The technical support activities of the National Systems have been favoured and assistance in establishing and strengthening national services for plant protection has been solicited. FAO has also been encouraged to assist Member Nations to identify and formulate viable investment projects in fisheries and forestry. We are therefore satisfied that the proposed priorities in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 are in overall conformity with the felt needs of Member Nations. We had the impression during the Council debate that there was broad agreement in this respect.

The Conference should also translate into a firm directive the fact that even though generally considered priority concerns, such as attention to small farmers, rural youth and the rural family, have not been given a special mention in the proposal submitted for the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91. They should permeate all relevant programmes for the period. Traditionally important subjects such as mechanization, the provision of consumable farm inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers through credit facilities, rural storages and structures, should find some place in the Programme of Work and Budget. We wish to underline that the introduction and promotion of mechanization, improved seeds and fertilizers form an integral part of agricultural development, particularly in Africa. If indigenous farmers are to break out of the subsistence-level category and be able to feed themselves they must have access to more and better farm power, tools, equipment, and consumable farm inputs.

We have been encouraged by some of the major donors who have openly declared that they recognize the importance of ongoing activities which may not be identified as a priority area, such as those in support of rural income generation. We therefore hope that solicited donor assistance in this regard will be viewed with sympathy. Aid-in-kind might form an important element of such assistance.

Another important aspect which should be given serious consideration is the negative factor for FAO activities as a result of the cuts applied to FAO programmes in the periods 1986-87 and 1988-89. The undesirable effects of these budget cuts on training activities, seminars and expert consultations have been already been underlined. However, we feel obliged to reiterate that improvement of agricultural development rely heavily on training, the exchange of ideas through seminars and the advisory visits of experts. We therefore urge the Conference to strongly support the intention to restore FAO's capacity to respond at a level commensurate with the requirements for assistance to member nations.

FAO needs resources in order to attend to the felt needs of Member Nations, as articulated in the nine priority areas for the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91, as well as those which are regarded as traditional concerns of low income and food deficit countries. The Director-General of FAO is requesting approval of the total budget of US\$ 574 million, or 1 per cent, and US\$ 60 million cost increase, he has offered reasons and explanations which should merit sympathetic understanding and the approval of the Conference. His appeal that the limit for possible budgetary savings has been reached and that no further cuts can be made without impairing the basic functions of FAO is reasonable and justified.

Some delegations have challenged the TCP programme budget levels and the lack of transparency with regard to its allocation. They have raised some doubt as to whether the possibilities of reallocation of cost increases for lower priority areas instead of from additional assessments have been sufficiently explored. They have questioned the methodology used to calculate the cost increases and have proposed the discontinuation of some programmes so as to realize budget savings. It becomes very difficult to understand, when all attempts at giving clarification do not seem to make any difference. We nevertheless invite all those in a position to do so to make one last final effort to respond to these questions with a view to creating a climate for consensus approval of the Programme of Work and Budget before the Conference. Even though these matters have been discussed in depth by the Governing and Advisory Bodies involved in the budget formulation process, we deem it necessary to highlight some of the discussions and justifications. First, there is no evidence so far available that the TCP has been applied beyond its original intentions.

With regard to transparency, we believe that records of funded projects under the Programme can be made available for inspection at the request of the interested delegations provided that a reasonable degree of confidentiality will be observed. As a matter of fact, we have witnessed general praise and an increasing outcry from the developing countries for increased resources for the Programme. The suggestion to reduce the provision for the TCP even further is therefore unjustified and poses a serious challenge to the developing countries.

The Secretariat has explained that the provision for cost increases is entirely beyond its control. It represents the effects of inflation and decisions of the United Nations General Assembly and of the International Civil Service Commission regarding remuneration for personal services. This is why there has been different figures for cost increases for the last seven biennia according to the available records. The methodology and formula of arriving at the figure is the question of details and should be entrusted to the Secretariat. There is no point therefore in labouring this issue further.

The Director-General repeatedly explained that his team has already gone into the exercise of exploring all possible areas of savings before arriving at the new presented budget level figures. The question of recosting of the activities and/or discontinuation of others should not arise. Although there have been some successes in the locust campaign, FAO studies shew that the threat is not over and it is necessary to continue budgetary provisions for this activity. There is therefore no possibility of savings in this activity either.

Some of the proposals would be better discussed under the agenda item on Review of Objectives, Roles and Priorities of FAO. They are clearly out of place at this time in the process. It is so, even though most of them would entail further budget increases and thus militate against unconditional zero growth concept aspired my major contributors.

This leads us to the conclusion that the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 now before the Conference is a reasonable one. We invite the Conference to approve it by consensus.

Kantan AL-MITWALLI (Iraq) (original language Arabic): Firstly, I would like to congratulate you for having been elected Chairman of this Commission and I wish you every success. I would like to thank Mr Shah for having so clearly explained the document.

The Iraqi delegation having studied the documents, Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91, thinks that the draft is very clear and detailed, in particular with regard to the priorities among the different sectors. We think the proposals were made on a logical foundation and we therefore support the priorities listed in the Programme.

As for the level of the budget, we think that efforts have been made to come up with this result and the method used to present these proposals is in accordance with our country's wishes. We need help and assistance in finding proper solutions to the problems of agriculture. The delegation of Iraq agrees to the budgetary increase for Economic and Technical Programmes and the TCP. We think, however, the increase is modest and cannot really meet the needs of many countries and we regret the decrease in the resources for TCP.

We think the method adopted by the Director-General to set priorities for the Programme of Work and Budget is a responsible method and is intended to allow a consensus. We support the Programme of Work and Budget and we hope it will be adopted by consensus in our Commission. We wish every success to the Director-General and to those who work with him.

Noumansana BAGOURO (Mali): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous adresser les félicitations de ma délégation pour votre élection à la présidence de cette importante Commission de la FAO. Nous remercions également M. Shah et toute son équipe pour la qualité du document qui nous a été présenté.

L'examen du Programme de travail et budget de la FAO doit à notre avis être fait en tenant compte de la mission de la FAO à travers le monde et en tenant compte de la situation actuelle de l'agriculture sur le terrain, et plus particulièrement de la demande pertinente des pays en développement.

Face à une situation en régression, nous sommes étonnés que l'on puisse, en matière d'agriculture, baser un programme sur une croissance zéro. En matière de développement, nous pensons qu'il y a ou une croissance positive ou une régression.

C'est sur cette base que nous avons considéré et constaté que le Programme de travail et budget est un document clair qui nous donne satisfaction. Les priorités qui ont été définies sont en effet au centre de nos préoccupations au Mali. Cependant, nous n'avons cessé, depuis notre arrivée, de constater les conséquences de la crise financière qui menacent même la vie de l'Organisation.

C'est dans ce sens que nous estimons qu'il est absolument nécessaire de redresser la situation en renforçant les ressources humaines de la FAO, les actions de vulgarisation et de formation en faveur du monde rural, la lutte contre les ravageurs criquets, sauteriaux, rats et chenilles, la recherche et le développement.

Plusieurs orateurs ont déjà manifesté leur souci devant la diminution croissante du PCT. Nous sommes solidaires de ces délégations et nous proposons que le PCT soit fixé au minimum au niveau de 25 pour cent pour le prochain biennium.

Tenant compte de ces points de vue, ma délégation tient à remercier Votre Excellence et à préciser à la Conférence - en la rassurant - que nous lui recommandons l'adoption de ce document par consensus.

Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Quisiera ante todos agradecer al Sr. Shan por la brillante presentación que él hizo del tema. Prácticamente él puso de relieve que esta propuesta ha sido preparada de acuerdo con el nuevo procedimiento, procedimiento que los comités reunidos han recomendado de seguir explorando ya sea de aplicar por lo menos cada dos años para ver si puede servir para el futuro.

Me parece que se podía juzgar sobre sus resultados y también si mediante los debates en el Comité de finanzas hemos llegado a lograr un consenso. Yo creo que se logró y se hicieron todos los esfuerzos para que se llegara lo más cerca posible a este consenso. Por lo tanto yo espero que en esta Conferencia este consenso se pueda realmente lograr.

Quisiera poner de relieve que esto costó muchos sacrificios por parte de los representantes de los países en desarrollo. Tenemos a la vista dos posiciones que tener: una era la de los países en desarrollo mínimo que es muy conocida. Se trataría de recuperar los 45 millones de reducción de actividad a que tuvo que someterse la FAO durante esos años para hacer frente a una situación contingente no deseada seguramente por ella ni por la mayoría de sus Miembros su capacidad. Se deseaba una expansión de los programas para tener en cuenta las solicitudes que provienen de todos los países en desarrollo del mundo y tener en cuenta las necesidades crecientes.

El Director General puso ayer de relieve que la población del mundo llega a una cifra que ha impresionado a todos. Ha crecido 170 millones de unidades únicamente desde la última Conferencia. Prácticamente 178 millones de hombres. Todo esto ha crecido en 24 meses. Se trataba, se trata y se desea, por parte de los países en desarrollo, una ampliación del PCT. Por el contrario, tuvimos que someternos a una moderada disminución del PCT. El PCT fue propuesto por los mismos norteamericanos en 1974 para enfrentar una situación de escasez de alimentos que había en aquel momento en el mundo. Se ha aplicado con mucho éxito durante unos años porque es un programa que permite hacer frente a las miles y miles de necesidades imprevistas que se presentan a menudo en todos los problemas de desarrollo. Los imprevistos no

se pueden prever. Por lo tanto, nos hemos opuesto siempre a cualquier cambio en la forma en que está estructurado el PCT. La gran cantidad de apoyo que ha recibido demuestra la importancia de mantener, potenciar y aumentar el PCT. El punto de vista que se nos oponía era el de un incremento cero. El crecimiento cero desgraciadamente ha sido también reiterado en el plenario por el representante del mayor contribuyente.

Lo que me parece más injustificado es el método. No sólo no es aceptable el crecimiento cero a juicio de mi delegación, sino que no es aceptable el método con el que se quiere lograr el crecimiento cero. El método así llamado de la absorción. La absorción no sólo es un crecimiento cero, es un crecimiento negativo. Es un crecimiento negativo porque prácticamente la inflación es parte de la vida económica del mundo. Desde siglos, desde que existe la moneda hubo inflación. Antes del papel se hacían las monedas más pequeñas.

Prácticamente, decir que lo que es debido a la inflación se aplica a una disminución de los costos, significa en cualquier organización, en cualquier entidad económica, decretar su muerte antes o después. Ayer en el Plenario se nos ha indicado las razones por las cuales se proponía este crecimiento cero. Se nos ha hablado de falta de apoyo en la opinión pública del país del cual el representante estaba hablando, que era el mayor contribuyente.

Yo me pregunto cómo, después de 45 años de vida de la FAO, con los éxitos de la labor de la FAD, que ha sido durante estos años el líder de todo el desarrollo mundial, que ha podido hacer frente al desafío de la Conferencia de 1974, que ha podido asegurar que los objetivos se logaran y que se pudiese seguir produciendo para más o menos dar de comer a un billón más de población del mundo, se pueda decir que hay falta de apoyo en la opinión pública. Esto significa que la opinión pública no está debidamente enterada con los medios con los cuales se tiene que informar.

En las pocas intervenciones de esta mañana he entendido que se ha solicitado, por parte de muchos países, que se haga una invitación a concentrar los sectores de la FAO. Esto me parece algo absolutamente injustificable porque las medidas para un desarrollo agrícola verdaderamente útil, conveniente y armónico tienen que ser vistas desde un punto de vista sintético. Todo esto lo puso de relieve extremadamente bien el señor Ministro Ruf folo, quien hizo una brillante intervención en el Plenario. Teniendo en cuenta este punto de vista sintético, los organismos de la FAO tienen un procedimiento para determinar prioridades. Están los comités técnicos, después todo esto pasa a los comités económicos permanentes, que es el Comité de Finanzas y Programas, y después pasa al Consejo. El concepto de concentrar las prioridades sería absurdo simplemente porque eso determinaría un desarrollo desequilibrado. El desarrollo tiene que ser armónico. Para un desarrollo armónico, es necesario que haya complementaridad entre varios sectores.

Todo eso está definido, a nivel técnico y económico, mediante un proceso que se lleva a cabo en la FAO durante todo el bienio. El conjunto del presupuesto está basado exactamente en prioridades determinadas con este método. Yo creo que el Director General hizo un esfuerzo enorme para tener en cuenta tanto lo que solicitaban los países en desarrollo, como, en la medida de lo posible, lo que han solicitado los países desarrollados.

Se ha concentrado el programa sobre seis prioridades. Se han absorbido, no obstante la opinión contraria de los países en desarrollo, como 3 millones de dólares y se ha aceptado únicamente un aumento simbólico; y esto creo que es indispensable también para aprobarlo y aceptar lo del 0,45 por ciento. Todo esto se ha hecho con el fin de lograr un consenso. Creo que a estas alturas este consenso es un derecho moral al cual tenemos derecho.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola): Tout d'abord, je voudrais joindre ma voix aux délégués qui m'ont précédé pour féliciter M. Shah de son exposé très brillant de la version intégrale du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91. Cette version finale est issue des examens antérieurs qui ont été faits par le Comité de l'agriculture et des pêches. Nous constatons que quelques observations faites ont été soigneusement prises en considération. Ce document concis et précis nous fournit des informations très détaillées sur le choix des priorités, les propositions de programme, les augmentations de coût, et l'utilisation proposée des ressources. Nous ne pouvons pas passer sous silence les efforts déployés par le Directeur général afin de concilier les opinions des uns et des autres pour aboutir à l'élaboration finale de ce Programme de travail et budget pour 1990-91.

Pour ce qui a trait à l'évolution d'une étape supplémentaire et schéma système adopté par le Directeur général pour la présentation du Programme de travail et budget, la République populaire d'Angola fera savoir sa position au cours de cette session.

Les priorités définies dans ces programmes ont fait l'objet de notre approbation dans les différents organes de notre Organisation où ce problème a été posé, et ici nous ne faisons que réitérer notre position.

Nous approuvons sans réserve la politique de consécration des ressources supplémentaires au programme technique et économique ainsi que le programme de la coopération technique, mais nous voulons faire quelques commentaires sur certaines priorités. S'agissant de la biotechnologie, nous sommes d'accord avec ce qui est dit au paragraphe 2.20 que dans les pays en développement on a plus besoin de l'assistance de la FAO dans ce domaine. A cet égard, nous appuyons les activités principales que la FAO s'est assignées comme envisagé au paragraphe 2.23, particulièrement encourager les pays industrialisés ayant des programmes de pointe à partager leurs connaissances et leurs compétences avec les pays en développement, évidemment dans les domaines où il y a plus de chances de réaliser des progrès durables des conditions économiques spécifiques, comme il est bien stipulé au paragraphe 2.20. Nous encourageons et appuyons la FAO dans l'élaboration d'un code de conduite pour les biotechnologies et les ressources phytogénétiques.

En ce qui concerne le problème du développement rural, notre pays partage pleinement les préoccupations de la communauté internationale. Pour nous, la pauvreté est la cause la plus importante de la dégradation de l'environnement et son aggravation peut encore le détériorer davantage.

Comme on peut le constater aux paragraphes 2.132, 2.52 et au paragraphe 2.62, la FAO a toujours oeuvré utilement en faveur de l'environnement et du développement, mais elle se doit de faire plus encore. Dans l'intérêt de tous, et en vue d'assurer le développement durable de tous les pays, en particulier des pays en développement, la communauté internationale doit porter toute l'attention voulue aux relations mutuelles entre, d'un côté, des

facteurs tels que la production agricole et industrielle, la population, le courant des ressources, la dette, le fossé séparant les riches et les pauvres, et, d'un autre côté, les problèmes de l'environnement et la nécessité d'un développement durable.

Ainsi les pays développés doivent fournir leur assistance aux pays en développement et aplanir les difficultés rencontrées par ces derniers pour solutionner les problèmes qui pèsent déjà sur eux.

Ce faisant, les pays développés doivent tenir compte des effets de leurs investissements sur l'environnement naturel des pays en développement. A cet égard, la coopération internationale en matière d'environnement, les institutions financières multilatérales doivent allouer des ressources supplémentaires.

Les femmes ont toujours joué un rôle important dans notre société. Nous n'allons pas nous étendre sur ce point car notre délégation le fera dans la première Commission. Nous appuyons les grandes lignes du plan d'action, paragraphes 2.82 et 2.88, ainsi que les priorités identifiées aux paragraphes 2.89 et 2.93, particulièrement en ce qui concerne le paragraphe 2.95 que nous considérons d'une importance capitale. Il constitue la base de la réussite de ce programme.

A cet égard, nous encourageons la FAO, tel qu'il est dit au paragraphe 2.92, à aider les Etats Membres à continuer et à renforcer les capacités techniques pour le programme relatif aux femmes. D'où s'impose la nécessité d'un plan extrabudgétaire malgré l'augmentation des crédits alloués à ce programme. C'est avec une grande satisfaction que nous avons noté que des activités seront quand même entreprises sur le programme international d'approvisionnement en engrais. On continuera à fournir une aide de ces produits aux pays en développement. A cet effet, nous exhortons les pays donateurs à appuyer les efforts de la FAO comme par le passé. Nous exprimons notre satisfaction sur l'augmentation substantielle des ressources allouées à certains programmes, ainsi qu'au renforcement des programmes nationaux, la lutte contre les migrateurs nuisibles, la lutte contre la mouche tsé-tsé et la trypanosomiase. Par ailleurs, nous voudrions faire part de notre préoccupation de certaines réductions et nous espérons qu'elles pourront être comblées par des ressources extrabudgétaires car nombre de ces programmes sont d'une importance capitale pour notre pays.

Parlant du programme de la coopération technique, nous ne pouvons que réitérer nos regrets de voir que les ressources affectées à ce programme ont été maintenues au même niveau que dans le sommaire, et nous souhaitons dans l'avenir un renforcement de ces ressources.

Pour terminer, nous estimons que l'augmentation minime du niveau du budget de 5,5 millions de dollars (soit 1%), proposée par le Directeur général, ne répond pas aux besoins ressentis par les Etats Membres, et ne comblera même pas les lacunes engendrées par les réductions de programmes opérées au cours des deux derniers exercices.

Malgré cette faible croissance nous appuyons les Programmes de travail et budget pour 1990-91 ainsi que le projet de résolution soumis à notre appréciation, et invitons tous les pays membres à approuver par consensus le Programme de travail et budget pour 1990-91. Et nous lançons un appel vibrant à tous les pays membres pour qu'ils honorent leurs engagements financiers.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie l'honorable délégation de l'Angola, Avec cette intervention je voudrais arrêter le débat de ce matin et vous dire que nous devrions être là à 14 h 30 pour que nous puissions poursuivre sur cette question. Je vous invite également à faire preuve de brièveté dans vos interventions pour que nous puissions avancer.

Pour l'instant, j'ai une liste; je crois qu'on devra pouvoir commencer par le Portugal cet après-midi et poursuivre par le Pérou, la Belgique, la Pologne, la Colombie, la Guinée, le Kenya, Madagascar, le Cap-Vert. De toute façon, la liste est ouverte. Ceux qui ne sont pas inscrits pour l'instant le seront cet après-midi. N'ayez nulle crainte, tout le monde parlera. Je vous remercie, la séance est levée.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 89/II/PV/4

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

FOURTH MEETING QUATRIEME SEANCE CUARTA SESION

(15 November 1989)

The fourth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La quatrième séance est ouverte à 15 heures
sous la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la cuarta sesión a las 15.00 horas
baio la presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II

- II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)
- 13. Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 and Medium-Term Objectives (continued)
- 13. Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 et objectifs à moyen terme (suite)
- 13. Programa de labores y presupuesto para 1990-91 y objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, nous ouvrons cette séance de l'après-midi. Comme vous pouvez le constater, nous avons une demi-heure de retard. Cela est dû au fait que vous entrez en retard dans cette salle et que nous ne pouvons pas commencer nos travaux sans quorum. Maintenant le quorum est atteint et nous allons pouvoir commencer.

Nous allons écouter le Portugal pour commencer et une nouvelle fois, je vous invite à être brefs et concis dans la mesure où beaucoup d'entre vous ont déjà parlé.

Antonio MAGALHAES COELHO (Portugal): Ma délégation vous félicite ainsi que les vice-présidents pour votre élection 1989.

Je voudrais parler sur 3 points: nutrition, forêt, région Europe.

La délégation portugaise félicite le Secrétariat pour l'excellent programme 2.1.6 sur la Nutrition présenté dans le document C 89/3.

Devant les graves carences alimentaires, qui touchent une grande partie de la population mondiale et les erreurs alimentaires qui se vérifient aussi dans les pays de meilleures ressources, il devient important d'étudier les problèmes de nutrition, non seulement parce qu'ils sont liés à la santé des populations, mais aussi parce qu'ils rendent possible la constitution de diètes équilibrées et pas nécessairement plus coûteuses.

Sans personnes bien alimentées et saines, il est difficile de penser aux programmes de développement et de modernisation des systèmes de production. En outre, les charges concernant la santé détournent des montants importants, qui devraient être appliqués au développement de la production.

La délégation portugaise considère que tous les points de vue indiqués dans le programme et analyse sont importants, mais nous voudrions remarquer quelques points qui ne sont pas inclus très clairement dans le programme et qui nous semblent aussi importants.

D'abord, on devrait renforcer la connaissance de la valeur alimentaire et nutritionnelle de beaucoup d'aliments utilisés surtout en milieu tropical, dont nous avons seulement une connaissance empirique ou traditionnelle.

Seconde question: il s'agit de l'orientation pour aider à établir des diètes équilibrées, où soient inclus, de plus en plus, les aliments qui sont ou peuvent être produits dans la région.

Troisième question: il s'agit de reprendre la publication "Alimentation et Nutrition" et de créer un prix pour distinguer annuellement ou tous les deux ans un travail ou une personne, qui s'est distinguée dans ce domaine, c'est le cas des prix SEN ou BOERMA.

Quatrième question: il s'agit d'améliorer, de plus en plus, l'harmonisation entre les normes CODEX et celles des pays ou des groupes de pays très développés, normalement plus exigeants.

Les problèmes de nutrition sont tout d'abord quantitatifs puis qualitatifs. Sans oublier les seconds, la nutrition est liée à l'accroissement de la production dans ces pays et à la réduction des pertes post-récoltes, lesquelles diminuent les disponibilités dans presque la moitié de certains de ces pays.

Ma délégation encourage fortement les campagnes d'éducation alimentaire, surtout au niveau des enfants, parce qu'ainsi, nous pouvons mieux préparer les personnes pour le futur et c'est pourquoi on devrait utiliser l'école comme point de contact avec les jeunes.

Si le problème de la famine quantitative est important, soit par la carence totale d'aliments, soit par l'effet de la pauvreté, nous ne pouvons pas oublier la famine qualitative provoquée par des diètes mal orientées.

Le "kwashiorkor" dans les zones de très grande consommation d'amylacés et de baisse de la consommation de protéines; les carences en iode et le goitre endémique qu'elles provoquent; les carences en vitamine C et la diminution de résistance aux maladies; les carences en vitamine B et les glossites, ainsi que les maladies de l'intestin; les carences en vitamines liposolubles et la cécité, sont des exemples bien connus qui prouvent qu'il ne suffit pas de remplir l'estomac, mais de chercher dans la diète tous les aliments nécessaires.

En outre, on devra encourager des campagnes pour réduire la consommation de l'alcool qui est devenu un fléau dans certains pays et, conjointement avec d'autres organisations intéressées, spécialement l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé, essayer de corriger l'abus d'autres produits malsains.

Pour la forêt, il s'agit d'un chapitre bien élaboré et fondé, qui nous donne une idée globale de l'énorme importance que la forêt représente au niveau mondial, soit comme productrice directe de richesse, soit comme conservatrice des ressources naturelles, de l'équilibre de l'écologie et du pays. Dans certains pays, l'importance des produits forestiers est énorme, c'est pourquoi la forêt a une place importante dans le cadre économique de ces pays. Au Portugal, l'exportation des produits forestiers représente 16 pour cent de l'exportation globale.

Mon pays prend garde à ce patrimoine, la forêt est un bon procédé pour faire valoir quelques terrains, et ainsi, nous sommes en train de fomentier des plans de développement pour la production forestière, mais chaque année la forêt portugaise est tellement affectée par de si graves feux que, dans quelques années la surface brûlée surpassera celle à replacer. Cette année 77 500 ha de forêt ont été déjà dissipés par les incendies, ce qui fait à peu

près 700 000 ha en 10 ans. En effet/ cela confirme notre position d'associer en considérant les problèmes de la forêt européenne - les incendies forestiers aux pluies acides, qui sont plus dangereuses dans quelques pays plus industrialisés de l'Europe occidentale.

Mon pays, devant ces causes et le contact avec les régions tropicales pendant plusieurs siècles, considère comme préoccupant le ravage de la forêt tropicale et approuve les mesures préconisées par le PAFT.

Le ravage de la forêt tropicale, qui se fait au rythme de 40 ha par minute, est vraiment préoccupant et, si les mesures appropriées ne sont pas prises, dans à peu près 85 ans toute la forêt aura disparu.

Mais nous ne sommes pas ici pour condamner, mais seulement pour comprendre et pour aider les pays ou les régions où se vérifient de telles situations, afin de chercher les meilleurs chemins pour rendre compatibles la production agricole avec la production des ressources naturelles.

On sait qu'après le ravage de la forêt, deux ou trois ans de bonnes ou raisonnables productions se suivent, dans le cas de la culture annuelle, puis, le terrain commence la phase de désertification, compte tenu des caractéristiques pauvres de ces terrains. La richesse est seulement apparente et elle est visible tandis que la forêt existe et peut faire le recyclage des éléments minéraux.

Afin de protéger la forêt dans les pays où on a besoin d'augmenter la production alimentaire, il devient nécessaire d'augmenter les productions des terrains agricoles en préservant leur fertilisation aux dépens d'une bonne technologie du sol, en appliquant des engrais, en utilisant des semences améliorées et en protégeant les cultures contre les insectes et les maladies. Mais ce programme de développement engage l'aide technique et matérielle de la part des pays plus industrialisés; sans cela les pays avec les difficultés énoncées poursuivront le ravage de la forêt pour la recherche de nouveaux terrains agricoles.

Le Portugal est très soucieux de la forêt méditerranéenne, et ainsi il essaye d'étudier la relation entre la production de pins et d'eucalyptus; la sylviculture méditerranéenne typique et la forêt d'usages multiples, y compris les ressources hydrauliques, agricoles, production de plantes aromatiques et médicinales, chasse, pêche, élevage d'ovins et de caprins, etc. En effet, on a élaboré la législation sur la protection du chêne-liège, sur l'interdiction des coupes avant la période et l'obligation de faire les coupes, sur la condition de planter des arbres à croissance rapide, notamment les Eucalyptus, Acacia, Populus; sur le fermage forestier et le résinage des pins.

Mais, tout le monde sait que l'éducation de la population est plus importante que la législation, afin de respecter la forêt, son équilibre avec le milieu et en profiter selon ces principes. La population portugaise en général aime la forêt et a beaucoup de souci lors des incendies, mais surtout parce que, pour les petites communautés rurales, la forêt représente une réserve où les agriculteurs cherchent de l'argent au moyen de la coupe de quelques arbres pour équilibrer les effets d'une mauvaise année agricole. Les documents élaborés par la FAO sur les forêts et discutés au niveau du Conseil et de la Conférence sont si réalistes et intéressants qu'ils ont toujours reçu l'approbation générale.

Cela signifie qu'il y a une syntonie internationale en ce qui concerne les problèmes de la forêt et son importance dans l'économie mondiale et dans l'équilibre du milieu ambiant.

Nous pouvons dire qu'il s'agit d'un secteur où les capitaux appliqués pour son développement et sa conservation ont été largement reproductifs et c'est pourquoi mon pays considère que les montants destinés au chapitre des forêts concernant le budget de la FAO pourraient être plus élevés.

Ces dernières années, nous avons assisté aux situations pénibles de famine sur beaucoup de zones du globe, lesquelles souffrent des effets du ravage démesuré des forêts dans leurs pays ou dans les pays voisins, ce qui se traduit, soit par le progrès de la désertification, soit par des inondations plus ou moins catastrophiques.

La désertification qui malheureusement se vérifie déjà dans de nombreuses régions du globe peut affecter le potentiel des terrains agricoles, la production d'aliments et la survivance de l'humanité. Nous savons bien comment la désertification peut augmenter rapidement sur les terrains d'un équilibre faible, si les mesures convenables ne sont pas prises.

Les inondations qui causent du tort au revenu agricole sont, dans la plupart des cas, dues à l'aridité des bords des cours d'eau, souvent dans les pays limitrophes, raisons pour lesquelles les actions de conservation des ressources, la défense, la conservation et le développement de la forêt doivent être accomplis sous forme coordonnée avec la participation active de tous les pays intéressés, par une vraie coopération régionale, tel est le cas de la région saharienne en Afrique.

Pour la région Europe, je voudrais me référer en peu de mots au programme résumé concernant la région Europe.

Bien sûr, il s'agit d'une région où la plupart de certains problèmes de développement ont déjà été surmontés, mais parmi les groupes de pays, il y a encore des différences importantes, les unes dérivées du degré de développement et les autres, de conditions écologiques différentes.

En effet, quelques pays sont préoccupés par les excédents alimentaires et, par voie de conséquence, par une collaboration internationale pour normliser les marchés des produits agricoles, ils diminuent leur production, soit par la réduction des terrains cultivés soit par la réduction des revenus unitaires.

D'autres pays, au contraire, n'ont pas encore réussi à assurer leur auto-suffisance alimentaire. Mon pays continue à importer presque cinquante pour cent des aliments qu'il consomme, bien que sa politique ne soit pas celle de développer des cultures marginales, qui n'auront pas de défense économique.

On ne doit pas oublier l'importance du secteur agricole dans l'équilibre du paysage et de la société, et de ce fait, ses droits à une compensation. Mais on ne peut pas défendre une production illimitée de denrées alimentaires pour devenir des excédents. C'est pourquoi nous pensons qu'il est nécessaire de chercher des cultures non alimentaires, qui puissent maintenir l'activité agricole sans ces excédents. Les semences des oléagineux excédentaires, les protéigineuses, certaines fibres entre autre, doivent être développées et on doit aussi étudier leur impact dans la société rurale et dans l'économie des pays.

Mon pays approuve le réseau d'Escorena et pense qu'on doit trouver un procédé de façon à faire connaître ses résultats dans les pays en développement, pour que ceux-ci puissent les adapter à leurs conditions.

Nous pensons aussi que dans la région Europe on doit développer de plus en plus une politique de la qualité de vie en renforçant le secteur rural, la préservation des ressources, de la nature ou leur exploitation d'une forme équilibrée, la défense de pollution des cours d'eau et des terrains et la protection des ressources de la pêche. De même, on doit augmenter la valeur de la forêt par son intérêt touristique, par la chasse et la protection des cours d'eau. Naturellement, on devra développer des schémas de protection contre les pluies acides, qui sont dangereuses dans les pays très industrialisés et aussi contre les feux causes des grandes calamités surtout dans l'Europe méridionale.

La Conférence régionale pour l'Europe a déjà approuvé une résolution dans ce sens; la délégation portugaise entend qu'on devrait pouvoir réunir des montants suffisants pour organiser, plus régulièrement, des cours internationaux d'échange d'expériences et de formation et promotion de la femme rurale, laquelle assume, de plus en plus, une place importante dans l'agriculture européenne.

Sra. María Susana LANDAVERI PORTURAS (Perú): Gracias señor Presidente. Inicio mi intervención manifestando el agradecimiento de la delegación del Perú a la presentación hecha por el señor Shah del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 y objetivos a mediano plazo. A este respecto, en primer lugar consideramos que este tema debe tratarse con total independencia de cualquier otra consideración.

Debemos resaltar que aunque objetivamente sería deseable que el Presupuesto 1990-91 fuera más elevado para poder afrontar adecuadamente las necesidades del próximo bienio, apoyamos la propuesta del Director General de un aumento real del 0,45 por ciento.

Aunque consideramos apropiada la labor efectuada para utilizar los recursos de la forma más exacta, debemos lamentar la disminución de los mismos para los programas de cooperación técnica, un uno por ciento que perjudica grandemente las actividades vitales y necesarias para nuestros países. En lo que atañe a Latinoamérica, es indispensable hacer notar la proporción desventajosa que tienen los programas de cooperación técnica para esta región, situación que empeora conforme avanzan los años y donde los nuevos presupuestos bienales evidencian cada vez menor apoyo a nuestras necesidades.

Por éstas y otras razones ya expresadas anteriormente, no podemos aceptar ideas que algunas delegaciones patrocinan, como las de crecimiento cero, absorción de costos, priorización de actividades, reajustes presupuestarios. Todas éstas llevarían inexorablemente, de una forma u otra, a la desactivación de la FAD.

Nos parece acertada la selección de prioridades establecidas en el capítulo uno del documento tres, resaltando en especial la biotecnología, el papel de la mujer en el desarrollo rural, la protección de los cultivos, la acuicultura y el desarrollo sostenible.

Para finalizar, señor Presidente, queremos augurar que la Conferencia pueda aprobar este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto por consenso,

Zbigniew KARNICKI (Poland) : Poland has found this document under consideration to be a great improvement compared to the previous one and it is an important step forward. This document gives us a clear idea in which direction we are heading to and we have the nine priorities which are fully endorsed.

The emphasis given to biotechnology in FAO's efforts to bring about improvements in crop and livestock activity is very much welcomed. Activities and interests in this particular field have increased enormously in recent years and these new technologies should not remain the domain of highly developed countries; the benefits of agriculture biotechnology should be available to other countries as well. We are therefore pleased to see the number of new programme and programme elements specifically dealing with this subject.

Sustainable development, despite 5 000 papers already available on this subject, should remain in my personal opinion one of the top priorities of FAO at least in order to implement the findings and recommendations of these 5 000 papers.

In the field of nutrition we are pleased with the increased emphasis on national food and nutrition policies and the continued importance given to the Joint FAD/WHO Food Standards Programme in the service of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. These activities are of great importance to my country as we are making every effort to expand the presence of our products on the international market.

In the Sub-programme on Statistical Processing and Analysis, we are particularly pleased with the World Agricultural Information Centre, WAICENT, which promises to greatly improve the gathering, processing and disseminating of information within FAO and to the Member States. We see the provision of information as one of the most important services rendered by FAO to Member States and we are also extremely pleased with the computerization of FAO's activities and other programmes like ASFIS, FISHDAB. I think that will provide us with much faster information and will allow us greater evaluation of the information available.

We also consider very highly FAO's role in contributing to the shaping of food and agricultural policies worldwide and welcome the preparation of the new edition of Agriculture Towards 2000. The publication of this edition is to be in 1993. In 1988 at the European Regional Conference held in Poland strong recommendations were made for the increased role of FAO in agricultural policy analysis. In this connection we strongly support the creation of the European Research Group for monitoring and evaluating agricultural policies.

With regard to fisheries, Poland welcomes the increased budget allocation for this major programme. We are also satisfied with the priorities accorded to the FAO role in the collection, analysis and dissemination of data in aquaculture and we note with satisfaction the fact that FAO is practically taking over worldwide coordination in the area of aquaculture with the

termination of the ADCP which will take place at the end of this year. It is also noted with satisfaction that special attention in the Fisheries Programme is paid to the research activities and there is closer cooperation in developed and developing countries.

Regarding the level of budget available for the next biennium, my delegation can only join with the others in appealing to all Member States for fulfilment of their financial obligations. We fully endorse the proposal by the Director-General, shifting resources into areas of priority and strengthening organizations such as Technical and Economic Programmes. However, looking to the document, we have difficulties in finding out how much resources have been shifted to the different areas of priority and we hope in the next programme we will have much less difficulty. This may be one way in which the document could be improved.

So far as the new procedure of preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget is concerned, we see it as a step forward and we wish to encourage FAO to continue and further improve this procedure.

Finally, a very minor question, in the present financial situation reduction of posts seems necessary. However, seeing a great number of general service posts abolished, I sincerely hope this fact will not reduce the efficiency of the professionals which remain.

In conclusion, the Polish delegation is ready to endorse the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 hoping that in preparation of the new one all critical comments made at this Conference will be taken into account and implemented to the greatest possible extent.

Ibrahim KABA (Guinée): Après avoir pris note avec attention de l'exposé introductif très clair de M. Shah et suite à l'étude approfondie du Programme de travail et budget de la FAO pour le biennium 1990-91, la délégation guinéenne exprime ses vives félicitations au Secrétariat pour la présentation d'une documentation détaillée et facile à lire.

Nous sommes particulièrement impressionnés par le souci du Directeur général de fournir aux Etats Membres le maximum de renseignements permettant d'expliquer chaque élément du programme et chaque chiffre du budget.

Nous reconnaissons que la transparence et la bonne présentation de ce document sont dues à la nouvelle démarche qui a été adoptée et qui a permis aux pays membres de formuler, dans les différentes instances de notre Organisation, de nombreuses critiques et observations dont le Secrétariat a dûment tenu compte. Encore une fois nous le félicitons pour cette fidélité.

S'agissant des programmes technique et économique, nous constatons avec bonheur que le choix et la hiérarchisation des priorités correspondent aux préoccupations des Etats Membres.

En effet, l'ambition légitime des pays en développement de réaliser le plus rapidement possible l'autosuffisance alimentaire implique l'utilisation, dans la production animale et dans la production végétale, des progrès de la biotechnologie. Par ailleurs, le perfectionnement et la diffusion de

l'information agricole, la prise en compte et le ferme soutien au rôle important de la femme dans le développerent, l'impulsion de l'aquaculture et la mise en oeuvre du plan forestier tropical constituent des domaines que la délégation guinéenne privilégie.

S'agissant du budget proposé pour l'exécution du programme biennal (575 millions de dollars), notre conviction reste que la fixation du budget à ce niveau a surtout tenu compte de l'exigence de certains pays membres de respecter la croissance zéro malgré les besoins croissants des pays en développement.

Pour notre part, nous considérons que l'augmentation réelle de 0,45 pour cent est nettement insuffisante face aux prévisions d'augmentation des coûts au cours de l'exercice biennal.

La proposition d'abaisser la part du PCT contrarie également notre position.

Cependant, le souci d'obtenir et de maintenir autour de ce projet de programme et de budget un consensus constructif nous interpelle. Aussi, nous soutenons ce projet, et souhaitons l'appui de notre commission pour que la vingt-cinquième session de notre Conférence accorde son approbation par consensus.

Benjamin K. KISILU (Kenya): Since it is our first time of speaking since yesterday we would like to follow our friends in congratulating you in having been elected as the Chairman of this important Commission and at the same time we would like to thank Mr Shah for his eloquent introduction of the agenda item under discussion. We also should express our satisfaction with the pragmatic approach in the preparation and presentation of the document. We are appreciative of the fact that FAO is about to look afresh at all activities and programmes, reassess their relative strengths and weaknesses and to absorb the lessons learned and to ensure complementarity. We think this is in line with Conference Resolution 6/87 to review certain activities of FAO. We underline the importance of absorbing the needs and priorities of the developing countries, particularly those relating to the needs to alleviate poverty and hunger.

We agree with the priority areas underlined in paragraph 7 of the document. We in particular wish to underline environmental protections and sustainable development which is now critical in view of the population increases, pressure on lands and the devastation of forests and soils in many parts of the developing world. With the advancing technology, the usefulness and potentials in the application of biotechnology in developing countries is immense.

We would like to register satisfaction in the manner in which the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the forthcoming biennium has been presented and would like to make specific comments as follows: in paragraph 23, the main table once again indicates a wide difference between livestock-related activities and crops. It could be argued that some activities under the other components could also be connected with livestock but my delegation feels that the allocations as they stand do not reflect the importance of livestock to many developing countries. Pastoral communities are primarily found in arid and semi-arid lands and comprise one of the poorest sectors of the community. Their most critical needs, which have close ties with livestock, are water development, fodder and pasture, fuelwood, animal health and

livestock management/grazing management. In addition communication and infrastructure are in most cases absent, thereby perpetuating continual poverty, sub-programmes 2.1.5, 2.1.7 and 2.1.8 should thus reflect more strongly on the issues that would assist the development of arid and semi-arid lands and which would assist communities found in these areas and in particular the pastoral communities.

With the growing realization of the importance of our common heritage we are happy to see continued emphasis on natural resources and the introduction of the sub-programme 2.1.1.6 on resource potential. We agree with the maintained concern regarding farming systems development; this is even more important when seen in the light of many developing countries where population growth and pressure on high potential land has led to fragmentation of land and to exploitation of marginal land. Connected to this concern we think sub-paragraph 2.1.1.1 should have continued to receive increasing budgetary support particularly on land resource evaluation and water resource assessment. With regard to sub-paragraph 2.1.1.4 however, we wish to reiterate that for many developing countries a lot of hope is directed towards development of irrigated agriculture. While many of the activities may have been covered under programme element 01 we are greatly concerned that Africa has been targeted for cuts under programme element 03, Small Farmer Development in Africa. We think this does not reflect the statements of concern regarding the plight of Africa. We wish to seek an explanation from the Secretariat, the rationale for this cut.

In regard to paragraph 2.1.2, while in general support to the main sub-programmes, we would have preferred increasing support for Genetic Resources and for Food and Agricultural Industries with trimming being carried out probably under paragraph 2.1.2.7 in Regional Offices.

We are disturbed by the too large reduction in the support to Member Countries in the Training Department on genetic resources in sub-paragraph 2.1.2.1. On sub-paragraph 2.1.2.2 we are in agreement with many of the emphasis and particularly the new focus on biotechnology and sustainable production systems.

On sub-paragraph 2.1.2.3, while accepting the new focus on the on-farm seed production, we also realize that for many parts of Africa there is still a lot more to be done to strengthen national seed programmes and training. On the whole we share the views expressed on the importance of on-farm seed production, particularly in those crops that have not yet attained commercial status. However, we think readjustment among the sub-programmes could still be carried out so as to reflect the continued need to support weak institutions in Africa as well as the importance of manpower training in seed production.

We have similar concern for sub-paragraph 2.1.2.4 on Post-Harvest Pest Management, as heavy losses are realized every year in the tropics. We are, however, happy with the emphasis on strengthening Plant Protection infrastructures, Migratory Pests and on Integrated Pest Management Control.

We are, however, concerned that the greater grain borer has not been specifically mentioned in view of its importance. This is in paragraph 73 and paragraph 81. The mention of striga weed in paragraph 73 is particularly welcome by my delegation. This takes care of the concern expressed on this need by the Inter-governmental Committee on Grains.

We have no problems with sub-paragraph 2.1.3.1 on Grassland, Forage and Feed Resources, and indeed are happy to see emphasis on programme elements 01, 04 and 06. Regarding sub-paragraph 2.1.3.2 we would have preferred even a higher allocation as animal health continues to affect many of our countries. Foot-and-mouth disease for example has for a long time new affected neat production and export opportunities of many developing countries. This concern should be reflected by increasing allocation.

Sub-paragraphs 2.1.3.4, Dairy; 2.1.3.5, Meat Development; and 2.1.3.6, Livestock Production, show reducing allocations. This in our opinion does not reflect the importance of livestock in developing countries and the contribution of livestock to the welfare and food security of many communities in the developing world.

We think readjustment among the sub-paragraphs and in particular some of the sub-paragraphs which have no direct benefit accruing to the recipients, could be reviewed downwards.

On research and technology, we agree with the emphasis. We, on the other hand, believe that sub-paragraph 2.1.4.3 could perhaps be reviewed to assess reallocation to other activities of concern to developing countries as discussed earlier on. We are satisfied with the modest adjustments in Environment and Energy. In paragraph 2.1.5 on Rural Development we think adjustments in sub-paragraph 2.1.5.2 and 2.1.5.7 could help in increasing support to other critical areas within the programme and in other sub-programmes.

With all these comments we do support consensus approval on this Programme of Work and Budget.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Nous vous adressons nos félicitations et nos remerciements, M. le Président, ainsi qu'au Secrétariat et à M. Shah.

La délégation malgache a participé intensément en tant que membre aux travaux de la quatre-vingt-seizième session du Conseil et a donc déjà eu l'occasion de faire largement part de sa position sur le projet de programme de travail et budget 1990-91. A cette occasion, elle a manifesté son appui sans réserve au projet et a recommandé son envoi à la Conférence pour approbation par consensus. Nous avons bien entendu le plaisir de réitérer cet appui et d'inviter tous les Etats Membres sans exception à en faire de même.

C'est dans un esprit de compromis que nous accordons ce soutien au programme car nous sommes loin d'être satisfaits du bas niveau proposé. Nous regrettons en effet comme d'autres délégations que le Programme de coopération technique ne représente que 11,8 pour cent du budget alors qu'il était de 14 pour cent en 1986-87. Il devra être accru à l'avenir pour atteindre un taux conforme aux besoins. Certaines délégations avaient d'ailleurs ce matin donné des indications sur ce taux, et nous partageons les propositions concrètes qui ont été formulées par ces délégations.

Par ailleurs comment pourrions-nous être satisfaits du niveau du budget proposé alors que rien, dans les propositions, ne prévoit de redresser les dégâts et inconvénients causés à nos pays par la suppression de programmes et de projets correspondant à 60 millions de dollars? La logique et la cohérence nous auraient commandé de requérir un niveau nettement plus élevé si nous

voulions entre autres que le Programme des Nations Unies pour le redressement et le développement de l'Afrique connaisse une réalisation satisfaisante. Mais pour favoriser le consensus, nous avons renoncé à nos prétentions légitimes et nous acceptons une croissance insignifiante voisine de zéro.

Nous souhaiterions par conséquent vivement que ce sacrifice qui est le nôtre soit apprécié par ceux qui veulent faire passer à tout prix le principe avant la raison. Nous souhaiterions vivement que les ténors de la croissance zéro fassent preuve de coopération et de solidarité internationale.

Nous sommes convaincus que ceux qui sont partisans de la session spéciale de janvier pour la préparation du Programme de travail et budget voudraient que ce système soit maintenu. Pour notre part, nous pensons que ledit système a fait ses preuves et qu'il ne devra être maintenu que si, et seulement si, le consensus se réalise. Dans le cas contraire, nous n'y verrions que perte de temps et dépenses inutiles et nous recommanderions à la Conférence d'y mettre fin.

Notre ordre du jour traite du Programme de travail et budget mais nous ne pourrions clore notre intervention sans déplorer la situation financière très critique de l'Organisation. Nous sommes convaincus que la Conférence prendra les décisions et les résolutions permettant de redresser la situation et surtout d'éviter que le Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 ne soit entravé par les mêmes problèmes.

Antonio Rodrigues PIRES (Cap-Vert): Qu'il nous soit tout d'abord permis de remercier le Secrétariat pour la préparation et la présentation de ces documents, et en particulier M. Shah pour son très remarquable exposé.

Je commencerai par souligner le caractère extrêmement modéré - je dis bien extrêmement modéré - du budget qui nous est présenté. Ce budget ne satisfait pas les pays en développement car il est parfaitement insuffisant par rapport à nos besoins réels. Je tiens à soutenir les déclarations de S.E. l'Ambassadeur du Costa Rica et de S.E. l'Ambassadeur de Madagascar à ce sujet.

Ce budget, soyons francs, a été déposé dans le but d'obtenir un consensus des grands pays de ce monde; il faut le dire. Si ce consensus n'est pas obtenu, nous devons conclure que la modération n'a servi à rien. Je suis franc et peut-être dur mais j'ai le devoir de l'être en pensant à nos populations qui continuent à souffrir de la misère, de la faim et de la malnutrition.

Nous voterons bien sûr le budget mais nous lançons un vibrant appel pour que le consensus recherché depuis des mois puisse être obtenu et que l'ensemble des pays riches et des pays pauvres puissent travailler à construire un monde véritablement équitable et à obtenir un développement au bénéfice de tous sans exception.

Au sujet du Programme du PCT, ma délégation fait siennes en les appuyant les propositions du Mali, de la Thaïlande et de Madagascar, sur la nécessité d'augmenter considérablement les ressources allouées à cet important et vital programme de la FAO pour nos pays. Avec beaucoup de respect, je lance un appel aux pays donateurs pour qu'ils s'interrogent sur ce que ressentent les petits pays en développement face à ces programmes dont ils sont les bénéficiaires.

Deux mots si vous le permettez sur l'importance des programmes de terrain. Ils constituent sans aucun doute la pierre angulaire de notre Organisation et représentent l'existence même de la FAO.

Concernant les propositions figurant dans le cadre du développement durable du programme (points 2.3 - 1.2), nous constatons favorablement, malgré les coupures sévères au budget, les efforts que, dans sa sagesse, notre Organisation a faits pour pouvoir maintenir le programme et assister les Etats, afin de leur permettre d'aménager et de conserver leur patrimoine de ressources naturelles qui constituent les garants pour les générations futures.

Nous soutenons les activités proposées telles qu'elles figurent de façon louable au point 2.48; notamment la composante que représentent les femmes dans le développement agricole, l'intégration des problèmes écologiques, etc. Ce sont là des activités d'extrême importance de la FAO étant donné que des politiques appropriées constituent la base importante et indispensable du développement.

L'engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques, le code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides, le pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire, la stratégie pour le développement des pêches, le Plan d'action des forêts tropicales sont autant d'actions vitales dans notre Organisation, nous nous félicitons que ces actions figurent dans le Programme de travail et budget qui nous est soumis.

Nous sommes d'accord également sur l'importance que revêtent les actions préconisées aux points 2.35 et 2.54 et 2.55, en particulier, le développement et l'application des technologies appropriées au milieu rural figurant au point 2.56 du document.

Le programme d'avis et conseils en matière de politique de développement doit être renforcé, de même pour ce qui concerne le programme d'élaboration et de suivi des projets.

Le fonds fiduciaire constitue un programme extrêmement important pour mon pays. Nous avons analysé attentivement les propositions du point 3.5 au point 3.9 et nous exhortons la FAO à poursuivre la voie du dialogue avec nos partenaires et à instituer le financement pour accroître les ressources des fonds, si importants pour notre pays. Nous lançons un appel aux partenaires habituels et aux autres pour qu'ils financent bénévolement le fonds fiduciaire. Nous sommes heureux de voir dans ce document l'importance du Centre d'investissement et les propositions que le Centre continue à mobiliser pour les investissements nationaux et extérieurs pour le développement agricole et rural du tiers monde. La FAO a aidé les pays à mobiliser le financement de 752 projets pour un montant de 35 millions de dollars. Nous appuyons les programmes d'investissement du point 3.14 au point 3.17.

Pour terminer, nous sommes heureux de voir l'importance réservée aux questions de la protection des cultures à la lutte anti-acridienne et en particulier au programme de la lutte biologique, lutte intégrée et au renforcement des activités de recherche économique, régionale et sous-régionale.

Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. My delegation would like at the beginning to congratulate Mr Shah on his excellent presentation of the documents which we are studying in this Commission, and following your instructions we will be brief in this intervention, although there are a large number of comments on several technical programmes which are of importance to my country.

My delegation would like to commend those who have preceded us in supporting the nine priorities, and this was done by Egypt in the Plenary, as these priorities were set up within the framework of the decisions of the governing body, and they aim at meeting the aspirations of the Member States.

We would also like to support those who preceded me in expressing our concern regarding the payment of contributions- because of the effects on the Organization. We would like also to support Cyprus in what they said concerning this aspect.

We would like also to express our concern regarding the low allocations to the TCP, although this is very important as it solves many of our problems.

Finally, we would like to express our support of the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1990-91.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): La delegación de El Salvador considera que la labor que la FAO realiza en los países en desarrollo es de vital importancia.

La paz que buscamos para nuestros pueblos, sólo puede ser posible si resolvemos los problemas económicos y sociales de las poblaciones rurales y es en este campo que la FAO lleva a cabo un rol primordial. Por ello la delegación de El Salvador no puede en ningún momento compartir la tesis del crecimiento cero propugnada desde hace algunos años por algunos miembros de nuestra Organización. Las necesidades crecientes de los sectores más pobres de los países en desarrollo no nos lo permiten.

Creemos, señor Presidente, que los esfuerzos que el Director General y su personal han hecho, para presentarnos un presupuesto muy limitado son de recalcar. Tenemos ante nosotros un documento muy bien preparado y estructurado.

Señor Presidente, ante la inmensidad de las necesidades de nuestros pueblos el incremento nominal propuesto de 5,5 millones de dólares, o sea el 1 por ciento sobre la base presupuestaria tomando en cuenta el incremento de los costos, nos parece insignificante. Todavía más si consideramos la absorción propuesta de los aumentos de los costos que nos llevan a un incremento de sólo el 0,45 por ciento. Esto es loable si tomamos en cuenta que el incremento de los costos está fuera del alcance de la Organización, como ya se ha dicho en esta sala.

Apoyamos plenamente el incremento propuesto del 1,5 por ciento para los programas principales y con más énfasis aún apoyamos el incremento propuesto para el Programa de Cooperación Técnica. Nos parece sin embargo insuficiente, si consideramos la importancia vital que tiene para nuestros países el PCT.

Numerosos ejemplos podríamos dar de la forma eficiente en que la FAO puede responder a través del PCT, a nuestras necesidades más sentidas, A este respecto deseo agradecer en nombre de mi Gobierno la ayuda rápida y efectiva que nos fue proporcionada en agosto de este año para el combate de la langosta voladora. Ello nos permitió, señor Presidente, salvar la cosecha de maíz de este año. Nos gustaría, sin embargo, ver un mayor porcentaje para la región de América Latina y el Caribe en la distribución de las asignaciones del PCT por regiones, que se indica en el párrafo 9 del Capítulo 4 del documento 89/3.

Con relación a las prioridades que se nos proponen en el documento en el párrafo 2.14 estimamos que las mismas reflejan adecuadamente la problemática que afrontan los países en desarrollo. Las nueve prioridades nos parecen importantes y merecen nuestro apoyo, pero deseáramos recalcar en las mismas el plan de Acción Forestal en los trópicos, el desarrollo sostenible y la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo.

El Gobierno de El Salvador está empeñado en la elaboración de un plan nacional de reforestación y en este campo la ayuda en el marco del Plan de Acción Forestal en los trópicos es fundamental. Consideramos asimismo la incorporación de la mujer al desarrollo de vital importancia. En este sentido, celebramos los incrementos propuestos en el subprograma 2.1.5.4 principalmente en lo relativo a la capacitación y a la asistencia a los Estados Miembros en esta materia. Nos agrada sobremedida que en el programa 2.1.5 Desarrollo Rural el mayor incremento propuesto corresponda al subprograma La mujer en la agricultura y el desarrollo rural. Apoyamos el párrafo 16 de este programa. Ratificamos nuestro respaldo al Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo aprobado por el Consejo en noviembre de 1988.

Estimamos sin embargo que es fundamental contar con una asignación dentro del presupuesto que garantice, junto con los recursos extrapresupuestarios, la efectiva aplicación del Plan de Acción.

Apoyamos en general, señor Presidente, el programa de pesca. Estamos seguros de que la FAO buscará los remedios necesarios para resolver el problema de la financiación para la continuación del proyecto "AQUILA". Este proyecto, de muchos conocido, es de vital importancia para la región de América Latina. En otro orden de ideas, creemos que debemos continuar nuestros esfuerzos para lograr un verdadero acuerdo en el marco del compromiso internacional sobre recursos fitogenéticos.

En este sentido apoyamos el incremento propuesto en el subprograma 2.1.2.1 Recursos genéticos, aunque lamentamos las disminuciones planteadas en capacitación y apoyo a los países miembros en esta importante materia.

Señor Presidente, la delegación de El Salvador considera que la función de los representantes de la FAO en nuestros países es de vital importancia como herramienta de apoyo a las actividades de la Organización en el campo.

Por ello, deseamos compartir los conceptos vertidos sobre los representantes de FAO planteados en el Programa Principal 3.4 aprobando el incremento propuesto para este programa el cual se concentrará en la consolidación y fortalecimiento de las oficinas ya existentes.

Señor Presidente, nuestra delegación da su pleno apoyo a este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto pero debemos lamentar que, a la región de América Latina, se destine la menor cantidad de recursos entre las regiones más necesitadas, como puede verse en el Cuadro A, Resumen de las estimaciones para 1990-91 por regiones y programas.

Para concluir, señor Presidente, la delegación de El Salvador hace votos para que podamos aprobar este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto por consenso adoptando, sin modificaciones, el proyecto de resolución sobre las consignaciones presupuestarias para 1990-91.

Déjeme, señor Presidente, a este respecto unir mi voz a la del distinguido delegado de Costa Rica.

Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia): As this is the first time my delegation has taken the floor in Commission II allow me, first of all, to convey my congratulations to you on your having been elected as Chairman of this important committee. Furthermore, I wish also to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen on their also having been elected to chair sessions of this committee.

My delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the Director-General, to Mr Shah and his able staff for the excellent preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 as contained in document C 89/3. We are very pleased to support the application of the procedure in the preparation of this Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 in which a three-stage preparation was carried out: the outline, the summary and the full Programme of Work and Budget. The implementation of the three-stage procedure is very helpful in the improvement process of the preparation of the final draft of the Programme of Work and Budget.

With regard to the proposed budget level, my delegation is fully aware of the fact that the budget level has been formulated from the very beginning of the preparation with the intention of securing a consensus agreement. My delegation is of the view that this budget level would be the most acceptable one, and therefore we express the wish that Conference accepts it. We have to see the reality, that not all of our wishes - including the need to address directly the problems in the field which in most cases are unpredictable - can be accommodated in the Programme of Work and Budget.

My delegation supports the FAO programme priorities for 1990-91 since they reflect the priority of the National Development Plan of Member Countries. We wish to underline the importance of the programme areas as well as the coordination arrangements for their implementation. We particularly wish to note the importance of biotechnology in providing a variety of new technologies to support agricultural development. We also hope that FAO will assist Member Countries in initiating activities in these areas that will give a sustainable programme to us.

My delegation welcomes the efforts to provide more finance for the technical and economic programmes. We are fully supportive of the long-term roles, as well as the wide range of activities under this important major programme.

We are fully aware of the importance of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, dispute settlements on trade barriers under GATT, including the International Plant Protection Convention, promotion of sustainable development, dissemination and application of research results, the implementation of the Prior Informed Consent, principles in the international Code of Conduct for the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, and action to combat the occurrence of pest and diseases. We therefore agree with the need to have extensive FAO participation and assistance for the above-mentioned programmes.

We wholeheartedly welcome the continuation of the implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. Indonesia is committed to the principle and framework of the TFAP. We use the TFAP approach as the rational investment for developing the forestry sector. My delegation also welcomes the inclusion of the programme of Women in Development into the mainstream of FAO's programme.

As clearly expressed in the statement by my Minister during the general debate at the Plenary session, from the very beginning Indonesia has placed the above programme in the centre of its task and current Five Year Development Plan. We have been trying continuously to preserve our national resources and environment and to intensify the re-greening and reforestation of our damaged forests particularly in the upstream areas.

We are also currently undertaking a programme to eradicate pests by applying integrated pest control so as to ensure that it will not disrupt the balance of living creatures in our homeland.

My delegation also agrees with those views seeking to pay greater attention to the function of FAO in the field of policy and direction and development support.

As in the case of the technical and economic programmes, we are also in full agreement on the consideration of the importance of the Organization's field activities, and the development, coordination and monitoring of field programmes. We could also go along with the suggestion of a further strengthening of FAO's country offices aimed at improving the effectiveness of its support to field activities and the strengthening of the cooperation between Headquarters and the Ministry concerned in Member Countries.

With regard to the Technical Cooperation Programme, we note that in the past this programme has played a vital role. It will remain vital to Member Countries both nowadays and in the future. My delegation is pleased to note that the committee recognised the usefulness, effectiveness and value of this programme to recipient countries. We note with concern that the TCP will not receive a significant budget increase. It is our earnest hope that the level of TCP support will be increased in future years and, therefore, all possible efforts to that effect should seriously be considered by all parties.

Considering that all necessary stages of consideration have been followed, all necessary revisions, amendments and improvements were made after every stage of consideration. Therefore, my delegation wishes to express its satisfaction at, and full support for, the Programme of Work and Budget as contained in document C 89/3. We believe that the Programme of Work and Budget in itself reflects a compromise between the demands of various Member Countries, a balance between the concerns, the wishes and the hopes of Member Nations.

In conclusion, I wish to repeat the statement of my Minister, conveyed to the Plenary session yesterday, that the Indonesian delegation supports the approval of the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91. I therefore wish to express our sincere hope that Conference can reach a consensus approval on the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO for 1990-91.

Hideki ITO (Japan) : My delegation wishes to give its views on this very important agenda item, and I shall do so briefly, Mr Chairman, in accordance with your request. Firstly, with regard to the budget level it is really a grave situation that only 51 Member Countries had paid their contribution in full as of 25 September, and that two-thirds of all Member Countries were or are in difficulties about making their full payment. In spite of severe financial constraints because of the sharp depreciation of Japanese Yen, Japan made every effort and paid its contribution in full. My government hopes that other Members who have not paid will make every effort to meet their obligations.

Having said that, Japan - as the second largest contributor to this Organization - has a very good reason to be cautious about any increase to the budget level which would have a direct impact on Japanese taxpayers. Whilst fully understanding the severe financial situation of the Organization, as mentioned above, my delegation still attaches importance to zero real growth just to prevent the unlimited expansion of the budget. I believe that before talking about an increase of the budget we should receive an explanation on to what extent the Secretariat has made efforts to enhance efficiency and absorb cost increases. So far only a US\$ 3 million reduction has been proposed by the Director-General. We need more concrete evidence of the Secretariat's real endeavours to economise on its activities. Without that evidence, it is very hard for my country to accept any budget increase. I hope that during this Conference consensus will be achieved on this important issue.

Secondly, with regard to the Technical Cooperation Programme, my delegation has already made its views clear during our discussions on the previous agenda item, so I will not repeat them.

Thirdly, I would like to touch upon the relationship between the budget level and the FAO review. My delegation believes that it will be possible to make a final judgment on the Programme of Work and Budget only after we decide what to do about the result of the FAO review, because the recommendations by SJS cannot be implemented separately from the Programme of Work and Budget. My delegation's initial feeling is that it is rather contradictory to spend more money implementing recommendations which are supposed to be recommendations to make FAO more cost efficient. We would like to elaborate our view on this point when we discuss the FAO review.

Finally, my delegation would like to conclude this intervention by requesting the FAO Secretariat to continue to improve the new procedure for preparing the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

Zeid ABDEL RAHMAN (Yemen Arab Republic) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the Chair of this Commission. We would also like to congratulate the Secretariat on the very good documentation that has been supplied to us on the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

There are threats to the work of our Organization. Nevertheless, we find that the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium gives us very good material and we feel that it should be fully supported; that all Member Nations should commit themselves to support this Programme of Work and Budget and pay their contributions in good time, honouring their commitments and supporting all the activities of the Organization.

That being said, I will add that we hope that FAO's work will be focused in particular on field operations and especially on supporting the marketing and export of commercial commodities, reducing or eliminating losses and thus strengthening the capacities of Member Nations. Thirdly, we should place greater stress on the points raised by Algeria this morning concerning the position of farmers in occupied Arab territories. Also, the Code of Conduct on the use of pesticides is very important in order to protect the environment and human health.

M.A. SYED (Bangladesh): This has been a very exciting day for me. For a great part of the day I have sat in this hall listening to the comments of many member delegations. I think it is important to mention that this impressive document we have before us is not only a useful one but has been very carefully and diligently prepared, as is very obvious. For this, credit is due to many people who have been involved.

The indication of priority areas in Chapter 2 of this report reflects clarity and vision of FAD. My delegation is pleased to note that priority areas such as biotechnology, policy advice, aquaculture, forestry development and food production have received increased attention. My delegation has been particularly interested in Asia and in the description of the Asian-Pacific Regional Programme on page 281. I must say it is a very good programme and seems to be consistent with the priorities that my country attaches to Bangladesh: fertilizer, agricultural development and so on. The Programme of Work and Budget notes highly interesting and cheerful developments such as increasing the use of fertilizers and the extension of irrigation, which are very powerful engines for higher production and yield. In my country, where FAO has been very closely involved in a large number of programmes, fertilizer consumption has continued to expand at 10-15 percent annually. In this year's summer rice crop, fertilizer use recorded a 32 percent increase. I wish to record my appreciation of the very useful work done in FAO's Technical Assistance Programme in support of the extension and use of fertilizer application.

Irrigation acreage expansion in my country was phenomenal last year. There was something like a 1 million acres increase, resulting in an additional 1 million tons of production. It followed the disastrous flood last year and the increase is unprecedented. It has been contributed to by a series of policy reforms and an ambitious action programme. I am particularly pleased to see that policy advice has been included in the priority area. That is very important. We have just submitted to FAO a highly important project

entitled "Assisting Transformation in Irrigated Culture", which we believe should receive the utmost priority and consideration. For my country, FAO has just initiated action on another major project for accelerated cereal production, and it seems to have enormous potential.

In this Programme of Work and Budget the section on crops beginning on page 56 is a particularly thoughtful one. We agree with the priorities, except in two areas. It is proposed to reduce funding for the National Seed Programme referred to on pages 65 and 66, as well as food and agricultural industries, referred to on page 72. These are both very important priority areas. We would strongly urge reconsideration and the restoration of the allocation for these two items.

My delegation is disappointed to note that the highly useful Technical Cooperation Programme has not received the attention it deserves. It has not been given the extra budgetary funds which are needed. In my country this programme has proved to be extremely efficient and valuable in providing short-term assistance of immediate impact. We feel that the proposal should be reviewed and a substantially increased allocation provided.

One can realize that it has not been easy to prepare a programme of work and budget for a world organization which is subject to enormous cutbacks in resources, which are indeed most unfortunate and regrettable. To insist on zero growth in the budget and at the same time to continue with cuts of the existing budget and to give at the same time new tasks, looks like almost impossible conditions and prescription. There is an urgent need to reconsider and review such decisions. I would urge that this Organization should not suffer the dislocation of this important work merely for lack of funds.

Benjamin NAMI (Cameroun): Permettez-moi tout d'abord d'apporter les chaleureuses félicitations du Cameroun, à vous-même et à tous vos collaborateurs, pour votre brillante élection à la tête de cette Commission II, et la parfaite maîtrise avec laquelle vous conduisez nos débats. Les félicitations de la délégation du Cameroun vont également au Secrétariat pour la transparence qui caractérise le volumineux document du Programme et Budget 1989-90 soumis à notre analyse.

Toutefois, notre délégation aimerait présenter quelques remarques et suggestions sur certains points du document, destinées à renforcer davantage l'efficacité de notre Organisation.

Elles s'articulent sur quatre points très importants du développement des pays en développement en général, et de la région d'Afrique en particulier.

Premièrement, plusieurs éléments des programmes destinés à l'Afrique ont été ou supprimés, ou dilués dans d'autres sous-programmes, ce qui risque de nuire à leur importance, et, par conséquent, à la priorité qu'ils méritent. En effet, d'après l'exposé de notre illustre hôte d'hier, son Excellence le Président Habré, du Tchad, Président en exercice du CILSS, il ressort que l'Afrique continue à être le théâtre du piétinement du développement agricole, à cause des calamités de toutes sortes.

Nous souhaiterions que la FAO, comme par le passé, continue à accorder une priorité soutenue à l'agriculture de cette région.

Deuxièmement, s'agissant des semences et des industries alimentaires, nous voudrions également attirer l'attention de notre Organisation sur leur impact déterminant sur le développement d'une agriculture performante entre autres actions. Or, la tendance à la révision en baisse de l'assistance de la FAO à ces programmes, dont le secteur privé ne saisit pas encore l'intérêt, risque de compromettre le développement agricole de la région. Aussi, nous souhaiterions tout simplement le renversement de la tendance, c'est-à-dire la croissance de l'assistance de l'Afrique subsaharienne en particulier, pour la promotion des industries agricoles adaptées et performantes. Ceci permettrait de réduire le sous-emploi, d'ouvrir de nouveaux exutoires à nos produits agricoles de base, tout en les revalorisant.

Troisièmement, pour ce qui est du sous-programme "Amélioration et conduite des cultures", tout en approuvant la répartition relativement équilibrée entre les différents types de cultures, nous sommes cependant préoccupés par la réduction prévue sur l'élément 05: "Promotion de la production des plantes à racines et amélioration des petites exploitations".

Nous voudrions rappeler que les plantes à tubercules constituent la base de l'alimentation des populations des régions forestières en général, et celles de l'Afrique en particulier, dont le Cameroun fait partie. Nous souhaiterions ardemment qu'à cette catégorie de cultures soit accordée une attention au moins égale à celle accordée aux céréales.

Quatrièmement, dans le même sens, l'élevage des animaux à cycle court, en particulier dans cette région, mérite une attention tout aussi soutenue de la part de notre Organisation pour atténuer, sinon enrayer, le déficit protéique qui caractérise encore le régime alimentaire de certaines communautés de la région.

Nous nous joignons aux nombreux orateurs qui nous ont précédés pour souhaiter que le document qui est soumis à notre analyse, le Programme de travail et budget 1990-91, soit approuvé par consensus.

Nous sommes assurés que la FAD, fidèle à sa tradition de compromis, saura exploiter ces modestes suggestions au mieux de l'intérêt de ses membres en général et des membres cibles en particulier.

YUN SU CHUNG (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): This is the first time I have taken the floor. First of all, I should like to express congratulations to you on your election as Chairman of this important Commission of this Conference. My congratulations also go to the two Vice-Chairmen. On behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea I should like to express thanks to the Director-General and to Dr Shah for their well-presented clear introduction to the document we have before us, the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 and the medium-term objectives. We have studied this document in depth. My delegation recognizes that the Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 and the objectives set out are well prepared in a constructive and well-balanced way which reflects and takes into account the urgent requirements of mankind and internal challenges.

My delegation absolutely supports the Programme for 1990-91 proposed by the Director-General of FAD. We welcome the budget increase of US\$ 5.5 million and the priorities outlined in the Programme. I would like to make a few comments.

Firstly, we recognize at the present time the TCDC and ECDC is an important way forward for the food and agricultural production in developing countries. We would like to emphasize that the TCDC and ECDC activities should be strengthened under the proposed Programme of the FAO. In this regard my country will do its best to cooperate in the activities of the TCDC and ECDC in the future.

Secondly, we recognize that the Technical Cooperation Programme is the one catalyst and essential element for the food and agricultural production development in developing countries. In this connection it is to be noted that it is limited to only one in the budget. The TCP Programme is also reduced. We would also like to stress that the allocation rate of the TCP's budget should be 17 percent in addition to the minimum level for the future biennium.

Thirdly, during the period 1988-89 biennium some important programmes, including the Training Programme, were not realized due to financial constraints. The financial crisis was the result of a delay in payments and contributions by some of the Member Countries, particularly the major contributor. In this regard I would like to call on all Member Countries to pay their contributions as a basic obligation of their membership of this Organization.

In conclusion, I would like to call on all Member Countries to show a sense of solidarity and cooperation by adopting a consensus view for the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 for the further objective of the wellbeing of mankind, and in particular helping the people suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

Antonio BROTONS DIE (España): Nuestra felicitación al Sr. Shah por su brillante resumen del documento C 89/3 y sus suplementos relativos al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que presenta el Director General de la FAO a la Conferencia General.

Del análisis del documento y la información complementaria se deducen algunas cuestiones principales, a nuestro juicio, que pasamos a exponer: En primer lugar, la consideración que nos merece el nuevo sistema de presentación del presupuesto del bienio, que resulta ser a nuestro juicio positiva en razón a las ventajas que supone, de una parte, por las nuevas incorporaciones de transparencia y claridad, y de otra, la presentación previa, a manera de declaración de intenciones, de un esbozo de la línea de actuaciones y prioridades para el examen de los Comités de Finanzas y del Programa, a la que ha seguido el presente proyecto presentado nuevamente al Consejo y a la Conferencia General, que es el momento que nos ocupa ahora mismo.

Esta representación se complace en ver cumplidas con esta presentación del resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto sus indicaciones reiteradas de mayores niveles de transparencia y claridad formuladas en sesiones anteriores del Consejo.

El nivel de incremento de la presupuestación que propone el Director General, con un 1 por ciento sobre el presupuesto actualizado de 1988-89 es aceptable y, a nuestro juicio, puede y debe favorecer el consenso, fórmula a la que debe aspirar siempre lógicamente la Organización.

Del análisis de la situación financiera de la Organización se deduce la persistencia de algunos países en retrasar el pago de sus cuotas, lo que ya ha obligado a hacer ahorros a la FAO por un montante acumulado de 45 millones de dólares en los últimos ejercicios y, de no cambiar la situación, es de temer que tuviera que seguir haciendo nuevos recortes de los programas.

Queremos pues hacer un llamamiento a los países con retraso de sus obligaciones con respecto a la Organización, para que regulen su situación, a fin de mantener los niveles de financiación necesarios para llevar a cabo el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que resulte aprobado por la Conferencia.

Recordamos una vez más que los retrasos de pago de cuotas determinan evidentes retrasos de ejecución de parte de los programas, que inexorablemente serán más costosos en tiempo diferido y en consecuencia más onerosos a los países de la Organización en su conjunto. De igual manera repercutirían en los créditos que pudiera obtener la Organización para financiar por falta de ingreso de cuotas. A la petición de créditos por la Organización, esta delegación se ha opuesto reiteradamente.

Desde el punto de vista operativo y dadas las circunstancias financieras de la FAO en la actualidad, esta delegación entiende también que el retraso en la provisión de vacantes debe quedar al nivel que actualmente tiene y el nivel del cambio del dólar con respecto a la lira debe acomodarse a las últimas cotizaciones que permitan un ajuste más ponderado entre ingresos y gastos de la FAO.

En la línea de actuaciones prioritarias, conviene recordar una vez más el interés que tiene mi país en que la FAO asuma una posición de liderazgo en el camino de conseguir una agricultura que sepa conjugar el desarrollo con la conservación de los recursos naturales.

Apoyamos decididamente las actuaciones encaminadas a la mejora de las estructuras agrarias, la formación cooperativa, principalmente de los jóvenes agricultores y la utilización de este medio también para incorporar a la mujer plenamente al desarrollo. Esta postura tradicionalmente la hemos venido preconizando y la reiteramos nuevamente.

Apoyamos las medidas encaminadas al desarrollo de la teledetección, empleada para conocer las variaciones climatológicas, así como la calidad y cantidad de recursos naturales, las medidas encaminadas a mejorar la lucha contra la erosión y la desertización y el impulso a la agrosilvicultura y los sistemas agroforestales, así como las explotaciones conjuntas agrícolas y ganaderas en zonas áridas y semiáridas cuyos desequilibrios causan muchas veces el fenómeno de la desertización.

En cuanto a pesca, queremos significar el interés de nuestro país en el desarrollo de la actividad de los órganos regionales de pesca de la FAO y la potenciación de los medios del Consejo General de Pesca del Mediterráneo.

David COUTTS (Australia) : Australia has been very closely involved in the discussions of the 1990-91 Programme of Work and Budget through our membership of the Finance Committee and the close interest we have taken in the other Committees such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, etc.

We are in agreement with the broad thrust of priorities set out in the working budget. Australia is especially pleased to see the increased emphasis on policy analysis and advice, the stepping up of activities on environment and sustainable development, the strengthening of activities on forestry and fisheries and the strengthening of programmes of women in development.

In relation to the Technical Cooperation Programme we would just make one comment and that is to reiterate our concern about the transparency of this Programme especially in relation to financial aspects and suggest that this issue should be taken up in 1990 by the Finance Committee as a specific item. We cannot agree to the proposed decrease in the lapse factor from 5.5 percent to 3 percent. We have heard no convincing explanation from the Secretariat as to why it is necessary at this time to change this factor which seems to have worked, without problems, for more than 20 years. Our understanding of the situation at FAO is that the vacancy rates have virtually always run at higher levels than is implied by this factor of 5.5 percent. That is borne out by information in the External Auditor's Report which is available at this Conference. So far as we can see 5.5 percent means one post in about 18 or 19 is vacant on average and this seems to us to be fairly generous and satisfactory in fact.

A level of 3 percent would mean an even lower percentage of posts was vacant at any one time; at least that is the implication and we would really question whether any large organization operates with that sort of vacancy rate. In any case to contemplate adopting this change, would add, we understand, about US\$ 9 million to the 1990-91 budget. At a time when the size of the budget is already an issue of considerable contention, it seems to us quite unacceptable - indeed even irresponsible I am sorry to say.

We are all somewhat concerned about the inclusion of a fairly large amount; I thought it was US\$ 14 million but I am not quite so sure now after listening to interventions this morning. It is perhaps US\$ 14 million in the estimates for cost increases to cover anticipated United Nations' approved increases for staff salaries, both professional services and general services. While these costs will have to be met, if the United Nations approves the increases, it is not yet known just what the General Assembly will do. In principle, if these increases are approved in the next biennium, they should be covered from the Special Reserve Account for programme adjustment if such funds are not available. However, we are sensitive to the need for the Director-General to plan properly for the year ahead. Thus we could accept that these funds are included in the budget as indeed they have been in the figure of US\$ 76 million for cost increases on the basis that the Conference notes if all, or part of, the funds are not needed then they would be included in miscellaneous income at the end of the biennium which, as we understand, would be normal practice. In other words, not used for any other purpose.

We would very much like to see a budget for 1990-91 adopted by consensus. However, Australia doubts the wisdom of seeking an increase in real terms in FAO's budget at this time. There is a need to win back the fullest possible support for the Organization of all countries especially the developed countries, who should have the confidence to provide assistance to developing countries through FAO.

We also note the rigorous budgetary discipline which is having to be followed in developed countries where strong pressure for substantial absorption of price increases exist. Having these points in mind we would have preferred to see the membership of FAO accept that a budget with no real growth was

desirable. That is our own preferred position. However, the overall picture is complicated by the fact that it is unclear at this stage what the outcome of the Review process will be. It is most unclear what many delegations have in mind about the many implications likely to come out of the Review. As far as we are concerned we think it is necessary for the Conference to address the full picture in relation to the budget.

Providing it is clearly understood that if the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 is approved, then that is the full budget and no additional costs or funds are going to be called for, and on the assumption that the outcome of the Review is one which can help the good ideas put forward towards improving the efficiency of FAD, help those ideas be implemented and carried out, without the provision of any additional funds, then Australia is prepared to consider joining a consensus towards accepting the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget. Now, I have hedged around that statement and I just want to be quite clear, so I will, with your indulgence, just repeat it. We are prepared to consider joining a consensus provided that is the budget, the only budget, the full budget, and providing there is a good outcome, a positive outcome to take up the many good ideas within the Review, within the context of that overall budget. If members of this Commission are genuine in wanting to reach a consensus on the budget and my interpretation of listening to as many of the interventions as I have been able to do today, is that such a result is not likely without further consultations, Mr Chairman, I wonder how you see that being resolved: a most important question. We might suggest that there could be merit in some sort of contact group of further consultations in trying to improve the chance of reaching a consensus. It is just a suggestion, Mr Chairman.

Alphonse NTUKAMAZINA (Burundi): Au nom de la délégation burundaise, j'ai l'honneur de vous adresser nos vives et fraternelles félicitations pour votre élection à la présidence de cette importante Commission II. Nos félicitations vont également au Secrétariat qui parvient à mettre à notre disposition les nombreux documents de travail.

Il n'y a aucun doute, toutes les éminentes délégations mesurent pleinement l'importance du point qui retient notre attention: le Programme de travail et budget 1990-91.

Pour la délégation burundaise cette importance est toute particulière puisque nous sommes un pays dont les ressources sont très limitées, qui a beaucoup bénéficié des services de la FAO et qui continue à en solliciter et à en attendre. Il est fort regrettable que la marge de manoeuvre de l'Organisation soit réduite à cause des difficultés de trésorerie, alors que la grande majorité de ses membres apprécie ses interventions. A cet effet, nous adressons nos remerciements aux pays qui ont généreusement mis à la disposition de la FAO les fonds fiduciaires, et en appelons à la bonne volonté des autres pour imiter ce bon exemple.

La délégation burundaise se joint aux autres délégations pour constater que la modeste augmentation proposée est pratiquement nulle au regard des activités diversifiées de la FAO et à ses perspectives.

C'est pourquoi nous abondons dans le même sens que les délégations qui nous ont précédés, notamment celle du Congo et celle de Madagascar pour souhaiter le consensus au point 13 de l'Ordre du jour bien que nous rejetions le principe de la croissance zéro. Nous sommes en tout cas d'avis que qui n'avance pas recule.

A notre point de vue, cette diversification est signe de vivacité et preuve de dynamisme de l'Organisation.

Concernant le programme de coopération technique, ses critères qui sont en même temps ses raisons d'être sont clairement retracés au Chapitre 4 du document C 89/3. La délégation burundaise est entièrement favorable à sa meilleure dotation dans la mesure où elle contribue à s'adresser directement et efficacement à la population cible.

Les préoccupations concernant les problèmes de l'environnement et de l'intégration de la femme dans le développement, que toutes les délégations ont exprimées, sont, pour le Gouvernement de la République du Burundi, telles, qu'il a été créé le Ministère de l'Aménagement du Tourisme et de l'Environnement ainsi que le Ministère de la Famille et de la Promotion féminine.

Nous ne saurions mieux montrer à quel point les priorités fixées constituent nos centres d'intérêt. Par conséquent, nous ne faisons qu'appeler de tous nos vœux la Commission à un consensus pour la mise en oeuvre de ce programme et budget 90-91.

David DRAKE (Canada): I wish to thank Mr Shah for his introduction to this item. We also compliment the Secretariat for the improvements made in the content and the format of the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for the 1990-91 biennium.

Canada has had several opportunities to comment on the programme content of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget including through our own participation on the Programme Committee. My comments therefore will be restricted to a few key elements in the budget.

Firstly, my delegation would welcome the continuation of the process introduced this year on an experimental basis whereby an outline Programme of Work and Budget is presented to the Programme and Finance Committees by the Director-General. This process provides an opportunity to address the key priority elements as well as the budget level at an earlier stage in the process.

The views of my delegation on the proposed budget level were outlined in the Council session last week. We have maintained that programme changes should be made by re-priorization rather than through an overall increase in the budget level. FAO is not alone among those in the UN family coping with severe resource constraints. Other major specialised agencies have adjusted their 1990-91 Programmes without requesting growth in their budget levels. We note that proposals put forward with respect to additional costs anticipated as a result of implementation of the proposals resulting from the review of FAO, as well as certain additional proposals not specifically addressed in the Programme and Finance Committee's Report. My delegation shares the views expressed by the delegate of the United Kingdom that these costs cannot be considered in isolation from the Programme of Work and Budget and that the

focus should be on reallocation of priorities. The views of some Member State governments on the proposed budget level itself could very well be influenced by the extent to which the resources to implement the Review proposals can be found through the shifting of priorities.

On previous occasions, including the Council session last week, Canada expressed the view that the lapse factor should be adjusted to more realistically reflect the actual pattern of employment in the Organization. It will not be surprising therefore that my delegation has a problem with the proposal to reduce the lapse factor rate from the current level of 5.5 percent to 3 percent. Without going into detail, my delegation can associate itself with the points raised by the delegate of the United Kingdom which relates to the calculation of the cost increases stemming from the recommendations of the Report of the International Civil Service Commission. We would also join with the delegate of Australia in regard to his comments on a contact group.

Jorge Alberto DE OLIVEIRA (Guinée-Bissau) : La délégation de la Guinée-Bissau saisit cette occasion pour vous saluer pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission. Nous en profitons pour féliciter le secrétariat pour la qualité du document et pour la clarté de la présentation du document présenté par M. Shah. Nous voudrions, comme la plupart des autres délégations qui nous ont précédés, dire que le programme et budget pour 1990-91 n'arrive pas à répondre aux besoins et aux demandes constantes de notre pays. Notre délégation regrette aussi beaucoup la réduction des crédits dans le cadre du POT, ce qui entraînera certainement beaucoup de cessations d'activités dans notre pays. Mais tenant compte de la conjoncture économique mondiale et de tous les arriérés accumulés, nous appuyons ce programme et budget pour 1990-91 et nous appelons les autres pays membres à l'approuver par consensus.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): I would like to congratulate Mr Shah on his clear presentation of the document, and following your instructions I will be very brief.

From a deep study of the document under discussion it appears to us that effort was exerted by the Secretariat in order to meet the urgent need of the developing countries, and we know these are urgent needs, and also on the other hand the limited resources available, therefore we appreciate the effort made by the Secretariat in order to reconcile these two things.

The priorities pointed out in the document under discussion reflect clearly the wishes of the developing countries, as the discussion and the reaction of the governmental bodies, and all the Member States were taken into account and the remarks made by my country during the meeting of the Programme Committee and the Council Session were also taken into account. Therefore my remarks will be very brief.

The first remark is that the financial crisis that was witnessed by FAO during the last period, and which is still living, has had negative effects on the programmes of FAO and has led also to limiting the technical services provided to the Member States. We emphasize that a lot of harm has been done to the technical resources of FAO to meet the demands of developing countries. Therefore we oppose very strongly any reductions in the programme during the coming period, and although the FAO has reduced its programmes by

more than US\$ 5 million and the Director-General did not resort to borrowing, we would like right from the beginning to support the Director-General in his effort to borrow if things remain as they are now. There was a slight increase which is no more than 0.45 percent in this programme at a period when all expressed their appreciation of the efforts of FAO and where all the economic problems accumulate for the developing countries, and some rich countries, and I repeat rich countries, expressed their opposition, although they are able to increase their commitments. This we find very surprising from their part. Therefore these tendencies are really serious concerning the multilateral cooperation and also threats cooperation between the north and the south.

Once more I would like to go back to certain points which are included in this programme. The problem of locusts was pointed out by more than our delegation and we would like to express support to all the countries who are engaged in locust control as this has caused a lot of harm to the African continent. Therefore we hope that FAO will grant the necessary attention to this subject, locust control.

The second point which raises the interest of my country is the fly which has invaded certain North African countries, and we all know that if we do not fight this screw-worm fly, this will lead not only to damage to the livestock but will also do a lot of harm to human beings. Therefore we would like here to express our appreciation of the efforts exerted by FAO and the rapid response in order to fight this pest, yet we need the cooperation of other organizations and specialized agencies and the other members concerned, whether in Africa, Europe or elsewhere, to cooperate with FAO in order to organize the control of the screw-worm fly and we hope that their response will be just as rapid as the response of FAD.

I would like to share the views expressed concerning the importance of the TCP and ask that it should be granted more attention. We would like to express our concern, like several other countries, concerning the reduction of the allocation for this programme which is oriented towards helping the developing countries. We would also like to emphasize the importance of strengthening the country offices and their participation. These are a few remarks which I wanted to point out in brief. Thank you very much.

Sami AL-SUNAA (Jordan) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, in order to be brief and in order to follow your instructions I would like to point out our views concerning the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91, and this will be in three points.

First, the budget of FAO as a principle should reflect the interest of the international community which is represented in our meetings here, this interest in the situation of food and agriculture in the world and how to remedy the difficult conditions which the developing countries are facing now and particularly in tackling the problems which are the basic tasks of the Organization according to its institution.

We note that while all countries say in the Plenary session of the Conference that we should provide every support for agricultural development and rural development and to protect and preserve the natural resources and contribute to the solution of the economic and technical problems facing the developing

countries, at the same time we see that there is an invitation to reduce the capacity of the Organization in its activities by a proposal to reduce its budget to a minimum for the continuation only and not to enable or help this Organization to take more initiatives and grant more assistance.

The increase in the budget of the Organization is only symbolic and very modest and we hoped that it would be much higher in order to enable the Organization to make up for the activities which it had to reduce over the last years as a result of the financial crisis which hit the Organization. Yet we approve the budget as proposed for the reasons which had led to its presentation in its present form and in order to reach a consensus for its adoption. I support the priorities suggested as, though we appreciate the difficulties in setting up the priorities, yet the system to set up priorities in the Organization has enabled it to separate the needs from the wishes in order to reduce the allocations for certain activities and the increase of allocation for other activities which have become of priority, especially in the area of consultation and in the area of policies and biotechnology. However, we do not think that this should be to the detriment of other activities of the Organization which are important for developing countries and particularly for the TCP. We hope that the allocations of TCP will be increased because of the developing countries' needs in this respect.

Finally, as a completion for the regional studies which were carried out by FAO in the last years, we hope that the FAO will take into account the elaboration of a similar study for the Near East area which will enable us to have a general comprehensive programme for rural development and agricultural development in the area based on complementarity which sets up the priorities and also defines the role of the Organization in the implementation of this programme. We also express our support for returning the Regional Office to Cairo and we hope that this Regional Office will be supported by the technical capacities needed. We also hope that the activities of the Regional Offices will be strengthened in order to serve the objectives of the Organization.

Ephraim D. MUYANGA (Zambia): As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor please allow me first to congratulate you and your Vice-Chairmen on your election. I would like to make brief comments on the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1990-91.

My delegation supports the structure and presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget and we feel that the Secretariat has done a commendable job and we hope that the Programme of Work and Budget will be approved by-consensus .

Secondly, my delegation is in agreement with the priorities outlined in the document but we would like to express our concern at the rate of growth of the budget which is bound to affect adversely the ability of FAO to assist developing countries.

We are particularly concerned at the reduction of the budget of the TCP from 12.8 percent to 11.8 percent. This reduction might affect FAO's ability to respond to emergency requests from developing countries. Time and again those of us from developing countries, especially Africa, have placed emphasis on the importance and significance of the role played by the TCP. There is no

doubt that Africa has received the largest percentage share of the TCP resources, as reflected on page 236 in the main volume of the document under discussion, C 89/3. We are accordingly grateful to FAO for its continued assistance to needy developing countries through the TCP network.

We are pleased to note that among priority areas to receive increased allocations listed in Chapter Two are Women in Development, Crop Protection, Aquaculture, the Tropical Forest Action Plan. Let me briefly comment on each of these priority areas, of course not in their order of priority.

Women in Development is now a subject that is increasingly drawing the attention of the world. In African agriculture the roles and tasks performed by women are indeed very important. It is therefore pleasing to note that the proposed Plan of Action and its implementation aims to achieve a fuller integration of women in all agricultural and rural development efforts.

However, for this goal to be realised individual Member Countries should play a leading role whilst seeking the assistance of FAO in this important priority area.

As regards crop protection, we are happy to note that a large proportion of the increase in the budget allocation to this sub-programme will go to migratory pest control and a strengthening of national plant protection infrastructures. With such increases in this important priority area, FAO should, in the next biennium, be in a position to continue its support to Member Countries, especially in Africa, in an effort to stem the dangers posed by migratory pests, more especially locusts.

Turning to aquaculture, its importance cannot be over-emphasized. Some of us who come from land-locked countries place total priority on its development as this is the only way we can increase fish production. We therefore fully support this programme.

We all know the vital role played by the tropical forests in protecting our planet's environment. We also knew that the tropical forests are found in developing countries. It is with this in mind that my delegation welcomes FAO's Tropical Forest Action Plan which is aimed at assisting developing countries manage their forest resources more effectively, and at mobilizing financial resources to enable them to do this. In this regard, it is our sincere hope that African countries will benefit from the increase in the budget for the next biennium.

Gustavo SOMMA (Uruguay): En primer lugar deseo expresar nuestro agradecimiento al Sr. Shah por la clara y completa presentación del punto.

La delegación del Uruguay considera, en primer lugar, que las deliberaciones sobre este punto deben ser efectuadas con total independencia de cualquier otra consideración.

Se ha mencionado que el crecimiento real en el presupuesto no excede el 0,1 por ciento, que en realidad sería del 0,45 por ciento, notándose que no se tiene en cuenta los 45 millones de dólares de reducciones en las actividades que la FAO ha debido efectuar en los anteriores dos bienios.

El nivel de presupuesto, escasamente más elevado que el del bienio anterior, obedece en gran medida a la incidencia de aumentos de costos derivados de factores que ni la Organización ni los países en desarrollo pueden controlar, debiéndose además considerar el hecho de la aguda crisis financiera que afecta a la FAO. Pero un incremento cero y una total absorción de costos llevaría a una parálisis e inanición de la Organización y, por lo tanto, a su total destrucción.

Expresamos nuestra satisfacción por los esfuerzos llevados a cabo por la Secretaría para cumplir, en forma lo más equilibrada posible, con los requerimientos de los países, conciliando las necesidades cada vez más grandes con las limitaciones de los recursos disponibles, gravemente comprometidos por el atraso en los pagos de las contribuciones.

Compartimos la selección de las áreas prioritarias expresadas en el párrafo 2.14 del Capítulo 1 del documento tres; en especial la biotecnología, las mujeres en el desarrollo agrícola y rural, la acuicultura y la protección de los cultivos fijados conforme a las recomendaciones de los órganos de la FAO y de las conferencias regionales.

Respecto al desarrollo sostenible, quisiéramos expresar que no existen dudas en cuanto a que el medio ambiente debe ser protegido y de que cada Estado debe asumir la responsabilidad de hacerlo por su propio bien y por el de los demás pueblos. Pero, además, es evidente que el problema del medio ambiente requiere una sincera y amplia cooperación internacional, sobre la base de la cual los costos para proteger el medio ambiente - que es por definición un concepto y un hecho internacional - no recaigan solamente sobre algunos países que están luchando por desarrollar plenamente las riquezas naturales de que disponen, ni que se traduzcan en una nueva condicionalidad a la cual se subordinen desde afuera las decisiones de los países que requieren la cooperación internacional para su desarrollo.

Queremos llamar la atención sobre el impacto que el nivel de presupuesto puede tener sobre las contribuciones de los países en desarrollo, enfrentados a graves dificultades económicas y financieras debidas, en modo principal, a la pesada carga de la deuda externa y a un sistema de comercio internacional todavía afectado por el proteccionismo y la discriminación que repercuten en las posibilidades de acceso a los mercados.

Mi país ha tratado siempre de cumplir con sus obligaciones, estando completamente al día con sus contribuciones - a pesar del importante esfuerzo que ello representa -, y en igual medida lo continuará haciendo, convencidos de que el espíritu que inspiró la creación de las Naciones Unidas y sus organismos especializados continúa hoy vigente.

Sin embargo, preocupa a mi delegación particularmente el hecho de que la asignación correspondiente al PCT ha sido reducida del 12,8 por ciento previsto en el anterior presupuesto, al 11,8 en el actual; ello teniendo en consideración la importancia fundamental que los países en desarrollo asignamos a la cooperación técnica.

El fenómeno se superpone además a una asignación regional desventajosa para la región de América Latina y el Caribe. En síntesis, mi delegación aprecia lo realizado para la presentación del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 90-91, apoyándolo y expresando nuestra confianza que el mismo pueda ser aprobado por consenso y permita a la FAO cumplir con su primordial cometido, para lo cual es perentorio el apoyo de todos los Estados a sus programas.

Soumaila ISSAKA (Niger): Les débats sur les programmes de travail et budget durant la quatre-vingt-seizième session du Conseil et les interventions au sein de la présente Commission, sans compter les travaux du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier laissent à ma délégation une certaine amertume. En effet, en dépit de l'élargissement progressif du cercle des débats et l'élévation du niveau qui devrait s'y attacher, les échanges successifs n'enregistrent point d'avancée. Alors intervenant parmi les derniers dans cette atmosphère peu constructive, à mon avis, ma délégation a préféré laisser de côté l'essentiel de son propos qu'elle avait initialement l'intention de livrer ici pour l'orienter en fonction de la situation qui semble définitivement s'installer.

Donc je vais limiter mon intervention à deux ou trois commentaires. D'abord le Programme de travail. Ma délégation partage le contenu du programme 90-91, notamment les priorités dégagées. Celles-ci traduisent les domaines majeurs du tableau de bord que la FAO se doit de suivre pour la période biennale à venir. Il est tout à fait remarquable que ces priorités correspondent aux grands défis qui continuent à nous interpeller, aux paris à engager, et à poursuivre, aux espoirs nouveaux à nourrir pour notre avenir commun.

A cet égard, les augmentations de programmes en faveur de ces priorités sont amplement justifiées.

C'est l'occasion de souligner que la définition de pluralité est un exercice fort utile pour la performance de toute institution. De cela personne ici n'en doute. Mais nul n'ignore qu'il s'agit là d'une notion toute relative. En effet, quand le champ des besoins est urgent, et que sont primordiaux les développements agricoles, que l'alimentation s'accroît au rythme infernal que nous savons du fait de la situation de crise insoutenable imposée aux pays en développement, quand ce champ s'élargit à force de sélection en vase clos sans l'élargissement de la somme des éventails possibles, on finit par laisser de côté les objectifs essentiels. Retenir par exemple cinq priorités sur une base de dix est autre chose que fixer cinq priorités sur une base de cent en terme d'efficacité pour le système!.

Je voudrais laisser le soin à toutes les délégations présentes de méditer les limites que j'espère avoir soulignées de la théorie des priorités et de la séduction sans nuance suffisante qu'elle semble exercer sur quelques-unes. Les considérations ci-dessus m'amènent à aborder en second lieu la proposition du budget. Le niveau du budget reçoit l'appui de ma délégation. Je disais tantôt, on s'en souvient, que les augmentations de ressources dont font l'objet les neuf domaines de priorités étaient pleinement justifiées. Mais je dois ajouter ici qu'il s'agit d'un minimum car cela n'a aucune commune mesure avec les réalités affligeantes de 110 pour cent de la planète. Cependant notre assentiment est dicté par un esprit de consensus. Le consensus doit être la règle qui devrait guider les débats au sein d'une institution comme la FAO composée comme nous le savons de plus de 140 Etats. Nul n'est besoin de rappeler que tous les états ont essayé, et c'est tout à fait légitime et même positif, d'exprimer leur avis et d'apporter leur contribution de façon sincère à l'avancée du débat. Mais il faudrait qu'en finalité nous sachions reconnaître qu'il faut aboutir à une position médiane qui ne satisfait personne mais qui constitue l'équilibre des différents avis exprimés.

A ce propos nous souhaitons, à l'instar de beaucoup de délégations, lancer un appel pour qu'un esprit de souplesse s'installe en définitive au sein de cette Commission en vue de faciliter les travaux de la plénière lorsque cette question lui sera soumise.

Le dernier point que je voudrais soulever concerne le lien qui semble être fait entre l'examen et l'adoption du Programme de travail et budget et l'examen des objectifs et buts de l'Organisation. Ma délégation pense que ce lien n'est pas nécessaire pour prendre des décisions, tout au moins faire des propositions à la plénière, étant entendu que ce point, au moment où il sera discuté, fera l'objet d'ajustements qu'il appellerait par rapport au Programme et Budget de travail si nécessaire.

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Atendiendo a su solicitud y a lo tardío de la hora, la delegación argentina reiterará, en honor de la brevedad, los conceptos vertidos durante la última sesión del Consejo de la FAO con relación al tema de la Agenda que nos ocupa, que se hallan contenidos en el documento CL 96/PV/3, página 5. Lamentamos no contar con el tiempo suficiente como para explicarlos aquí, pero creemos que con eso estamos haciendo un servicio a todo el Comité. Ellos especifican claramente las posiciones en Argentina en cuanto al nivel y a las prioridades del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio próximo.

Sr. Presidente, permítame agregar un par de conceptos respecto de este tema que nos ocupa. Coincidimos con varias delegaciones de -América Latina y el Caribe en lo que respecta a la participación de la región en el Programa Ordinario y en el Programa de Campo. Quisiéramos resaltar que América Latina es la única región en desarrollo para la cual en el PLP se calcula prácticamente igual cantidad de recursos extrapresupuestarios que ordinarios, lo que demuestra que es tenida a menos en la asignación de fondos de asistencia internacional. Quisiéramos ver si la Secretaría encuentra medios para poner remedios a esta situación.

También nos unimos a otras delegaciones latinoamericanas en lo que han solicitado con relación al Programa de Acuicultura Aquila.

Con relación al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, y en general a la apropiación de fondos para la Organización para el bienio próximo, hemos escuchado varias opiniones muy diferentes, algunas totalmente contrarias, y otras con diferencias de matices, que se refieren en términos generales al nivel del presupuesto, a la absorción o no de los costos y al financiamiento de los resultados del examen de las actividades de la FAO en lo que hace a su reforzamiento en diversas áreas.

Esperamos que haya notado usted, señor Presidente, que esto constituye en este memento una reiteración de las posiciones que evidentemente han quedado cristalizadas como fueran expresadas ya en el Consejo la semana pasada. Esto nos preocupa señor Presidente, porque no se puede seriamente decir que todos esperamos que se apruebe el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto por consenso si todos mantenemos las mismas posiciones, que lamentablemente así no se van a encontrar nunca.

También nos parece que está casi fuera de lugar hablar de las bondades del paso previo de la reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa y del Comité de Finanzas, cuando a donde hemos llegado en este memento es, repito, a esta cristalización de posiciones. Por lo menos hasta el memento, este

procedimiento previo no ha dado pruebas de ningún resultado positivo. Yo quisiera, solamente, señalar la preocupación de la delegación argentina por esto y pedirle a usted que haga uso de su autoridad y de la confianza que han depositado los Miembros en usted para ver si encuentra medios para realmente intentar lograr que podamos aprobar el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 por consenso.

Texto del documento CL 96/PV/3, páginas 5 y 6

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): El nivel del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto propuesto es considerablemente más elevado que el del bienio anterior. Ello se debe, en su mayor parte, a la incidencia de aumentos de costos derivados en gran medida de factores que ni la Organización ni los Estados Miembros pueden controlar, como la inflación y el incremento de rubros salariales y afines. Durante años han estado congelados los salarios y el ajuste por lugar de destino del personal de la administración pública internacional, produciéndose un notable deterioro de las condiciones de empleo que se les ofrecía. El éxodo de funcionarios capacitados de las organizaciones internacionales ha ido en aumento. Las Naciones Unidas han considerado llegado el momento de revisar esas condiciones de trabajo y las diversas medidas que adopte deberán ser cumplimentadas por la FAO. Esperamos que ellas aseguren el mantenimiento del personal idóneo y con experiencia, y que permitan asimismo la contratación de nuevos profesionales que puedan llevar conjuntamente adelante los importantes programas de la Organización.

La delegación argentina, señor, participa de la posición que se encuentra reflejada en el párrafo 1.5 del Informe de la Reunión Conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, en la que algunos miembros manifestaron su preocupación por los efectos que podría tener el nivel presupuestario propuesto sobre las cuotas asignadas a los países en desarrollo que se enfrentan con dificultades económicas y financieras debidas, entre otros factores, a la carga de la deuda externa y a la escala revisada de cuotas. Las limitaciones aludidas nos obligan a redoblar esfuerzos en la formulación de prioridades y administración de los recursos disponibles.

Dentro de las prioridades elegidas para distribuir los recursos adicionales netos, mi delegación apoya especialmente la biotecnología, la protección de los cultivos, la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola y rural y la acuicultura. Respecto de la primera, pues apoyamos plenamente lo expresado en el párrafo 2.22 y también en el 2.23 del Capítulo: Líneas Generales del Programa, del documento 3.

Otorgamos asimismo, gran importancia a la función de asistencia de la FAO a los países en desarrollo en las actuales negociaciones de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT, como asimismo a su participación técnica en el área de protección sanitaria y fitosanitaria.

Asimismo, privilegiamos el fomento de la investigación y de la tecnología en los países en desarrollo (en lugar de los sensibles aumentos previstos para AGRIS y CARIS) y de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo. En cuanto al Programa de Cooperación Técnica, coincidimos con los puntos de vista ya expresados por numerosos países en desarrollo.

La delegación argentina hubiera querido ver en este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto un reforzamiento mayor de los programas principales de Pesca y de Montes. En relación al primero, estima que no resulta beneficioso para los países en desarrollo el aparente desvío de fondos desde la asistencia directa a los países para que logren explotar óptimamente sus recursos, hacia aspectos de información y teoría de evaluación, a realizarse centralmente.

En cuanto al segundo, debería privilegiarse la asistencia de la FAO en el reforzamiento de la capacidad nacional de investigación, como asimismo el fortalecimiento institucional y la capacitación. La primera tendrá importantes efectos en la protección del vasto capital de recursos genéticos vegetales y animales de los bosques, especialmente tropicales. La segunda y la tercera función tenderán a que se eliminen los obstáculos que afronta en la actualidad la efectiva puesta en marcha de los planes nacionales forestales formulados en el marco del PAFT a fin de aumentar la capacidad de absorción de asistencia de los países en desarrollo para que puedan atraer las inversiones necesarias para el desarrollo de sus sectores forestales.

En el programa principal, Agricultura, mi país ve con especial interés los siguientes de los objetivos y estrategias a largo plazo delineados en el documento; 1.- Conservación de los Recursos Naturales y Protección del Medio Ambiente. 2.- Armonización de Políticas y Mejoramiento del Sistema Internacional de Comercio de Productos Básicos Agrícolas.

Vemos sin embargo, con sorpresa, la disminución de las consignaciones para las industrias alimentarias y agrícolas, y en sanidad animal, a la lucha contra las enfermedades infecciosas. Nos sorprende aún más con respecto a las primeras si se tiene en cuenta que el Comité del Programa, en su sesión de septiembre pasado, al realizar el examen del Program Ordinario 1988-89 declaró lo siguiente - y cito textualmente de los párrafos 2.16 y 2.17 del documento CL 96/4 - que dicen: "El Comité reconoció la función decisiva del subprograma para promover agroindustrias en los países en desarrollo con el fin de elevar los ingresos y el empleo en las zonas rurales especialmente en beneficio de los pequeños productores y las mujeres. El Comité convino en que era decisiva la existencia futura de la FAO en el sector de las agroindustrias. Dicha asistencia debería promover activamente la integración vertical y una mayor participación del sector privado y de los agricultores. El Comité alentó a que se estudiara la posibilidad de crear una división mixta FAO/ONUDI de agroindustrias." 1/

Marcelo L.A.S. VASCONCELOS (Brazil): As member of the Finance Committee and also of the Council, the Brazilian delegation has also expressed its position regarding the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91. Therefore, I can be very brief now. First of all, as concerns the volume of work for this Commission, we consider that the approval of the budget should be dealt with independently from any constraints that its consideration together with other items would entail. We therefore propose that we should finish the consideration of item number 13 of our Agenda before moving to the next issues.

Having shared the consensus arrived at in the Programme and Finance Committees, Brazil agrees with the priority areas established by those Committees and accepts the general thrust of the Programme. As mentioned in a previous statement of my delegation on this matter, we believe that the

1 Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

scheme adopted for the first time this year for the preparation of the budget proved to be helpful and it could be continued on a tentative basis in the next biennium. We would like to express once again the importance that we attach to the TCP. We would like to see this Programme strengthened and enlarged. We are sorry that the percentage allocation for the Programme has been reduced in the present budget proposal.

Finally, may I reaffirm the position of my delegation concerning the so-called zero growth thesis. We believe that the total absorption of cost increases would in the long run result in the stagnation of the Organization and its final destruction. In conclusion we support the proposed Programme of Work and Budget. However, we believe that it would be necessary to draw the attention of the Conference, as we have done on previous occasions, to the impact of the budget level on the assessed contribution of developing countries facing economic and financial difficulties caused, among other factors, by the burden of the external debt and by the revised scale of contributions. For the same reason, my delegation would prefer that no alterations be introduced in the lapse factor, as it is currently applied.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que cette intervention clôt la liste des intervenants pour aujourd'hui. Il y en a évidemment une autre qui est déjà dressée pour demain.

Sachez seulement que demain nous n'avons pas beaucoup de temps car nous allons travailler pendant une heure de 9 h 30 à 10 h 30. Je demanderais à chacun de vous d'être à l'heure pour que nous puissions commencer à temps, d'autant plus que je vois que le premier orateur est les Etats-Unis d'Amérique; je crois donc que tout le monde sera intéressé. J'invite donc tout le monde à être présent demain à 9 h 30 pour que nous puissions travailler une heure le matin et pour que nous puissions poursuivre l'après-midi.

Avant de terminer, je voudrais soumettre à votre approbation la liste des membres du Comité de rédaction. Après plusieurs consultations, nous sommes arrivés à la liste suivante: Algérie, Australie, Costa Rica, Etats-Unis d'Amérique, France, Inde, Indonésie, Kenya, Koweït, Liban, Mexique, Suède et Turquie. Nous poursuivons les consultations pour arriver à vous proposer un président d'ici demain.

Etes-vous d'accord avec cette liste? Il n'y a pas de problèmes? Elle est donc adoptée.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours

La séance est levée à 17 heures 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/II/PV/5

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

FIFTH MEETING CINQUIEME SEANCE QUINTA SESION

(16 November 1989)

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 9.30 hours
Joseph Tchicaya/ Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La cinguième séance est ouverte à 9 h 30
sous la présidence de Joseph Tchicayaf Président de la Commission II

Se abre la quinta sesión a las 9.30 horas
bajo la presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II

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

- 13. Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 and Medium-Term Objectives (continued)
- 13. Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 et objectifs à moyen terme (suite)
- 13. Programa de labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 y objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Mesdames, Messieurs, la séance de ce matin est extrêmement brève. Je note par ailleurs que le quorum est atteint. Nous allons commencer par les interventions. Comme nous l'avons indiqué hier, ce sont les Etats-Unis qui vont lancer les débats de ce matin.

Ms Teresa D. HOBGOOD (United States of America): We have had several opportunities to comment on the 1990-91 Programme of Work and Budget this year. Just to mention a few: at the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees in early 1989; during the June 1989 Council session; at the special Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees this fall and during the two Finance Committee sessions held this year.

Our views are indeed well-known to FAO. We join others in supporting the nine priority areas in the budget. This is a useful first step in priority setting. We note that in connection with these nine priority areas, FAO carries out activities involving over 300 sub-programmes and over 2 600 field programmes. The Governing Bodies of FAO should welcome the difficult task of working with the Secretariat in determining the relative priorities among these many activities. This would allow FAO to operate within a realistic budget that can be adopted by consensus. Many of these programmes are of high priority to the United States. As we stated at the recently concluded Council session, world trade has benefited tremendously from the work of the Codex Alimentarius and we remain an extremely strong advocate of its undertaking. The United States gives very high priority to FAO's plans to work in support of the Uruguay Round of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards. We appreciate the personal attention that the Director-General has given this matter. Establishing a Secretariat and an official body for the IPPC is an important step in developing a viable dispute settlement mechanism within the GATT. This would be of great value to all nations especially, those in the developing world.

As you are no doubt aware, the United States also attaches great importance to FAO's Forestry and Fisheries programmes. We strongly support FAO's increased attention to women in development, an aspect that should be taken into account in all of FAO's activities.

With regard to the financial aspects of the 1990-91 budget we note that over half of FAO Member States have not paid their full assessment towards the current 1989 budget. The United States and others have made the concrete and, we believe, feasible proposals for possible reductions in FAO's proposed 1990-91 budget to make it more realistic. Such reductions will relieve some

of the financial burden and should make it possible for all members to reach a consensus on the budget. As other members do, the United States hopes for a consensus and stated often during the budget formulation process our views on how a consensus might be reached.

For example, we remain committed to our long-standing policy of zero real growth, especially in these difficult budgetary times. For this reason, my government would not be able to join a consensus on a proposed budget containing one percent real growth and 16 percent in costing increases. We agreed with our United Kingdom colleagues that using well-established methods for calculating real growth, US\$ 5.5 million reflected on page 2 of the document, amounts to one percent real growth, not 0.45 percent.

We would now like to confine specific remarks to the following areas: publications, the technical cooperation programme, the lapse factor, the budget level, budget preparation and improvements in the budget process.

Regarding publications, the United States has traditionally been a strong supporter of FAO's data collection and dissemination programmes. We realize that publications are a significant aspect of FAO's work and we welcome plans to resume the publications of UNASYLVA and CERES. We are troubled, however, by the size of the increase in the publications area which is US\$ 6.5 million above the request for 1988-89. In view of this substantial increase, we would like to see a breakdown of the actual expenditures incurred by sub-programme during the current biennium. We would also like FAO to address the points we raised during the Council about efforts to contain costs; namely, whether user surveys have been conducted, what level of automation has been achieved in printing and what ventures to reduce mailing costs have taken place.

We note that the management consultants have pointed out that FAO could achieve substantial savings by contracting out much of the printing that is now performed internally. Perhaps a practical next step should be an examination of the entire publications programme. FAO should consider further consolidation of publications and elimination of low-priority publications to reduce this US\$ 6.5 million increase.

With regard to the proposed programme increase for the Technical Cooperation Programme, the United States does not deny the importance of TCP to many Member States of FAD. However, we continue to have concerns about the source of funding of TCP through the assessed budget of FAD. We also have concerns with respect to the transparency of TCP. In particular, we would have preferred a more descriptive analysis of what types of projects FAO expects the TCP programme to include in 1990-91, and why and in what ways changes are likely to be made in the current programme. Considering that nearly 12 percent of the resources in the 1990-91 assessed budget are proposed to be devoted to a programme that is valued so highly by the vast majority of FAO's members, we do not view this as an unreasonable request.

We remain to be convinced about the cost increases added to the budget to cover assumed increases for basic Professional salaries. Although we are impressed with the dedication and professionalism of FAO staff, as we have stated in the Finance Committee, we are opposed to budgeting for these cost increases prior to any decision by the UN General Assembly on the amount and the effective date of the increase.

On the subject of Professional salaries, the Bush Administration recognizes that United States civil servants are paid at amounts less than what they could expect to receive in the private sector. Although initial efforts to remedy this situation with the United States Congress have not succeeded, the Administration is continuing to press for increases in pay. Positive results will ultimately have a positive impact on the professional salaries of international civil servants.

Turning to the proposal to reduce the lapse factor from 5.5 percent to 3 percent, FAO has not put forward a compelling reason for implementing such a reduction which would have the effect of increasing the 1990-91 budgetary provisions by US\$ 9.3 million. While we agree that there is no uniform factor used among UN system agencies, we note that according to a JIU report, rather than decreasing its lapse factor, the United Nations will be applying a factor of 12.5 percent for Professional staff and a factor of 7.5 percent for the General Service category in the future. The Finance Committee could not reach an agreement on this proposal and this point should be taken into account in our deliberations on this subject.

With regard to the presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget itself, the United States would like to call the attention of the Commission to the suggestion made by the experts in paragraph 7.36 of their report on FAO's role, priorities and objectives. The experts suggested that the Secretariat initiate steps to present information in the document which would throw more light on linkages among programme elements for different priorities, how programmes contribute to meeting these priorities and how regular and extra-budgetary resources relate to this. The United States believes that the Programme of Work and Budget should show not only proposed funding levels for programmes and sub-programmes but also actual and estimated levels for the same programmes and sub-programmes for the preceding two years. I note that it is only with considerable effort that my delegation has been able to extrapolate the level of resources going to headquarters and field activities respectively. In the future the Programme of Work and Budget should clearly show the costs associated with headquarters and field activities.

With regard to the budget level, we have considered proposals for an effective working budget of US\$ 574 million at an exchange rate of Lire 1 235 to the dollar. Even at the current dollar/lire exchange rate of about Lire 1 350 to the dollar, members will still be assessed nearly 13 percent more in dollars per annum. This is unrealistic given that, as we said, a majority of members have not paid their, full assessment this year.

We also agree with our United Kingdom colleague that since the Review clearly has cost implications, perhaps a decision on the Programme of Work and Budget can be taken after the discussion on the Review of FAO.

We would hope that with the recommendations for reductions that we and other nations have suggested the conference can agree to the adoption of a budget for the 1990-91 budget by consensus. We look forward to continue the improvements in the budget preparation process with the continued submission of a budget outline. This would increase the likelihood that a joint session of the Programme and Finance Committees can reach consensus on future budget proposals.

On that matter we would like to clarify the presentation made by the Secretariat regarding the new budget outline process. The Secretariat failed to note that the Programme and Finance Committees had recommended continuation of the process at least for the next biennium. This

recommendation was passed by the Council to the Conference. My delegation supports the recommendation of the Programme and Finance Committees, and would further recommend that this improvement in process be continued until a future Conference decides otherwise.

Finally, let me reiterate that the Bush Administration supports the United Nations System, including FAD. The Administration's budget request for FAO's 1989 contribution is for full funding and partial payment of arrears. The United States Congress must consider this request in the light of many competing demands.

We have tried to participate with you in preparing what is in our judgement a realistic budget, which includes zero real growth, maximum absorption of cost increases, an improved budget process and presentation leading to consensus adoption of a budget and a commitment to improvement of management and operations. The future of FAO is in the hands of this body. We must make a choice of which way we want to go.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago has listened very carefully to the contributions on this item over the past few days, commencing with the Council, including statements by heads of missions in Plenary and in this Commission. This delegation finds it necessary to make a few observations.

Most regretfully the comparative position taken on this item is almost to some extent like a north-south divide. There is no doubt that the majority of countries are supportive of the budget. However, with a few notable exceptions, I perceive a kind of alignment somewhat akin to what we witnessed in the 1987 Conference of a few countries which seem determined almost to hold millions of people, the hungry, the disadvantaged, and many urgently in need of a vibrant FAO machine, in suspension as to how their needs will be met in the context of the objectives for which FAO was created.

It would be unreasonable for this delegation to repeat all the statistics we have heard over the past few days, but we cannot over-emphasize the following.

For the three years 1987, 1988 and 1989 FAO has had to eliminate activities to the level of US\$ 68 million in order to survive. At present current arrears of US\$ 177 million, outstanding debts in excess of US\$ 100 million, a Working Capital Fund and a Special Reserve Account which are likely to be depleted within a few weeks, 220 posts frozen over two years, numerous posts eliminated, numerous important publications no longer appear, more than US\$ 300 million in arrears, the largest amount of arrears ever recorded in the history of the Organization, and according to Mr Crowther a few days ago "the most pessimistic picture we have seen in the history of the Organization".

Against this background we hear delegations speaking about FAO leading a challenge. We hear of new challenges. Indeed on budgetary matters FAO has met and survived the challenge of all challenges.

We heard another delegation in Plenary two days ago say that the fat has to be cut out. Where is the fat, Mr Chairman? It is simply amazing and unbelievable.

A few remarks about the content of the budget. This delegation supports wholeheartedly the nine priorities indicated under Chapter Two, Technical and economic programmes. We wish to emphasize once again our fullest support for the programme of activity on biotechnology, regardless of who funds it.

Any suggestion of low priority on this item is a cause for reflection as to the level of real concern for agricultural and rural development in the developing countries. Our sentiments are the same for work on nuclear strategies. This is where the vast majority of countries with limited resources are allowed a towhold on the frontiers of major scientific developments in agriculture. Such activity has to be regarded as FAO's special contribution towards the possible lessening of a debilitating dependency of the developing countries on the developed countries for a wide range of support activities. If nothing else, FAO will facilitate the flow of information and scientific techniques which so far is already only widening the gap between north and south.

In the world of scientific endeavour we must now take note of recent developments such as the formal inauguration in Geneva on 20 November of CERN, the European Laboratory for Partical Physics, an event which is said to symbolize the European Renaissance in the highest level of partical physics research, with an annual budget of US\$ 500 million financed by 14 Member States. Is it a matter of closing the gap or simply trying to stabilize it?

Our delegation also joins with some of our colleagues from the Latin American and Caribbean group who made a particular observation on budgetary allocations. In essence we have compared the tables on pages 280, 301, 314 and 331. We have reviewed both the total budgets and the ratios of Extra-Budgetary to Regular Programme resources. The information on pages 315 to 317 of C 89/3 provides an update on the present circumstances in the Latin American and Caribbean region. We serve notice on the Director-General that in the next biennium FAO will need to give careful consideration to the needs of this region in order to help stem the current reversal in the economic gains of recent years and the reduced continued deterioration in natural resources.

Our delegation is of the view that in the context of environmental concerns the significance - to some extent perhaps not yet well understood - of one-quarter of the world's forest area and over one-half of the world's dense tropical forestry plantations within the Latin American and Caribbean region may deserve very special consideration. In this regard we cannot help but note the high level of interest of the United Kingdom Government in the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, as indicated by the Hon. Prime Minister in her address on 8 November to the Forty-fourth Session of the United Nations General Assembly. On that occasion Prime Minister Thatcher announced a commitment of £ 100 million over three years to tropical forestry activity within the framework of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, but - and we must note this - under bilateral arrangements.

Our delegation - and I am requested to speak on behalf of all CARICOM Member States attending this Conference session - supports the budgetary proposals of the Director-General. Our delegation has difficulty in understanding how logically FAO can be denied approval at this time. Furthermore, in this regard we continue to be bewildered. A few countries cannot accept that more than one hundred countries are quite capable of determining on their own behalf in their own interest that a TCP programme is relevant to their needs and is administered with efficiency to their satisfaction. We note that the call for transparency has again emerged.

The statement of the Director-General at paragraph 2.4 on page x of C 89/3 explains the problems that any further refinement in prioritization in the context of the reality of food and agricultural development indicate. We all hope for consensus on this budget but, like the delegation of Australia - a delegation which we find has put its cards on the table and has provided a basis for movement towards consensus - we are confused with regard to what some delegations want from the review process. I am referring to the need for internal reshaping and the reference to one stage in the review process, etc., which seemed to suggest a kind of hidden agenda. Are we about to dispense with all the work done by the experts and the Finance and Programme Committees? We appeal to those countries which wish to insist on a linking of the outcome of the review with a budget not to hold the developing countries to ransom. We recall the words of Australia in the Plenary Session a few days ago: "It is unjust that we must win back the support of our sponsors by achieving the impossible".

You will perhaps permit me a bit of imagery; we are in Italy. I recall that during the debates in the Council the Director-General was called by all kinds of names - financial juggler, special UN housewife - but perhaps we can consider him as an opera singer who arrives at the palace, he is welcomed and he is praised on his talent and the talent of his staff, and so on, with regard to his ability as an opera singer, and just when he is about to seek his dues he is surrounded by a few people who commence to strangle him and at the same time tell him to sing! Mr. Chairman that is my illustration of the impossible.

My delegation says that there can be no consensus with inflexibility from any group of countries, big or small, wealthy or poor. Consensus means some kind of an exchange of views, some measure of negotiation. I do not see how we in Commission II, or in this Conference, can avoid some kind of dialogue, contact, exchange of views, with mutual respect on some matters. This or else the zero growth approach, with the rate of treasury armaments over our heads, is a most undesirable form of pressure. Let us all in good faith be prepared to work towards consensus.

Sra. Concha Marina RAMIREZ (Honduras): Al tomar la palabra por primera vez deseo unirme a la de las demás delegaciones para felicitarle, señor Presidente, por dirigir nuestros debates. También damos las gracias al señor Shah por su excelente y valiosa exposición. La delegación de Honduras ha estudiado los documentos y reconocemos, una vez más, el esfuerzo del Director General. Consideramos que no es una tarea fácil, especialmente en estos momentos en que nuestra Organización padece una crisis financiera jamás vista en los últimos años.

Ponemos en evidencia que una labor eficiente no puede realizarse con la prontitud y profundidad deseables sin el aporte fundamental de quienes están en mejores condiciones de hacerlo. Ni las potencias más fuertes y desarrolladas del mundo pueden vanagloriarse hoy en día de enfrentar por sí solas los retos que impone el progreso y felicidad de los pueblos. Mucho menos nuestros débiles países nacidos hace poco más de siglo y medio a la vida independiente. La solidaridad e interdependencia de las naciones es un hecho que nadie puede negar, y mucho menos sustraerse a sus efectos so pena de quedar rezagados con el contexto total de los pueblos.

Apoyamos con firmeza lo que el autorizado Embajador de Costa Rica ha expresado y esperamos que el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto sea sencillamente aprobado por consenso,

Jacques WARIN (France): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous féliciter pour avoir été normé à ce rôle important dans cette commission qui va concentrer une grande partie des travaux de la Conférence.

Ma délégation souhaite pouvoir exposer, un peu plus longuement qu'elle ne l'a fait lors du récent Conseil, ses réactions face au document C 89/3 qui contient les propositions du Secrétariat concernant le Programme de travail et budget pour la période 90-91.

Je souhaiterais présenter ici deux séries de réflexions:

- la première, sur l'aspect proprement financier du budget;
- la deuxième, sur le contenu du Programme de travail.

En ce qui concerne tout d'abord les dépenses de la FAO, le Secrétariat nous propose un budget de 575 millions de dollars, ce qui correspond à une augmentation en volume des programmes de 5,75 millions de dollars, soit 1% de la base budgétaire recalculée.

Monsieur Shah nous a donné à ce propos des explications fort pertinentes, et je l'en remercie.

L'accroissement réel est en fait encore un peu plus réduit compte tenu d'une proposition d'absorption de coût de trois millions de dollars (pour frais de consultants, voyages officiels, reclassements de postes). L'accroissement en volume net est alors seulement de 2,75 millions de dollars, soit 0,44 pour cent du budget actuel (aux prix et coûts de 1990-91).

Cette augmentation n'est certes pas rigoureusement égale à cette fameuse croissance zéro qu'un certain nombre de pays membres souhaitent et ont d'ailleurs réitéré dans cette enceinte. Elle est cependant encore suffisamment faible pour ne pas poser de problème réel à ma délégation; et je peux donc annoncer ici que nous acceptons l'augmentation en volume qui est proposée par le Secrétariat.

La croissance des coûts - 76,6 millions de dollars - représente une augmentation de 15,39 pour cent du budget, ce qui correspond pour une très large part (86 pour cent) à des accroissements obligatoires des coûts de personnel. Ma délégation n'a aucune raison de remettre en cause le mode de calcul et l'estimation de l'augmentation des coûts dont le Comité financier, lors de la dernière session, s'est déclaré satisfait.

Je souhaite toutefois ici même faire deux remarques supplémentaires par rapport à celles que j'avais déjà faites au Conseil.

Tout d'abord en ce qui concerne l'estimation des recettes accessoires qui viennent en déduction des dépenses prévues pour déterminer le niveau des contributions dues par les Etats, cette estimation est fixée à 12 millions de dollars, soit un niveau inférieur d'un quart à celui des dernières prévisions 1988-89. La question que je voudrais poser au Secrétariat est de savoir quelles sont les hypothèses à la base de prévisions aussi prudentes.

Par ailleurs, ma délégation observe que le Secrétariat a proposé une réduction de 5,5 pour cent à 2 pour cent seulement du taux d'abattement pour mouvements de personnel. L'alignement sur les pratiques suivies par d'autres organisations internationales semble être la justification donnée par le Secrétariat. Mais il ressort du Rapport du Commissaire aux comptes (je me réfère au document C 89/5, page 12 de la version française) que le taux effectif de vacances des postes est en fait toujours largement supérieur à ce qui correspondrait à l'abattement de 5,5 pour cent. Et, à ce propos, je souhaiterais également les explications du Secrétariat.

Ma délégation ne saurait clore l'examen proprement financier du budget sans mentionner la préoccupation que lui inspire l'état actuel et aussi les perspectives de paiement de leurs contributions par les Etats Membres, et notamment du plus important d'entre eux. La défaillance de certains a des conséquences directes sur le niveau des contributions des Etats bon payeurs - parmi lesquels je me range - par le biais de la réduction des recettes accessoires attendues; et surtout la capacité des Etats à payer leur dû vide d'une partie de son sens l'approbation du budget qui sera sans doute accordée à une large majorité au cours de cette Conférence.

Mais malheureusement le fait que le budget soit voté (on l'a vu dans le passé) ne nous assure pas pour autant que les caisses de l'Organisation soient remplies.

Je passe maintenant au contenu du programme de travail.

Le document C 89/3 contient une description détaillée du programme de travail pour 1990-91. Si la précision des détails fournis permet de satisfaire le besoin d'information des Etats, je voudrais cependant inviter le Secrétariat à réfléchir aux moyens de réduire la complexité d'un document (300 pages, 150 sous-programmes) dont la consultation reste assez ardue.

Je précise également que dans le domaine de la pure et simple présentation (choix du papier, établissement d'index et de tables des matières) des améliorations peuvent encore être apportées.

Cela dit, l'accroissement des dépenses prévues dans un certain nombre de domaines peut recueillir notre soutien. On peut citer à ce propos - sans être exhaustifs - les crédits accordés pour les biotechnologies, pour la formation agricole, pour le développement durable, pour le suivi des cultures et des conditions météorologiques, enfin pour la télédétection. Autant de domaines qui me paraissent particulièrement novateurs et à haut contenu scientifique que mon gouvernement soutient pour cette raison précise.

Je m'arrête un instant sur l'accent qui est mis sur l'importance du développement durable. Les différentes composantes de l'action de la FAO dans ce domaine sont bien décrites par l'introduction du Directeur général. Ma délégation trouverait intéressant de connaître l'estimation du total des moyens consacrés directement à cette action et quelle est l'augmentation par rapport au biennium précédent.

La priorité donnée au programme technique, qui a l'appui de ma délégation, n'empêche pas certains accroissements de postes bienvenus dans d'autres secteurs. Il en est ainsi de la création au bureau juridique d'un nouveau poste P-5 qui est chargé plus particulièrement des aspects juridiques de la diversité biologique et du droit à l'environnement.

On peut certes - et j'en ai déjà fait mention au Conseil - regretter la stagnation du programme de coopération technique dans le programme ordinaire puisque sa part, dans le programme ordinaire, passe de 12,8 à 11,8 pour cent, ce qui se traduit par une baisse relative, proche de 8 pour cent. On peut également s'interroger sur la réduction des moyens imposée à la réalisation de certains programmes dont l'intérêt ne va pas s'affaiblissant, comme la foresterie des zones arides et la désertification, ou bien encore le développement des ressources de bois de feu. Mais il est clair que l'Organisation a des moyens réduits, qu'elle a déjà subi une cure d'amaigrissement, que des choix nécessaires étaient à faire. Et puisque nous nous sommes souvent prononcés en faveur de redéploiements, redéploiement il y a au profit de certaines activités qui sont jugées plus utiles ou plus novatrices.

Au total, ma délégation peut donc approuver et appuyer le contenu du programme de travail de l'Organisation et se prononcer, comme l'a fait mon Ministre il y a deux jours à la Conférence, en faveur du budget et programme pour le biennium 1990-91.

Fritz JOHANNES (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): As we said in our statement to the Ninety-sixth Council Meeting, we support in principle the priorities set out in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91. The allocation of resources should, however, reflect the priorities set in a better way. The Tropical Forestry Action Plan is as you know, of particular importance to the Federal Government. Moreover, the item "Women in Development" and the related programmes and sub-programmes we think are exemplary. However, in the section which sets out the priorities too much importance is attached to the description of what FAO has done so far and too little to what it intends to do in the future. This particularly applies to "policy advice." In its report (para. 2.23 and 2.24) Expert Group Number One reproaches FAO of having been too passive in that field and having left the developing countries alone in the process of structural adjustments. The criticism of the Jansson Report on the field programme of the United Nations goes into the same direction. It states a lack of analytical work and pathfinding studies in the developing countries. This would have been the task of FAO in the important field of policy advice. As a reaction to this criticism the policy dialogue has been introduced as a new FAO priority and also greater resources are being devoted to it. However, it is stated at the same time that until now FAO has already done what has been required. A basic analysis of failures in the past and resulting from it the development of new ideas and/or new approaches to policy advice are however lacking. The Federal Government holds the view that the problems in policy advice rightly raised by the Director-General at the Ninety-fourth Council Meeting cannot be solved by the old concept of FAO. The Federal Government has similar concerns about sustainable development. We set out our position on the TCP in detail at the Ninety-sixth Council meeting. An increase of the TCP share in the Regular Budget is for my delegation not taken into consideration.

Some remarks about the lapse factor which according to the information of the Secretariat presently affects the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget. We cannot accept the arguments of the Secretariat. The lapse factor is a purely arithmetical quantity. At least at present it has nothing to do with the reality in FAO. We attach considerable importance to this question, because the relevance of the lapse factor to the budget is considerable, given the high level of staff costs. At the present time in the FAO 85 to 90 percent of the post are filled. The Secretariat /?/ funding

for 94.5 percent of the posts. It is difficult to understand why the lapse factor should now be increased to 97 percent, although there is no evidence to suggest that in the short to medium-term staff levels can be raised to 97 percent. It would not be possible either even if FAO was not in a financial crisis. In the interests of clarity of the Budget, the lapse factor should reflect the actual situation in the FAO. In this important item of Budget Planning we cannot therefore go along with the ideas about a reduction of the lapse factor to 3 percent.

With regard to the present liquidity crisis, it does not seem appropriate to discuss the Programme of Work and Budget as though the FAO had no financial difficulties. We expect from the Secretariat that programme elements are classified already now according to their priority. This would allow a response to shortfalls in contributions with programme reductions in areas which would least affect the countries involved. It would be desirable if the Governing Bodies of FAO, as we have proposed in the past, were to be informed accordingly. This would help that FAO can implement an important part of the Programme of Work on a sound financial basis. Obviously we know that money can also be raised in the form of loans. The Federal Government could not support the relevant resolution, because for budgetary law reasons we are not in a position to pay mandatory contributions which are intended to cover interest payments. The taking up of credit in order to cover a programme which is adopted but not fully financed by contributions is something which for Member States, as well as for the Organization, would be extremely dangerous because it does not represent a suitable solution. The only possible solution to this question is that all Member States should meet their financial commitments.

We too see a link between reform and budget; but we fear that reform and budget 1990-91 can hardly be linked with each other if only because of reasons of time. The consequences from the review process must then however be clearly reflected in the medium and long term in the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO. Moreover, we expect in the short term consequences from the review to be implemented in the coming biennium. If that is not possible our reform efforts would have been useless and everybody involved - experts, the Secretariat and Member States would have to acknowledge that the resources used have not met the expectations. Just to introduce additional measures with additional resources is not reform: it is merely an expansion of the Programme of Work and Budget without new conceptual emphases. That is not in line with our ideas.

The statements of many delegations regarding cost absorption in the budget lead us to spell out our position in this respect in greater detail. In recent years the FAO has for example invested considerable resources in computerized work stations. We welcome this. Just as any farmer can produce more with additional inputs, so the FAO staff can produce more as a result of computerization. Productivity increases mean that the same level of performance can be achieved with fewer real resources. Cost absorption is a normal procedure as part of every day life.

As a member of the Geneva group, the Federal Government supports real zero growth of the budgets in all the organizations of the United Nations. However, by that we do not understand that the resources which the industrialized countries make available to the developing countries should remain constant. The industrialized countries in recent years have in fact

constantly increased the sums allocated to projects. The new calculation proposed by the Secretariat of the real growth in the budget, is, we said at the Ninety-sixth Council Meeting, not convincing so far as my government is concerned. In our view, real growth is one percent and not 0.45 percent.

For my delegation it would be however conceivable that the actual real growth in the FAO budget be used to implement reforms. Despite the divergent views expressed by the individual Member States on the Programme of Work and Budget of the FAO, we very much hope we shall be able to find a solution here at this Conference in order to be enabled to adopt the budget by consensus.

Taghi SHIRVANI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): My delegation is happy to confirm the Programme submitted in the document C 89/3. I would like to express my deep appreciation to those who have prepared such a high quality programme. However, we think it is necessary to make some comments to be given more consideration in the Programme.

Firstly, referring to the Programme 2.1.1, page 40, paragraph 1, the growing concerns for sustainability of agricultural products might be met through other means rather than those mentioned in the document. Because of the lack of technology, the farmers in developing countries do not reap the optimum benefits from the land. However, to meet their demands they expand their arable lands by invading the natural resources, the final conclusion of which could be disastrous and could lose our natural resources.

Having the Programme of Work and Budget would serve the objectives better we think. As a result, FAO should take steps to study the regional demands and give their services required accordingly. This means that the potential of natural resources should be surveyed and then FAO should supply them with those inquired services.

Secondly, to motivate and assist those small-scale farmers mentioned at page 41, paragraph 4, to raise their productivity. This seems to be more promising, if having their scattered lands consolidated to make their farm outputs more profitable. This would be achieved through cooperatives which would be made available to the farmers and would mean more personal involvement.

Biotechnology could be very promising for developing countries but because of the lack of training and proper instruments this cannot at the moment be achieved.

As you may know, deforestation is creating a very serious and acute problem in developing countries. Therefore, the proposal to extend and assist their understanding will help achieve a solution to the problem. The document before us does not show any cure in this connection and, as a matter of fact, it deserves higher consideration.

In the case of desertification, Iran is already combating the problem and almost 3 million hectares of desert have been reclaimed as a result of soil mulching and biological methods. I should also mention, because of my country's experience, my country would be happy to assist other countries in this connection.

So far as forestry and reforestation is concerned we propose that the FAO should establish an action plan for Mediterranean forests similar to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

FAO created several centres for plant genetic resources conservation in different regions. The proposal is to extend them into the Middle East where one can find huge varieties of plant species. For example, my country, Iran, has recognized more than 7 000 plant species which could be considered as one of the world's largest genetic resources.

The meeting rose at 10.40 hours

La séance est levée à 10 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 10.40 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 89/II/PV/6

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

SIXTH MEETING SIXIEME SEANCE SEXTA SESION

(16 November 1989)

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la sexta sesión a las 14.45 horas
bajo la presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II

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

- 13. Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 and Medium-Term Objectives (continued)
- 13. Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 et objectifs à moyen terme (suite)
- 13. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 y objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons commencer notre sixième séance. Vous pouvez constater que nous sommes en retard. J'avais demandé que nous puissions commencer à 14 h 30; nous devons malheureusement respecter les textes qui veulent que l'on commence lorsqu'il y a le quorum.

Je lance à nouveau un appel à chacun de vous pour que les interventions soient les plus brèves possibles tout en traitant bien entendu de la substance.

Gantcho GANTCHEV (Bulgaria): Since this is the first time I am taking the floor in this Commission, I would like to congratulate you and your two Vice-Chairmen on your election and to wish you every success in your responsible work. I would also like to thank Mr Shah for his very useful presentation of this item.

Let me now make some particular observations. First, we are convinced that FAO should continue to play an important role in the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries and expect that this Session of the Conference will make a substantial contribution in this regard.

I would like to say that our delegation considers the proposed programme for the next biennium to be well-balanced and meeting the interests of our countries.

We are satisfied with the proposed priorities and share the views expressed by some delegations that the current practice of outlining and presenting the Programme of Work and Budget should continue for at least some more time. In our view the cross-sectoral approach is of great importance for the future work of the Organization. That is why we assess positively the efforts made by the Secretariat to strengthen this approach during the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1990-91 period. In this connection our delegation welcomes the activities on sustainable development and would like to point out the evident need for further integration of environment problems in the activities of FAO.

I would like to express our support for the TCP programme, although we see some possibilities for improvement in the formulation and evaluation of some TCP activities. We support also the approach of the Organization through biotechnology and the proposed programme in this field.

Coming to the regional activities, we advocate more active cooperation between European countries in science and technology and particularly in the environment.

We propose in the final formulation of the programme to consider the possibilities for the establishment of a new scientific network on buffalo breeding and expect that a number of developing countries will be interested in this cooperation as well.

One more area which in our view deserves more attention by European countries is agriculture. Bulgaria is ready to take an active part in such cooperation.

We share the views expressed by some delegations that there should be some flexibility in the budget in order to respond to challenges which could emerge during this period.

Finally, I would like to express the readiness of our delegation to contribute to the approval of the Programme of Work and the Budget level for the 1990-91 period by a consensus.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I am very glad to see you, Mr Chairman, chairing this important Commission and I am one of several delegations that know how outstanding your wisdom and your capabilities are to ensure that our proceedings will be conducted in the best possible manner and to achieve good results in our work.

We have already made our opinion known at other meetings ever since we had an opportunity to see the Programme of Work and Budget all the way from the outline through the summary to the final form we now have here. We were able to make our views known in the Finance Committee, in the Council and also in the first days of the General Conference. The leader of my delegation expressed in Plenary our support for the Programme of Work and Budget and our full satisfaction with the proposals made to this effect by the Director-General for the 1990-91 biennium. We have stated, and we reassert, that this programme in general terms is in agreement with the recommendations made by our governing bodies and by the consultative bodies of the Organization and we believe it does take into account the needs and hopes of the member countries of the Organization.

We have heard a lot of statements already as regards the cost increases and how they should be dealt with, and in this connection we would like to say that the calculation of this increase given in the Programme of Work and Budget is in our view based on too conservative an approach. Still, it is the best assessment possible at this time but it is a bit conservative. The Finance Committee spent a lot of time discussing this very matter. They went into it in depth and very cautiously at the same time. The Finance Committee felt that the same procedure and the same methodology had been followed as in earlier biennia when it came to estimating cost increases, but still I think that we should all recognize that this is a very thorny and delicate problem. There is no doubt about it that the Finance Committee will keep this subject under very close scrutiny at its sessions next year.

As regards the Technical Cooperation Programme - TCP - I would like to recall that for many years we have been discussing TCP, discussing things within the Organization and stressing the importance of this Technical Cooperation Programme. In particular, what is important there is the level of resources

allocateci to TCP and the methodologies adopted for the implementation of activities under TCP and the profile of TCP in developing countries. In all the time I have spent in this Organization and in the Finance Committee I must say that all those responsible for this matter in the Secretariat, in the Organization, have supplied abundant information on everything. They have answered every question we asked them. They have given us every detail we wanted. When I say "we" I do not just mean my delegation but all other Member Nations: they have been given whatever information they needed, whatever information they required.

We must not forget that we have now had a whole evaluation of this programme at the request of Member Nations as a whole. This evaluation, done, as you know, as part of the review, produced a positive result which highlighted the importance and the significance of this programme and the need to strengthen it for the greater benefit of the developing countries. We must not forget either that the Groups of Experts who were involved in the review of FAO referred specifically in their report to this programme and urged that it should be continued and strengthened. We think that anyone who has doubts about the significance of this programme, or anyone who calls for cutting back its resources, are simply ignoring the needs and the rights of Member Nations who come to FAO asking precisely for this kind of assistance. They also ignore one of the aspects of the fundamental role of the Organization, and they also ignore the fact that this Technical Cooperation Programme is one of the cornerstones of the work of the Organization throughout the world.

We therefore support the strengthening of TCP and its maintenance at an acceptable level of funding and activities. We would like to urge the Executives of the Organization, those responsible for the Organization's day-to-day work to make available all their documentation, all their data and information, to submit it to those who question the usefulness of this programme to convince those doubting Thomases of the fact that it is useful, it is good, so that we may bring these doubts and hesitations to an end.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I would say that we feel that it is neither logical, reasonable nor acceptable for priorities to have to be set in a totally rigid manner. We do not think this is possible because every country in each region has its own priorities which are more or less different from those of other regions and other countries.

To this we must add the fact that the setting of priorities is very clearly done in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 on the basis of guidance and recommendations clearly stated by the governing bodies and organizations. It is natural that priority should be based on those.

I would like to mention a rather important issue in this connection. I refer to country representatives' offices. My country's delegation is not against the strengthening of country representatives' offices, but we would stress the fact that this must not be done at the expense of existing regional offices because regional offices have an important role to play themselves in the strengthening of country representatives' offices but without weakening the regional offices.

We know that some countries have asked for regional offices to be cut back and we have even heard sane voices calling for the closing down altogether of regional offices. However, my delegation believes that this is a sterile and mistaken idea. It is not based on a proper political and economic evaluation of what these regional offices do. The countries that call for these things should have another look at the whole situation and study it in depth, and then they will see that my point is well taken.

Regional offices have agreed to supply a lot of assistance. This work deserves our full support and consideration. I would like to mention in particular the Near East Regional Office which used to be located, as you know, in the Arab Republic of Egypt and which, as you know, provided very good assistance for the countries in the Near East region. Perhaps the Secretariat and the countries in the region, when they are members of the Organization, could speak up and confirm what I am saying as regards the importance of the programmes and budgets that have been implemented through the good offices of this regional office which was established precisely through the Technical Cooperation Programme with the countries in the Near East.

I know very well, and I apologize to you for this, Mr Chairman, that the subject of contributions will be discussed in Commission III under Item 23 on the Agenda. That is why I apologize for raising it here, or referring to it here, in Commission II. I am doing so because I may not have an opportunity to take part in the work of Commission III at the time when that Item 23 is on the table.

My country's delegation has noted with disappointment that in the more recent budgets of the Organization the assessed contributions from many developing countries have increased substantially, and this has gone hand in hand with an equally substantial drop in the contributions from developed countries. What I am saying now does not take into account the latest developments in developing countries as regards financial matters, yet they are events which go on having a negative impact on the economic, social and developmental position.

Many Member Countries have mentioned in the Finance Committee, in the Council and at the last general Conference, which was two years ago, that this is a tremendously serious matter which can have very negative repercussions for the future of our Organization. We have also noted that the criteria followed for assessing contributions do not seem to us to be fully balanced or quite fair, and we would therefore like to request our Conference - and we would like to ask you, Chairman, personally - to look into this matter with all caution, with all wisdom, but perhaps we could have a resolution which could be sent forward to the United Nations General Assembly pointing out that the scale of contributions does not seem to us to be properly calculated. We should point out that our situation here, back at home, is not necessarily related to the way the contribution is assessed now or in the future.

We would like to refer briefly to the question that has been debated quite a few times, that of the lapse factor. Our Organization, especially through the work of the Finance Committee which I attended, expressed its sympathy with the Director-General as regards understanding how difficult it can be to apprehend the possible developments of the Organization in years to come; and also in the current financial crisis, to make it obviously necessary to take into account the lapse factor, but it must be done with quite a lot of caution.

The Finance Committee, when it looked into the lapse factor situation, did not come up at the end with any cut and dried opinion about it. The Finance Committee felt it would be appropriate for the Council to look into the matter of the lapse factor and debate it properly, and that the Conference session should also debate it. We believe that the Director-General's proposal to reduce the lapse factor from 5.5 to 3 percent is acceptable.

Carl THOMSEN (Denmrk): With reference to the Joint Nordic Statement under this item of the Agenda, the Danish delegation would like to offer some additional comments and suggestions regarding the procedure for the elaboration of the Programme of Work in the future. These comments and suggestions are related more specifically to medium-term objectives and the importance and value of medium-term plans. This is a subject which has received little attention so far, although it forms part of the item under consideration. It is only natural that during the course of time the procedure referred to has undergone certain changes and the following possible future changes.

In the Nordic statement at the last meeting of COAG it was suggested that a medium-term plan should be reintroduced as an element in its own right in the preparation of the Programme of Work of the Organization. In our view, the governing bodies can have little impact on the full Programme of Work for the next biennium, once it has been published, as a result of the very careful and complex preparatory work of the Secretariat.

It is easy to get submerged in details, and it is hardly possible in the short-term to reorient such a large Organization. Ideally the Programme of Work for the next biennium should be worked out and evaluated in the light of the long-term strategy of the Organization, and a medium-term plan of implementation which is intended to cover, for instance, the coming three biennia, of six years.

In this way the governing bodies could have an important framework against which they could assess the proposed Programme of Work for the next biennium. The principal task of the governing bodies, in our view, should be to agree on the future policy and guidelines for the Programme of Action of the Organization. The more detailed elaboration and implementation of the Programme of Work for the coming biennium should rest with the management. Subsequent reports and reviews would then provide the basis for judging whether the guidelines have been adhered to.

In the Programme of Work and Budget, document C 89/3, the medium-term objectives have been referred to under the individual sub-programmes, which makes it difficult and cumbersome to get an overall view of these perspectives. So far as the Technical Committees of the Council are concerned, the Summary Programme of Work provided the basis for the programme discussions and they did not contain any information whatsoever in this respect. In either case, no information has been provided regarding the medium-term plan of Organization.

For these reasons it is suggested that there should be an opportunity to consider plans for the medium-term before discussing the Summary Programme of Work in the Technical Committees and the Council and before discussing the full Programme of Work and Budget during the Conference. Against this background, the Danish delegation supports the recommendation that in the

future a Medium-Term Plan covering three biennia should be prepared and presented in a separate document, as has been the case in the past. Such a document should then be made available for discussion in the Technical Committees as well as in the Council and the Conference.

In addition to these remarks, I should like to refer again to the Joint Nordic Statement under this item of the Agenda which says that the Nordic countries are more concerned about the contents of the Programme of Work than about the level of the budget. In this respect the Danish delegation would like to make two supplementary remarks. First, in our view, there should be only one total budget for the coming biennium and this budget should also cover the consequences of reform measures in so far as they affect this biennium. In the other hand, we share the view expressed by the German delegation that it seems likely that the larger part of these consequences will only be felt in the medium-term.

Secondly, with regard to the lapse factor, we support the request for additional information in order to justify the reduction of the percentage. On the basis of the information that is currently available, we share the view of other delegations that such a reduction would not be justified. The lapse factor should normally reflect the actual situation so far as the filling of posts is concerned.

HU SIREN (China) (original language Chinese): I should like first of all to thank Dr Shah for his introduction of the Programme of Work and Budget. I will now give, as briefly as I can, some comments on this important item. As regards the level of the budget, the Council which met last June carried out an in-depth consideration of the level of budget proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget, but could not reach a conclusion as regards the level.

The Government of China at that Session of the Council stressed that, taking into account the challenges that face FAO and the work that needs to be done, it would be necessary to ensure an appropriate increase of the budget for the next biennium. However, we note that the next increase of the programme which is now submitted to the Conference is one of US\$ 5.5 million; that is to say, an increase of barely one percent. So this is the budget level which the Director-General proposes in accordance with the views of the Council and after having properly coordinated the views of all the parties concerned. We feel that, as compared to earlier budgets, this budget increase is not very high but it is acceptable. We hope that the present Conference will be able to agree to the increase.

Secondly, as to how the increased funding in the budget should be used, we favour the adoption of the traditional earlier approach, which is to devote this additional part of the budget to the Economic and Technical Programmes and to the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). That would show that the policy which FAO has pursued in the past will continue to be pursued. It would show that it is doing practical work.

As regards the general distribution of resources, Africa must continue to be given priority because the African region has to cope with tremendous food and agriculture problems. We support the work of the FAO, which is to help Africa at this time, while taking properly into account the difficulties of other regions.

I should like to insist once again on the importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme. Ever since its inception, this programme has made available to developing countries a great deal of technical assistance, which has been very much welcomed. However, the percentage allocated to this programme within the total budget of the Organization is going down all the time. This state of affairs certainly does not correspond with the requirements of developing nations because they have to cope with some very great difficulties. Therefore, we hope that FAO will as far as possible be able to ensure an adequate increase in the budget allocated to this programme.

Thirdly, as regards the priorities stated in the programme, as you all know, the Director-General has outlined nine priority areas. We feel that these areas reflect the strategic objectives of our Organization and they also correspond to developments in the food and agriculture situation of the world in recent times. Therefore we support those nine priority areas.

Roque CANADAS (Ecuador): Le agradezco la oportunidad que me ofrece de hacer algunas reflexiones frente a esta Comisión en nombre de mi delegación y en torno al importante tema que se analiza.

Al haber avanzado varias delegaciones sus opiniones respecto al documento presentado por la Secretaría en relación con el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio de actividades de la FAO, creo del caso referirme sólo a los aspectos que mi delegación estima del mayor significado.

Con esto quiero decir que comparto las opiniones que elogian el documento C 89/3 de la Secretaría como trabajo equilibrado, profesional e inteligente que procura recoger adecuadamente los deseos de la mayoría de países Miembros y diseña un conveniente programa de labores. Se puede advertir que el documento se empeña en establecer un programa que mantenga a nuestra Organización activa y dinámica en el próximo bienio, tratando de atender los requerimientos de los países Miembros y, por otra parte, limitándose con extrema prudencia a las disponibilidades financieras.

Mi delegación comparte el criterio de apoyar el documento de la Secretaría tal como está. Sería una medida conveniente para todos. Se muestra de acuerdo igualmente con las nueve prioridades que se establecen.

El incremento real del presupuesto en 5,5 millones, que representa porcentualmente el 1 por ciento, es un incremento moderado frente a la elevación real de costos y las necesidades de servicios. Es un incremento que se reduce a menos de la mitad por absorción de costos. Hay que observar el esfuerzo de la Secretaría de reducir el 25 por ciento de los gastos de personal y administrativos. Piensa mi delegación, que esta medida hay que balancearla con la necesidad de mantener personal de alta calificación y en número suficiente.

El programa de cooperación técnica, que es esencial, ha sufrido disminuciones. No alcanza el 17 por ciento que es lo recomendado. Sin embargo, mi delegación acepta que se haga esta disminución en el afán de aproximarse a los deseos expresados por algunas delegaciones de restringir el gasto. Espera, sin embargo, que en el futuro se pueda recuperar un nivel de gasto porcentual adecuado para este importante programa.

Para mi país es esencial el programa de nutrición. Todavía hay un elevado número de la población campesina que sufre de bajos niveles nutricionales, lo que causa enfermedades endémicas.

El tema de los bosques interesa particularmente al Ecuador tanto por el cuidado y conservación de las florestas tropicales cuanto por el deseo de desarrollar una verdadera y cuidadosa industria forestal para la que hay capacidad potencial.

Es de singular importancia el programa que trata del papel de la mujer en las zonas rurales y su incorporación al desarrollo.

Igualmente atribuye mi país relevante importancia a la biotecnología y a los programas de campo.

En conjunto, el programa de labores merece el respaldo de mi delegación. Encuentra que será difícil ejecutarlo sin disponer de recursos presupuestarios adecuados. Sería ideal un acuerdo sobre el presupuesto. Sin embargo, no parece al momento posible lograr ese acuerdo por consenso. Tomando en consideración las opiniones de importantes Países Miembros de nuestra Organización que desean que se mantenga el presupuesto sin crecimiento, mi delegación considera el caso decir que esto conduciría a agravar paulatinamente la crisis financiera de la FAO y le inhabilitaría poco a poco para cumplir cabalmente las funciones que está llamada a desempeñar.

Ante estas circunstancias, resulta imperioso tratar de buscar una vía de solución. Para mi delegación, la solución no está en el régimen prolongado de absorción de gastos. Piensa que tal vez sería conveniente establecer un grupo de contacto encargado de conciliar las posiciones a ver si se logra el consenso, o tal vez confiar al Presidente de la Conferencia que haga a nombre de todos una representación ante los gobiernos de los países Miembros que están atrasados en sus cuotas, para que consideren la situación crítica de la FAO y hagan esfuerzos para pagarlas cuanto antes. De modo especial sería de alto significado esta gestión ante el Gobierno de Washington.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): My congratulations on your election and on your chairmanship.

Among the many important subjects and issues in the Programme of Work and Budget that merit attention, my delegation should like to highlight a few that seem to us to be of primary importance.

Firstly, priority setting. We support priority areas which were first introduced during COAG and in particular two of them: policy advice and sustainable development. Let me dwell a moment on each of them.

Reading through the various programmes and sub-programmes we had the impression that less, instead of more, emphasis is put in terms of resources on the policy advice function in different sectors. I refer to the decrease in sub-programme 2.1.8.2, policies and performance of the agricultural sector, the food security and food aid policy programmes, the sub-programmes on agricultural planning assistance and the general support to policy and planning. It could be that we have not understood it properly and would like to ask the Secretariat to provide us with some additional information regarding this issue.

The second subject I mentioned is sustainable development. While the proper use of pesticides, genetic resources and other technical production components are important elements for sustainable development, socio-economic conditions and in particular participation by the people concerned is equally important. This relates to the basic objectives of rural development set out in WCARRD which continued to guide the overall orientations of this programme; especially the importance of the participatory approach, now widely recognized as a vital element of rural development, cannot be overstated. However, looking at the Programme of Work and Budget, we see on page 110, sub-programme 2.1.5.3., Rural Institutions and Employment, that for the People's Participation, rural cooperatives and non-governmental organizations a slight decrease in the budget is proposed.

During COAG we, and many others, strongly supported strengthening the People's Participation Programme and suggested a plan of action to integrate rural development and the People's Participation principles into the activities of the technical divisions of FAO. The decrease in the budget does not indicate increased activities with regard to the People's Participation Programme.

The Netherlands have always been one of the major donors for the People's Participation Programme since we believe that sustainable development can only be achieved with full participation and involvement of the people concerned. My delegation stresses that maintaining adequate knowledge and experience in the relevant section of FAO dealing with People's Participation is essential.

Forestry plays its role in sustainable development as well but should not be isolated. The Tropical Forestry Action Plan is widely appreciated in the framework of forestry development and cooperation but should be part of total land-use planning. The regular budget for TFAP is restricted and the Plan could not function without voluntary donations by donors. We urge you to include TFAP eventually in the Regular Programme and to provide it with sufficient management capability.

With regard to the World Forestry Inventorization, we look forward to the publication of its interim report. My delegation would like to stress the importance of the publication of such an interim report in the beginning of next year to maintain the political momentum for this very important issue. During the Ninth Meeting of the FAO Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics, a number of recommendations were made in support of TFAP. They relate to the need to consider forestry as an integrated part of broader framework. My delegation endorses these recommendations and hopes that they will be endorsed by the Conference. Perhaps there is a need for a resolution on this point.

The Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium states that the changed world market situation is a new challenge for the development of the dairy section in developing countries. My delegation agrees with that and, as representatives of a dairy country, we find that the Programme for this area contains sufficient elements (animal food supply, integrated dairy farming) for the development of the dairy sector, although we regret the disappearance of the World Animal Review publication.

With regard to the fisheries programme, my delegation should like to be informed about the request for funds from the Common Fund for Commodities on behalf of the Sub-committee on Fish Trade, since the results could have budgetary consequences for the Sub-programme on Fish Utilization and Marketing,

Before turning to the budget one last, but definitely least, point: the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, JECFA. As you know JECFA supplies the toxicological data and information on additives and contaminants as well as the specification of additives on behalf of the FAO/WHO Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, CCFAC. For this purpose, JECFA had, like CCFAC, annual meetings. These annual meetings are needed for the necessary information supply and feedback with CCFAC and to continue the progress in the Committee, which forms part of Codex Alimentarius. The Director-General rightfully stressed the importance of Codex Alimentarius for GATT.

The Netherlands is the host country for CCFAC and take care of the expenses under the very conditions and see that supporting activities as JECFA are carried out properly. Recently, JECFA started meetings regarding a totally different subject, residues of veterinary medicines, to avoid the foundation of a new Expert Committee. These meetings support the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, CCRVDF, hosted by the United States. Here too, annual meetings are a necessity. All this means that biennially four JECFA meetings are required instead of two. One JECFA in each biennium for additives/contaminants is unacceptable particularly with regard to the increasing demand for toxicological data of contaminants. Annual meetings remain necessary.

In particular, Committees such as CCFAC and CCRVDF, play, by their work to define acceptable levels of additives, contaminants and residues, an increasing role in GATT.

Finally, I should like to say something on the overall level of the budget and the proposed change in the lapse factor from 5.5 to 3 percent. As our Minister said in his intervention at the Plenary Session earlier this week we cannot consider the overall level of the budget without considering at the same time the resources needed for the review. Part of these resources will have to be financed through assessed contributions. No matter what legal or budgetary solution is proposed, the Member States must pay for these resources.

The Netherlands adheres to the principle of real zero growth but in exceptional circumstances we are prepared to deviate from that principle. In our opinion such exceptional circumstances do not exist with regard to the Programme proposed in the Budget. An effective programme could have been drawn up without the 1 percent real increase. We think in addition that a rearrangement of prudent implementation could lead to savings that will not affect the overall validity of the programme. These savings would provide the necessary flexibility to pay for a substantial part of the review measures. We recognize, however, that not all of the review measures can be funded in this way and we are prepared to accept the need for some additional resources for this purpose. On the whole, we could therefore support the present level of the budget, including the 1 percent real increase, if the review measures to be agreed upon by this Conference will be funded within this level and will not lead to additional assessments.

With regard to the lapse factor, we have found no evidence that would justify the change from 5.5 to 3 percent. On the contrary, according to the External Auditors, the actual lapse factor has over the past seven years always been substantially higher than the 5.5 percent now applied. Even under the best of circumstances it is practically impossible in a large Organization like FAO, with its considerable movements, to reach an actual lapse factor of less than 5.5 percent.

We cannot but conclude that the effect of a decrease in the lapse factor would essentially be a substantial additional real increase of the budget.

Finally, I want to express the appreciation of the Netherlands for the work and expertise of FAO's staff which is also apparent in the thorough preparation of the papers presented. I do feel assured that under the budgetary conditions as set out by us today FAO will be fully capable of continuing to fulfil its valuable tasks.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais vous présenter le Président du Comité de rédaction tel qu'il résulte des consultations qui se sont déroulées depuis que je vous ai donné la liste des membres. Il me semble qu'il y a eu accord pour que nous puissions désigner Mr. Sture Theolin, de la Suède, comme Président du Comité de rédaction. Je pense que nous approuvons; ce choix et nous souhaitons bonne chance au comité de rédaction et à son Président.

Je signale que le Comité de rédaction doit se réunir dès ce soir, juste après notre séance.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Je suis partagé entre deux sentiments. Celui bien sûr de vous écouter et d'être bref, et celui de pouvoir être complet, car le programme de travail et budget représente le programme et les moyens financiers pour l'Organisation de vivre et de travailler pendant les deux premières années de la prochaine décennie. C'est donc un document extrêmement important. Je n'aurai pas la prétention d'être complet, je serais beaucoup trop long, mais je désire suivre vos conseils, et vous me pardonnerez peut-être si je suis quelque peu plus long qu'à l'accoutumée car je crois qu'un budget est à la fois un acte politique important et un examen technique que nous avons approfondi pendant de nombreux mois. Acte politique parce que le vote du budget et toute la procédure qui a été suivie tend à permettre un large consensus à propos des moyens financiers mis à la disposition de la FAO. Je crois qu'un effort considérable a été fait pour obtenir ce consensus. Ne pas y arriver serait pour nous, représentants du Royaume de Belgique, profondément triste et profondément regrettable. Car refuser à une Organisation les moyens d'exécuter sa mission, c'est signaler qu'on ne lui fait plus confiance, or nous devons faire confiance car c'est ensemble, avec l'Organisation et avec ses Etats Membres, que nous devons construire la décennie qui vient.

Vous-même, très récemment, et notre Ministre l'a souligné dans son discours, vous avez parlé d'une décennie perdue. La décennie des années 80. Nous ne voulons pas que la décennie 90 puisse être une décennie perdue. Le Président de la Conférence, dans son exposé introductif, a dit de manière très claire que nous devons envisager le monde dans une perspective nouvelle. Deux cent mille êtres humains naissent tous les jours. Deux cent mille bouches à nourrir de plus sont une interpellation qui nous concerne tous.

Aussi je crois que le budget est non seulement une discussion sur un certain nombre de problèmes techniques mais également une vision politique globale sur laquelle nous devons nous pencher. Je suis personnellement d'accord avec un plan à moyen terme, mais ce plan à moyen terme nécessite une programmation financière et une programmation de force dans la possibilité de savoir quels seront les moyens de trésorerie dont l'Organisation disposera année après année en établissant un plan unique d'engagement des principaux contributeurs de paiement de leurs contributions de façon à ce que l'on sache quels sont les moyens dont l'Organisation disposera pour réaliser son programme. Il n'y a pas de plan à moyen terme possible s'il n'y a pas de programmation financière raisonnée et résultant des engagements des principaux contributeurs. Et j'appelle la responsabilité de tous les principaux contributeurs de pouvoir clairement prendre ce type d'engagement non pas par une vision à court terme sur deux années mais dans le cadre du plan à moyen terme. Il ne sert à rien d'établir un plan de six ans si on ne veut en même temps établir une programmation financière correspondante; il est en effet nécessaire de disposer d'un certain nombre de moyens financiers qui permettront de réaliser les objectifs que l'on poursuit.

On a parlé de priorités et j'ai suivi avec beaucoup d'attention le débat qui s'est déroulé et qui est incontestablement un débat intéressant. On a parlé des priorités et également des économies. Je le dis souvent, quand on parle de priorités on demande toujours ce qui n'est pas prioritaire. Quand on parle d'économies, je demande quelles sont les économies ou quels sont les programmes qu'il faut supprimer et je voudrais que ceux qui parlent de priorités aient le courage de définir ce qu'il y a en lieu de maintenir, renforcer ou supprimer.

Si on établit des priorités dans tel ou tel autre domaine, il faut bien sûr en supprimer dans d'autres parce que je crois qu'établir des priorités ne sert à rien si on n'a pas le courage de déterminer ce qu'il faut éventuellement soit diminuer soit laisser tomber. Et cela aussi mérite un débat. Un débat clair où nous avons tous des droits et tous les pays doivent savoir clairement à quoi s'en tenir.

Je l'ai dit, pour moi, la hauteur du budget telle qu'elle se présente sur une période de deux ans représente un petit budget du monde et a la dimension de ces problèmes. Le budget de deux ans de la FAO représente le budget d'un an de la coopération belge qui est un tout petit pays. Nous avons un budget sur une année, en chiffres, peut-être pas en qualité mais c'est certainement un chiffre aussi important que celui de la FAO: mais on l'a dit souvent, le budget de la FAO est un budget qui doit catalyser un certain nombre de sources de financement venant du fonds fiduciaire, venant des organisations internationales, venant des grandes banques de développement et c'est pour cela aussi qu'il est tellement important, et je suis en accord avec le Directeur général dans ce qu'il a proposé, que les organisations qui se trouvent à Rome, que ce soit le Fonds de développement agricole qui dispose d'une trésorerie extrêmement importante, que ce soit de nouveaux programmes, puissent collaborer avec la FAO et que cette collaboration pour le moment n'est pas suffisante.

Alors si le niveau du budget reste, pour nous, modeste, il est quand même important parce qu'il est l'amorce du développement. Ce budget n'a pas la prétention de régler ni d'apporter une solution à tous les problèmes qui se posent, mais il a au moins la prétention de les étudier, de les analyser et d'essayer, par l'effort de tous, de trouver les financements voulus pour y arriver.

Sur le plan technique, je me permettrai deux remarques: on a parlé de "lapse factor" et de la proposition de rabaisser de 5,5 à 3. Je n'entrerai pas dans le détail, mais vous savez très bien que pendant des années, on a gelé un certain nombre de postes, qu'un effort considérable a été fait - et je rends hommage au personnel de la FAO - pour diminuer progressivement un certain nombre de frais administratifs. Mais on ne peut pas perpétuellement continuer à geler des postes et à maintenir une situation du passé. Quand on me dit que les 3 pour cent ne reflètent pas la situation actuelle ni la situation des dernières années, je le veux bien; mais est-ce que la situation actuelle est une situation souhaitable et une situation désirable? Non. Il existe des postes importants qui doivent être remplis; et, pour remplir ces postes, il faut évidemment pouvoir ramener à un taux raisonnable ce qu'on appelle le "lapse factor".

Je crois qu'il est extrêmement important de se pencher sur le problème de l'encadrement à la FAO. On peut discuter à l'infini du type de cadres, mais je crois qu'un cadre ne peut fonctionner normalement que si les experts et les techniciens dont on a besoin occupent la place qui leur est assignée. Or, l'organigramme est établi, il existe un certain nombre de postes à remplir. Et, au nom du Royaume de Belgique, je ne puis dire qu'une chose: que ces postes soient occupés le plus rapidement possible.

Le second point dont on a parlé, c'est la provision des 14 millions plus deux millions, tel qu'indiqué dans l'introduction du Directeur général. Je ne vais pas entrer dans le détail, mais sur le plan du moral du personnel, sur le plan simplement déontologique, il me paraît indispensable qu'on puisse disposer des fonds pour simplement appliquer les décisions et les recommandations qui seront prises à New York dans le cadre de la fonction publique internationale. Et il s'agit en l'espèce d'une simple politique de prudence qui serait peut-être beaucoup moins nécessaire s'il n'y avait les énormes arriérés de paiement que vous connaissez, et si la situation financière n'était, à l'heure actuelle, véritablement dramatique.

Vous savez que mon pays a toujours combattu ce qu'on appelle le budget à deux vitesses. Nous n'aimons pas le budget à deux vitesses pour la simple raison que nous voulons un "core budget" qui permette à l'organisme de fonctionner sans prévoir un certain nombre d'amputations budgétaires qui sont de nature à porter atteinte au fondement même de l'institution.

S'agissant de la portée politique du budget (et un certain nombre de pays l'ont abordée), je crois qu'il faut avoir le courage de se définir clairement par rapport à une sorte de dogme qui est le dogme antinomique et contradictoire de ce qu'on appelle la croissance zéro. La croissance zéro n'existe pas pour la bonne raison que quand on est en croissance zéro, il n'y a pas de croissance. C'est clair et net. Et là je crois vraiment que l'expression est une expression très mal choisie. Dans un monde où, comme le disait le Président de la Conférence, 200 000 êtres humains et 200 000 bouches naissent chaque jour, vouloir être le tenant de la croissance zéro me paraît être une contradiction fondamentale. Comme je l'ai déjà dit à plusieurs reprises, il faut veiller, dans toutes les organisations, à comprimer au maximum les frais administratifs en évitant une véritable inflation de postes qui seraient inutiles ou de personnes qui ne rempliraient pas leur mission à 100 pour cent ou à 110 pour cent de leurs possibilités.

Mais il est clair qu'il ne peut être question de continuer à maintenir des budgets dans un monde en évolution constante qui ne permettent plus à un moment donné à l'Organisation de remplir sa tâche fondamentale.

Quand on parle d'engagements internationaux, je crois qu'il faut prendre ces engagements internationaux non pas un par un mais dans leur ensemble.

Il y a d'autres engagements internationaux qui ont été pris à New York, et des engagements internationaux qui devraient être respectés et qui ne le sont pas depuis des années; notamment ce vieil engagement international d'atteindre le 0,7 pour cent du produit intérieur brut que la plupart des pays n'ont pas atteint. Même mon pays n'y est pas arrivé. Nous avons plafonné pendant des années autour de 0,62 ou 0,60. Je regrette profondément que l'objectif n'ait pas été atteint pour des raisons administratives alors que c'est la volonté du peuple et du parlement belge. Mais je crois que l'opinion publique doit être consciente du fait que si les sacrifices voulus ne sont pas faits, en période de bouleversements du monde, nous allons être interpellés de façon beaucoup plus angoissante et avec beaucoup plus de véhémence dans la décennie qui vient que dans la décennie qui s'est écoulée.

C'est pour cela que pour nous le terme de croissance zéro est un non-sens. Nous devons modérer les frais administratifs; et sur le plan de la gestion administrative (nous y reviendrons à propos du document sur la revue et nous l'exposerons longuement à ce moment-là), la situation est satisfaisante et je n'ai pas vu, dans les rapports d'experts qui ont eu l'occasion de se pencher sur ce problème, de critiques fondamentales sur ce point.

Je voudrais dire aussi, puisque je suis en train de parler de ce qu'on a appelé la réforme, qui est en réalité une revue complète des activités de la FAO particulièrement fructueuse et particulièrement intéressante (et nous y viendrons longuement dans le cadre de la discussion du prochain point de l'Ordre du jour), qu'il faut un découplage entre le budget de la FAO et ce qu'on a appelé la revue ou réforme.

Le budget de la FAO est le moyen pour l'Organisation de continuer ses activités au 1er janvier 1990. Il faut que la FAO ait les moyens voulus pour assumer sa tâche; il faut qu'elle puisse le faire dans des conditions normales.

S'agissant de la revue, nous prendrons position au moment où l'on en discutera. Mais quel que soit le résultat de cette discussion, il est clair que le budget doit être voté et adopté parce que c'est la condition sine qua non pour l'Organisation de continuer ses activités.

Je crois aussi qu'il est temps (et nous en discuterons en Commission III) de nous pencher sur le problème des arriérés et sur le problème d'un certain nombre d'incidents pour permettre à tous les pays de payer leurs contributions en temps utile.

Le budget est un acte extrêmement important et nous avons suivi, pratiquement depuis les cinq pages de janvier 1989, toute la procédure qui a été suivie. Ce fut une procédure longue: bref schéma pour débiter, examen par les différents comités, sommaire de travail du programme de travail et budget, examen par les comités des finances, comité du programme et comité financier réunis, premier examen au Conseil de juin, second examen au Conseil qui a précédé immédiatement la Conférence, et examen actuel.

Ne croyez-vous pas qu'on pourrait éviter peut-être certains frais inutiles, et disposer d'un document suffisamment complet, sinon de cinq pages du moins de 15 à 20 pages, qui donnent un premier aperçu du budget administratif du biennium, et qu'on puisse directement disposer d'un programme de travail et budget sans passer par un document intermédiaire qui est quand même un document coûteux et qui ne paraît guère très utile?

Je crois qu'il faut en arriver à simplifier les procédures; je crois qu'il faut en arriver à supprimer les frais inutiles; je crois qu'il faut en arriver à condenser les discussions sur l'essentiel.

S'agissant des priorités, je suis tout disposé à les aborder le jour où l'on examinera ce qu'on estime non prioritaire.

Pour toutes ces raisons, après avoir longuement étudié ce document, je puis vous dire que le Royaume de Belgique votera le budget. Mais je dois vous dire aussi combien nous sommes préoccupés et soucieux, à l'aube de cette nouvelle décennie dont vous avez parlé, d'obtenir un large consensus sur un budget minimal. Un effort particulier a été fait avec une augmentation "ridicule" de 0,43 pour cent. Cette augmentation est infime et dérisoire.

On a tout fait pour arriver à un consensus de toutes les bonnes volontés et de tous les pays. Alors, de grâce, essayons de maintenir ce consensus pour arriver à un accord unanime de façon à démarrer dans les meilleures conditions pour la prochaine décennie. Je suis convaincu que tous les responsables des grands pays, des moyens et petits pays, tous les membres de la FAO, tous ceux qui sont membres aujourd'hui et ceux qui seront membres demain, sont soucieux d'arriver à cet objectif de pouvoir travailler ensemble dans une atmosphère de collaboration, dans une atmosphère d'ouverture et dans une atmosphère non pas de suspicion mais de compréhension mutuelle qui est indispensable si l'on veut construire réellement le monde de demain.

Malek BEN SALAH (Tunisie) (langue originale Arabe): La position de la Tunisie, eu égard au sujet qui nous intéresse aujourd'hui et qui fait l'objet de notre examen, émane de la synthèse et de la conclusion à laquelle nous arrivons lorsque nous comparons les objectifs et les aspirations des pays membres avec le Programme de travail et budget qui nous a été soumis par l'Organisation.

Peut-être que nous saurons et que nous pourrions dire que les neuf priorités qui ont été illustrées par les examens, par les études et par les documents qui nous ont été distribués et soumis, ainsi que les objectifs de nombreux pays membres, tournent autour d'un seul axe qui est constitué par trois points essentiels:

Premièrement, l'aide et l'assistance directes qui permettent d'introduire certaines technologies, qui sont susceptibles d'arrêter certains fléaux, ou qui peuvent permettre d'atténuer les effets néfastes et négatifs de certaines catastrophes dont souffrent certains pays membres: c'est ce que nous retrouvons dans différents chapitres des documents qui sont soumis à notre examen pour le budget de l'Organisation tels que le Programme d'assistance et d'aide par les fertilisants ou, par exemple, les programmes de lutte contre un certain nombre de fléaux comme le criquet pèlerin ou la lucidie bouchère américaine, et bien d'autres fléaux.

Deuxièmement, l'examen et les études de planification: c'est ce que nous retrouvons dans le cadre de l'aide apportée pour préparer cette planification avec l'aide des pays eux-mêmes et en formant des cadres, afin de mettre au point des plans tout à fait judicieux et rigoureux et de procéder périodiquement à leur évaluation.

Troisièmement, oeuvrer pour trouver des bases de travail tout à fait judicieuses et objectivement faisables: c'est ce que nous retrouvons également dans les programmes d'études sur la faisabilité concernant certaines technologies, et ce, sous forme d'une coopération technique, afin de donner une certaine crédibilité et permettre une chance de succès au plan mis au point par les différents pays membres ou par l'Organisation.

Nous pensons que le rapprochement entre les objectifs des pays membres, le programme d'action, et le budget de l'Organisation est de nature à permettre un consensus ou un rapprochement des points de vue.

Ceci nous pousse à rappeler brièvement ce que j'avais déjà recommandé lors de ma première intervention, à savoir qu'il faut concentrer nos efforts et notre travail sur l'introduction de la biotechnologie, sur la vulgarisation, et sur l'information des agriculteurs. L'aide apportée en vue d'une planification judicieuse est bonne ainsi que l'assistance et l'appui donnés au programme de coopération technique.

Je voudrais maintenant joindre ma voix à celle de la délégation congolaise en souhaitant confier à la Commission la recherche d'une proposition concernant la coopération technique, et ce, afin que nous puissions la mettre en exécution pendant au moins deux ans.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Permettez-moi de remercier tout d'abord M. Shah pour son introduction du point 13 de notre ordre du jour; je tiens également à souligner que notre déclaration générale faite avant-hier à la plénière est à considérer comme partie intégrante de mon intervention sur le Programme de travail et budget pour 1990-91.

J'aimerais d'abord dire quelques mots au sujet du Programme pour ensuite aborder les questions liées au budget.

Nous devons nous mettre d'accord sur les activités et les ressources dont disposera la FAO au cours du prochain biennium pour atteindre les objectifs de notre Organisation, c'est-à-dire l'élimination de la faim, de la malnutrition et de la pauvreté, objectifs énoncés dans le préambule de l'Acte constitutif, reproduit sur la page de couverture du document C 89/3.

Il est dit clairement dans ce texte que nous nous engageons à nous tenir mutuellement informés des mesures prises pour atteindre ces objectifs, ainsi que des progrès accomplis, ceci par l'intermédiaire de la FAO.

Nous nous sommes donc engagés, nous les pays membres, à nous informer mutuellement de nos politiques et de nos statistiques socio-économiques. Ceci m'amène aux principaux rôles de la FAO. Le plus ancien est le rôle de l'information. La FAO est notre fiduciaire commune dans ce domaine, elle rassemble et vérifie les informations que nous nous sommes engagés à lui

fournir, elle les met sur une base comparable ensuite. Elle nous rend ensuite toutes ces informations accessibles. Nous nous félicitons du renforcement de cette activité par la mise en place du centre mondial d'information agricole appelé WAICENT en anglais.

J'en arrive au second rôle fondamental de la FAO qui est celui de conseiller des gouvernements; ce rôle est étroitement lié au premier rôle de centre d'information. L'acte constitutif nous engage à accepter une transparence en ce qui concerne nos politiques agricoles et alimentaires. Il me paraît donc normal que tout pays membre qui prend au sérieux son engagement envers les objectifs énoncés dans l'Acte constitutif, et qui n'a pas encore atteint ces objectifs, s'adresse à la FAO, pour que celle-ci l'aide à analyser si ses politiques en place servent effectivement lesdits objectifs ou si au contraire elles ont des effets indésirables.

Beaucoup de pays ne connaissent pas suffisamment les coûts et les bénéfices de leurs politiques. La FAO est appelée à les aider à faire ces calculs. Elle devrait aussi analyser les rentabilités obtenues pour les dépenses consacrées à telle ou telle activité, par exemple, irrigation, recherche agricole, vulgarisation, etc. dans les différents pays.

Par de telles études comparatives dans son domaine de compétence, la FAO pourrait apporter une contribution très précieuse aux décideurs politiques. Toutes ces activités d'analyse et de conseil doivent être entreprises à notre avis en collaboration avec d'autres institutions comme la Banque mondiale, le PNUD, l'IFPRI, etc. Il me semble que les pays européens pris par le vent des réformes, aussi appelé perestroïka, pourraient également bénéficier des activités d'analyse et de conseil de la FAO.

J'en arrive au 3ème rôle de la FAO, celui d'agence de développement. Ce rôle est intimement lié au second rôle, c'est-à-dire l'analyse et les conseils en matière d'agriculture et d'alimentation. La FAO ne doit pas simplement exécuter les demandes qui lui sont adressées par les pays membres. Elle doit d'abord faire sa propre analyse des problèmes et des besoins au niveau de chaque pays qui demande une assistance de sa part.

Cette analyse, elle est appelée à la faire! en collaboration avec le pays concerné, ainsi qu'avec le PNUD, la Banque mondiale et les principaux donateurs.

En somme, il s'agit de suivre une approche similaire à celle utilisée dans le Plan d'action forestier tropical. C'est seulement sur la base d'une telle appréciation globale des problèmes et besoins au niveau des pays, appréciation qui devrait être effectuée périodiquement, par exemple tous les 5 ans, que le bien-fondé des demandes pour des activités sectorielles et sous-sectorielles peut être apprécié.

Pour résumer ce point, nous aimerions donc que la FAO renforce ses activités dans l'analyse et les conseils en matière de politique agricole, ceci aux dépens de certaines activités techniques que nous considérons comme moins prioritaires et que d'autres institutions peuvent offrir également.

Ceci m'amène à l'aspect de la concentration des activités et des ressources de la FAO et de leur alignement sur des priorités claires.

Comme les experts et les 2 comités l'ont remarqué, il faut une certaine concentration des ressources et activités pour atteindre la masse critique. C'est un principe fondamental de la bonne gestion des ressources. Un trop grand éparpillèment diminue l'efficacité et conduit même au gaspillage.

Nous constatons un certain éparpillement à la FAO. Bien évidemment il s'agit de faire cette concentration dans les domaines qui nous intéressent le plus et dans lesquels la FAO a un avantage comparatif à nous offrir. Cet avantage comparatif n'existe pas, à notre avis, dans tous les domaines de son action actuelle. Il s'agit de procéder à certains aménagements pour renforcer notre Organisation. Nous proposons donc que la FAO limite l'offre de ses activités pour mieux se concentrer sur des priorités correspondant à des stratégies claires; plus précisément nous proposons la décision suivante à la Conférence, et vous me permettez de continuer en anglais pour que tout le monde puisse mieux comprendre.

For more clarity I would like to present this proposal in English.

Draft resolution (or elements for a resolution) for the concentration of FAO's activities on priority areas

Recalling the recommendations and views expressed by the SJS and the experts in favour of a greater concentration of the activities and resources of the Organization on priority areas:

The Conference decides : First to reduce by x percent (for example 20 percent) the number of activities (from the proposed level in 1990-91 of the 310 programme elements in Chapter Two or of the sub-programmes in the other chapters) of the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93 compared to the Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91. This reduction shall not affect the level of the 1992-93 budget and shall thus permit to reallocate a significant number of man/years in favour of priority activities where FAO has an uncontested comparative advantage. Second, to concentrate the remaining activities of the Organization through an increased use of priority Special Action Programmes. The choice and orientation of these Special Action Programmes shall be made in accordance with the guidelines recommended by SJS Joint Committees for the establishment of priorities (paragraph 2.64 (viii) of the recommendation). These Special Action Programmes shall be inspired by the approach used by the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

Third, to limit the total number of Special Action Programmes selected in this way to a given number, for example six or seven.

Fourth, to allocate by 1995 a given percentage - for example 50 or 60 percent - of the resources of the Regular Programme without TCP; and of another given percentage - for example 90 percent - of the resources of the Field Programme, including TCP, to this limited number of Special Action Programmes.

When I speak about Special Action Programmes may I just explain that I am thinking there, for example, about the Food Security Assistance Scheme, the Tropical Forestry Action Programme, the Plan of Action for Fisheries, and so on. I do not think of the Plans of Action for the integration of women, people's participation, agrarian reform, rural development and sustainable development, and so on, because the principles of the latter should, in our opinion, be an integral part of all FAO activities and need not be treated in a separate way.

Fifth, to follow up on this decision the Conference should entrust the Programme Committee with elaborating on corresponding proposals. The Programme Committee shall elaborate its proposals in close cooperation with representatives of the Director-General of FAO, of the United Nations' Secretary-General and of the Administrator of UNDP.

Sixth, the Programme Committee shall present its conclusions and proposals to the 98th Session of the Council in November 1990.

Seventh, the 98th Session of the Council will examine these proposals and give instructions to the Director-General for the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93 in accordance with the present resolution.

Une observation concernant les activités techniques proposées pour le prochain biennium. Au Chapitre Elevage, dans le sous-programme 2.1.3.3 Ressources génétiques, il est dit au para. 30 que je cite: "Le potentiel génétique relativement faible des races indigènes constitue un des principaux obstacles à la production animale efficace des pays en développement".

S'il est vrai que le potentiel génétique n'est pas très élevé, il est par contre prouvé que, dans la plupart des régions, ce potentiel n'est que très partiellement mis en valeur. Une amélioration de la base fourragère, des conditions sanitaires et de la gestion des troupeaux a dans bien des cas apporté des progrès spectaculaires dans la productivité du bétail sur une base très large et durable.

Les moyens modernes de la biotechnologie, voire même de l'insémination artificielle, ne sont souvent accessibles qu'à une couche déjà aisée d'éleveurs acceptant encore les inégalités. Dans bien des pays en développement, des éleveurs utilisent ces méthodes et n'ont pas besoin de l'assistance de la FAO.

Par contre pour la majorité des éleveurs, d'autres programmes plus accessibles doivent être mis en place: gestion et amélioration des ressources fourragères, santé animale, gestion des troupeaux, commercialisation des produits d'origine animale, etc.

J'en arrive au budget proprement dit. Permettez-moi une première remarque, pour apprécier les propositions détaillées du budget, nous aurions besoin des informations sur les dépenses effectives (dans le biennium en cours, mais nous ne disposons pas de ces chiffres et nous ne les recevons pas malgré nos demandes.

Comme ma délégation l'a déjà dit à plusieurs reprises, le budget proposé pour le prochain biennium nous paraît trop élevé et les augmentations de coût ne nous semblent pas suffisamment justifiées.

A la dernière séance du Conseil, nous avons fait la proposition d'ajouter un paragraphe à la résolution budgétaire pour traiter de la question des augmentations des coûts liée à l'inflation pour les 2 années à venir. La réponse du secrétariat par la voix de son conseiller juridique, M. Moore, a été que les textes fondamentaux de la FAO ne permettaient pas l'adoption du budget en 2 parties, car les textes parlaient d'un seul budget.

À la lumière de cette réponse, je me demande comment la Conférence pourrait envisager l'adoption d'un budget supplémentaire pour le financement des réformes proposées par le Secrétariat, sans violer l'Acte constitutif. M. Mòore pourrait, je l'espère, nous éclaircir sur ce point.

J'en viens aux augmentations des coûts, augmentations qui ne nous semblent pas suffisamment justifiées. Il y a par exemple un montant de 14 millions de dollars pour augmentation de salaires, montant qui dépend cependant des décisions de l'Assemblée générale en la matière. Comme l'a déjà dit le délégué du Royaume-Uni, cette augmentation hypothétique des salaires est une affaire pour le compte de réserves spécial.

Concernant le "lapse factor", j'utilise le terme anglais puisqu'il est commun, je n'aimerais pas rallonger le débat; si une modification doit être envisagée, ce serait une hausse de ce facteur, comme ma délégation l'a déjà dit au Conseil.

Le débat entre Secrétariat et délégations sur le bien-fondé des augmentations des coûts étant assez difficile et plutôt stérile, nous aimerions faire une proposition à la Conférence, proposition qui nous permettrait d'améliorer la transparence et la confiance dans cette question très complexe, ce qui est sans doute dans l'intérêt du secrétariat comme de l'ensemble des pays membres.

Nous proposons, primo, que la Conférence demande au Vérificateur externe des comptes de lui présenter à sa prochaine session un rapport sur la méthodologie utilisée par la FAO pour le calcul des augmentations des prix. Dans ce rapport, le Vérificateur externe des comptes devrait nous dire si cette méthodologie est appropriée et comment elle se compare à celles utilisées dans d'autres organisations internationales, voire des administrations nationales.

Il s'agirait donc d'un travail analytique et non seulement d'une simple comparaison descriptive des différentes méthodologies; une comparaison descriptive existe en effet, mais ce n'est pas cela que nous cherchons.

Le rapport du Vérificateur externe des comptes devrait être adressé au Comité financier d'abord, c'est-à-dire à sa séance de septembre 1990, pour ensuite passer au Conseil et finalement à la Conférence.

Deuxièmement, nous proposons que le Secrétariat présente à la même session de septembre 1990 du Comité financier les chiffres effectifs de la biennalisation des coûts pour la période 1988-89, ceci sur la base du programme adopté par la 24ème Conférence de la FAD, c'est-à-dire sans les coupures qui étaient nécessaires suite à la crise financière; ces chiffres du Secrétariat seraient analysés par le Commissaire externe aux comptes qui en rapporterait également à ladite session du Comité financier. Le Comité financier informerait par la suite le Conseil, et celui-ci la Conférence.

Troisièmement, nous aimerions que le Secrétariat soit invité par la Conférence à présenter aux pays membres, après l'adoption du budget, un bref document donnant la ventilation de ce budget devenu réel, ventilation de ce budget dans les programmes, les sous-programmes et les éléments de programmes tels qu'ils sont présentés dans le document C 89/3.

Il serait également utile d'avoir la ventilation du budget réel par région et programme. Concernant le PCT, ma délégation a déjà dit au point 12 de l'Ordre du jour que nous aimerions avoir plus de transparence et une orientation plus claire, des critères correspondants pour ce programme. Par exemple, le PCT pourrait être utilisé davantage pour les analyses et les conseils en matière de politique agricole, ce qui lui permettrait de contribuer à améliorer les liens entre le programme ordinaire et le programme de terrain.

J'en arrive à mon dernier point. Dans le budget proposé pour la région Europe, nous trouvons un montant total pour le budget ordinaire de 11,6 millions de dollars.

Les seules activités que nous connaissons dans la région européenne sont celles organisées par le Bureau régional qui se trouve ici à Rome, ainsi que celles faites par l'Unité FAO/CEE à Genève. C'est de leurs activités que nous discutons dans les réunions de la Commission européenne de l'agriculture de la FAO et de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe. Or, les 2 bureaux ne disposent ensemble que d'un budget de 4,4 millions de dollars; la différence aux 11,6 millions de dollars mentionnée plus haut, c'est-à-dire plus de 7 millions de dollars, concerne des activités que nous ne connaissons pas et que nous ne pouvons donc pas considérer comme prioritaires. Nous proposons que 2 de ces 7 millions soient alloués au Bureau de Rome et de Genève, ceci peut-être pour renforcer leurs activités dans le domaine socio-économique. En même temps, nous proposons que les 5 autres millions de dollars soient déduits du niveau total du budget ou alloués à une autre région plus nécessiteuse, par exemple à l'Afrique.

Pour terminer, notre position concernant le budget reste encore ouverte et dépend des réponses du Secrétariat à nos propos.

J'aimerais rappeler que mon pays attache le plus grand intérêt aux réformes de la FAO. Comme le délégué de la République fédérale d'Allemagne, nous sommes d'avis que les réformes doivent améliorer la productivité des ressources dont dispose la FAD, et nous ne pensons donc pas qu'elles doivent coûter quelque chose.

Nous voulons une FAO plus efficace qui contribue mieux aux objectifs de l'élimination de la faim, de la malnutrition et de la pauvreté. Le succès de la FAO dans cette tâche ne manquera pas d'attirer de nouvelles ressources.

Srta. Maria Concepción VIANA DEL BARRIO (Venezuela): La delegación de Venezuela desea manifestar su apoyo al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, presentado para la consideración de la Conferencia, al mismo tiempo que desea expresar su conformidad con las nueve prioridades fijadas para la ejecución del mismo.

Sin embargo, no podemos dejar pasar la ocasión para manifestar nuestra oposición rotunda a la imposición del llamado "crecimiento cero", si es que se puede llamar así al no crecer o al estancamiento. No se puede pedir a una organización como la FAO - la cual, por su Constitución debe dar respuesta a los crecientes problemas del hambre y la malnutrición, entre otros - que limite su crecimiento, deteniéndose en el tiempo, mientras que las causas que dieron origen a su creación se magnifican día a día. Tampoco dejamos de manifestar nuestra oposición a la imposición de la reabsorción de gastos de la Organización.

Nos habría dejado satisfechos que los fondos para el Programa de Cooperación Técnica se incrementaran, y aún más que se hubiera destinado un mayor porcentaje hacia América Latina; sin embargo comprendemos que el margen de libertad dejado para destinar más fondos a éste u otros programas de importancia para los países en vías de desarrollo, es nulo, pues los recursos con los que se espera contar para el próximo bienio no lo permiten.

Apoyamos asimismo la continuación del Plan de Acción Forestal de los Trópicos, la puesta en marcha del Plan de Acción para América Latina y el Caribe, la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición y el Plan de Integración de la Mujer al Desarrollo en el Medio Rural, por considerarlos de gran importancia para resolver diversos problemas que confrontan en la actualidad muchos países. De igual manera apoyamos el Proyecto del Código de Conducta para el Uso de los Insecticidas, Plaguicidas y Pesticidas, mediante la aplicación del principio de libre consentimiento.

Los recursos genéticos - integrados en ellos los recursos fitogenéticos, zoogenéticos y los peces - constituyen un patrimonio de la humanidad, que no tan sólo debe conservarse para la posteridad, sino que debe desarrollarse para beneficio de las generaciones presentes, sobre todo de aquellas naciones que los poseen y aún no se han beneficiado de ellos. Esta labor, que comenzó a asumir la FAO desde 1947, en concordancia con su Constitución, y que le fue asignada además por la Conferencia del Medio Ambiente celebrada en Estocolmo en 1972, se ha reafirmado dentro del marco del Sistema Global de la FAO sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos, con la proposición del compromiso, como marco legal flexible al cual se han adherido hasta la fecha 119 Estados Miembros, la institución de la Comisión respectiva, que actúa como un foro intergubernamental y la creación de un mecanismo financiero, el Fondo Internacional para Recursos Fitogenéticos. Es por esto que en la reunión del Grupo de Trabajo correspondiente, celebrada el pasado mes de octubre, se reconoció a la FAO como único organismo capaz de afrontar el problema de conservación y desarrollo de los recursos genéticos. Citamos los recursos genéticos porque consideramos que con el tiempo alcanzarán una gran importancia dentro de los futuros programas de la Organización, sobre todo en su relación con los de cooperación técnica y los de campo.

Nuestra delegación quiere dejar constancia que se muestra en desacuerdo con cualquier intento de relacionar el tema que nos ocupa, es decir el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 y los objetivos a plazo medio, con cualquier otro punto del temario.

No podemos dejar de expresar nuestra preocupación sobre el futuro de la Organización, en el caso de mantenerse la situación de insolvencia de algunos Estados Miembros, pues la crisis puesta de manifiesto en el examen del programa para los últimos años se agudizaría. Es por esto que queremos expresar nuestro apoyo al Director General en cualquier resolución que tome en caso de que así lo requiera la supervivencia de la Organización.

Finalmente queremos expresar enfáticamente nuestro apoyo a la aprobación del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1990-91, por consenso.

Alberto DE CATERINA (Italy): The Italian delegation, having listened to the statements of other Member Countries, wishes to add only a few remarks concerning item 13 of the Agenda, the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 and the Medium-Term Objectives, as stated in the documents before us. I shall be very brief. At this juncture allow me to recall that, as has

already been said by the Italian Minister of Agriculture in the general debate and by the Italian Ambassador during the Ninety-sixth Session of the Council, Italy will support the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 and its estimated increase of about 0.40 percent.

This is basically for two reasons. The first reason is that we are convinced that the programme outlined for the biennium is a good one. Secondly, we think that an increase of 0.40 percent is very close to the zero growth supported by sane Member Countries. We sincerely hope that a consensus will be possible on that issue.

Mauricio CUADRA (Nicaragua): Desde el Consejo nuestra delegación ha venido expresando con claridad su posición referente al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. Por tanto, y acogiéndonos a su llamada, seremos muy breves.

En primer lugar, mi delegación quisiera agradecer al Sr. Shah su excelente introducción al tema 13 de nuestro programa de trabajo. Igualmente quisiéramos felicitar a la Secretaria por las ulteriores mejoras introducidas en la presentación y estructura del documento complemento del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1990-91.

Sr. Presidente, en el transcurso de estos días, tanto en el Consejo como en la Conferencia, hemos escuchado intervenciones que reflejan de forma generalizada gran preocupación por la crítica situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo. Las necesidades y requerimientos de los países en desarrollo son cada vez más crecientes y no se corresponden con las disponibilidades de recursos con que cuenta la Organización para enfrentarlos. Reiteramos nuestro aprecio por los grandes esfuerzos realizados por el Director General para conciliar las aspiraciones de los países en desarrollo, que hubiéramos deseado una mayor disponibilidad de recursos con las aspiraciones de aquellos países que propugnan por lo que se llama erróneamente un crecimiento cero o un no crecimiento.

Mi delegación se acoge una vez más al llamado de aprobar este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto por consenso. La delegación de Nicaragua, Sr. Presidente, apoya las nueve prioridades que se han identificado para este bienio, prioridades que han sido identificadas tomando en cuenta las recomendaciones de los órganos rectores de la Organización, de los comités técnicos y las conferencias regionales.

Mi delegación apoya el aumento de recursos para los programas técnicos y económicos. Estamos totalmente opuestos a reducciones o limitaciones en el programa de FAO. Las consideramos ilógicas y totalmente contradictorias a la realidad que aquí se ha expuesto. Afortunadamente, Sr. Presidente, la gran mayoría de las delegaciones que hemos escuchado han analizado esta situación con sentido realista y positivo. Lamentamos que se escuchen, sin embargo, voces aisladas que todavía llaman a recortar aún más los programas y a constreñir aún más el presupuesto. Consideramos que esta situación debe ser reflexionada más profundamente. Lamentamos aún más, todavía, las reducciones del porcentaje asignado al Programa de Cooperación Técnica, y esperamos que en el futuro esta tendencia se revierta.

Al igual que otras delegaciones de la América Latina y el Caribe, solicitamos una distribución más equilibrada de los recursos asignados para la región. América Latina y el Caribe continúan en situación de desventaja.

Por otra parte, Sr. Presidente, mi delegación solicita que se busquen fórmulas con asignación de recursos para que el Proyecto Aquila pueda continuar. La continuación del mismo es de vital importancia para el desarrollo de la acuicultura en la región latinoamericana y el Caribe.

Sr. Presidente, para lograr un consenso sobre el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto se han realizado muchos esfuerzos, incluso se ha agregado una etapa adicional en forma experimental para la elaboración del mismo. Pensamos que estos esfuerzos no pueden ser en vano. Creemos que se deben dar muestras de flexibilidad y espíritu democrático y, sobre todas las cosas, buscar cómo aprobar este presupuesto por consenso.

Sidasty AIDARA (Sénegal): Je dois, à la vérité, avouer que c'est avec une certaine émotion que je reprends pour la première fois la parole à cette illustre tribune après l'avoir quittée il y a une dizaine d'années. Je le fais avec d'autant plus de satisfaction d'ailleurs que je retrouve autour de moi, certes de nouveaux visages, des visages familiers, autant au Secrétariat que parmi les délégués mais également et surtout, des visages amis tels que, entre autres, le vôtre.

C'est la raison pour laquelle c'est un double plaisir que j'éprouve en vous félicitant pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de notre Commission, d'abord en votre qualité d'éminent représentant du Congo, un pays ami du mien, le Sénégal, ensuite, pour l'honneur que vous m'avez personnellement fait en accordant à ma modeste personne, dès votre arrivée à Rome, une amitié que le temps d'une séparation momentanée n'a point altérée.

Je puis vous donner à vous-même, comme à vos collègues, Vice-Présidents du Bureau de la Commission, que j'ai le plaisir d'associer aux félicitations de ma délégation, l'assurance que, dans la mission exaltante mais non moins difficile dont vous êtes investi par la Conférence générale de mener à bon port les travaux de la Commission II, vous trouverez auprès du Sénégal l'appui constant d'un pays frère, la collaboration empressée d'une délégation attentive à vos préoccupations et la disponibilité d'un ami qui ne ménagera aucun effort pour vous faciliter la tâche.

Comme vous le savez, le Sénégal n'est pas actuellement membre du Conseil de la FAD.

Cependant, il a suivi avec un grand intérêt, en observateur très attentif, les débats qui ont eu lieu la semaine dernière, au cours de la quatre-vingt-seizième session de cet important organe de la FAD.

Ces débats, notamment sur la situation financière de la FAD, sur son Programme de travail et budget pour le biennium 90-91, sur l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAD, ont donné à ma délégation l'exacte mesure de l'importance de ces questions et ont constitué, à notre avis, un test particulièrement révélateur de l'ampleur des problèmes qui assaillent notre Organisation à un moment décisif de son existence. Parmi ces problèmes, ma délégation voudrait, en attendant d'avoir l'occasion de se prononcer sur les autres questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour de notre Commission, retenir pour la circonstance et pour sa considération le point 13 actuellement en discussion et relatif au Programme de travail et budget 90-91, afin d'éviter, au plan de la forme comme du fond, l'amalgame qui ne pourrait que nuire à nos débats.

Le monde aujourd'hui est témoin de grands bouleversements qui sont en train de s'opérer en Europe orientale.

Ce sont des bouleversements de caractère idéologique et politique certes qui, sans nul doute, influenceront sur l'équilibre et la sécurité de l'Europe, mais dont il convient déjà d'analyser les immenses répercussions sur les plans de la structure même de l'économie mondiale, sur les canaux traditionnels du commerce international, sur les fondements du développement de l'agriculture, et évidemment sur l'aide alimentaire internationale pour ne citer que ces domaines.

L'arbre du sentiment de liens de tous ordres, au sein de ce que sera demain la grande "maison européenne" ne devrait pas, à notre humble avis, cacher la forêt porteuse d'espoir d'une coopération multiforme entre nations industrialisées et pays du tiers monde, coopération qui doit se projeter au-delà d'une simple assistance pour atteindre les dimensions autrement plus nobles d'un échange égal, mutuellement fructueux et bénéfique, dans le cadre d'un réel dialogue nord-sud.

Dans ce contexte, la proposition faite par la délégation française en séance plénière (et je rappelle d'ailleurs à ce propos que le Ministre français de l'agriculture avait fait une telle proposition au cours de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation), proposition que nous saluons chaleureusement, de consacrer les économies réalisées par la suppression des subventions aux agriculteurs des pays de la CEE pour promouvoir et développer la production agricole dans les pays, constitue, à nos yeux, si elle est approuvée bien entendu, un bel exemple de solidarité internationale. La relance du dialogue nord-sud que les pays en développement appellent de tous leurs vœux, ne se fera que par le biais d'une réelle coopération sud-sud, dans le cadre d'une coopération renforcée entre pays en développement.

C'est par cette coopération qui nous semble vitale, que la délégation sénégalaise souhaiterait commencer les observations que lui inspirent les éléments du document C 89/3, document excellent tant dans sa forme que dans son contenu et qui dénote le souci constant du Secrétariat, que nous tenons à féliciter publiquement ici, de mettre à la disposition des Etats Membres des versions de plus en plus améliorées de son travail.

Nous nous attacherons ensuite à présenter de façon succincte et indicative le point de vue de notre délégation sur certaines questions qui ont particulièrement retenu notre attention.

Il s'agit notamment, des priorités dégagées dans le Programme de travail pour le prochain biennium, du Programme de coopération technique qui nous tient beaucoup à cœur, du rôle des femmes dans le développement, de l'environnement et du développement durable, du problème des publications et de l'information, et enfin du projet de budget soumis à l'approbation de la Conférence générale.

Pour ce qui est de la coopération (que ce soit la coopération économique entre pays en développement ou la coopération technique entre pays en développement), il nous paraît important que la FAO renforce son rôle et l'assistance qu'elle apporte aux pays bénéficiaires, individuellement et collectivement, dans le cadre de ses activités à l'appui des systèmes d'intégration sous-régionaux (tel que le CILSS) et régionaux.

S'agissant des priorités, ma délégation estime qu'elles sont pertinentes et s'inscrivent parfaitement dans la droite ligne des objectifs à moyen terme retenus pour l'Afrique par le programme de travail 90-91.

La réalisation de ces objectifs est d'une importance capitale pour les pays africains dont la plupart, à l'instar de mon pays, sont engagés dans des politiques d'ajustement structurel avec tous les espoirs mais aussi toutes les interrogations et les craintes que ces politiques suscitent si elles ne sont pas accompagnées des considérations sociales incontournables et des impératifs d'un développement agricole intégré et harmonieux. Car de quoi s'agit-il pour l'Afrique, dont les maux sont connus, sinon que de l'aider, de mieux l'aider à s'organiser et à développer son agriculture entendue au sens large du terme.

Dans ce contexte, un accent particulier devrait être mis sur les différents aspects ci-après, que je cite sans être exhaustif:

- évaluation, planification, aménagement, gestion et conservation des ressources;
- identification, formulation et exécution des projets et des programmes nationaux. (A ce sujet, il est important de renforcer les équipes de la FAO sur le terrain ainsi que les représentations de la FAO tant dans les pays qu'au niveau régional, et là je voudrais dire que ces structures font partie intégrante des structures de développement des pays bénéficiaires).
- amélioration des méthodes d'exploitation et des systèmes de production;
- dépistage et lutte contre les maladies animales, notamment par le renforcement des infrastructures et des moyens de protection phytosanitaires et de la lutte contre les ravageurs de toute sorte;
- renforcement des moyens de la recherche-développement;
- transfert de technologie et de biotechnologie;
- amélioration de la situation alimentaire par l'intégration des aspects nutritionnels dans les politiques agricoles. A cet égard, nous espérons que la prochaine conférence internationale sur la nutrition répondra de façon positive aux aspirations des pays en développement, et surtout des pays africains.

L'ampleur de ces quelques problèmes explique notre inquiétude devant la baisse continue que connaît le niveau du Programme de coopération technique dont pays bénéficiaires comme pays donateurs ont loué ici les mérites et l'efficacité.

Nous espérons que cette tendance à la diminution (le PCT est passé de 14 pour cent à 11,8 pour cent du budget) sera inversée au cours des exercices à venir.

En ce qui concerne le rôle des femmes dans le développement, ma délégation est favorable à l'adoption du projet de plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement, car elle est d'avis que cette intégration est un préalable indispensable au succès de tout programme de développement rural.

Au reste, ce plan d'action, déjà approuvé à l'unanimité par le Conseil, n'est-il pas le prolongement naturel de la Déclaration et du Programme d'action de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural, tenue ici même à Rome en 1979?

Ma délégation appuiera donc tout projet de résolution présenté dans ce cadre à la Conférence générale.

Il est évident que dans les années à venir, si des mesures adéquates ne sont pas prises, les problèmes d'environnement qui prennent de plus en plus d'ampleur connaîtront un tel développement qu'il sera difficile, voire impossible, aux pays pris individuellement d'y faire face. Le salut se trouve donc dans une action concertée et coordonnée au niveau international.

Le thème de la neuvième Journée mondiale de l'alimentation "Alimentation et environnement", la Conférence Mac Dougall de cette année consacrée à l'environnement, l'allocution, ô combien lumineuse et pertinente, du Président du Tchad, Président en exercice du CILSS, devant la Conférence générale, sont autant de clignotants et d'indicateurs sur le danger qui pèse sur l'humanité toute entière.

Un délégué, avec beaucoup d'humour, a dit ici que la FAO est un animal qui marche sur trois pattes: l'agriculture, les pêches et les forêts. Eh bien! la quatrième patte est trouvée: il s'agit, ni plus ni moins, de l'environnement, car il existe une interrelation évidente entre l'environnement et les domaines classiques de la FAO (agriculture, pêche, forêts). Interrelation entre environnement et alimentation d'une part et environnement et développement durable d'autre part.

S'agissant de ce dernier domaine, à savoir le développement durable, ma délégation ne le conçoit que dans la mesure où il permet un aménagement et une conservation judicieuse des ressources naturelles, ainsi qu'une orientation des changements, des systèmes techniques et des structures institutionnelles, de façon à satisfaire non seulement les besoins des populations présentes mais ceux des générations futures.

La délégation sénégalaise voudrait saisir cette occasion pour encourager la FAO à persévérer dans la définition des politiques qui sous-tendent son action et orientent les Etats Membres, et l'encourager également dans ses efforts en matière de planification. Elle se félicite des instruments déjà existants dans ce domaine; il s'agit notamment de la Charte mondiale des sols, de l'Engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques, du Code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides, du Plan forestier, pour ne citer que ceux-là.

Tout cela me conduit à parler des problèmes d'information pour déplorer un fait et poser deux questions.

Nous déplorons que certaines publications (une centaine, et ce nombre est assez important), à travers lesquelles les activités de la FAO étaient mieux connues, aient été supprimées. Nous le déplorons d'autant plus que ces publications contenaient des renseignements utiles aux Etats Membres.

Notre première question est la suivante: Est-il possible de faire figurer l'essentiel des informations des publications supprimées dans les publications qui existent encore?

Par ailleurs, et c'est notre deuxième interrogation, il serait utile et intéressant de savoir d'une part quelle est l'articulation prévue - si articulation il y a - pour intégrer les systèmes d'information, tels que AGRIS, CARIS, AGROSTAT, FISHBAD, au sein du Centre mondial d'information de la FAO (CMIA), et d'autre part comment on envisage la coordination entre le CMIA et l'ACCIS (Comité consultatif pour la coordination des systèmes d'information).

J'en viens enfin au projet de budget pour 1990-91, arrêté à 575 millions de dollars environ. En ce qui concerne la nouvelle procédure proposée pour son élaboration, il serait tentant de soutenir les observations exprimées sur cette question par la délégation congolaise, qui tendant à faire du consensus la règle d'or d'adoption du budget de notre Organisation. Si la nouvelle procédure est adoptée, il serait alors judicieux de supprimer l'étape du sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, ce qui représenterait une économie de l'ordre de 140 000 dollars.

Cela étant, nous soutenons le budget, encore que nous pensons que son niveau est en deçà des besoins des pays bénéficiaires dont les sollicitations auprès de la FAO sont de plus en plus grandes.

Nous pensons que les augmentations de coûts de 76 millions de dollars sont inévitables et incontournables; et elles sont justifiables dans la mesure où plus de 85 pour cent de ces augmentations représentent en fait des accroissements des coûts de personnel de notre Organisation liés aux dispositions de la fonction publique internationale du système des Nations Unies.

Nous sommes favorables à la réduction de l'abattement pour mouvements de personnel de 5,5 pour cent du budget à 3 pour cent, pour permettre une meilleure exécution du programme de travail.

Je voudrais conclure en rappelant que notre Organisation traverse une situation extrêmement difficile. Jugez-en vous mêmes, M. le Président et MM. les délégués: crise financière aiguë, coupures de programmes d'un montant de 68 millions de dollars sur trois ans, réduction du personnel par la suppression de 220 postes sur l'effectif, 117 millions de dettes, et j'en passe ... pendant que, dans le même temps, d'autres chiffres nous inquiètent: 500 millions d'affamés, 35 000 enfants qui meurent tous les jours, 200 millions d'âmes qui naissent tous les ans.

Je crois que nous n'avons pas le droit d'imposer une camisole de force à notre Organisation en l'enfermant dans le carcan rigide de la croissance zéro. Nous avons besoin qu'elle soit forte et, cette force, seules les ressources humaines et financières, à un niveau adéquat, peuvent la lui apporter. Nous avons certes besoin de la FAO à des degrés divers, peut-être beaucoup plus pour les pays en développement que pour les pays développés, qui, il faut le dire, bénéficient également de l'expérience enrichissante de la FAO.

Mais la FAO a également besoin de nous, de nous tous, de tous les Etats Membres, pour honorer la noble mission que nous lui avons confiée dans l'Acte constitutif.

C'est la raison pour laquelle j'en appelle à la sagesse de tout le monde pour qu'on évite ce lien - ce "linkage" - que certains d'entre nous voudraient introduire, par la question de la mise en oeuvre des recommandations de l'Examen, dans l'adoption du budget dont le niveau représente plus de vingt

fois le montant de 26 millions de dollars requis pour la mise en oeuvre des recours mandations. C'est dire que le budget est beaucoup plus important pour nous. D'ailleurs, quelle que soit l'issue des discussions sur l'Examen, nous sommes obligés de nous prononcer sur le niveau du budget; nous sommes obligés de donner à la FAO l'outil qu'il lui faut pour travailler; et cet outil est le budget. Nous avons donc besoin d'adopter ce budget.

C'est la raison pour laquelle je voudrais encore une fois en appeler à la sagesse de tout le monde et recommander que notre Commission unanimement envoie ce budget à la Conférence pour son adoption par consensus.

Pour terminer, je voudrais annoncer une bonne nouvelle concernant les contributions du Sénégal. Je viens de recevoir copie d'une note verbale que la Représentation permanente du Sénégal vient d'adresser à la FAO; et, avec votre permission, je voudrais rapidement en donner lecture à la Commission:

"La Représentation permanente de la République du Sénégal auprès de la FAO présente ses compliments à l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, et a le plaisir de lui annoncer que le Gouvernement du Sénégal a procédé par avis de transfert n° 128.546 du 13 novembre 1989, par l'entremise de la Banque centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, au virement de la somme de 11 880 000 Francs CFA, soit 237 600 Francs français au titre des arriérés dus jusqu'à ce jour par le Sénégal, y compris la contribution pour l'année 1989.

Le Représentant résident de la FAO à Dakar en a été aussitôt informé par le Directeur de Cabinet du Ministre du développement rural.

Le montant ainsi versé devra être déduit de l'ensemble des sommes dues qui s'élèvent à 71 916,43 dollars E.-U. Le solde sera versé avant le 31 décembre 1989."

LE PRESIDENT: Merci surtout pour la bonne nouvelle!

Andras SZABO (Hungary): Following your advice my intervention tends to be as brief as possible. Concerning the proposed budget for 1990-91 I associate myself and support the main points raised yesterday by the representative of Poland. We also appreciate the values of the document, the priorities set and other merits my Polish colleague enumerated yesterday.

My specific observations would rather refer to Chapter Europe, page 302 to 314 in the English version. We consider that this region may require an approach somewhat different from others. It is due, firstly to the great variety of its political, economic and social conditions; and secondly due to the new forms of cooperation among the countries concerned. With this in mind we highly appreciate and agree with the Director-General who in his opening statement said the following: "The problems experienced by agriculture in these countries open up a whole new field of technical assistance activities and new requests for the organization and implementation of large-scale projects." It is to our satisfaction to see some new elements which appeared within the medium-term objectives, for example assistance to the reorganization of agrarian structures and the issues of remote sensing.

We have often spoken in this room about priority setting. In our view FAO's activities in the European Region in the years to come ought to concentrate on the assistance to these countries in their efforts to adjust their agricultural and food sector to the new situation connected with the emerging European Camion Market in 1992. In our view, however, the financial resources earmarked for the assistance of the realization of these historic goals seem to be rather limited. The medium-term objectives for the European Region in their totality seem to us rather over-ambitious compared to the financial resources. We have the fear that these financial means might be scattered, instead of being concentrated on the key issue I mentioned before.

Having a look at the table on page 314 it seems to me that out of a total sum of \$ 11.6 million in the Regular Programme, only a relatively small part is earmarked for the regional offices; it is about \$ 4.4 million. In this connection I would kindly ask the Secretariat for some clarification: how the budget lines for the Headquarters totalling \$ 6.6 million were calculated, for what purposes this amount was used or will be used, bearing in mind the European countries' needs for FAO support. My second question is what is the actual amount at the disposal of the European Office of FAO with the Geneva Joint Commissions, and What are the main items to be financed from the resources of the Office.

Concerning the proposed budget increase of 0.45 percent for the next biennium, my delegation is in favour of its acceptance and hopes to come to a consensus on this crucial issue.

Cher ZEYTINOGLU (Turquie): Ma délégation se réjouit de vous voir assumer la présidence de cette commission. Nous voilà à la dernière phase de l'examen du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91. Dans quelques jours, en séance plénière, nous allons y mettre le point final.

Comme le Directeur général le souligne dans sa déclaration inaugurale, le Programme de travail et budget de l'Organisation connaît en effet un long chemin, jalonné d'examens détaillés au niveau des comités de Programme et de Finances ainsi que du Conseil. Ma délégation souhaite qu'à la fin de ce long chemin la Conférence soit en mesure d'adopter le Programme de travail et budget par consensus.

Nous félicitons le Secrétariat pour la présentation améliorée du texte de Programme de travail et budget.

Comme le chef de ma délégation l'a dit dans son intervention en séance plénière, nous approuvons la stratégie, les priorités et les programmes proposés par le Directeur général.

Quant aux priorités, mon pays attache une attention particulière à la biotechnologie et au développement rural. Pour ce dernier, une commission spéciale vient d'être créée au sein du parlement turc.

La nouvelle procédure introduite à titre expérimental pour l'exercice 1990-91, qui consiste en la présentation d'un schéma par le Directeur général, traçant les principales orientations envisagées et indiquant le niveau budgétaire, s'est révélée utile. Nous pensons que l'établissement d'un dialogue, la création d'une atmosphère de compréhension mutuelle entre les

pays membres d'une part, le Secrétariat et les pays membres d'autre part, est la première condition pour la réussite d'un budget, c'est-à-dire son adoption unanime et son application intégrale. Il me semble que nous pourrions poursuivre dans ce sens.

Le budget du prochain biennium prévoit une augmentation nette modeste. Tout le système des Nations Unies traverse actuellement une crise financière. Il est impératif qu'on le prenne en considération dans la préparation des budgets. C'est ce qu'on fait d'ailleurs ici à la FAO depuis quelques bienniums.

Ce budget est également préparé de façon réaliste, prenant en considération les exigences du jour.

Nous pensons qu'il est nécessaire de donner à l'Organisation les ressources pour qu'elle puisse garder sa vitalité et continuer à fonctionner comme il se doit. Quel est le critère pour cela? Je pense que c'est sur ce point que des divergences apparaissent entre les pays. Est-ce par rapport au niveau budgétaire précédent qu'on peut prévoir le niveau du nouveau budget, ou bien par rapport aux coûts de toutes les activités et de tous les programmes approuvés par les organes directeurs que l'Organisation, dans le cadre de son mandat, doit réaliser? Nous croyons que c'est la seconde proposition qui doit prévaloir.

Avant de conclure, je voudrais dire que nous regrettons la diminution de la part du Programme de coopération technique dans le budget ordinaire. Les vœux exprimés par un grand nombre de pays membres pour le renforcement de ce programme prouvent son utilité. Nous sommes d'avis que le PCT soit formulé de manière à répondre aux besoins des pays membres.

Hermann REDL (Austria) (original language German): Since I am taking the floor for the first time I would like to congratulate you, and your officers as the Vice-Chairmen, on your election. I would also like to thank Mr Shah for his customary clear introduction to the document here before us this afternoon.

As a member of the Programme Committee on several occasions, I have already had the opportunity of making my views known. That is why I can be brief, following your instructions, and have no need to repeat myself. The document before us, C 89/3, is without doubt a clear improvement insofar as presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget is concerned. As we have also been able to see for ourselves, the comments made by the Council on the first outline of the Programme of Work and Budget have been borne in mind and are reflected in the present document.

Austria supports the ideas of the Director-General that there be a list of priorities which are listed in the paragraph 214. On the second page of the document we have a table giving us a summary of the estimates for the major programmes. The table seems to be very clear in our opinion. We would be happier though if in the future alongside the columns that appear in this table, we were also to be given one giving us actual expenditure, for example, the estimates for 1989. We know that this is possible because it does appear in other documents. In order to have a very clear table we would be happy if, in future, in order to enable us to make comparisons we could have the figures given to us in this document as well.

With respect to the real cost increases which are proposed, we are perfectly satisfied that the \$ 5.5 million will be used to strengthen FAO's activities.

With respect to the new posts proposed, here too we are happy to see that these new posts are to be in the priority areas of the Programme of Work and Budget; forestry for example, we see entered here and we are involved with the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

With respect to the tense situation of the last biennium insofar as the budget was concerned, it was unfortunately necessary to freeze a number of posts but now we think it is equally urgent for these posts to be filled so that we can properly service FAO's priority areas.

Earlier Austria clearly stated that the Programme of Work and Budget presented by the Director-General for the coming biennium would receive our full support.

Austria attaches particular importance to FAO's activities in training and ongoing training. This is true for forestry and fisheries as well as agriculture. The evaluation of training programmes is something that must be given greater emphasis. We must use, if possible, all existing training centres in developing countries.

With respect to the role of women in development, here I would like to stress that we feel that we must also cover the rural family. This is a matter which will be discussed in Commission I and of course we will be making our views known there.

I had intended also to speak of FAO's activities in the European region and state how important this is for other regions, but the delegate of Portugal yesterday gave a very clear statement in this respect describing FAO's activities in Europe and stressing the importance that this represented for all the regions throughout the world. I entirely associate myself with the statement made by the delegate of Portugal, but there are just one or two more points I would like to make.

First, the questions of seeds, we think that in the next Programme of Work seeds must be given particular importance. My country, as in the past, will be financing training courses for seeds experts. We are working in this area and find that biotechnology here is very important.

We are happy to note that the work of the FAO Committee has been properly appreciated, in particular insofar as the environment is concerned. We think that particular importance must be given to the environment in the coming biennium and its safeguarding because this is a matter that should be covered in all of FAO's activities - fisheries, forestry or whatever. Activities undertaken together with other organizations must be pursued, of course, and strengthened where necessary.

So far as paragraph 216 is concerned, I would like to stress that we particularly support the work of the Codex Alimentarius. We are very happy with it and realize that regional aspects must be respected. We would be particularly happy if WHO could make a greater contribution to FAO's work here.

Insofar as fisheries are concerned, it seems to us necessary too that all matters pertaining to pollution and the environment, whether it involves water or air, also should be respected.

In major programme 2.3, forestry, I would like to say that my country feels that all work done in favour of forests is very important to us. We think that the training activities need to be pursued into the coming Programme of Work but intensified as well. That is why we are happy to see that there was a budget increase under this heading and we were particularly happy to see that in paragraph 2315 the Tropical Forestry Action Plan will be given more funds in the coming biennium. Good forestry management, particularly in developing countries, deserves our full support. That is why in this context I would just like to state that Austria in, cooperation with the FAO held a seminar on forestry management in 1989 and we are planning another.

So for as other FAO activities are concerned I would like to say that many forests are threatened, particularly in Europe, because of pollution and the circulation of cars. The loss or deterioration of our forests will lead to deterioration in the climate, and we know what serious consequences that will have. We hope that in FAO's future activities, insofar as forests are concerned, their deterioration will be given extra attention. We hope that FAO in the framework of its future activities will be able to count on the effective support of member countries. As always, Austria will be there. We would also like to contribute to the well-being of all rural workers and of humanity in general.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): La delegación de México juzga positivo en lo general el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91. Considera que dicho programa se ajusta más a las necesidades de nuestro país, ajuste que se reducirá en la medida en que se limite la capacidad financiera de la Organización o cuando se le fije un decremento por efecto de mecanismos como el crecimiento cero o la absorción de costos frente a las necesidades crecientes de los países en desarrollo.

El organismo deberá adecuar su política y los instrumentos de ayuda técnica a su disposición para responder con mayor eficacia a las necesidades de nuestros países y deberá hacer un esfuerzo adicional para lograr una distribución geográfica más adecuada de los recursos, más acorde con los requerimientos de cada región. Llamamos la atención sobre este problema porque América Latina como región y el Caribe como región ha resultado ser la más perjudicada en la asignación de recursos.

Los programas principales deberán ajustarse más a las prioridades determinadas por los países en desarrollo y de los gobiernos de cada país para poder responder a los requerimientos que cada uno defina como objeto específico de ayuda.

Creemos que el programa de cooperación técnica tiene una participación indebidamente baja dentro del presupuesto. Deberían reducirse otros gastos cuyo impacto es secundario para el apoyo a los países en desarrollo. Además, no debe olvidarse que hay una vinculación estrecha entre el programa ordinario y los programas de campo. El resultado de subordinar el nivel de fondos del segundo al primero se traduce en la liquidación de programas como el proyecto Aquila que está en peligro inminente de la reducción de los fondos bilaterales. Esperamos que se encuentre una fórmula para solucionarlo.

Consideramos que los resultados obtenidos con el esbozo temprano del presupuesto no justifica su continuación y desde luego el tratamiento de este tema no debe vincularse a la aprobación de otros. En este sentido queremos que quede constancia que nuestro informe sobre este tema deberá excluir otros temas ajenos a él.

La delegación de México expresa su disposición a continuar brindando su cooperación para la realización de los objetivos esenciales de la FAO y se pronuncia en favor de que se haga un esfuerzo para lograr la aprobación por consenso del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1990-91.

Mme. Ivone DIAS DA. GRACA (Gabon): Intervenant pour la 1ère fois, la délégation gabonaise tient à vous féliciter pour votre nomination à la présidence de cette Commission très importante. Nous sommes certains que vous mènerez nos travaux à bonne fin. Nos félicitations vont également aux deux vice-présidents élus.

Le point que nous discutons actuellement, le programme de travail et budget pour 1990-91 présenté très clairement par M. Shah, que nous remercions, a déjà été abordé par ma délégation durant la 96ème session du Conseil. Nous voudrions confirmer ici notre position, à savoir notre approbation du programme de travail et budget, et faire quelques remarques supplémentaires. Avant de commenter le fond, la délégation gabonaise voudrait dire sa réelle appréciation du document. Nous espérons que la nouvelle procédure contribuera en fin de compte à l'obtention du consensus et qu'ainsi la recommandation du Comité du programme et du Comité financier quant à l'application de cette procédure pour le biennium à venir trouvera là toute sa justification. Par ailleurs, la délégation gabonaise appuie toute proposition permettant d'aboutir à un consensus sur le programme de travail et budget tel que la création d'un groupe de contact.

En ce qui concerne le programme de travail et les priorités énoncées, mon pays souscrit tout en appuyant plus particulièrement les activités suivantes: les biotechnologies et leur transfert vers les pays en développement, notamment la recherche dans la lutte contre les maladies végétales et animales, le développement durable, particulièrement dans l'optique des paragraphes 2.49 et 2.52 à 2.54 du document, et repris en partie, entre autre, par le délégué du Sénégal; le rôle des femmes dans le développement et les grandes lignes du plan d'action, notamment toutes les mesures visant à accroître la productivité et les possibilités économiques des femmes rurales qui, en Afrique, ont un rôle effectif important, enfin le Plan d'Action Forestier Tropical. Par ailleurs, nous faisons nôtre la position de la délégation chinoise quant à la priorité réservée à l'Afrique; en ce qui concerne le budget et la répartition des ressources supplémentaires, nous approuvons l'augmentation apportée au programme technique et économique et regrettons la diminution de la part du PCT dans le budget. De même, nous déplorons certaines diminutions de ressources dans le programme 2.1.1 comme, par exemple, l'appui aux pays membres et la formation en matière de ressources phytogénétiques, ou encore la promotion de la production des plantes, racines et tubercules.

Nous espérons qu'à l'avenir cette tendance à la baisse sera inversée. En conclusion, nous approuvons le programme de travail et budget pour 1990-91 et souhaiterions son adoption par consensus.

V.K. SIBAL (India): I would like at the outset to thank Mr Shah for the very clear and useful introduction to the subject which he gave while initiating the discussion. Coming in at this stage of the discussion the intention is really to underline certain points and to reaffirm our basic positions.

We addressed the subject at some length in the 1986 Council and would like to draw attention to and reaffirm our views reproduced on pages 12 to 15 in the document CL 96/PV/3. That statement may be considered as part of this intervention.

We would like to express our full agreement with the positive assessments of the Programme and Finance Committees - and we have the privilege of being members of the Programme Committee - and of the 96th Council, of the further improvements which have been effected in the format and presentation of the Programme and Budget proposal in document C 89/3. The proposals that we have before us have been subject to a detached and intensive process of discussion and consultation in the two committees and the Council and represent in our view a consensus which we should be able to carry forward and establish in Conference.

We have before us a set of proposals which respond well to countries' expressed desires. Priority areas to which net additional resources are directed have been identified. The presentation of cross sectoral priorities is fuller, and the prior guidance of FAO's governing advisory bodies has been taken into account.

We hope that these positive features will widen and deepen the convergence of views on these proposals. In this process the Indian delegation has set considerable store by the usefulness and effectiveness of the outline mechanism introduced in the programme and budget process to facilitate a consensus on the budget. We support the continuation of the outline stage for another biennium while underscoring that we look forward to the demonstration of the usefulness of the change which involves additional costs in promoting a consensus on the budget in Conference.

It is heartening that the programme proposals seem to be broadly acceptable all round. The cost increases are based on established methodology and have been found reasonable after examination in the Finance Committee. The suggestion to absorb them to the maximum seems somewhat out of place, keeping in view the wringer through which the Programme of Work and Budget has been passed during the last three years entailing cuts of \$ 68 million on the services available to the Member Nations. This underscores all the more the need to protect the implementation of the programme against any further erosion on account of cost developments beyond the control of this Organization.

In the context of the general agreement on the budget content, the debate on the budget level appears somewhat, if we may say so, unreal. Whether the budget increase is one percent or 0.45 percent it does not cease to be a symbolic increase rather than a substantive increase. We see zero growth more as an approach and a standpoint from which to judge increases so as to contain high increases - what we are considering is by no means high - rather than an aim to be narrowly and mechanically applied to crush symbolic and small declarations of intention to address vast unmet and vastly increasing

needs. The Indian delegation believes that there is sufficient demonstration of agreement on the programme content in the Commission to encourage the belief that we may reach agreement on the budget level proposed on the basis of consensus.

There is unanimity that needs are increasing and new initiatives are necessary. Some Member Nations are in favour of financing these initiatives through the redeployment of resources. This route is not inexhaustible and the last three years have seen much shedding and much pruning. Perhaps the limits of drawing blood have been reached. However, whilst we would be willing to go along with any call for redeployment of resources to accommodate new expenditures we also believe that this is a management function. If the management, after a careful review, finds some possibility for redeployment, we would encourage it; but if no such scope is revealed further resources for new activities would be unavoidable.

In this case we are in agreement with the management position, and the view of the Programme and Finance Committees that supplementary resources for new activities are unavoidable. In this context we need to note that the redeployment of resources is a normal management function and FAO has been doing it over the years. The latest reduction of 25 posts in the budget proposals is another illustration of this approach. Some Member Nations have expressed the opinion that a view on the budget should be taken after the decision on the review proposals. The budget is a central and essential component of the Conference agenda and is a compendium of numerous activities costing 557 to 575 million dollars. The review, though important as an item, is an operational item. It consists of a relatively small number of activities which are to be examined, and which cost a relatively modest sum of \$ 26 million. There is no dependency relationship between the two items. FAO's operational needs in financial terms for the next two years have to be met. These have to be weighed objectively on their own merits without such examination being influenced by the decisions taken on new initiatives proposed under the review, or conceptual divergencies which need to be harmonized during the discussion on the review.

In the same way, the review proposals and funding should be seen on their own merits and further action on Implementation pursued within the existing mechanisms in the Basic Texts. We would, for example, agree on the budget levels, subject to such changes in the budgetary figures as may be approved as a result of the review. This way we could ensure an objective examination of both the budget and the review proposal, and at the same time avoid any procedural problems.

We welcome the increase in the TCP though we do regret that its share in percentage terms is declining. We hope that, with further improvement in the financial situation, FAO will be able to increase TCP allocations in percentage terms over a reasonable timeframe. We are satisfied with the transparency of TCP management.

The present global food and agricultural situation underscores the need for adequate resources to be put at the disposal of FAO to enable it to fulfil its mandate and meet the expectations of Member Nations for assistance. A 0.45 percent increase or an increase of one percent is too modest in our view to merit hesitation and too subdued to be silenced as presumptuous. It is more a token of the intent of the international community to do something more for the deprived and the disadvantaged whilst realising fully that much more needs to be done and too little is forthcoming. We would, however,

prefer a greater programme increase based on assured receipts of assessed contributions, and would support the insufficient proposals before us because we understand that they have been kept modest to elicit approval by-consensus. We commend these proposals for acceptance.

One distinguished delegate enumerated a rather rigid schedule on how the budget for 1992-1993 should be framed according to parameters, the rationale and justification for which are far from clear. Since that budget is not on the agenda, perhaps this matter should not be pursued at this juncture. There has been a comment about the salary increase component of the cost increases being considered objectionable on the assumption that the UN may not vote any such increase. Our delegation believes that the background leading to the UN vote, makes the possibility of the salary increase real and what is being done is an act of prudent management.

Some suggestions have been made about some studies to be made by the External Auditor. Our delegation considers that the need for such studies has not been established; nor has the proposal been examined in any depth to merit a decision at this stage.

It has been stated that reforms by definition should not cost anything.

It is difficult to subscribe to such an idea in a vacuum. Whether new activities, new procedures or changes will or will not cost anything more, in our view would depend on the circumstances in each case. It is not possible to take an a priori position either way. In this particular case the new activities resulting from the review would, according to the examination of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, need additional resources. We find this approach reasonable and will address this matter in greater depth during our discussion of the review.

Mlle. Faouzia BOUMAIZA (Algérie): C'est avec plaisir que je vais vous donner notre point de vue sur la question que nous examinons aujourd'hui.

Pour nous rendre à vos injonctions, notre délégation entend compléter son intervention lors de la récente session du Conseil en tenant compte des vues exprimées depuis lors. Permettez-nous, en exergue de féliciter Monsieur Shah ainsi que les fonctionnaires placés sous sa direction pour leurs efforts continus en vue d'apporter davantage d'informations aux pays membres. C'est avec beaucoup de satisfaction que nous avons noté l'augmentation du nombre de suppléments au document principal, ainsi que les LIM.

Cela traduit le souci du Secrétariat d'améliorer ses prestations et nous tenons à l'encourager.

Il serait fastidieux après tant d'orateurs que nous émanerions également le pourquoi de l'appui de l'Algérie au programme de travail et budget tel que présenté à la Conférence. C'est pourquoi il faut considérer la présente intervention comme étant partie intégrante de celle que nous avons faite au cours de la session du Conseil. Nous avons choisi, au cours de cette intervention, de relever parmi les interventions précédentes, les points faisant déjà l'objet d'un consensus au quasi accord général, et de vous faire part de notre opinion sur les points qui font encore l'objet de divergences.

Premièrement, nous avons relevé que tous les intervenants ou presque sauf une délégation, ont apprécié le programme de travail proposé pour le prochain exercice en appuyant en particulier les 9 domaines prioritaires.

Bien entendu, il ne peut y avoir d'unanimité entre 158 pays membres pour tous les programmes et éléments de programme, mais il y a un tel consensus sur les axes généraux que nous pensons qu'il est d'ores et déjà établi que l'action de la FAO continue d'être conforme à ses rôles et objectifs.

Pour mettre en oeuvre ce Programme qui fait l'objet d'un consensus, le Secrétariat propose un budget augmenté par rapport à celui précédent de 0,45 pour cent environ si l'on tient compte de l'accroissement des coûts. C'est sur ce point que nous souhaitons faire valoir que le budget en fin de compte, s'élèvera sans doute à environ 556 millions de dollars après application du taux de change effectif, soit presque certainement plus que 1 300 et après déduction des recettes accessoires estimées avec beaucoup de prudence à 12 millions de dollars.

Ainsi, il nous paraît réellement possible d'approuver un budget de ce niveau pour le biennium prochain dont on a appuyé l'exécution prévue qui requiert un financement suffisant. A ce stade, notre délégation souhaite exprimer son vif plaisir d'avoir entendu hier une délégation annoncer qu'il lui sera possible de se joindre au consensus. Certes, cette délégation a apporté la condition que le budget proposé comprenne également le financement des actions qui seront retenues pour la mise en oeuvre des recommandations issues de l'examen.

Mais, suite à ce petit pas effectué par cette délégation, notre délégation souhaiterait lui faire part de son accord au sujet de la constitution d'un groupe de contacts ou groupe d'amis du président, ou tout autre mécanisme que l'on jugera utile, après le déroulement du débat au sein de la Commission II sur la question de l'examen.

Concernant l'étape introduite en janvier, nous réitérons la position que nous avons exprimée sur ce point lors du dernier Conseil, c'est-à-dire, brièvement, notre déception quant à l'inutilité de cette nouvelle procédure dans l'examen du Programme de travail et budget eu égard aux résultats peu positifs auxquels nous sommes parvenus. Concernant le Programme de coopération technique et en complément de ce que nous avons déjà affirmé à plusieurs reprises, et encore tout récemment, l'Algérie regrette que le pourcentage final des ressources affecté à ce programme sera de 5 pour cent seulement dans le total des fonds pour le prochain biennium et que de toute manière malgré l'augmentation des ressources de 1 750 millions de dollars, le pourcentage réel du programme de coopération technique sera moins que les 11,8 pour cent prévus, pourcentage lui-même inférieur d'un point au précédent exercice.

Notre délégation souhaite marquer de nouveau l'intérêt qu'elle accorde au programme de coopération technique en raison de l'efficacité qu'il a démontrée à plusieurs reprises lorsque le besoin s'en est ressenti dans mon pays et au niveau régional. Enfin un mot encore sur le point qui fait l'objet de discussions au sein de cette Commission; Il s'agit de l'abattement des coûts pour mouvements de personnel. Notre délégation considère que le taux de 3 pour cent proposé dans ce cadre est prudent et nous approuvons cette prudence dans l'évaluation des mouvements de personnel pour deux raisons: la première est que la FAO devra en toute logique recruter des nouveaux fonctionnaires pour ramener le nombre de postes vacants, gelés en raison de la situation financière que vous connaissez, à un niveau moins important.

La seconde raison est qu'il est presque sûr que certaines des recommandations qui seront éventuellement retenues requièrent le renforcement de certains services ou bureaux de la FAO et aussi, en toute logique, la création de nouveaux postes. Compte tenu, donc, de la situation financière particulière de la FAD, qui n'est pas une situation normale et qui ne peut être comparée à celle d'autres Organisations internationales et compte tenu également des mouvements importants de personnel qui devraient opérer dans le sens inverse de celui habituel, notre délégation accepte le taux proposé par le Directeur général

Pour conclure, permettez-nous de faire état de notre vif plaisir devant l'annonce unanime des Etats Membres de la FAO et notamment le principal bailleur de fonds, de leur attachement à la coopération multilatérale et leur volonté de voir les Organisations internationales apporter une aide accrue au développement.

A.K.M. Fazley Rabbi, Vice-Chairman of Ccmmission II, took the Chair

A.K.M. Fazley Rabbi, Vice-Président de la Commission II, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia A.K.M. Fazley Rabbi, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

CHAIRMAN: As you have heard, I have now taken the chair and we have ten speakers so we do know how long we shall have to continue. I hope you will bear this point in mind so that we shall not be too late. The next speaker is the distinguished Representative of Pakistan.

Muhammad Salean KHAN S. (Pakistan): Allow me to express the pleasure of my delegation at seeing you in the chair and to congratulate you on your election as Vice-Chairman. We listened carefully to your predecessor in the chair and yourself and we fully realize the constraints of time. Bearing in mind the intense discussions we have already had, my delegation can be quite brief. Pakistan is not a member of the Programme Committee, but as a member of the Technical Committees and the Council, we have had the good fortune to voice our views on the proposals before us for the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91; and more recently in the 96th Session of the Council held last week. Like some of my predecessors, I would request that our intervention during the 96th Meeting of the Council be considered part of our intervention here.

Secondly, I had certain extensive points to make but having regard to your wishes and especially after hearing the intervention of the distinguished Representative of India, I can say that he put most of the points that my delegation would have wished to make. My delegation would like to associate ourselves with the views expressed by India. Our position on this Agenda item is strongly reflected in the statement made by our head of delegation during the 4th Plenary Session last Monday and I should like to quote just one paragraph from that:

"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 Cooperation 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."

This is the essence of our country's position. It is adequately reflected here.

Finally, I should like to address myself to the points made by some delegates regarding the establishment of a Contact Group. We have heard several delegations giving their opinions and we have seen that the majority view is what we are saying. The majority do not feel satisfied with the present level of the budget but in the interest of a larger consensus the majority are willing to give their approval to the budget. As in any democratic process, the few countries with differing views after having voiced their views must join the majority consensus. We have examples before us: for instance, we could refer to the 25th CFA of the World Food Programme, when my country and some others put forward views which were different from the view of the majority. They were very strong views but in the end joining the majority consensus we accepted a change in the methods of work of the CFA. We went along with the consensus. The change has come into being and is being practised. There was a proposal for a three-year trial phase. We are looking forward to that, and to working within that trial phase. That is part of the democratic process to which we should all adhere. Than you. Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished Representative of Pakistan. I understand that, as you requested, your delegation's statement in the Council will be reproduced in the provisional record of this Session. That was done in the case of Argentina, also. Our next speaker is the distinguished delegate from Malaysia.

ABU BAKAR MAHMUD (Malaysia): I will try to be brief. I should like to congratulate Dr Shah on his eloquent introduction to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 and the Medium-Term Objectives. My delegation considers this Agenda item on the PWB for the next biennium as the most important item in this Session of the Conference. As expressed by many delegations before me, the Programme of Work and Budget as presented by the Director-General, should get the support and approval of all present here. My delegation has read the main document C 89/3 and the supplementary documents. They collectively indicate that the Director-General and his staff have taken every possible measure to formulate a budget acceptable to all parties, given the financial constraints faced by the Organization at the moment. They have applied great wisdom and judgement in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget so as to reflect the needs and priorities, while bearing in mind the

urgency and magnitude of the problems in food and in developing member countries. My delegation therefore wishes to congratulate the Director-General and his staff for having prepared this comprehensive Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91.

As indicated by the Director-General, through Dr Shah, the PWB was formulated after taking into account the urgent demands of developing countries. Indeed it is a Programme of Work and Budget that is responsive to the realistic requirements of Member States. My delegation would not wish to go deeper into specific details of the budget proposals, since we fear this would be a superfluous exercise, having been convinced of the fact that the proposal is a logical and acceptable one.

My delegation expresses dissatisfaction with the minimal budget increase of 1% and the TCP from 12.8 to 11.8%. We hope that this will not be the case in the future. My delegation is also against the concept of zero growth being applied in the formulation of FAO's Programme of Work and Budget. This Organization is mandated and committed to the alleviation of hunger and malnutrition in the world. My delegation recognize that the Director-General has shaped the budget for greater efficiency and economy and to shape his programme of activities to boost technical and economic programmes. The result is the implementation of priority programmes with the aim of increasing efficiency and optimization of resources. We are in support of the nine priorities outlined in the Programme of Work and Budget.

In view of the fact that this Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 has been closely examined by both the Programme and Finance Committees in the Council in terms of levels, strategies and priorities, the proposal is both constructive and balanced. My delegation would like to support the adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget by consensus.

H. RWEHUMBIZA (Tanzania): On behalf of my delegation, allow me to congratulate you for having been elected Chairman to this Commission. Allow me also to thank the Secretariat for the preparatory work which was so well done.

My delegation endorses the strategy outlined in the Programme of Work and Budget and the nine priorities proposed. In particular we would like to endorse the priority given to economic and technical assistance, including TCP.

We support the budget as proposed by the Director-General. On the US\$ 5.5 million increase proposed, we consider this to be essential is enabling FAO to meet the very minimum in this field of food and agriculture. We have been informed of the efforts that have gone into working out a budget with minimum increase in order to make this budget acceptable to member countries who do not prefer expanded budgets. What is before us is what is necessary to enable FAO to execute essential activities. We therefore request that we should look at what we stand to gain from this increase rather than the policy on zero budgets.

Let me make some quick remarks on a few of the programmes proposed: we support the thrust on crop development but regret unfortunately the cut on seed development as this is an important input which needs to be developed further, especially in the LDCs. We hope in the future this item will receive more support.

With regard to livestock, we support work on the control of animal diseases between borders including the work on Rinderpest and the control of the American screw worm fly. In particular we appeal to FAO to come up with an effective control measure so as to prevent the spread of this fly as otherwise the control of this fly is going to become much more difficult as the fly moves to more humid areas.

We also support the work on tsetse fly control in the context of proper and integrated land use.

On biotechnology we see AI and embryo transplant as being relevant to the livestock sector in all areas, including the developing world. We wonder how this important tool can be expanded and developed in IDCs while the budget for that item has been cut to zero. With these remarks we wish to reiterate that we support the budget and request it be accepted by all members.

Mohammed Suleiman KARBOUG (Syria) (original language Arabic): My delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. We would also like to thank Mr Shah on the clarity, detail and accuracy of the document C 89/3 and its various supplements. These are the views of my delegation. First of all, we feel FAO should be provided with the financial means to implement its Programme of Work and Budget. If a reduction of the Budget is inevitable we feel this should not affect the major programmes, especially the Technical Cooperation Programme, in view of the effective assistance it provides to developing countries.

Secondly, we feel the accumulation of expertise compensates for the shortage of staff in FAO and this shortage will certainly not affect the performance of the Organization. We suggest that such know-how should be gradually transferred to developing countries for the purposes of training local personnel.

Thirdly, we join other delegations in urging all Member States to fulfil their financial obligations toward FAO and we suggest that a declaration be issued to this effect.

The delegation of my country supports the proposals made by Algeria and seconded by Angola and Yemen on the need to carry out population studies concerning the Arab occupied territories, including the Golan Heights. These studies are extremely important.

We should also like to refer to the fact that the delegation of my country has submitted to the General Committee a document on the worsening of the agricultural situation of Syrian citizens in the Golan Heights and the adverse effects of such deterioration on food production in the region.

Samia ABOUJAWDEH (Libya) (langue originale Arabe): Je vais m'efforcer d'être très bref.

Le Programme de travail et budget, tel que présenté par le Secrétariat, nous paraît très complet et ne souffre d'aucune faille. Nous sommes d'accord avec les domaines prioritaires qui y sont indiqués et qui correspondent aux besoins des Etats Membres en développement. Nous appuyons en particulier le Programme de coopération technique. Et nous estimons que les ressources qui lui sont allouées devraient être accrues car les pays bénéficiaires ont grand besoin de l'aide fournie par ce PCT.

Nous sommes d'accord avec le niveau de transparence fourni jusqu'à présent et nous sommes d'accord également pour une diminution de l'abattement pour mouvements de personnel. Nous sommes d'accord pour que le bureau du Proche-Orient soit transféré au Caire.

Par contre, nous ne sommes pas d'accord avec une croissance zéro car à notre avis la croissance zéro signifie la stagnation.

Nous ne sommes pas d'accord non plus sur le fait que l'on demande au secrétariat de faire l'impossible; le secrétariat est là pour étendre ses activités tout en les rendant le plus efficace possible. Il ne s'agit pas -et on ne le peut pas - de créer de nouveaux comités pour suivre la mise en oeuvre et l'application des recommandations. Certains pays demandent que l'Organisation soit parfaite dans ses programmes et son budget. C'est bien sûr tout ce que nous souhaiterions tous mais le secrétariat ne peut aller vers la perfection car ce n'est pas son rôle. Certaines propositions ont été faites; il faut les soumettre aux Comités compétents pour qu'ils en tiennent compte pour les programmes de travail et budgets futurs. Ma délégation souhaite demander instamment à tous ceux qui ne sont pas d'accord avec nos vues qu'ils réexaminent leurs positions car nous sommes fermement convaincus qu'au fond d'eux-mêmes ils savent parfaitement qu'un grand nombre de pays dans le monde ont un besoin absolu des activités de cette Organisation.

Je voudrais rappeler ce qui a été dit par le représentant de l'Australie. Il a dit que ce n'était pas la qualité de la vie qui était menacée mais la vie elle-même. Je crois que cette réalité mérite qu'on fasse tous les efforts possibles pour arriver à un accord par consensus pour répondre aux besoins des pays en question. Enfin, j'espère que toutes les délégations savent qu'un gel représente en fait une dégradation. Si nous nous en tenons à nos positions, nous perdrons les avantages que peut nous fournir une Organisation dont nous sommes fiers, et quand nous nous en apercevrons, il sera trop tard.

Issan Eldin MOHAMED EL SAYED (Sudan) (original language Arabe): First we should like to express our support for the priorities of the Programme of Work and Budget. We think it is very well balanced and it reflects the real needs of the Member States. In this context we support the ideas expressed by Uruguay concerning permanent growth. We would also like to support the views of several states in expressing our disappointment at the increase in the budget level because this does not meet our hopes or aspirations and we also regret the fact that the increase in resources allocated to the TCP is also limited because this Programme is very important to us. We are very concerned with the reduction in resources allocated for that Programme of 12.8 percent and we hope that this percentage will be higher for the next Programme of Work and Budget.

We would also like to express our support for the Anti-Locust Control Programme because in spite of the fact that the Programme is in abeyance at the moment it has certainly not been eliminated and could reappear at any moment. This is why we think that these efforts are very important, as well as those of the National and Regional organizations. We are threatened with this scourge which endangers food security in Africa.

We would like to express our thanks to FAO and other organizations for having reacted so swiftly and given considerable amounts of aid to our countries in this question of the control of the screw worm fly and we hope that this Organization will give further assistance to help eradicate this new scourge.

In conclusion we would like to repeat that we support the priorities of the Programme of Work and Budget, the budget level and the increase of 0.4 percent.

Konan Daniel YOMAN (Côte Ivoire): Pourquoi ne pas le dire, nous avons été très impressionnés, c'est là un euphémisme, par la déclaration faite ici par le Royaume de Belgique. Quel plaidoirie! C'était même parfois émouvant. Prenant la parole pour la 1ère fois, nous vous présentons les félicitations de la délégation ivoirienne pour votre brillante élection à la vice-présidence de l'importante Commission II de notre Conférence, félicitations qui vont également à l'autre vice-président ainsi d'ailleurs qu'à notre Président l'Ambassadeur Tchikaya du Congo. Nos félicitations aussi à M. Shah pour la présentation très fouillée des documents.

Nous avons suivi avec beaucoup d'attention et un grand intérêt les débats du Conseil des premiers jours de notre Conférence, particulièrement les interventions qui nous ont précédées, au titre du point 13, actuellement à l'étude qui est de loin l'ordre du jour le plus important de la Conférence, beaucoup plus important que l'examen de la FAO. Vous me permettrez de vous dire d'emblée que nous avons un sentiment très partagé pour ne pas dire des prémices d'une déception; déception pourquoi? Parce que je crois qu'il y a un risque d'assister encore une fois ici à un pas en arrière dans la recherche du renforcement du multi-latéralisme au sein du système des Nations Unies et singulièrement ici à la FAO. Nous avons le sentiment que certaines délégations donatrices amies veulent à tout prix redimensionner la FAD, la confiner dans un rôle d'académie agricole, de cabinet d'experts, de conseiller passif qu'on utiliserait comme on veut, bref de parent pauvre, oui pauvre de l'alimentation mondiale.

Ce n'est pas notre conception du rôle de la FAO et ce n'est pas ce que les textes de base et l'Acte Constitutif de la FAO nous indiquent. Les Nations Unies ont créé la FAO pour qu'elle reste le 1er centre mondial d'informations agricoles, la première tribune internationale pour les politiques agricoles, et une assistance technique agricole pour les pays en développement. Certains grands pays riches ne veulent plus de cette FAO-là. Je crois qu'il faudrait alors revoir la constitutive de la FAO et poser le problème dans une autre enceinte qu'à Rome. Certes, la FAO elle-même doit s'adapter aux mutations profondes du monde contemporain. Elle l'a fait en ce qui concerne l'informatique, elle entend le faire davantage pour la recherche, l'appui aux biotechnologies, l'environnement. Voilà un peu quelques axes de travail qu'elle entend poursuivre seule, en collaboration, certes, avec d'autres agences, mais sans se renier elle-même.

Nous pensons que les Etats Membres ont tous le devoir de l'aider dans ses efforts parce que nous tous profitons de l'existence de la FAO. Les pays en développement comme le mien, qui sont toujours attachés au PCT, croyez-moi, auraient davantage de difficultés sans ce programme de coopération technique. Les pays développés ont eux aussi à la FAO des fonctionnaires compétents de haut rang; la FAO est installée ici, achète beaucoup ici, signe beaucoup de contrats avec leurs firmes, leurs sociétés, tout ceci n'est pas rien. C'est une réalité incontournable. C'est pourquoi nous estimons que c'est une querelle inutile de vouloir dresser ici une catégorie de pays contre une autre.

Ceci devrait donc nous renforcer dans notre souci de réaliser un consensus pour l'approbation du budget. Somme toute 0,44 pour cent ou 1 pour cent d'augmentation du budget consacré à la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition, est-ce vraiment un gâchis? Avez-vous franchement, comme dirait le juriste, l'intime conviction qu'il s'agit d'un gaspillage que d'essayer de faire reculer ce fléau?

Voilà pourquoi la délégation ivoirienne estime que les 575 millions, que dis-je, peut-être 576, proposés par le Directeur général doivent emporter notre assentiment.

Certes, des efforts sont à déployer par le secrétariat pour présenter encore mieux le document sur le plan formel, en réduisant notamment la pagination et en le rendant beaucoup plus digeste. Le redéploiement du budget ne doit pas se faire au détriment du département des forêts, ni du PCT, ni de l'environnement auquel mon pays attache la plus haute priorité.

L'Afrique doit être encore de plus en plus prioritaire dans la répartition régionale de ce budget-programme, ce qui est tout à fait logique en raison de la situation qu'elle vit. Nous avons tous entendu hier le Président Hissène Habré du Tchad parler du Sahel.

La délégation ivoirienne appuie les 9 domaines d'action proposés" par le Directeur général, et espère que la situation financière de la FAO s'améliorera grâce au paiement des arriérés dus par les Etats-Unis et d'autres Etats Membres.

Je voudrais poursuivre en vous disant combien un pays comme la Côte Ivoire, pays agricole par excellence, souffre énormément de la baisse injuste des prix des matières premières comme le café et le cacao. Le Directeur général lui-même le soulignait dans ses 2 dernières interventions, d'abord devant le Conseil et ensuite à l'ouverture de la Conférence. Comment voulez-vous que nous puissions programmer notre propre budget si nous ne savons jamais à l'avance quels seront les 2/3 de nos recettes d'exportations. Comme beaucoup d'autres, nous avons du mal à payer notre contribution, nous y parviendrons si la sacro-sainte loi de l'offre et de la demande qui ne s'applique qu'à l'égard des pays comme le notre est relativisée. Quand il s'agit de transactions entre les Grands, comme dans le cas du blé, la loi de l'offre et de la demande est laissée dans le tiroir. On a trouvé un autre mot: contingentement.

Les prix de nos produits sur les marchés mondiaux, s'ils continuent à baisser à ce rythme, vont finir par nous étrangler.

Voilà le message succinct que notre délégation voulait adresser à cette Commission. Elle approuve le très faible projet-programme proposé par le Directeur général, sans amputation ultérieure et espère de toutes ses forces qu'un consensus sera trouvé par la Conférence.

En conclusion, nous remercions vivement 6 des 7 pays les plus industrialisés du monde qui sont tous à jour dans le paiement de leur contribution, et sommes certains que le 7ème le plus riche les rejoindra.

Benjamin K. KISILU (Kenya) : I want to underscore the statement made by the leader of our delegation in the Plenary session yesterday. My delegation notes that a great deal of work and thought has been put in by FAO's Secretariat in the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget for the forthcoming biennium. While noting the welcome emphasis on biotechnology, sustainable development, aquaculture and Tropical Forestry Action Plan, it should be borne in mind that policy analyses, whether under programme training or early warning, have been vital inputs in the development of agriculture. However, we regret to note that the same Programme of Work and Budget, which has taken the FAO's Secretariat a great deal of time to prepare, has left out or reduced a number of activities which are of particular importance to Africa in general and to Kenya in particular; namely, the support of the applied research, enzyme production, Trypanosomiasis control, fodder and traditional food crops development. These, together with the threat of locusts and now the screw worm, pose a major handicap to the agricultural development in Africa.

Women are an important part of the development of agriculture in rural areas. They know these areas better than anyone else. It is therefore apparent that FAO should do everything possible to integrate them in development activities and, at the end, at the decision-making level. However, with the declining budget support on TCP, no-one knows what resources are available, to FAO to accomplish this mission.

In Kenya over one million metric tonnes of fresh produce from agriculture is marketed locally in the main urban centres and a further 60 000 metric tonnes is exported annually; about 135 000 metric tonnes is processed for cattle markets. All these are by and large handled by women at most states. FAO support is therefore necessary for women in development.

The other activities that are related to horticulture which will lay a claim on FAO funding will include infrastructural development, particularly rural roads, collection centres, transport facilities, including refrigerated carriers, storage and training of farmers. Although Kenya has intensified its food production to attain a level of self-sufficiency in coarse grains and pulses, the country is not yet able to meet its demands for wheat, rice and vegetable oils from the domestic production.

On specific aspects of the Programme, we have an issue to raise under Programme 2.1.2 on crops. We are concerned that support to member countries on plant genetics and the training activities has been reduced significantly at a time when many of the developing countries are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of plant genetic resources in our farming systems. It is our added belief that emphasis in the training aspects and support of member countries would strengthen the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources even more.

We do seek explanation from the Secretariat as to how activities already-initiated in Africa of small farm irrigation development will be continued now that the support in the Programme is cropped back from the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91.

My delegation attaches great importance to the FAO Investment Centre. We see the Centre having an important role to play in training planners in the developing countries. We urge that the Centre be strengthened in order to focus more on its expected role and to have more seminars and workshops for planners in developing countries.

My delegation in conclusion would like to state that despite the extensive analysis, quite a number of which could be adjusted to reach a better balance, we have no difficulties in supporting the Director-General's request for a net increase in the budget over the previous budget.

We indeed would have been more appreciative of a higher increase to cover more effectively the programme proposed. We do urge the Commission to endorse the Programme of Work and Budget for consideration and approved by the Conference.

Petr ZIZKA (Czechoslovakia): Let me congratulate you on your election and allow me to comment on the Programme of Work and Budget for the period of 1990-91.

First, the question of the new way of preparing this programme. The Czechoslovak delegation expressed our opinion both at the 95th and 96th Sessions of the Council and we are going to confirm it now. We are sure the new way should be accepted. This is not only because similar accesses have been accepted by a number of other organizations in the United Nations but first of all because it allows us to study and estimate the final position in greater detail.

Concerning financial questions, our opinion is that the membership in the Organization and the payment of membership fees are very closely connected with each other. It is obvious that the aims of the Organization could hardly be attained without corresponding financial resources. Czechoslovakia respects this logic. We strictly fulfil our financial obligations but we would not make an interconnection between our constitutional duties and the outcome of the deliberations in FAO, although we have our problems and difficulties within the present structure of FAO and its functioning issues to which we would like to seek a satisfactory reaction.

According to the report of the Finance Committee the relation between incomes and outcomes of FAO is unbalanced and the solving of the problems contained in Chapters of the evaluation of the Programme of Work for the years 1988/89 will obviously be retarded. There is a habit that the original supposed sum for implemented projects is usually increased the more complex is the necessity to reduce it. In this situation, a lot of unrealized or limited projects could use the finances which some countries deposit to the UNDP account in banks of their own countries and local currencies to provide technical aid to developing countries. UNIDO, WHO and other specialized UN agencies, together with the UNDP, try to find ways to change these means into

necessary material, services, and training courses. Undoubtedly FAO could also use such possibilities. We drew attention to it during the Council meetings in November, asking the support of the Group of 77 and suggesting that the Director-General should take steps with the Administrators of UNDP.

The Programme of Work for the period 1990-91 includes nine priority spheres of the top interest. At the 95th Session of the Council we acknowledged these priorities, and we agree to them now. But referring to the words of my Minister in the Plenary Session yesterday, we would like to remind you of the fact that a certain part of large farms in an agricultural structure of developing countries provides a possibility of the actual help which means an improvement of their management and economic prosperity. Cooperation with a competent working group of the Agriculture Committee on this question would be very useful.

Discussing the proposal of FAO's Programme of Work and Budget for the period of 1990-91, at the June session of the Council this year we recommended that in respect of the prevailing interests in the problems of small farms more attention would be paid to the question of managing large farms, which are very numerous in developing countries.

Regarding the fact that Czechoslovakia provides a typical example of agricultural production on large farms, we elaborated a design of a concrete training course for experts in the field of providing large agricultural enterprises. It is a ninety-day course of work and covers functions of managerial workers in the best Czechoslovakian agricultural enterprises.

On another occasion we expressed our opinion, which we would like to confirm again. Czechoslovakia is eminently interested in the solution of environment problems. Our Government gives practical evidence of it. The problem is rather difficult first of all, for it is connected with considerable investments, and the philosophical "close my shirt, close my skin", however generally condemned, still has its concealed and influential supporters. We think that every concrete FAO project should contain an analysis of all implications and consequences in relation to environmental protection. Not to damage the environment ought to be the most significant imperative. Improvement of the environment should be an important consideration in deciding what to choose and to realize. To analyze the effect of industrialization on the environment in order to obtain a large scope of information from agriculture, fishery and forestry we can reasonably use modern technical equipment, remote sensing. This is the reason why the Czechoslovak Government supports development in this field in our country. We offer well-prepared training courses in remote sensing techniques to all countries concerned.

As another part of the initiative we submit a project of a system of research institutes for cooperation in the field of using methods of remote sensing in agriculture. Czechoslovakia could provide for establishing an organizational centre in Prague. The scientific activity results could undoubtedly be used in developing countries and so it would be possible for experts from these countries to participate in the training process.

Besides training courses in donor countries, the courses in the countries of recipients of special technical aid are of great significance. Here I would like to mention the Czechoslovak farms, the field projects, to be the most effective tools, without the help of which it would not be possible to realize the basic aims of the Organization. Nevertheless at the same time it is necessary to make a decision on each action with all responsibility.

Successful fulfilment of the aim of a project requires competent consideration by FAO, close cooperation of the Programme Director and local governmental agencies and perfect coordination with the action of other international, governmental and non-governmental organizations. Joint efforts in evaluation, the contribution to solving the problems of the environment and to the resulting implementation of the project ought to be a logical requirement.

Concerning activities of FAO in Europe managed by the European office, we think that it will be necessary to select carefully the projects to be included in the Programme of Work because the financial means of the budget of the Regular Programme for the years 1990-91 are limited. We recommend to choose first of all such projects which are interesting for the majority of European countries, and this should be done exclusively within the priorities which will be adopted by the General Conference. The low financial means is the reason why we must coordinate activities with European inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations in such a way that we may put financial resources together in order to reach the desired results. This question will surely be one of the key points at the 17th Session of the Regional Conference of FAO in Venice next year. We will carefully prepare for it also because we would like to invite the 18th Session of this agency to be held in Czechoslovakia.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, allow me to reserve our definitive position to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the period 1990-91 for Plenary discussion.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): Heeding your call for brevity, the Philippine delegation wishes simply to reiterate its support for the Programme of Work and Budget expressed during the last Session of the FAO Council. The 0.45 programme increase is only a symbolic increase after the cut of \$ 45 million during the present biennium. If the contributions of member countries will be forthcoming according to the stipulations of the Basic Texts, the present Programme of Work and Budget will enable the Organization better to respond to the needs of member countries, particularly developing countries, in their needs for technical assistance and policy advice on sustainable development, structural development, and all the other priorities agreed by all.

The Philippine delegation regrets that the appropriation for technical cooperation as a percentage of the total budget has decreased, and taking account of the cost increases we believe that the present allocation represents a decrease in real terms. We would therefore express the hope that the TCP will be restored to 14.1 percent, the former percentage, of the total budget in the future. We regard the TCP as an indispensable tool for FAO to enable it to respond to requests of member countries for technical assistance.

We hope that the present budget will be approved by consensus.

Dragoljub DIMITERIJEVIC (Yugoslavia): On the format of the Programme of Work and Budget we see that the traditional line of format improvement has been continued. It is satisfying to see that the body of the Programme of Work and Budget has not been increased visibly in volume. However, the annexes - and

particularly Annex I - go into a great deal of detail, down to the programme elements. We have sane doubts whether it is really necessary or even whether the member countries are able rationally to digest that level of detail. We would even suggest that an attempt be made to shorten Annex I so as to provide some space for the brief thematic summary which we feel should follow the basic roles of the Organization. The procedure for discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget has also been extended. Here again, we have some doubts about the complexity of the process of inter-action between the Secretariat and the Membership in programme formulation. In our view, it is indeed very difficult to sustain three steps in the process. Even if the present practice were to continue experimentally for some time, we should need to open debate on this without much delay.

On priorities, we feel that there is broad agreement within the Membership. We have no difficulty in agreeing with the nine priorities highlighted in the Programme. Biotechnology in our view carries particular importance, and FAO has yet to find the appropriate ways and means to follow new developments, particularly DNA recombinant techniques. This topic of overwhelming importance could be elaborated for the next meeting of the main technical bodies of the Council, particularly Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Committees. We also support the information function, in particular the house-wide effort aimed at improving data management. We also want to highlight the need for accelerated efforts by FAO in the vastly complex field of sustainable development.

A few words now about the Field Programme. We welcome in general the upward tendency in extra-budgetary delivery. However, at the same time, we are fully aware that the traditional problems remain unsolved. In particular I refer to support costs and, to a certain extent, also to the ability of the Organization to maintain the required quality of technical backstopping. As far as we are concerned, we will not hesitate to take an active part, particularly with regard to UNDP, to find a satisfactory solution to this vexed issue.

On the staff issues, we are faced again with the continuation of the past tendency. We see merit in gradually changing the staffing structure in favour of the professional category. However, we have some doubts whether the tendency to reduce the number of staff can be continued.

On the cost increases, we are hardly in a position to add anything. It is indeed an enormously complex area which to a certain extent at least is beyond our grasp. What we can do is to trust the Secretariat, and especially the Finance Committee, to advise us on these matters.

On the level of the budget, I should repeat the statement made by the Federal Minister of Agriculture of Yugoslavia in the Plenary that we support the level. Our support is not unqualified, however. Although it is very delicate to speak in terms of the balance between needs and possibilities, we cannot but advocate moderation at the present time. Yugoslavia like so many other countries has to grapple with an enormous debt servicing problem. Consequently, we could not support any measurable increase in funds. Our position applies not only to FAO but also to the UN system in general.

However, with all these caveats we believe that the small increase proposed for the next biennium is justified. That is why we want to lend our support to the level of the Regular Programme.

Jilali HASSOUNE (Maroc) (langue originale Arabe): Mon intervention sera très brève. Les interventions qui m'ont précédé ont couvert la totalité des points que je voulais évoquer. Nous présenterons par écrit d'autres commentaires et je vais en développer quelques-uns oralement. La présentation de M. Shah pour le point 13, que nous sommes en train d'examiner à présent, a été exhaustive et complète. Il nous a donné une idée tout à fait globale du Programme de travail et budget dans le document C 89/3.

Ce document qui a été qualifié par la plupart des intervenants comme étant un document clair, exhaustif, pointilleux, est tout à fait acceptable et vu les difficultés financières que nous vivons dans notre Organisation, il est impossible de considérer le budget et le programme de travail d'une façon autre que celle qui a été proposée par le Conseil. Le Conseil nous a dit qu'il fallait prendre en considération les restrictions budgétaires et financières qui ont été proposées pour les années 1987-88.

Vu les difficultés qui ont été citées par la plupart des délégations, notre Organisation est tout à fait en mesure de proposer un programme équilibré, programme dans lequel la priorité est donnée aux orientations principales qui consistent à soutenir la production alimentaire et qui sont au service de l'humanité toute entière.

Je n'aimerais pas laisser passer l'occasion sans saluer le Secrétariat de la FAO qui est d'une grande expérience et d'une grande compétence, qui ne cesse de nous présenter des propositions tout à fait pertinentes pour les deux années à venir.

M. le Directeur général de la FAO, lors de son introduction du document C 89/3, nous a bien indiqué qu'il y a un espoir de voir tous les pays assumer leurs responsabilités et nous attendons avec impatience que ces pays s'acquittent de leurs devoirs. Ces remarques nous prouvent que la plupart des pays du monde, et les pays membres surtout, vont soutenir l'Organisation dans la mesure du possible. Ceci n'est pas étonnant ni étrange car notre Organisation fait face à des réalités inéluctables telles que la malnutrition, la pauvreté, la faim, la pollution de l'environnement, le pillage des ressources, la détérioration des terres utilisables, la désertification, etc. Tous ces problèmes préoccupent l'humanité toute entière.

Il faut absolument que l'on travaille tous ensemble, que l'on coopère pour que la FAO, notre Organisation, soit puissante, qu'elle soit forte, pour qu'elle soit en mesure d'assumer des responsabilités qui sont lourdes, ce qu'elle fait brillamment.

Sra. Mireya DURAN ROSALES (Bolivia): Para empezar, deseo felicitar a usted en nombre de mi delegación por su elección como Vicepresidente de esta Comisión. De la misma manera, agradecemos al Sr. Shah la excelente presentación del documento que nos ocupa debatir.

Muchas delegaciones han mencionado en el debate general que estamos ante el imperativo impostergable de otorgar un respaldo a la Organización. También mi delegación. Creemos que éste es el momento. Consideramos que es menester un compromiso mayor por parte de todos sus miembros, compromiso que indudablemente está en el respeto de los principios y objetivos de la FAO y especialmente en el cumplimiento de las obligaciones financieras.

Mi delegación hubiera querido en esta oportunidad analizar tal vez un Programa de Labores y Presupuesto más amplio, pero sin embargo, reconocemos los grandes esfuerzos realizados por el Director General, y es en ese sentido que apoyamos el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 y que el mismo se apruebe por consenso.

Por otro lado, como país que se beneficia del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, deseamos expresar nuestra preocupación por la continua reducción del mismo y esperamos que en un futuro sea considerado con mayor atención.

CHAIRMAN: I did not disclose earlier that a lady would be the last speaker! We have now come to the end of our discussions. We have heard 75 Member Nations out of 158 so far. Mr Shah now has the responsibility of replying to many of the questions. As the Chairman has stated, the wrapping up of the discussions or the drawing up of conclusions will be done only after satisfactory replies have been given by the Secretariat.

We therefore come to the close of this session, but may I first request the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to make an announcement on any decision that has been reached on the meeting of the Drafting Committee.

Sture THEOLIN (Sweden): First of all let me too congratulate you, Mr Vice-Chairman, and express our satisfaction at working with you and the bureau, and assure you of Sweden's full cooperation in helping you to discharge your difficult task.

Turning to the practical matter of the Drafting Committee, my delegation has been asked to coordinate the timing of this first meeting. After consultation with the other members of this group, and following Australia's proposals, I am pleased to inform you that the first meeting will take place tomorrow, Friday, immediately after the closure of the afternoon session in the Mexico Room.

CHAIRMAN: As you have said, it will be immediately after the afternoon session. Maybe it will be immediately after the night session!

We have received statements from the distinguished delegates of Panama, Swaziland and Ghana for inclusion in the verbatim records.

We have come to the end of a long day and we now adjourn the meeting until 9.30 tomorrow morning when Mr Shah will reply to the debate. The Chairman will then wrap up the discussion.

Joseph TURKSON (Ghana): Mr Chairman, accept congratulations from the delegation of Ghana for your ascension to the seat of the Chairman of this Commission. Your Vice-Chairmen are also duly congratulated.

The delegation of Ghana will not be executing its rightful duties if Mr Shah and the Secretariat are not patted on the shoulders for the comprehensive and good work done. We are very grateful to them.

The growing concerns for the sustainability of agriculture production, combined with persistent food deficits in some member countries and overproduction in others permits the setting up of the scene for the Manual Resources Programme. Rational and sustainable resource utilization is the ultimate goal. While global land and water resources are adequate to meet future demands, serious problems arise from their uneven distributions and varying potential compared with food and other agricultural production requirements. Mr Chairman, may I take the opportunity to comment on the contents on document C 89/3. The Ghana delegation expresses a general disappointment on the effective implementation of the Programme and Budget for 1990-91. This disappointment emanates from the apparent lack of support for the approved FAO Programme of Work and Budget by some members despite the fact that they have all the means to honour their obligations in respect of contributions to FAO. Ghana reads the part of document C 89/3 which deals with the cutting of programmes due to insufficient financial resources with utter shame and sorrow. We are indeed very sad and I know most of you are too. We regret that the victims of these cuts were important programmes such as research and technical development including training, crop production, rural development, fisheries and freedom from Hunger Campaign/Action for Development. The Country Representatives' offices were also victims.

There is one thing members should be comforted with, that is, FAO Secretariat continued to display a determination to perform to the best of their ability and made their full service available to those who were in need though they were under the canopy of difficulties.

Ghana has been a show-piece of Structural Adjustment Programme but all is not that well, I will strongly support previous speakers who have underlined the effects of the Structural Adjustment Programmes and re-echo that these corrective measures are a bitter pill that is bitter to swallow and when swallowed turn to suffocate the rural and vulnerable groups in developing countries. On TCP Ghana could not do better than to support the statement that TCP has proved its worth and we hereby express satisfaction with its performance. Ghana has greatly and directly benefited from the Programme. The Ghanaian Delegation is extremely happy that the regional distribution of TCP assistance during 1988-89 has followed the priority set by FAO Member Countries with Africa receiving the largest share - 42.5%. We hope all being well this pattern will be followed as long as regional economic conditions remain the same.

A lot has been said, a pile of figures have been quoted by delegates except for a few member delegates who partially object to some of the statistical data provided. The Delegation of Ghana, supports the Programme and Budget, appeals for the consensus acceptance and approval of this reasonable Programme of Work and Budget.^{1/}

1 Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Horacio MALTERZ R.(Panamá) : La delegación de Panamá se complace por verle dirigir los debates de esta Comisión II de la XXV Conferencia de la FAO. Nosotros conocemos sus capacidades y su ecuanimidad por lo que consideramos que su presidencia constituye una garantía para el buen éxito de esta Comisión.

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, el cual a nuestro juicio debe ser eliminado de forma definitiva del léxico del sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Se trata de la denominada "teoría de crecimiento cero". Para nuestra delegación, en base al desequilibrio que objetivamente tal política generalizada está causando en los Organismos de las Naciones Unidas, 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, y eufemísticamente conocido como de "ahorros y ajuste" o de "absorción de costos", que además resulta difícil dudar que las mismas no tengan, en la mayoría de los casos, fundamentalmente motivaciones políticas, tendientes 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 con casi el 80% del total de cuotas atrasadas.

En nuestro concepto tales teorías tienen connotaciones limitativas y de autodestrucción que difícilmente pueden ser aceptadas por los países que tienen una clara conciencia de la realidad agrícola y alimenticia mundial, así como de la necesidad siempre más vigente de organismos como la FAO para hacer frente a las crecientes exigencias nutritivas y alimenticias de todos los pueblos. En este orden de ideas, frente a los agudos problemas actuales de la agricultura y la alimentación y el desarrollo de los países del llamado "tercer mundo", el desperdicio de miles de millones gastados en muchos programas de innegable valor tecnológico pero de importancia postergable o en fantacientíficos proyectos de "juegos de guerra" de los cuales conocen su dudosa eficacia; o para la ejecución de frecuentes y deliberadamente mal interpretados programas de "seguridad nacional"; así como para la actuación de costosos y peligrosos planes de desinformación, desestabilización y agresión psicológica, moral, diplomática, política y económica hacen, a nuestro juicio, poco creíble la nefasta "teoría del crecimiento cero".

Dentro de este marco de referencia, la delegación de Panamá, estima conveniente efectuar algunas consideraciones relacionadas con el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1990-91.

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 consideraciones y en aras del consenso, invitamos a la totalidad de los miembros de la Conferencia a brindarle el apoyo consecuente.

Nuestra delegación desea asimismo expresar su conformidad con las nueve prioridades ya que las mismas no implican un orden. De la misma manera apoyamos la necesidad de un mayor porcentaje al PCT, la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición, el Plan de Acción de la Mujer y los Recursos Genéticos.

Queremos también hacer énfasis en la necesidad de lograr un mayor equilibrio en relación con otras regiones de los recursos destinados a nuestra región de la América Latina y el Caribe.

Para terminar Sr. Presidente, la delegación panameña desea resaltar la presentación y-estructuras del documento que se somete a nuestra consideración.^{1/}

Ms N. DLAMINI (Swaziland) : Since we are speaking for the first time, allow me on behalf of my delegation to congratulate you on your election to the Chair and to thank Mr Shah for the clear presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget. Mr Chairman, Swaziland supports the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91.

We are aware that the Budget as presented will not be sufficient to cover Member Nations requirements. But given the cash flow problems facing the Organization we wish to commend the Director-General for his efforts.

The Swaziland Delegation, Mr Chairman, supports the nine priority areas outlined in document C 89/3. These are in line with the concerns of most developing countries and indeed in line with Swaziland's development policies.

My delegation wishes to emphasize the following: the integration of women in development, sustainable development, crop protection, agricultural data development and crop weather monitoring.

My delegation wants to register its dissatisfaction on the decrease in the share of the Technical Cooperation Programme in the proposed Budget. Swaziland has found the Technical Cooperation Programme effective as it not only responds to immediate needs but in some cases has led to long-term projects of material significance.

My delegation, Mr Chairman wishes to urge this Commission to adopt the Programme of Work and Budget as presented.^{2/}

The meeting rose at 19.00 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.00 horas

1 Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

2 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/II/PV/7

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

SEVENTH MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE
SEPTIMA SESION
(17 November 1989)

The Seventh Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission II/ presiding

La septième séance est ouverte à 10 heures
sous la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la séptima sesión a las 10.00 horas
bajo la presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II

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

- 13. Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 and Medium-Term Objectives (continued)
- 13. Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 et objectifs à moyen terme (suite)
- 13. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 y objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, nous allons débiter notre séance du vendredi 17 novembre. Comme nous en avons convenu hier les débats sur le point 13 sont terminés. Nous allons tout à l'heure écouter le Secrétariat qui vous donnera les réponses aux questions et aux observations que vous avez soulevées dans vos interventions. Ensuite, nous essaierons de tirer les conclusions de notre débat. Mais comme vous le savez la journée est chargée. Puisque nous devons aujourd'hui également terminer le point 14 de notre ordre du jour et permettre au Comité de rédaction de pouvoir se réunir pour la première fois, je crois que le Comité de rédaction devra certainement travailler pendant le week-end. Pour éviter de prolonger les débats, je vous lance à nouveau cet appel afin que nous puissions aller de l'avant. Sans plus tarder, nous allons donner la parole à M. Shah qui donnera ses réponses aux questions que vous avez posées.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Replying to the questions which have been raised to some extent is facilitated by the concentration of questions on a few specific areas and issues which have been debated in your consideration of the Programme of Work and Budget. However, there are, of course, a large number of specific questions which have also been raised. The Secretariat always likes to do justice and to pay homage to every Member Nation. I will try to answer these questions in a way as condensed as I can out of respect for your time, and I hope that while trying to do justice to these questions I will not leave any impression with any Member Nation that I have deliberately ignored or set aside their question. I do hope that the Commission will accord me some understanding on that score.

So let us get into the subject. Mr Chairman, one of the first questions which was raised - and it was raised by the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom - was a question which came up also in the debate a number of times: that is, what relationship is there between the Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 and the FAO Review which you are going to consider under item 15 of your Agenda, and how is this relationship going to be handled? Let me answer by distinguishing between the aspects of the Agenda item, the aspects of substance, and the aspects of form. The fact that there are two Agenda items which you, as the Conference, have adopted needs very little further comment. There are two specific subjects which are before this Conference and which the Conference has assigned to your Commission to

handle. Secondly, as regards substance, the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium is a mandatory requirement. It is in the Basic Texts; it is in the Constitution. The Director-General is required to propose a Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

The Conference must see its way to approve it. Without it how would the organization function during the next biennium? So there is a distinct link to the Programme of Work and Budget for the next five years. The FAO review is also a substantial matter. It has been carried out according to the Conference's wishes, which you will now see the results of. In substance, however, the discussion on the FAO Review still has to take place on the Commission. The Conference has to pronounce itself on all aspects of this Review: how it was carried out, what the outcome is, what the proposed action is, what the recommendations are, what position you take on them, how they are to be implemented, what resources are required and how would these resources be provided for, or not provided for. These are all questions that you have to consider. I stress very much that the Secretariat at no time is trying to preempt discussion: you will have the discussion.

This brings me to my third point, the form. As the Legal Counsel explained, and the distinguished representative of Switzerland referred to this in his intervention yesterday, according to our Basic Text there has to be one resolution on budgetary approval of the appropriations for the next biennium. This Budgetary Appropriations Resolution must contain full provision for what the Conference requests the Director-General and requires the Secretariat to carry out in the next biennium.

The draft Appropriation Resolution which has been submitted to you in the Programme of Work and Budget on page 56 of the English text for adoption by the Conference gives the Chapter appropriations and shows the total effective working budget of US\$ 574 460 thousand at the rate of 1 235 lire to the dollar, the present budget rate. The Resolution which the Plenary will be requested to consider and adopt will be based on this draft, but the figures will need to be adjusted for the following factors. First, the figure will need to be adjusted to take into account the budget rate which the Conference will be requested to adopt at the time it adopts this resolution, whatever the budget rate is.

Secondly, the figures would need to be adjusted to reflect your conclusions on the lapse factor. If the lapse factor were to remain at its present rate of 5.5 percent there would be no need to make any adjustment because that is the basis on which these figures have been prepared. However, if you conclude that the lapse factor is to be reduced to 3 percent then these figures would be adjusted to reflect that.

The third adjustment would be as a result of your conclusions on the FAO Review, and I stress that I am not prejudging anything because your debate has still to take place. Whatever you recommend, as a Commission, to the Plenary would need to be done, whether it is to change these figures to include all the additional resources required or some additional resources, or no additional resources. Therefore, as regards the form, the Plenary would be asked to adopt one Resolution on budgetary appropriations for the next biennium, which would include provision for everything which you, the Conference, wish to be done in the next biennium.

I hope I have been clear on this score. I have taken time so as not to rush my explanations because there should be assurance among all of you that there is no uncertainty in the manner in which this is to be handled by yourselves. The process to us seems very clear and it requires action to be based on whatever you recommend to be done.

There is a remaining point on this aspect of form. The present timetable of the Conference provides for the adoption of the Draft Resolution on Budget Appropriations in Plenary on the morning of Wednesday 22 November. It assumes that your conclusions on the two subjects would be reached so that all these matters can be reflected in the Draft Resolution submitted to Plenary. If that should not happen, I would only say that it is up to you, Mr Chairman, as Chairman of the Commission, to draw this matter to the attention of the General Committee. The Director-General is of course following this very closely, and so the General Committee in its wisdom, would make whatever arrangements were necessary. There also I would hope that all Member Nations who have been concerned about this aspect can feel reassured. The important thing, I implore you, is not to sacrifice the substantive merit of every proposal to any short-term apparently urgent requirement. I do not mean to preach, but the Secretariat shares the same interests as Member Nations in ensuring that the substance of all matters receives their due attention.

Let me now turn to the second subject, that is of programme growth, zero growth, zero real growth. I have always said at every Session of the Conference that whatever policy a Member Nation wishes to advocate is its sovereign right and the Secretariat does not take sides. The Secretariat responds to whatever is concluded by the Conference, but there are some aspects which may help in calming those concerns which have been expressed on this subject. The first point I should like to make is that when there is a Programme of Work and Budget with a programme increase, as we have seen in recent years, the Director-General has been very careful not to take the level of the approved budget which according to the Basic Texts is the authorized level of expenditure as meaning that he should spend, no matter what. He has always borne in mind the interests of economy and efficiency and the interests of Member Nations.

Let me give you but one example. In the biennium 1984-85 the budget was US\$ 421 million. It represented a programme increase of one half of one percent over the budget of 1982-83. We could have spent those US\$ 421 million. The Director-General has the authority to incur expenditures up to that level. The biennium ended with a programme saving of US\$ 10.3 million, not counting the US\$ 15 million savings which were approved by the Council and the Finance Committee for the African Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme. The total savings would thus have been US\$ 25 million. We know there were reasons for those savings. They were savings that could be made on staff costs at that time, and I indicate this as evidence that the approval of the budget level does not mean that the Director-General is not conscious of the need for prudent management of the resources, and he has given you repeated examples of this. Take all the prior biennia where there were cash surpluses - they are evidence of this.

The situation changed in 1986-87 as we all know. The programme increase in 1986-87 was 1.2 percent. The programme increase was US\$ 5 million and we ended the biennium having to make savings and having to cut programmes by US\$ 25 million, so the programme growth was 1.2 percent and the programme cuts for the biennium were 5.7 percent.

So we do not merely have zero growth. We receded - and that was the beginning. In 1988-89 programme growth was now US\$ 1.1 million, 0.2 percent and the cuts were 8.7 percent, US\$ 43 million. These figures would suggest to me that those who advocate zero growth far exceeded their objectives. All the programme increases which have been approved since 1976-77 have been wiped out and wiped out entirely by the programme cuts of two biennia. I hope that this is a perspective which will also be remembered and borne in mind when reaching your conclusions on this issue.

The third subject is that of salary costs. Now, let me first clarify the three elements which are involved in the difference between the cost increases in the summary of Programme of Work and Budget and the full Programme of Work and Budget because in some interventions I have not been entirely clear as to whether the distinctions were recognized. The difference of US\$ 16 million between the Summary and the full Programme of Work and Budget, the cost increases were shown in each, US\$ 2 million is due to the impact of the General Assembly lifting the transitional measures on the post-adjustment system and a further increase in the scale of pensionable remuneration.

I have said in the introduction to this item that the requirements for both these factors had been indicated in the Summary but could not then be costed. They could be costed for the full Programme of Work and Budget and I believe there has been no concern or disagreement expressed on that account.

Then we come to the remaining US\$ 14 million and in some of the interventions there has been a reference to the fact that this US\$ 14 million is all subject to the decisions of the General Assembly. We must be very clear. The US\$ 14 million includes two elements. It includes a provision of US\$ 8.2 million which is the estimate we have made as the expected result of the review carried out by the International Civil Service Commission on which it has submitted its recommendations to the General Assembly and Which the Fifth Committee is presently in the process of considering. The decisions will be reached by the General Assembly, and are expected to be reached, during its present Session.

You are now considering the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. I would stress that it is not a question of saying the ICSC is still going to review this subject; at some stage it will submit its recommendations and report to the General Assembly. This could have been said if it had been so but the fact is that the ICSC has made recommendations. The Secretariat is not trying to pre-judge the decision of the General Assembly. We are just saying that we know what the recommendations are and the General Assembly is considering them. The General Assembly, in all likelihood is expected to come to conclusions on this and we are not alone in this.

There is a General Assembly document, which has just come to my attention, which is document A/C.5/44/18 dated 30 October 1989 and which is entitled Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 1990-91, of course for the United Nations itself, administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the reports of the ICSC and of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, statements submitted by the Secretary General etc. In this document the Secretary-General of the United Nations is also drawing to the attention of the General Assembly what the financial implications for the United Nations Regular Budget are. He also, in this document, is taking the recommendations of the ICSC and projecting or drawing estimates based on those recommendations as they would apply to the regular budget of the United Nations.

In the case of the United Nations the total of the ICSC and the Joint Staff Pension Board recommendations for the 1990-91 biennium comes to US\$ 40 970 000 and the document goes on to say "following past practice, it is intended to deal with the additional costs or reduction for the biennium 1990-91 in the revised estimates to be presented in respect of the 1990-91 Programme Budget". Now I realize in the case of the United Nations the situation is that the General Assembly will come to its decisions on the salary increases and in the same Session of the General Assembly will take a decision also on the 1990-91. It is very convenient for them. They can do it in that way. The intent of the proposal of the Director-General in including this amount is prudent budgetary provision.

We are not inventing these figures. We have indicated on what basis our estimates are based. These figures are recorded not only in your record but I went into them in the Finance Committee. Whatever decisions the General Assembly reaches on this matter will again be a matter of record. At the next Session of the Finance Committee there will be, as usual, a document dealing with salary conditions and so on, and for each item which is relevant to FAO the document will give - as the Chairman of the Finance Committee here would testify - the implications for the regular budget of FAO.

You will see from the Finance Committee's report to the Council and all Member Nations will see whether the provision, which we suggest should be included, is adequate, inadequate or excessive. I cannot stress enough that the estimate we have given, as I said to the Finance Committee, is a very conservative one. I would bet with anyone, but of course this is not a matter of betting, that the implications will be higher. We are being conservative, we are being moderate, and we are not pushing. What we are urging, with all due respect, is that at such a time and in this particular conjuncture it is only prudent to include the provision. If these costs do not come about they will be seen in the Staff Cost Variances and we report on this to the Finance Committee so you will be able to monitor exactly whether these costs have been incurred or not. Other things being equal, they will be returned to you. Let us pray and let us hope that there will be a cash surplus in the biennium thereafter.

I do hope what I am saying is not considered argumentative or contentious, but really an effort, in all sobriety, to calm the concerns of those who have expressed worry on this matter.

The third aspect of the cost increase is that regarding the General Service Salary Review and that is US\$ 6 million. This aspect, regarding the Salary Survey of the General Service, has nothing whatsoever to do with the United Nations General Assembly - nothing whatsoever. The General Service salaries are surveyed by the International Civil Service Commission; so by the same ICSC. This is normally done at intervals of five years. They are carried out in accordance with the methodology established by the Commission, by ICSC, in consultation with representatives of the organizations concerned.

The basic premise which underlines the methodology for this Survey is that the UN salaries, or FAO salaries in our case, for locally recruited staff, should be competitive with those of reputedly the best employers of the duty station. In practice this means, in the case of Rome, there are approximately 25 major employers from a broad range of commercial parastatal

and Government organizations whose conditions of service are surveyed. There is a job-matching exercise and a whole lot of other things which are all technical matters, but they are handled by the ICSC methodology and the recommendations of the ICSC are then approved by the Council.

We have included this provision of US\$ 6 million, as I said, on the assumption of a 6 percent average increase. That is the assumption. We are clear about that amount. I assure you it is not excessive. I assure you of that and I think every employer in Rome will have experience of that. Let me just give you the examples of the results of the two previous surveys. In the 1984 survey the increase was 9.1 percent as compared to the assumption we make now for a 6 percent increase. In the survey before that in 1979, the increase was 7.5 percent. Again our assumption now is 6 percent. We are not pushing. It is a very moderate and very conservative estimate and again it is an estimate which is recorded and which is before you. So it is a matter to the Director-General of good management, of prudent budgetary provision, to include the cost increases and that is why they form part of his proposals to you.

The fourth subject which has been discussed at some length is the lapse factor. Without repeating what is in the document before you and without repeating in any way the views which have been expressed, we admitted that there is no magical formula for the lapse factor. We said there was no methodology in having a magic formula which is universally recognized and applied by all organizations. There is a great difference in the lapse factor in different organizations of the United Nations system. It is a fact.

Yesterday morning the distinguished representative of the United States referred to the new lapse factor that is being applied to the United Nations but there again may I point out that the higher lapse factor is related to one of the recommendations of the Group of 18 relating to the 15 percent reduction in the staff of the United Nations; so there is a very specific reason for that.

In the case of FAO let us not forget we had a reduction of that amount and more in 1976 when our Director-General first took office. He reduced posts by 330 without any review and without any group of experts.

Returning to the main point, however, one of the arguments which has been raised is that the lapse factor should be related to the actual vacancy rate, and references have been made to the Report of the External Auditor in document C 89/5, which comprises the financial report and statements for the Regular Programme 1986/87. As this document will be considered in Commission III, with all respect of course the Secretariat will provide further clarification at that time, but I would need to reply now to the specific questions that have been raised in connection with the lapse factor.

It has been said that since this document shows that the actual vacancy rate for professional staff has been between 10 and 15 percent since 1982 and in the case of the General Service staff between 5.8 and 7.6 per cent over the same period, there is no justification for changing the lapse factor, in fact quite the reverse. I am sorry, I disagree, and for the following reasons.

First, the vacancy rate, as defined at any particular date, is a fact. You can take this fact. But why are posts not filled in certain circumstances? They are not filled because the right person cannot be found, they are not filled in that established post because another candidate is found whom it is considered more prudent to try out. These are all management measures. There

is nothing to be ashamed of, in fact I am proud of them. But what happens then? We establish a parallel post. Because the established post is not filled at that grade under those conditions there is a parallel post which is offered at a reduced rate. So the fact that the established post is theoretically vacant does not mean that there is a saving of that amount because the money is used for a parallel post. That is only one aspect.

Our programme budget is programme budget. When you approve it you ask us to carry out those programmes, to deliver. It is not a budget by organizational unit where you say, we are giving you so many dollars for posts, we are giving you so many dollars for meetings, we are giving you so many dollars for publications and you must only spend that money under those headings. The advantages of a programme budget are the advantages for the owners of this House, for the Member Nations themselves. You expect programmes to be delivered and you expect programmes to be delivered whether it is with staff, by the filling of posts or if that is not the best way to do it by using consultants or by giving a contract to a national institution, by getting the work done. So under these conditions I am not disputing the facts as to what is the number of established posts and which of these established posts are vacant. I am not disputing that at all. Those are questions of fact. What I am questioning is whether it is reasonable or valid to draw the kinds of deductions that have been drawn with regard to the lapse factor.

Now, why is the Director-General proposing reducing the lapse factor rate? The answer is very straightforward. With all the programme cuts that we have had, that you have suffered and that we have experienced and lived through, the Director-General hopes very much that the next Programme of Work and Budget cannot only be approved generously by consensus but can also be implemented, and for the full implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget he would like to have adequate resources, not again to be faced with the same deduction of the lapse factor. This is a question of political judgement which you Member Nations will exercise. If you want the Programme of Work and Budget to be implemented in full, particularly taking into account the cuts that have occurred, this is the judgement of the Director-General, he is asking you to reduce the lapse factor from 5.5 to 3 percent.

In relation to this debate but also some other aspects, some Member Nations have referred to not enough explanations, not enough clarifications, or if the Secretariat feels that it has given an explanation it is an explanation but it is not a clarification. I do not get involved in this. I am trying on behalf of the Secretariat, on behalf of the Director-General and all my colleagues to give you the explanations that have moved the Director-General to submit this proposal.

Although I said at the beginning, and I mean it, that the substance of the Programme of Work and Budget is distinct, is a unity from the substance of whatever conclusions you will reach as the conclusions of the FAO review, I think I may be permitted to say that this issue of the lapse factor is related not only to the Programme of Work and Budget and to its full implementation, it is also related to the implementation of the recommendations resulting from the Review. You will want a great deal done by your Secretariat, and no matter what your decisions will be - and I am not trying to pre-judge them - I think it is worth stressing that the effective implementation of all your decisions has to be looked at together. So much for the lapse factor.

The fifth point, regarding miscellaneous income, the delegate of France asked yesterday as to the assumptions that we made in submitting our estimate of miscellaneous income of US\$ 12 million for 1990-91. Mr Chairman, the assumptions are a number, and the estimates are cautious, precisely on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, because as you will remember for the biennium 1986-87 we got slaughtered.

We made estimates of US\$ 41 million of miscellaneous income and if it had not been for some special factors the miscellaneous income would only have been US\$ 11 million or US\$ 12 million. The Finance Committee then looked into various alternatives as to whether the practice of deducting estimated miscellaneous income from the assessment should be changed and it decided no, this was not the time to do it, but for the time being at least let us be very cautious and prudent in making the estimate of miscellaneous income. It is on that basis and in that context that the estimate has been made. The estimate has been made assuming the level of the Programme of Work and Budget which is submitted to you. The estimate recognizes the deficit which is carried forward from the preceding biennium, and the estimated deficit at the end of this biennium. It recognizes that there are no new funds that the Director-General is asking for, no special assessments for the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account, and it assumes that the pattern of contributions for the next biennium will follow the pattern of this biennium - all assumptions.

Mr Chairman, this is not a matter on which I would be prepared to take a bet and I can only say that these are estimates which have been again made very very moderately and discussed with the Finance Committee.

The sixth point, and here I come now not to any specific question but to a number of questions which were raised, relating to the share of each region in benefiting from the Programme of Work for the next biennium. I have noted very carefully all the concerns, the concerns of the Member Nations from Africa, the concerns of the Member Nations from Latin America and the Caribbean, the concerns of the Member Nations from Europe. I will not be able, nor will I try, to satisfy everyone by giving snap answers of "Don't worry, everything will be all right". No, Mr Chairman, the answer deserves facts and facts may please some and may not please others. But you want transparency and this is one of the results of transparency, that we have to give the facts as we see them and not make excuses for them. So if we take Programme of Work for the next biennium, let us exclude those programmes which are of global interest, because those we do not try to estimate in terms of which percentage interests Africa and which percentage interests any other region. Excluding those global activities, the Regular Programme share of the Programme for Africa, in this biennium 38.73 percent, in the next biennium 39.6 percent, a fractional improvement, Asia 22.49 in this biennium going up to 22.9, Europe 3.37 in this biennium, going to 3.4, a fractional change, Latin America and Caribbean 20.87 going to 19.2, Near East going to 14.9 - that is for the Regular Programme share.

Let me add that these figures are developed taking the programme elements and by the Divisions responsible for these programme elements subdividing them in terms of the regional benefit or the regional interest. In the case of a meeting it is relatively easy to do, in the case of a publication, is it a specific publication for countries of a particular region. In the case of support advisory services it is more difficult to do, because it will not

depend on what has been done in this biennium, it will depend on the requests which will come in the next biennium and the requests which will be met under the Regular Programme. So there are these factors to bear in mind but these are the facts.

Extra budgetary funds; very interesting here, and I will speed up a little bit. For the extra budgetary funds, Africa, goes up from 37 percent to 53 percent; Asia, however, comes down very much from 32 to 21; Europe 1.4 to 0.9; Latin America is up, it goes up from 6.63 to 8.8; and the Near East comes down from 21.2 to 15. Now these extra budgetary funds are again estimates. They are estimates based on the projects which are in operation and based on the pipeline projects which we expect or hope will become operational. So these can only be estimates. So overall, for Africa all resources now go up from 38 to 49; Asia comes down from 28 to 22; Europe comes down from 2.0 to 1.7; Latin America goes up from 11.2 to 12.1 and the Near East comes down from 19.7 to 15. The only hope I can express for those who are concerned about these specific figures as they apply to their own region is that as regards the Regular Programme resources, the eventual share will depend on the specific requests received and the specific work carried out; so these percentages are not sacrosanct in any way, and the same thing for the extra budgetary funds. These estimates are exactly what they are; they are estimates based on our present assessment of the plans.

Reference was made to the activities of the Regional Office for Europe and the Joint Division for the Economic Commission for Europe and information was requested on the funds provided for these two offices, comparison to the present biennium and a breakdown by object. This information is available in a table summary by budget component on page 383, I am referring to the English text, page 383; REUR total provision for the next biennium is 2 529 000. that is the Regional Office; then the JEUR, that is the Joint Division, provision 1 880 000.

Also in relation to Europe comments have been made or questions asked about what are the programmes that are relevant to Europe. Is it only the work of the Regional Office and the work of the Joint Commission, and my answer is no. If you look at the Regional estimates by programme for Europe on page 314 of the text, the funds shown, 4.4 million for the Regional Office, yes those are the funds of the Regional Office but under Headquarters the US\$ 6.6 million, that is related to the work at Headquarters which is of relevance to the European Region. Thus under the Headquarters column you find a provision of US\$ 200 000, under Sub-Programme 1.1.1.7 Regional Conference. That provision is budgeted in the Office of General Affairs and Information, Conference and Council, it is not under the Regional Office because the arrangements for all regional offices are made by GI. Fisheries, 1 361 000, my colleague Dr Lindquist and his colleagues do a fair amount of work on Fisheries for the European Region; to give you the two most visible examples, the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission, IFAC, or the General Fisheries Division for the Mediterranean; training activities; manuals. Now, perfectly understandable that an individual Member Country in the European region may say "This is of no interest to me", but I have heard, and there are now Member Countries in the other European regions, who do want this work done and we are trying to respond to the membership at large.

A specific question then was raised about publication costs and there were a related number of questions all emanating from the representative of the United States. There are two tables in the Programme of Work and Budget document which are relevant in this regard. One is a table which the representatives referred to which is a table on page 347, Summary by Budget

Component, where publications and documents show a provision for 1988-89 of 32 940 000 and a proposed provision of 39 456 000, and understandably the question has been raised, why such a big increase? Now, why such a big increase, you have to look at the components of the provision under publications and documents; it is not just for paper; it is not just for printing. The total costs of the publications and documents are included under this provision, thus under the provision of 39 456 000 you have salaries 18 million; camion staff costs 8 156 000; contractual services, I suppose largely external printing but also other contractual services 4.5 million; general operating expenses 6.7 million; supplies 2 million. Now, in programmes terms there is a decline in the provision for publications. There is a decline, I believe of one percent, but I will give you the exact figure, there is a decline of 322 000, almost exactly one percent but the increase in the provision is due to the costs and why these higher costs, because as you have seen from the breakdown most of them are related to staff costs and staff costs are the ones which are going up, so that is the reason for that.

Secondly, have there been user surveys? I must confess I have not undertaken a survey myself since this question was raised, to find out if there have been user surveys or how many. There has not been to my knowledge a systematic user survey of every FAO publication but I do not think a user survey would make too much sense when we bear in mind that a part of the FAO publications are in a sense mandatory; when you think of the Statistical Year Books, assimilation, dissemination of data. Certainly user response is received because any Division working on any publication is in touch with the people who receive those documents and they get comments from them and these comments are not just haphazard, these comments also occur in formal meetings of the technical or the expert body concerned in expert consultations and so on. So there is a user response. Let me give you another example: when we were forced to suspend CERES my colleagues in the Division received literally thousands of letters. Now, those letters, some of which I drew to the attention of the Programme Committee, from Parliamentarians, from civil servants, from research institutions, libraries, from universities, have indicated a wealth of material of what was the reason why these readers considered CERES so valuable. Of course, this is taken into account. Another example, The Food and Nutrition Bulletin; it was suspended; it is going to be reactivated in the next biennium but before reactivating it we are taking the matter up with the ACC Subcommittee on Nutrition so that our colleagues from the Nutrition Division who work on this publication can have the full collaboration, the full support, the views of colleagues from other Organizations to see how can we make it a better publication. So just in brief, this would be my reply to user surveys.

Now, has anything been done on mailing costs, has anything been done to reduce costs? Now the reduction of costs is something which can never stop. It is a process which is continuing and the Director General has himself often spoken about this. A fact which I think makes the point is the reduction in the administrative and the support services over the years from 24 percent over a decade ago to 17 percent now, but let me give you one specific example about how these costs, mailing costs for example, were reduced. Yes, these were very much involved as a part of the cuts in the programme economies that we had to make and I take our expenditure on Pouch, Pouch expenditure. There are apparently two classes of Pouch, first class and second class, but the mail eventually gets there. In 1986 total kilogrammes 392 378; in 1988 263 373. Economies are made. They are made as much as they are able to and they involve a lot of effort. In terms of costs, the cost decreased from Lire 2 716 million to Lire 1 641 million.

Relating to publications, there was also a question I believe from the representative of Hungary about the suppressed publications and if anything had been done to transfer the material from the suspended publications to other publications. I must confess that in a subject such as CERES it would be difficult to do because the kind of articles which CERES covers are not covered in the other publications, magazines, types of publications I can think of, but certainly for the Technical Division the same articles could not appear but I think every effort was made to disseminate the technical information if there was a suitable forum, but I cannot give you off-hand a specific example.

Now I hope that this will be the last cluster of the questions I thought I should answer on the Programme decreases. Where we were forced to make reductions or propose reductions in some individual programme elements, again I must not try and make false excuses, because the facts are before you, but I must give you explanations which we have considered and which we hope make sense.

For example, the distinguished delegate of Kenya asked for information on how we intend to assist small farm irrigation in Africa when the programme element dealing with this subject has been deleted. The same point was, in fact, raised and debated in the Programme Committee. We changed one sentence in the Full Programme of Work and Budget but one sentence may not be noticed. I should like to explain. The specific requirements of and the dictates of small-scale irrigation are incorporated into the various aspects of the sub-programme, so while there is no longer that discreet programme element the work is not totally stopped; it is not totally deleted. As evidence of this, let me give you specific examples, practical examples, of what is envisaged to be done. I would draw your attention also to one of the supplements of the Programme of Work and Budget, Supplement 1, which deals with publications. There are going to be training manuals - irrigation water management training manuals.

Secondly, I should also report that FAO is the lead agency in developing proposals for an inter-agency ten-year action programme on water and sustainable agricultural development in which small-scale irrigation is one of the four priority areas.

A specific question was raised by the distinguished representatives of Argentina and El Salvador referring to the Aquila project on fisheries funded by Italy. We share the concern of those countries about the indication of the closure of this project by the end of this year, but we are in the process of identifying alternative funding. We hope that we shall manage to find it.

Also, in the case of fisheries the distinguished representative of the Netherlands asked a question about whether any development has occurred between the common fund since its establishment in pursuing the work of the sub-Committee on Fish Trade of the Committee on Fisheries. The common fund only started operating in July of this year. I understand that it is still in the process of finalising its rules and procedures before considering proposals.

The Programme for Technical Assistance in Fishery Commodities, which was elaborated by the COFI Sub-Committee, is being further detailed, is being further elaborated, in consultation with the regional Fish Information Centres and the industry. The detailed package will be submitted for the approval of the Sub-Committee which we are scheduling for next September. Only thereafter will it be submitted to the common fund.

The distinguished representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran asked a question about the possibility of an action plan for Mediterranean countries similar to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. My colleague Mr Murray assures me that we plan to do this next year.

A specific question was asked about the reduction in the resources of Programme 2.1.8. It is true that the proposal as submitted does show a decrease. The reason for showing this decrease is that there was a major consultation on economic cooperation amongst developing countries which was held in the current biennium and will not be repeated in the next biennium. Also, there is a reduction due to the shift of resources within some regional offices. However, despite this overall reduction there is an increase of \$ 604 000, 7.4 percent, in the resources available under this programme to help interested Member Countries in policy and planning areas. This is in addition to the resources which are allocated for policy advice to Member Countries under other programmes such as those on rural development and on nutrition.

Two other questions were raised by one representative about people's participation. I do have some information to give and I apologize for the length of time this is taking. Very briefly, the importance attached to people's participation programmes is not disputed by us at all. Several activities have been implemented, mainly in Africa and Asia, and case studies have been undertaken and guidelines and manuals produced. In 1989 several studies and publications were or will be issued.

Therefore, in the next biennium the sub-programme which deals with this, 2.1.5.3, intends to test the trading materials in other regions. Even with the slight reduction shown I am told that several on-going activities will be continued, mainly in respect of strengthening self-financed and self-managed farmers groups and organizations.

Finally, a specific question on JBCFA, the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. Briefly, let me just say that while we would prefer to continue to hold three or even four meetings of this body per biennium, because of limited funds and constraints, and Member Country requests for other urgent work under this sub-programme, we do not propose to hold more than two. These activities are fully in line with our plans and the proposals for strengthening our relationship with GAIT.

Mr. Chairman, I have taken an excessive amount of time and I am sure there may be some who may feel neglected. But let me stop here. I hope I have done justice as a whole to the questions raised during the debate.

LE PRESIDENT: Au nom de toute la Commission nous voulons vous remercier pour cet exposé qui donne des réponses aux questions qui avaient été posées.

HMais évidemment les questions étaient peut-être si nombreuses qu'il se peut que vous ayez omis certaines d'entre elles. Si c'est le cas, je peux évidemment donner la parole aux membres de la Commission afin qu'ils interviennent. Je vois que j'ai deux orateurs. Le Royaume-Uni et la Suisse. Je donne la parole au Royaume-Uni.

Rohin Garth PETTITT (United Kingdom) : I thank Mr Shah for his replies. There was no need to apologize for the length of time taken. My delegation never takes the view that the need for economy and timekeeping means that the Secretariat should not have time to deal fully with the queries, or at any rate the non-rhetorical questions, unless delegations have made it clear that the questions were on points where they suspect the interest is confined to themselves and are content to handle the matter separately in conversation. Nor would we wish to restrain the Secretariat from making the necessary comments at the end of a main debate like this to help decision-taking. To put an unnecessary restriction of either type would be a false economy. It would, in fact, waste the effort of delegations in contributing to the debate.

Most of my questions have been answered but there was one which I put perhapsI without great clarity on which I am not sure that there was an answer. This was in connection with the \$ 8.2 million included for the estimate of the cost of the salaries of U.N. professional staff which is at present being considered by the Fifth Committee in the General Assembly. I asked whether there were ideas for handling this issue other than through the special reserve account, which was a point we had suggested as the correct way of proceeding.

There was a hidden question as to whether there was a way of ring-fencing this amount if included in the budget so that it could only be spent if the award were agreed by the General Assembly and in the way assumed in our estimates that it would be agreed.

Should I understand Mr Shah's reply or comment to be that there is no constitutional way of doing this in the appropriation resolution? Or was his reply simply that our way of doing it in FAO - a nicer and friendlier way - is to trust the Director-General not to authorize the spending of the money in keeping with his track record or the track records of Director-Generals in general in the history of the Organization, that the Finance Committee would see what was happening and that, to quote Mr Shah "other things being equal" the money would be returned to Member States.

If that was the reply, could I ask a supplementary question? What does "other things being equal" mean in this context?

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I have a little bit of a problem with some of the clarifications so may I just come back on them. For example, on the first question on the budget you will recall that I asked a question of the Legal Counsel. In his reply Mr Shah said that the Basic Texts provide for just one budgetary resolution. The reply on this issue by Mr Moore in the Council was that it provides for one budget. These are two separate things, one budgetary

resolution and one budget, because if it is in fact one budgetary resolution this would be an argument for coming back with our proposals on the conditional element of the budget for providing funds for inflation in 1990-91. Maybe Mr Shah or the Legal Counsel could speak on this.

If I understood the conclusion correctly, am I right in thinking that the Secretariat does not necessarily insist on having the budget voted in the time schedule as proposed at the beginning of Conference so that, in order to take care of the elements of the review, one may discuss this matter in the general Committee. Is this the right interpretation?

The second point I wanted to address is that Mr Shah has given us factual figures on what was the budget growth decided at the last Conferences. There was small real growth. The expenditures, in fact, were lower than the budgets. You have deduced from this that this showed finally that there was less than zero growth over the period. My delegation cannot accept this argument because the programme base for the budgets adopted is not the expenditure but is a previously adopted budget. I can accept the statement only if the programme base is the previous expenditure. It is important to point to this difference.

That brings me to the point of the personnel body decisions. Here again we have heard arguments on why these estimates are conservative. I do not argue at all on this. Also, I would like to underline that my country is in favour of an improvement in the salaries of FAO, in the system itself. We know, for example, that they do not compare very well with the salaries in Switzerland and other countries.

But our points were rather technical. We think that estimates which are not yet based on decisions should be dealt with as such, and we have instruments in our Basic Text. It concerns the Special Reserve Account and I should like to hear from Dr Shah as to whether he thinks this could be an appropriate instrument. He said that in the United Nations General Assembly it was convenient that they had the chance to look at the salary question and then look at the budget. We do not have this chance, so perhaps we need to deal with the problem with a different way.

Regarding the lapse factor, I think the answer was clear. The Director-General wishes to have adequate resources. In fact, there is some over-budgeting. As to Miscellaneous Income, I agree that since this, if it is underestimated, goes into the cash surplus, it does not affect the programming base. I think that it is certainly a good policy to accept the conservative figure. I do not think that it is certainly a good policy to accept the conservative figure. I do not think that is a problem for us.

Finally, as regards the regional question, we have pointed to the budget of Europe as regards the fisheries sector and the regional Conferences. I would just like to remind you that we would expect to have at the next Regional Conference a presentation of these Headquarters activities as relevant to that body, as they appear on the Headquarters budget with the corresponding expenses, so that we can look into this because in the past we have discussed only the Regional Office activities in Geneva and Rome, and not so much the other offices.

I would make one point regarding the programme decreases. May I recall the example of a project in the Regular Programme which cost less when it was redesigned. I think we might expect such an increase of productivity for inherited programmes and inherited activities. It is normal also that work

productivity in our countries increases in general by about 3 percent. That would be an argument as to why cost increases for activities which remain the same should be rather smaller, because one can expect an improvement in productivity for routine activities or for activities which are not designed for the first time. When they are new, it is obvious that there cannot be high productivity.

As regards the proposals which we made that the cost increase methodology should be looked at by the External Auditor, as well as our proposal for a better concentration of activities, I understand that Dr Shah did not reply to that. I understand that he considered this to be a matter for discussion by member countries. I should just like to recall that we wish to retain these proposals. Thank you.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Los representantes de Colombia pensamos que el Sr. Shah, con su competencia habitual, hizo un gran esfuerzo para resumir sus respuestas y comentarios a las intervenciones de 75 delegaciones, intervenciones muchas de las cuales fueron tan detalladas, que en ciertos momentos me parecía encontrarme en el seno del Comité de Finanzas o del Comité del Programa.

Naturalmente, nosotros estamos de acuerdo con el colega del Reino Unido en que es siempre conveniente y saludable que se lleve a cabo un debate amplio y democrático y que, aun después de la respuesta de la Secretaría, aquellas delegaciones que quieran hacerlo presenten comentarios adicionales. Es un diálogo sano y constructivo. Pero no creemos realmente que ayude al mejor funcionamiento de nuestra Comisión, y por consiguiente de la Conferencia, ciertas actitudes, a través de las cuales, cada delegación -imaginémonos si los 75 oradores que intervinieron hicieran lo mismo- manifieste de nuevo que la respuesta de la Secretaría no está de acuerdo con lo que ellos dijeron, que ellos insisten en su propuesta, que piden que su propuesta tenga apoyo. Esto nos llevaría de nuevo a la reiniciación del debate sobre el mismo tema.

Hemos elegido un Comité de Redacción, fruto del acuerdo entre regiones y grupos de países, en el cual están representadas todas las tendencias, Comité de Redacción presidido por el distinguido representante de Suecia, país que merece toda nuestra confianza, de manera que no creemos que sea conveniente aquí reabrir de nuevo el debate, sino tratar de concluir cuanto antes esta discusión del tema 13, para que podamos pasar -y será conveniente mirar el reloj- al tema 14, con la esperanza de que hoy podamos concluir el tema 14 y el lunes iniciar el tema 15.

Se han hecho aquí referencias al Comité General, los representantes de Colombia no somos voceros del Comité General, pero somos miembros, y el Presidente Tchicaya podrá confirmar que esta mañana él fue invitado al Comité General para que informara sobre la marcha de los trabajos de esta Comisión, y que el Comité General decidió en su reunión del próximo martes 21 considerar un segundo y actualizado informe del Presidente Tchicaya para que así ese Comité General pueda estar en condiciones de hacer alguna recomendación sobre el calendario a seguir.

Como representante de Colombia creo que convendría mantener el calendario adoptado, o sea, que esta Comisión adopte en su reunión del martes 21 en la tarde, la parte del proyecto de informe sobre el tema 13, y que permita así a la Plenaria, a más tardar el miércoles en la tarde como está previsto o el jueves, la adopción definitiva de esa parte del informe sobre el tema 13.

Esto corresponde no sólo a una tradición, no sólo es lo que se ha hecho en todas las Conferencias anteriores, sino que obedece al hecho fundamental de que ese acto importante de la Conferencia, que se somete a votación nominal y que exige el requisito de los dos tercios de los votos, conviene que se realice en la segunda sesión de la Conferencia, porque ya en la tercera sesión muchas delegaciones están desintegradas, y ése es un acto importante al cual conviene que concurren el mayor número posible de Miembros de la Conferencia.

LE PRESIDENT: J'invite tout le monde à faire preuve de modération pour que nous puissions avancer. Bien entendu, il n'est pas question d'interdire à qui que ce soit de parler ici. Mais nous souhaitons que vous puissiez prendre la parole pour poser des questions précises dans le minimum de temps possible.

Alfred FEBERWEE (Netherlands): I want to be very brief, in response to your request, Mr Chairman, but I want to raise the point that the Netherlands are disappointed over the answer on the reductions in JECFA meetings. In our view the reply is unsatisfactory because no material reasons were given as to why such a reduction would be possible. I do not want to repeat the reasons why four successful meetings of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Food Contaminants and yearly meetings on that issue of JECFA are necessary. Yearly meetings will also be necessary on Residues of Veterinary Drugs. The same reason applies, namely, that the relevant Codex Committees need this data for fulfilling their tasks, which is essential for GATT.

I would just wish to repeat that the Netherlands being the host country of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, and paying for those meetings, is disappointed with the answer. We shall have to seek solutions to this problem. Thank you.

Zbigniew KARNICKI (Poland): Thank you. My delegation wish to support the view expressed by the distinguished delegate of Colombia. I think we have to look into the time factor, as time is running out. We discussed this issue extensively yesterday and we are aware that certain Member States have questions and queries. However, it would be wise, I think, if we stopped the discussion in the Commission in this issue and tried to form a kind of contact group, which has already been prepared, to try to clarify the matters for the particular countries who have concerns. Perhaps the group could meet with FAO as well and even, if necessary, go into a kind of negotiation. This is a time when we should look not to confrontation but to negotiation. I am pretty sure that we are in a position to reach a consensus and adopt the Resolution by consensus.

Carlos FERREIRA C. (Chile): Como es la primera vez que mi delegación toma la palabra en esta Comisión, me permito felicitarle, así como a su Vicepresidente por su designación.

En realidad, mi delegación, por razones muy personales, no había podido participar en los debates que sí había seguido con mucha atención. Y hay algunas cuestiones que debo puntualizar para que queden en los verbales, tanto en nombre de mi delegación como en nombre del grupo que presido, el GRULAC y por ello me permitiré, aunque sea volviendo atrás, expresar brevemente algunos conceptos en relación a este tema.

Deseo resaltar la presentación y estructura del documento preparado por la Secretaría y felicitar al Sr. Director General porque ha logrado, aun manteniendo los recursos en el nivel casi del pasado, llevar adelante un programa de trabajo.

LE PRESIDENT: M. le représentant du Chili, je crois que nous avons déjà clos le débat sur cette question.

Carlos FERREIRA C. (Chile): Voy a pedir, en todo caso, que mi discurso quede en actas, si usted lo tiene a bien.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci beaucoup pour votre coopération, c'est accepté. Nous allons redonner la parole à M. Shah pour compléter les réponses qu'il vient déjà de donner.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): There was a question regarding the 8.2 million which relates to the increased cost of professional salaries. The question from the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom was, "what about the Special Reserve Account?" I am sorry if I did not cover that point in my initial reply. Theoretically, of course, the provision for the Special Reserve Account provides for unbudgeted costs to be met from the Special Reserve Account with the prior approval of the Programme and Finance Committees but this is not a course which the Director-General considers prudent or possible in this instance for the reason which distinguished representatives will recall from their discussion in the Council, that the provisions of the Special Reserve Account will be totally exhausted again by the end of this biennium to cover the budgetary deficit carried over and the increase in the budgetary deficit and outstanding liabilities. That is why I come again to the point of prudent budgetary provision. It is because of this particular timing, situation and circumstances that the Director-General proposes that these costs should be included in the provisions of the Programme of Work and Budget.

We are dealing with the situation where there is a Special Reserve Account of US\$ 26 million which can be drawn upon and that is a fact.

A second question related to this was what did I mean by, "other things being equal"? I mean precisely that. Your conclusions on this item and on the item of the FAO Review have not taken place. I am not trying to prejudge or pre-empt anything. That is all I meant by, "other things being equal".

The third aspect is that the distinguished representative of Switzerland said that since these cost increases are estimates there is no need to include them but we are dealing with a budgetary matter and in formulating a budget you do make estimates. We are not accountants. We are not looking at this after the fact. We are trying to formulate a budget and request you to consider approving that budget. In presenting a budget these are estimates but all the figures are estimates and so I do not see the difference.

I think those were the only points which needed additional specific replies. Points which I have deliberately not covered, such as what an individual representative may wish pursued, since there was no discussion in the Commission itself on certain proposals, I did not respond to that. There was also the wish expressed to have certain documentation at the next Regional Conference for Europe but since that is not a matter on which I am empowered or entitled or competent to discuss, nor is it a matter which the Commission is considering now, I am deliberately not replying to that.

Robin Garth PETTTT (United Kingdom) : I will pursue separately with Mr Shah and the Legal Counsel if necessary the point about ring fencing within the resolution of the costs of the salary review.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie beaucoup pour votre coopération. Avant de conclure le débat sur cette question, je voudrais annoncer que la Suède a remis son intervention sur ce point 13, qui sera insérée dans le procès-verbal de notre Commission.

Mous voici au terme de nos débats sur le point 13 relatif au programme de travail et budget pour 1990-91 et les objectifs à moyen terme.

Ces débats ouverts, démocratiques et riches ont connu 75 interventions qui toutes ont félicité le Directeur général pour les améliorations qui ont été apportées au document C 89/3 ainsi qu'au processus d'élaboration du programme de travail et budget qui permet désormais un dialogue plus intense entre les Etats Membres. Cependant, tout en appuyant l'idée de poursuivre cette expérience sur une nouvelle période de deux ans, de nombreux membres de notre Commission ont lié leur position définitive à l'obtention d'un consensus sur l'adoption du budget 1990-91, seul test valable selon eux pour un jugement objectif de ce processus alors que quelques autres membres pensent que ce processus devrait devenir la règle, d'autres encore trouvent ce processus long et coûteux et proposent de supprimer l'étape intermédiaire du sommaire. Quelques membres ont jugé que des améliorations supplémentaires pouvaient être apportées à la présentation du PIB. La Commission a manifesté son appui unanime aux neuf priorités proposées au Chapitre 2 du document, à savoir biotechnologie, information agricole, développement durable, avis en matière de politique, rôle des femmes dans le développement, suivi des cultures et des conditions météorologiques, protection des cultures, aquaculture, Plan d'action forestier tropical. Mais si un petit nombre reste persuadé que la FAO gagnerait en efficacité si elle concentrait ses ressources sur un nombre plus réduit d'activités, de nombreuses délégations ont estimé au contraire que les programmes développés par l'Organisation répondaient aux besoins réels des pays membres et résultaient des demandes faites par les divers organes et instances de la FAD.

De nombreux membres, qui ont déploré la faiblesse du niveau du budget proposé, ont exprimé l'espoir que des ressources extrabudgétaires accrues permettraient d'assurer l'expansion des activités de terrain. Le Programme de coopération technique (PCT) a reçu un soutien général en raison de son efficacité et du rôle utile et catalyseur qu'il joue dans la mobilisation des investissements dans les pays bénéficiaires. Pour cela, un grand nombre de membres ont déploré la réduction dont ce programme si populaire fait l'objet dans le cadre de ce projet de budget. Ils ont demandé que cette diminution relative du PCT dans le budget prenne fin et que la part du PCT connaisse à nouveau un accroissement allant jusqu'à 17 pour cent du budget, et se sont déclarés satisfaits de son financement et de sa gestion.

Quelques membres, tout en reconnaissant l'utilité de ce programme, estiment que son mode de financement pourrait faire appel à des ressources extrabudgétaires et sa gestion connaître une plus grande transparence. La Commission dans son ensemble a souhaité que le PIB soit approuvé par consensus et, à cet égard, les efforts du Directeur général pour obtenir ce consensus ont été pleinement appréciés. En effet, de nombreux membres ont souligné que le PIB était le résultat d'un compromis entre le désir de la majorité de donner à la FAO un niveau de ressources compatible avec les besoins des nombreux Etats Membres et la nécessité de limiter les augmentations budgétaires au regard des difficultés financières de beaucoup de pays membres. Quelques membres ont réitéré leur attachement à la croissance zéro, mais un grand nombre de membres ont rejeté ce point de vue et indiqué qu'ils auraient souhaité un budget plus conséquent pour relancer l'action de la FAD, largement mise à mal par les réductions successives de programme pour près de 68 millions en trois ans. Certains membres ont indiqué qu'ils pourraient se rallier au niveau actuel si elle prenait en compte les résultats de l'examen en cours.

Pour ce qui concerne l'application de l'abattement pour mouvements de personnel, deux opinions se sont affrontées. En effet, quelques membres ont trouvé qu'aucun élément ne justifiait la modification proposée, mais un grand nombre a soutenu la proposition du Directeur général pour sa réduction de 5,5 pour cent à 3 pour cent afin de garantir une exécution plus efficace du PIB.

Il en est de même de l'approvisionnement pour augmentation de salaires, liée à une prochaine décision de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Divers membres, tout en approuvant le niveau du budget, ont souhaité que certains programmes ou sous-programmes soient renforcés. Il en est ainsi des plantes à racine et tubercules. D'autres ont proposé des aménagements dans les affectations des crédits comme ceux destinés à l'Europe pour lesquels des propositions chiffrées ont été avancées. Les membres de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes se sont plaints de la faiblesse des ressources prévues pour leur région alors que ceux d'Afrique et autres demandent que la FAO continue à leur accorder prioritairement ces ressources. Mais à cet égard des réponses fort pertinentes ont été données à la Commission par le Secrétariat.

Bref, la Commission a reconnu qu'il était nécessaire de renforcer la FAO pour lui permettre de répondre aux besoins des Etats Membres, mais les points de vue divergent sur les moyens d'atteindre cet objectif. En effet, si quelques membres considèrent que ce renforcement peut se faire non pas par un apport de ressources additionnelles mais en redéployant celles disponibles à la majorité des membres, la majorité des membres est convaincue que la croissance zéro est synonyme d'immobilisme et que ce principe constitue une absurdité devant la brûlante actualité des missions de la FAO.

Quelques délégués ont indiqué qu'ils souhaitaient que la Conférence ne se prononce pas sur le PIB, Avant de conclure la discussion sur le rapport relatif à l'examen sur certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO, la majorité est d'un point de vue opposé et demande que les deux points de l'ordre du jour soient abordés et tranchés séparément. Ils souhaitent donc que la Commission se prononce dès à présent sur le niveau du budget. En tenant compte de tous les points de vue exprimés, la Commission recommande que le projet de résolution sur le programme de travail et l'ouverture des crédits pour 1990-91 soit soumis à la Conférence pour qu'il soit approuvé de préférence par consensus. Notre rapport sera rédigé de manière à refléter les divers points de vue exprimés au cours des débats. En outre, la position de chaque Etat Membre sera explicite au moment du vote sur le budget.

Comme vous le savez, nous venons de mettre fin au point 13. Nous allons pouvoir aborder le point 14 de l'Ordre du jour: Examen des programmes de terrain. Vous connaissez le document, c'est le C 89/4 et le C 89/LIM/19. Pour l'introduction de ce point de notre Ordre du jour, je vais inviter M. Rinville (Sous-Directeur général, Chef du Département du développement) à introduire ce point de notre Ordre du jour.

Tommie SJOBERG (Sweden): The FAO's three principal functions are collector and disseminator of information, centre for policy analysis, forum for intergovernmental discussion, and provider of technical assistance at field level. These are the real functions of FAO and they are important functions. The Regular Budget is intended to finance activities which are of interest to the entire membership of the Organization. It does of course execute technical assistance projects but these are primarily financed from extra-budgetary resources. The size of the Regular Budget has been and will continue to be very modest in comparison with the problems and issues in world food and agriculture. It is therefore most important that resources available are employed most efficiently and effectively and in those areas which FAO has a comparative advantage.

The Swedish delegation knows that there are tremendous requirements for this Organization in solving food problems and promoting agricultural development. We also recognize that the financial environment of the FAO for the next biennium will be severe. Therefore the setting of clear cut priorities for the work of the Organization is of utmost importance. The budget must be realistic in order to make it possible to implement proposed activities.

The Swedish delegation endorses, by and large, the priorities proposed. However, we find it difficult to discover links in the Programme of Work and Budget between proposed priorities and proposed activities. As to the concept sustainable development, I would like to refer to statements made by the Swedish Minister of Agriculture the other day.

As to forestry, in his speech in Plenary the Swedish Minister of Agriculture voiced his concern for the meagre resources allocated to forestry. We feel that the forest sector has a long-term developmental potential that is considerably greater than its present share of the budget allocation. Activities and inputs in the forest sector do not give the same rapid results as inputs in other sectors. There is consequently a risk that the potential of forestry to contribute development permanently is being undervalued and under-utilized. The proposed changes in the new budget compared to the present, seem to verify this thesis. Forests have great importance for the ecological balance and as a supplier of energy. The importance of the

tropical forests, and our concern for the rapid depletion of forests was underlined by our Minister, as well as our concern for the rapid depletion of forests in Europe, where we now witness forest death in larger and larger areas. Thus, we insist that even stronger support should be given to forestry activities than what is provided for.

As regards the Fisheries Programme we welcome the increased resources that have been allocated in the sector. There is a growing concern for the future of the living marine resources. We therefore welcome further attention to conservation and management of these resources.

If the European region is to play the role it is expected to play, then cuts in budgetary allocation for the implementation of programmes in the European region are problematic. In our opinion it is in the interest of the membership of FAO and thus also in the interest of developing countries in other continents that the importance of technological cooperation in Europe, especially applied to research, should again be recognized.¹

Carlos FERREIRA C. (Chile): Muchas gracias Sr. Presidente. Mi delegación desea expresar brevemente algunos conceptos que guardan relación al tema en cuestión.

Es destacable la orientación que se le ha dado al programa de labores y presupuesto 1990-91, en términos de adecuarse a un presupuesto prácticamente igual al del período anterior, reorientando los recursos hacia los programas técnicos y económicos y disminuyendo gastos administrativos y de gestión. Igualmente, las prioridades de los programas y de los medios de acción para llevarlos adelante, responderían a intereses de los propios países. Es por ello que, en general, se coincide con lo sustentado en la propuesta del Director General sobre el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1990-91.

En el ámbito estrictamente regional, es destacable que las actividades de los Programas Ordinario y de Campo de la FAO para el próximo bienio se orienten de acuerdo a las prioridades y recomendaciones de política contenidas en el Plan de Acción para la región aprobado en la 20a Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, celebrada en Recife, Brasil, en octubre de 1988.

Asimismo, mi Delegación apoya el asignar un mayor porcentaje al PCT como también a la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición, al Plan de Acción de la Mujer y a los Recursos Genéticos.

Es necesario destacar a nombre del grupo que represento (GRULAC) que se debe compensar en el Programa Ordinario la baja proporción de recursos extrapresupuestarios para la región; a modo de ejemplo puedo señalar que el GRULAC confiaba en que Italia continuaría financiando la red de acuicultura proyecto Aquila, hoy dicho proyecto está a 10 días de ser desmantelado, porque al último minuto, después de largas evaluaciones y apoyos muy favorables el Gobierno Italiano habría decidido que no le es posible financiarlo. En tal caso, mi grupo solicita se busquen fórmulas para que a través de una reasignación de recursos dicho proyecto continúe.

Entre las acciones a realizar en la región, hay algunas que revisten gran interés para nuestro país. Cabe mencionar las siguientes:

¹ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

- El reforzamiento de la capacidad nacional en la preparación de proyectos de fomento al riego y de ordenación de los recursos de tierras e hídricos, incluida la ordenación de cuencas hidrográficas. En el mismo ámbito de los recursos naturales, las actividades del proyecto regional sobre prevención de la degradación de tierras constituyen un apoyo importante.
- En lo pertinente a cultivos, revisten interés para nuestro país las acciones tendientes a mejorar e intensificar la producción de hortalizas, aquéllas vinculadas al control de moscas de las frutas, al manejo de post-cosecha y a la cooperación técnica e intercambio de información sobre el manejo y elaboración de frutas tropicales (este último punto es de interés para las regiones del norte del país).
- En lo relativo a ganadería, son especialmente interesantes las acciones que continuará desarrollando el Equipo regional FAO/DANIDA de fomento y capacitación en industrias lecheras para América Latina y el Caribe.
- Con respecto al fomento de la investigación y la tecnología, el refuerzo de los sistemas de investigación resulta particularmente interesante. Entre las acciones específicas, el estímulo a la aplicación de técnicas de teledetección en la agricultura tiene gran importancia para nuestro país.
- En lo pertinente a desarrollo rural, reviste importancia el interés de la FAO en la adaptación de la educación agrícola de alto nivel a las necesidades de los pequeños agricultores y la economía de los campesinos. En la formulación de estrategias de desarrollo eficaces para la economía de los campesinos, aparece interesante la búsqueda de métodos sencillos para identificar productos rentables, tecnologías apropiadas, técnicas para la administración práctica de las explotaciones, elaboración, comercialización para los mercados internos y los probables mercados de exportación, y la participación de la población.

Asimismo, se estiman de importancia para nuestro país las acciones de FAO que fomenten la formulación y ejecución eficaz de proyectos generadores de ingresos y la creación de pequeñas empresas para mujeres campesinas.

Finalmente, mi delegación desea expresar su apoyo y aprobación a este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, esperando que se alcance un consenso para su aprobación.²

14. Review of Field Programmes

14. Examen des programmes de terrain

14. Examen de los Programas de Campo

F. RINVILLE (Sous-Directeur général, Département du Développement): Pendant plus de 2 décennies l'examen du programme de terrain que vous avez en main aujourd'hui sous la référence C 89/4 a permis de présenter aux agents et donateurs de la FAO la description et l'évaluation des activités d'assistance technique au niveau des pays.

2 Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

Ce sont aujourd'hui quelques 2 500 projets qui sont en cours d'exécution dans 140 pays pour un budget total dépassant milliards de dollars et correspondant à une dépense annuelle d'environ quelques 350 millions de dollars, soit plus en apparence que le programme régulier. Mais c'est une dépense d'une nature très différente, ce qui interdit de pousser plus loin la comparaison des chiffres.

L'examen bien sûr ne peut être résumé et une synthèse des informations fournie par les nombreuses divisions et unités de la FAO participent à la préparation et à la mise en oeuvre des activités de terrain, y compris les représentations de la FAO dans les pays.

Comme avant, nous nous sommes attachés à présenter ces informations sous la forme la plus concise possible, avec un grand souci de franchise et de clarté dans l'exposé des forces et des faiblesses qui caractérisent les performances et les résultats de cet ensemble hétérogène de projets dans tant de pays.

Quand je dis le mot "clarté", je voudrais utiliser le mot "transparence". Il a exprimé le souci que le Secrétariat a de livrer à notre jugement les informations critiques qu'il a rassemblées. J'ai toutefois trouvé que le mot transparence pouvait avoir en français une connotation de passivité: "laisser passer la lumière sans la mettre en valeur"; alors je suis revenu au mot clarté.

Le présent examen comporte un premier chapitre qualitatif qui décrit les tendances générales, un second chapitre quantitatif qui se concentre sur l'évaluation critique des activités opérationnelles et de leurs résultats (et qui en retient les leçons pour les projets futurs) un troisième chapitre, traditionnellement consacré à un budget particulier et qui cette fois traite du soutien à l'investissement et enfin un quatrième chapitre qui a pour objet de dégager les grandes tendances et les nouvelles approches qui caractériseront les activités opérationnelles de la FAO dans les années qui viennent.

Sans entrer dans les détails de ce document dont vous disposez tous, je voudrais vous présenter un certain nombre d'observations et de commentaires.

Comme le montre le rapport, les dépenses annuelles du programme du terrain augmentent maintenant régulièrement et devraient atteindre le niveau record de 360 millions de dollars cette année (en argent courant). La cause principale de cette croissance, c'est le programme FAO/PNUD dont les approbations se poursuivent à un niveau élevé. La FAO et le PNUD ont ainsi coopéré activement à tous les niveaux pendant ce biennium, et les résultats sont fructueux. Les deux comités du programme et des finances ont insisté sur l'importance de cette coopération. Chaque fois qu'il y a eu des problèmes, nous nous sommes efforcés de les résoudre dans un esprit d'ouverture et de franchise. De nouvelles règles de remboursement des dépenses d'appui aux opérations financées par le PNUD sont à l'heure actuelle à l'étude, et nous en reparlerons en Commission III (point 23.3).

J'ajouterai que la dernière Conférence des contributions du PNUD les 30 et 31 octobre derniers nous permet d'espérer une augmentation de 5% des ressources du PNUD en 1990 par rapport à 1984, ce qui représenterait en valeur absolue près de 1,3 milliard de dollars.

Le Chapitre 2 est consacré à l'évaluation et à l'analyse critique de nos activités de terrain. Elles reposent sur deux séries d'évaluations, de nature différentes; d'une part sur celles de nos représentants de la FAO, d'autre part sur les 130 rapports d'évaluation de projets très détaillés, préparés par des missions d'évaluation indépendantes et ensuite synthétisés par le Service d'évaluation de la FAO.

Je crois que ce chapitre nest réservé ni en franchise, ni en critique, et nous nous sommes livrés à l'analyse détaillée de ce qui fait que les projets sont des succès ou des échecs. Une attention toute particulière a été apportée à l'analyse des difficultés rencontrées dans les pays les moins développés et ceci a été apprécié par les deux comités du programme et des finances. Alors qu'en général, constat est fait que la réalisation des projets s'est améliorée sur bien des points, on tire aussi de ces évaluations de nombreux et importants enseignements pour le futur. Je souligne à ce propos les travaux que nous menons en permanence au sein de notre Organisation pour améliorer les conditions de mise en oeuvre de nos activités de terrain sous tous leurs aspects opérationnels, techniques et administratifs, dans une recherche très orientée d'efficacité de fiabilité et de qualité. C'est ainsi que dans le cadre très coordonné du Comité du Programme de terrain, un plan d'action a été récemment présenté et approuvé. La mise en oeuvre des 33 mesures qu'il a identifiées comme prioritaires est très largement engagée.

Les autres mesures préconisées, en plus grand nombre encore, seront progressivement mises en oeuvre à la mesure de la capacité que nous avons de bien les absorber et de bien les mettre en oeuvre. Au sein du même Comité du Programme de terrain, un autre groupe de travail vient de terminer il ya quelques jours l'inventaire et l'analyse détaillée des systèmes informatisée qui supportent d'une façon ou d'une autre le Programme de terrain (il sont plus de trente) et de l'ensemble des besoins recensés chez les opérateurs de ce programme; les conclusions de ce travail considérable permettront d'établir le cahier des charges du système global qui, utilisant les sous-systèmes existants, permettra l'introduction d'eau, l'accès à et le traitement de toutes les informations et données du Programme de terrain pour en assurer la gestion dans les meilleures conditions et pour en valoriser toutes les retombées permettant notamment la fertilisation croisée du programme régulier et du Programme de terrain.

Au moment d'en venir brièvement au Chapitre 3 consacré à l'investissement, je souhaiterais insister sur cette activité de soutien direct de la FAO à la promotion des investissements qui est tout à fait unique au sein du système des Nations Unies. Ce rôle est dévolu au Centre d'investissement qui concentre toutes les activités de ce type. Les performances sont impressionnantes, comme le montre le détail présenté dans le document, avec plus de 34 milliards de dollars de projets approuvés pour financement, aboutissement de 25 années d'identification et de préparation d'investissements.

Ce travail est à la fois important et complexe, et nous nous sommes efforcés de faire une présentation équilibrée et cohérente des différentes activités entreprises, sans sous-estimer les problèmes rencontrés. Et je saisis cette occasion pour appeler votre attention sur le facteur essentiel qui conditionne la qualité d'un projet et ses chances de réussite: la qualité des professionnels qui en assurent la conception et la préparation. Les personnels du Centre d'investissement ont un profil professionnel très recherché dans le monde. Leur recrutement est exposé à la très dure concurrence d'autres organismes plus généreux en matière de rémunération. Le

devenir de notre Organisation et sa capacité de servir et d'assister utilement les pays les plus pauvres est lié à sa possibilité de recruter les meilleurs. La conséquence la plus directe de ce problème grandissant, c'est pour ne pas abandonner la qualité au prix de la facilité, l'allongement inquiétant du temps nécessaire au recrutement de ces professionnels (18 mois maintenant).

Je voudrais aussi appeler votre attention sur le fait que le Centre d'investissement est maintenant de plus en plus sollicité pour des études de politique sectorielle ou préalable à l'investissement et que les efforts pour promouvoir l'investissement à la suite des projets d'assistance technique de la FAO ont eu de notables résultats; il faut toutefois faire plus et mieux pour, comme le rappelle l'examen, introduire les bases du préinvestissement dans les projets de terrain. Le Comité du programme a considéré que c'était une composante essentielle de l'action de la FAO pour promouvoir l'investissement, légitimant ainsi notre préoccupation.

Le chapitre final de l'examen sur les grands courants qui guideront aujourd'hui les activités de terrain, jette un regard sur leur évolution, à la fois en terme d'orientation sur le fond et sur la manière dont elles sont réalisées au niveau du pays. Au cours des années, l'approche de la FAO en matière d'opérations de terrain a dû s'adapter à la diversification croissante et aux changements des objectifs et des priorités des pays récipiendaires.

Comme l'Organisation a aussi dû s'adapter aux objectifs généraux et aux politiques arrêtées lors des réunions régionales et internationales comme la Conférence Mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural en 1979, les déclarations sur la coopération technique entre pays en développement au sein du système des Nations Unies et la tendance générale à ce que l'on pourrait appeler, dans tous les pays, "le développement dans l'autonomie".

Pour atteindre ces objectifs, ce chapitre montre combien la formation est maintenant plus importante que jamais auparavant au sein de nos préoccupations. Ce sont 70 000 personnes par an qui font l'objet de formation par la voie et par le biais de projets, un résultat que le Comité du Programme a considéré comme très remarquable. Je voudrais aussi attirer votre attention sur la pratique très intensive de l'emploi de personnels nationaux dans les projets, aussi bien au niveau des directeurs de projet que des experts. Dans la même ligne, il faut noter le soutien que l'Organisation apporte à l'exécution des projets par les gouvernements, une modalité en pleine croissance de l'assistance financée par le PNUD.

L'importance grandissante des ONG au niveau le plus concret de l'exécution de bien des projets de terrain et une focalisation beaucoup plus forte sur le rôle déterminant des femmes dans le développement rural sont aussi mises en valeur dans ce chapitre.

En conclusion de ces remarques, puis-je exprimer l'espoir que la discussion de ce document qui couvre le plus important domaine d'activités de l'Organisation soit aussi vivant que constructif. Sans oublier que le Programme de terrain et le programme régulier sont autant liés l'un à l'autre et autant complémentaires que l'arbre et ses racines. Et puisqu'il est si souvent demandé d'inscrire le programme de terrain dans le cadre strict des priorités du programme régulier, je me permets d'utiliser la même image sous la forme d'une question: dans un arbre quelle racine nourrit quelle branche? Il n'y a bien sûr pas de réponse. Tout l'appareil racinaire contribue à

l'édification de la totalité du tronc et du houppier. Les racines principales que j'appellerai par analogie "prioritaires" jouent certes le plus grand rôle, mais les racines secondaires et les radicules sont nécessaires et indispensables pour que l'arbre vive et se développe.

J'ai déjà été trop long, près de dix minutes, pendant lesquelles la population mondiale s'est accrue de 1 500 personnes dont au moins 1 000 dépendront de la solidarité internationale pour vivre.

Mes collègues et moi-même seront à votre écoute attentive et à votre disposition pour toute explication complémentaire que vous pourriez souhaiter.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci M. Rinvile pour cette introduction. Evidemment la liste est ouverte sur ce point 14 de l'Ordre du jour. Nous allons commencer par le Représentant du Pakistan.

Jamal Ahmad KHAN (Pakistan): The delegation of Pakistan would like to thank the secretariat for the clear and comprehensive document on the Review of Field Programmes 1988-89 and for its presentation by Mr Rinvile. The document is analytical, well-structured and clear in its content. It presents in a nutshell a very comprehensive review of FAO's actions in the developing countries. The critical approach adopted by the authors in examining the strength and weakness of the field programmes is particularly worthy of our appreciation. Although the volume of the extra-budgetary expenditures on field projects during 1988-89 reached a record high level of over US\$ 700 million, in real terms the expenditures still remain below the level reached in 1980-81. This decline in real terms is of course a cause of concern both for the FAO and the developing countries. Within the context of the total expenditures my delegation is pleased to see a rising share of delivery going to Africa, a continent which needs the FAO assistance more than any other developing region, but we note with concern that the share of Asia and the Pacific, as the largest segment of the world's population, remained at only 23 percent in 1988-89, a three-point decline from the value reached in 1980-81.

Our delegation also applauds the work of the Investment Centre in generating capital assistance from the financing institutions into developing countries. We are in favour of strengthening this important work of FAO with a view to assisting the developing countries in the preparation of projects funded entirely from national resources. In this regard our delegation has appreciated including a special chapter, Chapter Three, devoted to the work of the Investment Centre, and we welcome in particular the section on issues and prospects included on pages 99 to 102. Chart 1.5 on page 13 shows only 2 percent of the extra-budgetary expenditures devoted to research and technology development. This in the opinion of our delegation is far too little, especially when considering the great need for the transfer of available and unused technology to the developing countries in improving their agriculture. We hope that this deficiency will be rectified in the near future. Then Chart 1.7 on page 23 shows a rising trend in the share of developing countries with respect to the recruitment of field experts by the FAO and replacement of Fellowships. Our delegation contends this effort.

However, it is disturbing to see that the share of developing countries in the contracts awarded and the equipment purchased has been declining in recent years. Perhaps the secretariat may wish to elaborate on the causes for this declining trend.

As we have repeatedly heard during the last several years, the developing countries are very much satisfied with the TCP. It provides services quickly, efficiently and effectively. We feel that the share of the TCP in the overall Regular Programme resources in the recent past has been inadequate and we hope that this will be increased in the coming biennium.

The Pakistan delegation is impressed by the comprehensive and critical assessment of the projects given in Chapter Two of the Review. The assessment of the field projects conducted by the FAO Representatives is extremely useful and points out the strength and weaknesses of the field projects with respect to objectives, design, government involvement, output, transfers of skill and follow-up prospects. On the whole, the ranking shown at Table 2.2 on page 32 is encouraging despite there being some variation in the performance of projects between LDCs and non-LDCs. The synthesis of evaluation reports for 1987-88 is again rich in substance and reveals many facets of the performance of field projects. Table 2.4 on page 46 shows a marked improvement in all aspects of project performance during 1987-88 compared with 1981-82. The overall assessment is indeed encouraging. The percentage distribution of projects rated as good has improved markedly and that rated as unsatisfactory has dropped sharply. The assessment of evaluation results is further enriched by the performance of projects in LDCs and non-LDCs, as shown in Table 2.7 and 2.8 on pages 52 and 53. Here the projects in the LDCs fall short of the desired performance when compared with those of the non-LDCs in the generation of output and effects. This analysis signified in our view that greater attention may need to be paid in the design of projects in the LDCs and that greater efforts may be required to increase their management and technical capacities.

We feel that the synthesis of the evaluation results is extremely useful for the membership and we would like to see this line of approach pursued for future reviews as well, wherein we are enabled to see a sharply focused treatment of some specific categories of field work, such as in-country projects or projects in a particular sub-sector.

Finally, Chapter Four of the Review raises many issues related to the utilization of the national staff and project management. Our delegation agrees with the views expressed here but wishes to stress the need for greater use of national directors in the execution of field projects, greater projects in promoting self-reliance and also being mindful of the needs of the under-privileged, by which I mean the youth, within the rural population.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nos complace mucho haber sido precedidos en el uso de la palabra por nuestro distinguido colega y amigo el señor Embajador del Pakistán, cuya interesante declaración compartimos en términos generales. Los representantes de Colombia pensamos que, a través de más de 20 años, este documento ha venido perfeccionándose, afirmándose en su claridad y franqueza y permitiendo así un amplio y concienzudo examen de los importantes programas de Campo de nuestra Organización. Estos conceptos coinciden con lo que dice

el Comité del Programa en el párrafo 2.36 del documento LIM 19 que se nos ha distribuido recientemente, en el cual el Comité del Programa expresó su satisfacción por la estructura, claridad y contenido analítico de este examen.

El examen del bienio que termina confirma, una vez más, la forma progresiva como han venido mejorando las actividades de campo de la FAO. Afortunadamente han quedado atrás, ya muy lejos en el recuerdo del pasado, los años en que los expertos que se enviaban a nuestros países eran casi todos profesionales que no hablaban nuestro idioma; les hacían daño nuestras comidas; no realizaba ningún esfuerzo por adaptarse al medio donde trabajaban; vivían muy alejados de las realidades locales, sin contacto con la gente del país donde estaban ubicados y decían trabajar. Dos o tres años después esos expertos copiaban los informes de sus antecesores; regresaban a Roma con ahorros en sus bolsillos para ser destinados a otros países y así seguir ese ballet interminable de experiencias desafortunadas a través de las cuales nada quedaba a los Estados beneficiarios, con el agravante de que muchos de esos gobiernos -como aparentemente eso no les costaba nada a los países- ponían en práctica indiferentemente el proverbio popular de que "a caballo regalado no se le mira el diente".

Nò existían los representantes de la FAO en los países, funcionarios propios de la FAO como hoy, para seguir con personería propia las actividades sobre el terreno. Un funcionario menor del PNUD era el Representante de la FAO. Naturalmente se preocupaba más por los asuntos del PNUD, ya que a la FAO ni siquiera estaba vinculado burocráticamente, pues su sueldo lo recibía de la otra Organización.

El apoyo técnico de la sede se suministraba sola y aisladamente desde esta bella Roma, donde los llamados expertos, cómodamente, muellemente, sentados en sus escritorios diagnosticaban los problemas de los países, con desconocimiento absoluto de las condiciones económicas, sociales y humanas de esos Estados.

Ha sido un largo proceso, mediante el cual se han ido consolidando las nuevas dimensiones que desde 1975 adoptó la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas al aprobar la Resolución 3405, dirigida a incorporar la mayor contribución posible en la cooperación técnica de la capacidad nacional de cada país beneficiario.

Cómo no sentirnos complacidos hoy con el dato que nos ofrece este documento, en el sentido de que ha aumentado el número de personal nacional en los proyectos, hasta el punto de que el personal de los países en desarrollo representa ahora casi la mitad de todos los expertos de campo de la FAO, de contratación internacional.

Casi el 50 por ciento de las becas de estudio se realiza en instituciones de países en desarrollo. Pero no son datos solamente cuantitativos, sino fundamentalmente cualitativos, como lo dijo el distinguido Embajador de Pakistán. La calidad de los expertos en los países en desarrollo ha mejorado considerablemente y las instituciones de nuestros estados se han tecnificado y fortalecido.

Todo eso es el fruto afortunado de un Programa de Campo como el de la FAO, llevado a cabo de manera tan positiva y adecuada, que sus beneficios para los países en desarrollo son múltiples, con proyecciones de prolongación y consolidación en el futuro. Claro que este reconocimiento no es pasivo ni de simple conformidad con estas mejoras, sino que por el contrario esperamos que con todo esto se consolide, se incremente y se fortalezca en el porvenir.

Otra realización importante: los Directores Nacionales de Proyectos han venido aumentando considerablemente. Eran sólo 100 al principio de este decenio, se incrementaron a 130 pocos años más tarde, a 170 en el bienio 1986-87 y en 1988-89 son más de 300. Ese incremento confirma la calidad y competencia de los Directores Nacionales de Proyectos, que la FAO debe seguir formando y estimulando. Los países en desarrollo, progresivamente han demostrado que tienen cada vez más y más personal capaz y competente y la FAO y el PNUD deben seguir estimulándoles. De 300 Directores Nacionales de Proyectos debemos pasar a 500 lo más pronto posible.

A partir de 1976, una de las dos innovaciones afortunadas introducidas por el Director General, que iniciaba sus altas funciones, permitió la designación de funcionarios propios de la Organización, como Representantes de la FAO en los países.

Es satisfactorio reconocer, como lo demuestra este documento, la forma activa, de seguimiento, evaluación y recomendaciones, que vienen haciendo los Representantes en los países, como contribución muy válida al mejoramiento de las actividades de campo. En Colombia, estamos plenamente satisfechos con la labor que lleva a cabo el Sr. Bastanchuri, Representante de la FAO.

Una de las últimas acertadas actuaciones de la FAO ha sido la de apoyar la política definida por el Consejo de Administración del PNUD - espero que en esta sala esté el Representante del PNUD, porque vamos a dirigirle algunas preguntas -. Esa política del Consejo de Administración del PNUD está dirigida a que, progresivamente, los gobiernos mismos de los países beneficiarios puedan ir ejecutando, parcial o totalmente, los proyectos.

La ejecución de los proyectos por los propios gobiernos, es un paso importante en el desplazamiento de la asistencia hacia la cooperación técnica, con el objetivo final de la autosuficiencia de los países en desarrollo. Es muy satisfactorio el hecho de que este documento señale que la modalidad "ejecución por el gobierno", en 1988, alcanzó el 12 por ciento de todos los proyectos financiados por el PNUD y más del 15 por ciento en la aprobación de nuevos proyectos, aumento que es promisorio para el futuro. Veintisiete es mi número preferido en la ruleta, 27 por ciento sería una cifra atractiva para el porvenir.

Los Representantes de Colombia apoyamos plenamente la contribución que la FAO ha ofrecido para que mediante sus proyectos de campo se creen las condiciones que hacen posible la "ejecución por el gobierno" como alternativa viable y posible, mediante asesoramiento y asistencia adecuados para la identificación, formulación y diseño de los proyectos. En nuestro informe sobre este tema, debemos alentar al PNUD y a la FAO a que prosigan sus empeños en favor de la "ejecución de proyectos por el gobierno", ya que esa modalidad fortalecerá la capacidad técnica y administrativa nacionales y representará notables ventajas para los países beneficiarios en todos los órdenes.

A principios de este año, nos había alarmado mucho el descenso de la participación de la FAO en la ejecución de proyectos financiados en fondos del PNUD. Porque - no obstante todo - el PNUD sigue siendo la fuente más importante de recursos para la FAO y la FAO sigue siendo la primera agencia de ejecución del PNUD. Los Representantes de Colombia esperamos que habrá de mantenerse esa constructiva relación, para bien de los países en desarrollo y nos complació que el Sr. Rinvile en su excelente presentación se refiriera a las buenas relaciones entre la FAO y el PNUD,

Sin embargo, nos sigue preocupando la tendencia negativa - que se manifestó particularmente a mediados de este decenio - sobre el descenso de la participación de la FAO en proyectos ejecutados con recursos del PNUD. En los años setenta esa participación alcanzó un nivel hasta del 31 por ciento. Ahora el Cuadro 1.2 indica un 31 por ciento en 1972, para bajar hasta tan sólo el 19 por ciento en 1988. Este es un descenso considerable que nos preocupa profundamente. Causas de este descenso han sido la proliferación de organismos de ejecución y, sobre todo, la Oficina de Servicios de Proyectos, la OSP, del PNUD. Teníamos la impresión de que la OSP se había calmado un poco, pero ahora este documento dice que ha tenido una reciente y rápida expansión, además del último invento llamado "servicios de gestión". Quisiéramos que el Representante del PNUD nos dijera en qué consiste este servicio de gestión en este importante Organismo.

Los Representantes de Colombia apoyamos la posición de la FAO, en el sentido de que, en todas las oportunidades, cuando se trate de proyectos que caigan dentro del mandato de nuestra Organización, la FAO deba ser consultada plena y oportunamente y le sea otorgada la responsabilidad de ejecutar estos proyectos a la FAO. Esperamos que esto que consideramos importante conste en nuestro informe.

Esas consultas asegurarían la famosa coordinación, por la cual nos hemos batido en el pasado, y asegurarán las buenas relaciones entre el PNUD y la FAO, que son esenciales.

En el Gráfico 1.4 que aparece en la página 13 del texto en castellano, América Latina y el Caribe aparece con el menor porcentaje, el 9 por ciento, entre la ejecución por parte de la FAO de proyectos con recursos del PNUD. Como entendemos que el promedio para nuestra región total de los recursos del PNUD en el campo agrícola es del 20 o 23 por ciento, quisiéramos preguntar si esa diferencia hasta el 9 por ciento consiste en que la FAO está ejecutando menos proyectos porque los gobiernos no han asignado prioridad suficiente al sector agrícola, porque la OSP está ejecutando más proyectos o como esperamos, la tercera alternativa, que ojalá fuera la respuesta, porque la FAO está, como dijimos antes, apoyando la política del Consejo de Administración del PNUD en favor de la ejecución de proyectos por parte de los propios gobiernos.

Como ahora, aquí en esta Organización, a raíz del examen que vamos a estudiar a partir del próximo lunes se habla mucho de modificar las estructuras de la FAO, e inclusive de la necesidad de que se aplique un enfoque regional, nosotros pensamos que si en verdad queremos que la FAO utilice el mejoramiento de la capacidad técnica de los representantes de los países en desarrollo, podríamos volver a la propuesta que hemos hecho en el pasado de que en las Oficinas Regionales y en ciertas oficinas clave de los países en cada región se ubiquen grupos de acción, grupos de altos profesionales, especializados muy elevadamente, para que así puedan desde allí, de manera más pragmática, fácil y directa prestar asesoría por corto tiempo y de alto nivel a los países de cada región. Está superado el tiempo en que muchos de

los países en desarrollo necesitaban todavía asistencia técnica tradicional, expertos menos capacitados, por 3 o 4 años. Ahora la evolución de los problemas indica la necesidad de expertos más altamente calificados por períodos de menor duración.

De todas maneras, a pesar de estos comentarios que pueden parecer un poco negativos, afortunadamente este documento confirma que durante el bienio 1988-89 continuó la gradual expansión iniciada hace cuatro años, aunque las cifras estén aún muy por debajo de los niveles alcanzados hace algunos años y tampoco esas cifras correspondan a las necesidades crecientes del tercer mundo. Ojalá corresponda a la realidad el anuncio de que las perspectivas de ulterior expansión de los programas de campo son alentadoras en los próximos años, por el aumento registrado en los recursos del PNUD y por la mayor atención que dicho Programa concede ahora a los sectores de la agricultura y de la alimentación. Naturalmente, la más alta prioridad que los gobiernos concedan al sector dentro de la CIP será definitiva. Todo ello sería deseable e indispensable, porque, por otra parte, los fondos fiduciarios se han mantenido estables y el PCT disminuyó en 1988-89 y no va a incrementar en el bienio 1990-91 por razones que preferimos omitir.

Debemos rendir homenaje especial a la valiosa labor adelantada por el Centro de Inversiones, como lo ha dicho el Sr. Rinvile, Centro de Inversiones que en sus 25 años de existencia, que celebramos hace poco, ha contribuido a generar más de 34 000 millones de dólares en inversiones agrarias en 108 países. Este documento demuestra objetivamente cómo la FAO ha seguido con toda atención y eficacia los cambios de la natural y lógica evolución que tiene lugar en la forma de conseguir y ejecutar la asistencia al desarrollo agrícola a la luz de las necesidades y prioridades cambiantes de los países en desarrollo.

Los programas de campo de la FAO han actuado con la flexibilidad y competencia indispensables para adaptarse a las nuevas situaciones en tantos estados del tercer mundo. Es admirable que esta labor la FAO la haya llevado a cabo con pleno respeto por la soberanía de los gobiernos beneficiarios, a los que sigue correspondiendo la orientación general y la primaria responsabilidad de los proyectos de campo. Dentro de este marco la FAO ha ejercido una función de supervisión general y asesoramiento técnico y político, en forma que merece el reconocimiento de la comunidad internacional.

Este documento es verdaderamente rico en datos, cifras, hechos, realizaciones, pero miro el reloj, tenemos un almuerzo y el tiempo avanza... Quiero concluir diciendo que el Gobierno colombiano está muy satisfecho con la asistencia global que el PNUD ofrece a nuestro país. Destacamos la magnífica labor que cumple, con capacidad e inteligencia, el Director del PNUD para América Latina y el Caribe, Dr. Augusto Ramírez Ocampo. El Representante del PNUD en Colombia, Sr. Arturo Hein Cáceres, desempeña también con eficiencia su tarea de Coordinador de las actividades de las Naciones Unidas.

Finalmente, algunas preguntas muy concretas y específicas al Representante del PNUD, que esperamos esté en esta sala: ¿Cuáles son las últimas novedades sobre la posibilidad de que los recursos del PNUD se sigan consolidando e incrementando en el futuro? ¿Cómo son ahora, a juicio del PNUD, las relaciones con la FAO? ¿Sigue la luna de miel? ¿Se siguen adelantando las consultas a través de grupos de contacto, mesas redondas, cuadradas o como se les quiera llamar, para mejorar la coordinación entre la FAO y el PNUD? ¿La Oficina de Servicios de Proyectos del PNUD, la OSP, estabilizará su

participación en ejecución de proyectos en un 10 por ciento o incrementará esa participación, también a través de los servicios de gestión, sobre los cuales deseáramos conocer más? ¿Continuará el Consejo de Administración del PNUD su acertada política de ejecución por los gobiernos y qué medidas de asistencia a los países, para que puedan lograr esto cada vez más, está ofreciendo el PNUD junto con la FAO? ¿Estará dispuesto el PNUD, como lo deseamos, y espero que lo recomiende esta Comisión, a atender la solicitud de la FAO, en el sentido de que se le consulten a esta Organización todas las actividades de la OSP dentro de la CIP y de los servicios de gestión en el caso de proyectos agrícolas, naturalmente, y que a la FAO se le asigne la responsabilidad de ejecutar esos proyectos?

Ms Anna-Liisa KORHONEN (Finland) : First, I should like to thank Mr Rinville for his introductory statement. Over the past two years the FAO field operations have been under careful review. First, an in-house analysis has been made following the customary procedure. Its findings can be found in document C 89/4, which is the background material for this Agenda item. As part of the broader review of the Organization, an external review of FAO's field capacity and activities has been undertaken. These recommendations are up before this Conference, together with the views and recommendations of the Programme and Finance Committees, as well as those of the Director-General, in document C 89/21.

My delegation welcomes the opportunity to discuss this important review of FAO's activities by using all these documents during our debate. The in-house review document highlights recent developments and shows that FAO, like the other multi-lateral agencies, is also facing a rapidly-changing external environment in which its field programmes operate. Certain common features from the review can be discerned as follows.

Africa is the centre of attention. Policy analysis is gaining more weight. National project staff are increasing. Programmes instead of projects are receiving more attention and the human resources development component is gaining more prominence in programmes, thus placing stronger emphasis on national responsibility in field programmes at all levels. Finland welcomes these general trends, but at the same time requests for assistance are becoming more complex. Evolutionary reports often indicate that successful programme implementation cuts across sectors which again require multi-faceted experience of a non-traditional nature in programme design and implementation.

Throughout the review process of FAO's goals and objectives, Finland has emphasized the need to build on accumulated knowledge so that the future direction of the Organization can be on a solid basis. To a certain extent, the document fulfills this requirement. It contains information from the past and present situation, but stops there to a large extent. It does not contain specific proposals for changes which this Conference could discuss, even at a technical level, in order to give guidance to the Secretariat. Nor does it seek advice on priorities to be followed, keeping in mind the comparative advantage the Organization has in the field of agriculture.

Against this background, and bearing in mind the fact that the FAO Conference traditionally receives a retrospective review document on the Organization's fields of activities, my delegation would like to suggest certain improvements in the future presentation of the documents. First, Finland would like to receive a document which could present the Field Programme as a

part of FAO's overall effort to improve the world agricultural situation and which would indicate how the Field Programme addresses the needs of developing countries in this respect. In other words, it could show how the comparative advantage of the Organization has influenced the contents of the Field Programme at the planning stage.

Secondly, my delegation has noted from this year's Report that the recipient countries have already requested more assistance in the field of policy advice. This being so, it would be interesting to know how this type of assistance has influenced the content of the field programmes in related sub-sectors at the country level.

Thirdly, the relationship between technical assistance programmes and investment programmes should be explained more profoundly. If requests for the advisory type of assistance are increasing, the recipient governments should also be in a better position to link their technical assistance programmes with support for investment programmes. In the present Report such an analysis is missing.

Fourthly, the document before us does not explain in any detail those changes which are taking place in the more traditional field projects. Therefore, next time it would be of interest to learn how the comparative advantage of the Organization is reflected in these projects. My delegation would also welcome information about projects which have been rejected because the Organization has felt that other funding sources would provide better for the required inputs and therefore the potential for the Organization's comparative advantage would not be used to justify the financing of those projects.

Fifthly, the report contains much valuable information which is of a technical nature. In our view, a report like this should avoid technicalities and rather emphasize future challenges and policy orientations. This is what the Report does, at least partially, in the field of financing. However, my delegation would not be so optimistic of our financial prospects. Finland is convinced that in the field of development cooperation the agricultural sector will be prominent. What we are not so sure about is the magnitude of assistance to be channelled through various organizations. There are important policy considerations going on about the scope of assistance in the 1990s throughout the United Nations system. Some countries have already reached the stage where they have all the capabilities for the national implementation of their own programme. Some other countries have not yet reached that stage. Therefore, the kind of request which the developing countries are likely to present may greatly differ in their content and actual funding requirements.

Keeping this in mind, my delegation would like to state that the term "FAO's share of UNDP resources" in the document before us gives us some concern. The share of UNDP funds that agriculture receives is a result of decisions that individual recipient countries have gained in the use of their IBFs. Thus, it cannot be considered as a share for FAD. Rather, it reflects a share for Africa in the UNDP funding programmes, where FAO serves as an executive agency. How much FAO will be used as an executive agency at the implementation stage is another matter. In future it should not be the main focus in the reporting to the Conference.

More important is the quality of the advice that FAO is able to give. This does not mean that my delegation does not consider FAO as a main source of expertise and thus a national executive agency for UNDP-funded programmes in the field of agriculture. The point is that FAO's success as a provider of assistance should not be measured in quantitative terms only.

Sixthly, my delegation feels it to be important that the FAO's field programme evaluation does not continue to be so heavily dependent on FAO's country representatives. Surely they have an important role to play, but they are part of the evaluation exercise as well. The independent inspectorate system which the Expert Group on the Field Programme has proposed should be studied carefully. The quality of Headquarters backstopping is equally important. My delegation believes that these improvements inside the Secretariat would certainly improve the present situation.

Finland would like to state once again that at the inter-governmental level the Field Programme Review does not receive the attention it deserves if the Conference discusses this issue only for one day or even less. My delegation will have an opportunity to return to these matters when the item on the FAO Review will be taken up.

Lastly, Finland would like to see a much more thorough analysis in all forms of FAO's role in directional activities for regional development as part of the UN system-wide effort. Coordination at the field level is an issue which must be properly addressed, taking into account the primary responsibility of the governments in this matter. The study in agency support arrangements is now near to completion and that must be kept in mind when FAO's field operations in the 1990s are discussed. In view of these comments, in two or three years' time my delegation will look forward to receiving a much more action-oriented report, containing specific proposals and options which the Secretariat have offered to FAO's membership for guidance. Thank you.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie la représentante de la Finlande. Je crois qu'avec cette intervention nous allons mettre fin au débat de ce matin. Je voudrais demander s'il y a des membres de notre Commission qui souhaiteraient prendre la parole cet après-midi pour qu'ils s'inscrivent. Nous avons pris note de tous ceux qui souhaitent intervenir cet après-midi.

The meeting rose at 12 h 45

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 89/II/PV/8

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

EIGHTH MEETING HUITIEME SEANCE OCTAVA SESION (17 November 1989)

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission II/ presiding

La huitième séance est ouverte à 15 heures
sous la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya/ Président de la Commission II

Se abre la octava sesión a las 15.00 horas
bajo la presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya. Presidente de la Comisión II

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

- 14. Review of Field Programmes (continued)
- 14. Examen des programmes de terrain (suite)
- 14. Examen de los Programas de Campo (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Mesdames, Messieurs, nous allons reprendre nos travaux. Comme vous le savez, cette séance est encore consacrée à l'examen du point 14 que nous avons entamé ce matin.

Sur ma liste, je note que le Représentant du PNUD a demandé la parole. Comme pour tous les représentants, je voudrais lui dire qu'il lui faut attendre que les pays membres interviennent d'abord avant qu'il ne puisse lui-même intervenir dans la mesure où d'autres membres auront peut-être le loisir de poser des questions au PNUD ou de lui faire des observations. Je pense qu'il serait bon qu'il puisse répondre en bloc.

Voilà pourquoi je crois, comme d'ailleurs nous en avons l'habitude, que les observateurs doivent intervenir en dernier ressort.

Jean-Pierre POLY (France): Ma délégation souhaite tout d'abord féliciter M. Rinvile et ses collaborateurs pour la qualité des documents préparés sur cet important sujet et pour la présentation concise et illustrée qui en a été faite.

La délégation française se félicite de la croissance ininterrompue depuis quatre ans du Programme de terrain dont les estimations de dépenses s'établissent à plus de 700 millions de dollars soit une augmentation de plus de 8% par rapport au précédent exercice.

Cette tendance au redressement du programme de terrain résulte, semble-t-il, essentiellement de l'augmentation constatée des ressources du PNUD et de son attention renouvelée aux secteurs de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

L'effort soutenu des donateurs au programme des fonds fiduciaires auquel mon pays a sensiblement accru sa participation au cours de cet exercice démontre, s'il en était besoin, le capital de confiance dont jouit notre Organisation.

Ma première observation portera sur la nécessaire complémentarité du Programme ordinaire et du Programme de terrain de la FAO, déjà évoquée par ma délégation lors de l'examen du point 12 de notre ordre du jour.

La délégation française observe tout d'abord que les documents du Secrétariat permettent difficilement d'apprécier les limites et la complémentarité de ces deux programmes.

Force est de constater que la crise de liquidités financières de la FAO au cours de l'exercice en voie d'achèvement a eu, sur le programme ordinaire, des conséquences fâcheuses, déjà longuement examinées, qui ont éprouvé sa capacité de soutien des programmes de terrain.

Dans ces conditions le programme de terrain a dû pallier certaines défaillances du programme ordinaire et concourir même au renforcement des moyens du siège.

Convenons que ces dispositions, pour nécessaires qu'elles soient dans la situation financière difficile de notre Organisation, obèrent fâcheusement ses capacités opérationnelles alors même que la demande d'assistance ne cesse de croître.

Ma délégation rappelle à cette occasion qu'il est nécessaire plus que jamais, à la lumière de l'expérience de ces deux années, de disposer d'un outil performant de contrôle et de suivi des activités opérationnelles de l'Organisation. Cet outil, je crois qu'il existe: c'est le Comité du programme. Je crois qu'il est inutile, et même dangereux, de multiplier les organes bureaucratiques de contrôle et c'est pourquoi je ne suis pas favorable à la création d'un nouveau comité que certains appellent de leurs vœux et qui serait plus particulièrement chargé de surveiller et de gérer le programme de terrain.

Ma seconde observation plus appréciative des activités de l'ensemble de l'Organisation portera sur le renforcement constaté des priorités du programme.

- renforcement tout d'abord au plan géographique puisqu'une nouvelle fois les activités de terrain de la FAO se sont plus particulièrement reportées sur l'Afrique avec 48% des dépenses de projet. Cette situation nous semble justifiée car c'est en Afrique que les risques de pénuries alimentaires et le déficit de la sécurité alimentaire sont les plus grands.

- renforcement également des priorités parmi les domaines d'assistance; même le caractère de plus en plus multidisciplinaire et intégré du programme, dont la délégation française se réjouit, rend délicate l'analyse des priorités effectives parmi les principaux programmes techniques de la FAO.

Le renforcement et l'amélioration de la production vivrière, de notre point de vue trop délaissés par le programme ordinaire, restent une priorité essentielle du programme de terrain de notre Organisation, quoique de plus en plus souvent abordée en tant qu'objectif d'un programme d'appui aux politiques alimentaires et agricoles.

Ma délégation se félicite également de la nette augmentation enfin constatée du pourcentage des activités totales consacré à la planification et à l'analyse des politiques ainsi qu'aux programmes de formation correspondants, d'ailleurs recommandé par le Comité du Programme (de 6 à 10% d'un exercice au suivant). Toutefois la délégation française considère que les capacités de l'Organisation doivent être renforcées pour traiter plus au fond ce problème dans un contexte d'ajustement structurel des économies nationales.

Je considère que les préoccupations renforcées maintes fois affirmées par l'Organisation à l'égard de la conservation et de la gestion des ressources naturelles dans la perspective d'un développement durable, même s'il s'agit là d'un thème d'intégration du Programme de terrain, devraient apparaître plus clairement dans le tableau de répartition par sous-programmes des dépenses extrabudgétaires.

Enfin ma délégation, sans oublier que le choix des priorités a pour contrepartie nécessaire le désengagement de l'Organisation dans certains secteurs, se déclare préoccupée par la régression des dépenses consacrées à l'élevage (de 17% à 11% du programme de terrain en six ans) tant il est vrai que les acquis de ce programme technique restent fragiles sur le terrain.

Ma troisième observation visera l'évolution rapide des voies et moyens du Programme de terrain.

La délégation française remarque la tendance confirmée à un recours croissant aux experts consultants recrutés pour de courtes durées plutôt qu'à un personnel de terrain résidant sur place pour de longues périodes. Cette meilleure adéquation des missions et des moyens de la FAO doit être saluée.

Parallèlement notre Organisation accorde, comme il convient, une attention accrue au renforcement des ressources humaines dont disposent les pays pour entreprendre par eux-mêmes les activités nécessaires à leur développement alimentaire et agricole. Dans ce but les programmes de formation de l'Organisation sont renforcés et le recours à des directeurs de projet et des spécialistes nationaux devient plus fréquent.

Cette participation en nombre croissant de spécialistes nationaux aux activités de la FAO nous est présentée comme avantageuse à plusieurs titres (adaptation du projet aux conditions locales facilitée pour le transfert des compétences et le relais des activités au terme du projet, souplesse des conditions d'emploi, barème des honoraires plus avantageux...) même si le Secrétariat convient des difficultés rencontrées, comme une connaissance imparfaite des règles et procédures de l'Organisation

Par ailleurs, la délégation française considère que le pourcentage des cadres associés dans le personnel de terrain de la FAO atteint un niveau préoccupant (entre 25% et 30% selon les sources d'information).

Il ne faudrait pas que la conjugaison de ces deux phénomènes - une place en croissance rapide pour l'expertise nationale d'une part et des cadres associés de plus en plus nombreux sur le terrain d'autre part - n'altère l'efficacité de certains projets du programme.

La délégation française se félicite du rôle de plus en plus important du Centre d'Investissement auquel mon pays a décidé d'apporter une contribution spécifique à travers son programme de cadres associés et un accord de coopération pour un programme conjoint d'identification, de formulation et de revue des projets de développement. Peut-être pourrions-nous souhaiter toutefois une implication plus importante du Centre d'Investissement pour l'exécution de certains programmes majeurs; Plan d'Action Forestier Tropical ou Programme d'Assistance à la Sécurité Alimentaire par exemple.

Ma dernière observation soulignera l'effort soutenu de la FAO dans le domaine de l'évaluation. Parmi les premiers enseignements tirés de ces évaluations, ma délégation retient plus particulièrement la nécessité, pour les activités de terrain menées par la FAO dans les PMA, de s'inspirer d'une stratégie complète de mise en place des institutions nécessaires.

Sans doute la mise en place d'un outil performant de gestion des activités opérationnelles de la FAO, d'ailleurs préconisée par le Directeur général dans ses commentaires sur l'examen de certains des buts et activités de l'Organisation, permettrait-elle, elle aussi, d'en accroître l'efficacité. Ma

délégation s'est déjà exprimée en faveur du projet PROSYS dont la fonction est non seulement d'assurer une gestion informatisée des programmes, mais également de permettre une meilleure évaluation des activités de l'ensemble du système, garante d'une réelle transparence.

Tels sont les principaux commentaires de la délégation française sur l'examen du Programme de Terrain qui complète ainsi notre analyse sur l'évolution des activités de notre Organisation.

Raymond ALLEN (United Kingdom) : We have come to what we regard now as virtually the most important item for this Conference. As I said in our earlier discussion of the Regular Programme, Britain sees the Field Programme as the real cutting-edge of FAO's work. This is where FAO can make its greatest impact on the real and urgent problems of developing countries.

Our own overriding single aim for FAO is that every dollar it spends through the Field Programme and its associated back-up should give maximum developmental value for money. We are sorry therefore that the Council found no time to discuss this.

Unlike the delegate of Venezuela, but like the delegate of Niger, we agree strongly with the Director-General that important evaluation and monitoring is essential for FAO's effectiveness and that "the feedback into future programmes and operations is the central rationale for evaluation as a management tool".

I want therefore first to look at what this Review and other documents submitted to the Conference tell us about the evaluation and feedback process in FAO, and secondly to mention some specific points which emerged very clearly from this document in particular.

The other papers relevant to this are of course the views of the group of experts who looked specifically at FAO's field operations and their conclusions and recommendations, and the two reports of the External Auditor - that is, C 89/5 and C 89/6.

First let me welcome the fact that over 50 percent of the Field Programme by value, goes to the least-developed countries. This of course primarily reflects the priorities of the funding agencies. But it points up a special need to reshape an approach to field assistance which takes primary account of the problems and requirements of institutional development in a limited number of reshaped and focused programmes, so that FAO's assistance can provide a critical mass of help to achieve lasting longer-term results in key areas.

Looking at the evaluation material presented in document C 89/4 and elsewhere we note the following points.

First, there is a high level of self-assessment. It is obvious that such assessments must vary in quality, but we are not able to judge this across the board because the individual studies, or a fully representative selection of them, are not published to Member States. We think this is an important gap in present arrangements, which we expect the Management to provide to all of us through the Programme and other Committees.

Second, the material in the Review gives us absolutely no information about the effectiveness of the Field Programmes' impact in relation to costs, a point I made in the Review of the Regular Programme. Evaluation is worth hardly anything if it does not examine cost-effectiveness, as distinct from achieving narrow technical objectives. The recipients do not know if they have had value for money and whether the results are worth the expense. Yet this material is absolutely essential for proper feedback.

Third, the External Auditor found "that no specific procedures had been established to guide staff in the feedback and monitoring of evaluation findings, nor was the recording of action taken required".

He also found that "routine analyses of evaluation results, by country, or by sector of activity, are not produced". Increased ad hoc requests show that this is a clear need. He reports that the Evaluation Service was able to decide its participation in project evaluations on the basis of annual plans only in the case of forestry, although existing guidance is that these plans should cover all Divisions. Finally, the Auditor notes that the Development Department had not established procedures to ensure feedback on a regular basis. And the Field Experts Group call for "more systematic use of the results of programme and project evaluations to improve FAO's performance".

I am sure that in the light of the Director-General's clear views, which we share, the secretariat will be able to tell us that more satisfactory arrangements are now to be made in all areas which I have mentioned. As the Expert Group said: "It is important to maintain and enhance the accountability and transparency of FAO's field work vis-à-vis Member Nations".

One of the improvements recorded by the self-evaluations summarized in C 89/4 is obviously in project identification and design. But the Review also clearly tells us that the project effects are really no better now than they were in 1981-82, and this is very disturbing.

Let us see if the documents before us can tell us why and whether any actions or changes in approach by FAO can lead to improved project impact.

First is the message we get from paragraphs 2.33, 2.123, 3.88 and related passages that field activities in the least-developed countries - and possibly more - need to be reorganized on the basis of fewer, longer-running, more concentrated programmes of institutional development.

The same message is given clearly by the relevant Expert Group, but this implies a major change in the approach of FAO staff. We should like a clear statement from the management that they accept the message which comes from their own field representatives. We then want to know how they propose to develop the skill of staff in FAO's operational divisions to enable them to design and implement projects which have the capacity to tackle the very difficult problems of institutional development.

The second reason for no impact improvement is given in the chapter of C89/4 dealing with the Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme in Africa. Here we find the encouraging story of projects quickly identified by special cross-divisional teams set up to look at FAO's activities across the board in each country with excellent involvement of field representatives. However, this story has a bitter ending: "There is no firm indication that the majority of ARPA projects performed better than the average". The reason given is that "The mechanism established during the formulation stage did not

have similar follow-up during the implementation stage... No special measures appear to have been taken to speed up processing and implementation... Responsibility for monitoring of the programme results and project follow-up were divided... Although sane ARPA projects were linked with on-going activities at the country level, the programme as a whole did not systematically address this linkage".

In other words, the country-by-country approach got things going well but when it had to be dropped they fell back. The lesson is the same as that given by both Expert Groups, especially the field programme experts who consistently stressed the need for a country-by-country approach and who say in paragraph 59 that in their opinion "some of the weaknesses of FAO's performance in the field operations are in part due to the fact that organizational structures have not changed... in step with changes and needs at the country level."

While the Expert Group resisted the temptation to propose specific structural changes, they made clear that things could not go on in the way they are now. My Minister did not resist the temptation, and we have set out our own views on what is needed in Plenary. We shall come back to all that in a later debate, but we are convinced that separate Headquarters responsibilities for identifying and formulating projects, for implementing them, and for monitoring and assessing them is a major weakness in the Organization.

Another test of the effectiveness of the Field Programme must be the extent to which it is a catalyst for what I might call "real money" - that is, for actual investments. Here I must praise the Secretariat for the excellent account of FAO's Investment Centre in this paper. Quite obviously it is a tremendously important service but it is disconcerting to see in paragraph 3.66 that only 10 percent of the Investment Centre's well-vetted projects which were actually approved for financing can claim a direct link with the Field Programme. This reinforces our feeling that developing Member States are not getting the best out of the Field Programme the way things are done now. We want FAO's Field Programme to be seen as a direct progenitor of far more agricultural investment than it is now. Meanwhile, we strongly welcome the conclusions of the Investment Centre's own evaluation work in paragraph 3.94.

One of the lessons of the Review is that "close and constructive collaboration with other donors" is cited as an important external factor for the success of FAO projects, especially in the least-developed countries. The same message again comes from the Field Experts' report, for instance in paragraph 36.

Finally on this group of questions, there is the recommendation of the Expert Group that Trust Funds should be used in a much more coherent and integrated way to achieve a more effective country programme. I couple with this our strong support for the plea by the delegate of Brazil in our earlier debate for better integration of the TCP with the aid of other multilateral organizations, and for better integration of the TCP with the aid of other multilateral organizations, and for its advance planning - especially to work up possible investment projects. I mention TCP because it is a field programme although it is not covered in the review.

In that earlier debate many delegations voiced concern over the 36 percent fall in training. The Field Programme Review, however, shews an increase in the share of training in the total to 13 percent. We welcome this. However, whilst figures of apparent output are given, there is no indication of any

post-evaluation to check on whether those trained are still doing the work for which their new skills equipped them; whether the content of training was relevant; and whether the training had a lasting impact on the country and its institutions as well as the individuals concerned. Since much training is also done under the Regular Programme, we propose that an in-depth, across-the-board evaluation be done on this very important modality (including tracer studies) for presentation to the 1991 Conference.

We also welcome the review of TCDC in the document. As it stresses, the real element of TCDC in FAO is the 50 percent or so of experts, consultants and training fellowships now provided from developing countries. We are glad that experience with the networks is being systematically surveyed and we endorse 150 percent the conclusion that:

".. given the extreme range of performance of the TCDC networks... attention should now be given to either adjusting and revitalizing (where feasible) or weeding out those networks which are failing... thus concentrating FAO inputs on those networks where clear evidence of results... has been demonstrated".

Finally, I would like to say something about national execution of projects and about FAO's relationship with UNDP. We welcome what is said about the first in paragraphs 4.42 - 4.51. It is obviously unreasonable to expect statistics to show that FAO was as much involved in government execution as in UNDP, since activities likely to be carried out by government execution are less liable to be financed by FAO's sources of finance. It is good to note that nowhere in the document does FAO treat government execution as an undesirable competition. We would hope in future that the terms recommended by the Director-General for development and international economic cooperation in his triennial review document "National Execution" will be adopted to make it clear that we are talking about execution by a body in the country - not necessarily the government - rather than outside experts. We hope that there will be a clarification of the international community's view on what government execution is in the triennial review and in the support costs study. It is clearly not just, as some countries seem to think of it, a way under which the government is paid the support costs which would normally have gone to the agencies.

As regards the UNDP, paragraph 1.15 still goes on about the evils of UNDP's Office of Project Services even though there is now an admission that the share of UNDP's core allocation has levelled off to under 10 percent and is hardly a threat to FAO. If FAO is more selective about its work, as recommended by the experts, then there must be another way of handling projects which FAO does not want to execute. OPS would be necessary for this purpose, to put the project out to an appropriate alternative - for example, a university. If there are justifiable complaints that FAO is not being fully consulted where its sectoral competencies are involved, Members should be aware of them and take them up when OPS is discussed in the UNDP Governing Council.

This part of document C 89/4 also suggests that it is UNDP's core activities which are supposed to finance the use of the UN system to provide technical cooperation. Other funds such as UNIFEM, the Capital Development Fund, have specific remits and it is a matter of judgment whether there is a need to involve other agencies. As it happens, the Capital Development Fund seems to use FAO for 80 percent of its activities and on page xxxi of the Budget, paragraph 3.15, we hear about "a strong increase in joint activities with the UNCDF".

Finally, FAO should not grumble so much about UNDP's "management services" • These were mentioned earlier by the distinguished delegate of Colombia, These are functions carried out by UNDP on a full repayment basis for donors who wish for specific services in managing projects. As is pointed out on paragraph 21 of document CL 96/4 (Report of the Programme Committee), OPS provides no technical backstopping. OPS is providing, under its management services, the services which the donor requests. If they wished specifically for backstopping by an agency, they would presumably direct their monies through the agency itself. The business is extra business for UNDP, nothing to do with its central funding role, and if there is any extra work in it for FAO, which is warranted, then it is a bonus.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Pour des raisons indépendantes de notre volonté, il ne nous a pas été malheureusement possible d'assister à l'exposé introductif du secrétariat sur le sujet en examen, mais selon le briefing qui nous en a été fait nous avons été assurés que le secrétariat n'a pas manqué à sa tradition de présentation claire que nous lui reconnaissons; pour ces deux raisons nous l'en remercions.

Au cours de cette semaine qui s'achève, une délégation d'un grand pays développé a indiqué dans sa déclaration générale en Plénière, au 3ème étage de ce bâtiment A qui abrite nos travaux, que la FAO n'est pas connue du grand public. Nous estimons que cette indication donne à réfléchir et signifie par là-même que du travail auprès du public de cet Etat Membre à part entière de l'Organisation reste à faire pour assurer une diffusion objective et fidèle de l'image de la FAO.

En tout état de cause, nous tenons à confirmer pour notre part que la FAO est bien connue au Congo où elle participe depuis plusieurs années déjà à la réalisation de quelques petits projets. Nous croyons savoir qu'il en est également ainsi dans la plupart des pays en développement, membres de la FAO.

S'il est des éléments qui ont contribué à rappeler aux pays du monde entier l'existence voici 45 ans déjà de la FAO, les programmes de terrain en sont assurément un des principaux.

Pour en venir au sujet qui nous occupe, nous dirons pour commencer que si l'on prend tout son temps pour l'analyser, un document tel que cet examen des programmes de terrain 1988-89 qui nous est soumis amène très vite à une série de commentaires dont le développement peut donner lieu à une longue intervention. Malheureusement, vu les limites du temps théoriquement imparti à chacune de nos interventions, de longs discours sont à déconseiller. Partant de cette dernière considération, nous avons dû nous-mêmes procéder à une certaine sélection d'éléments pour bâtir notre intervention et recourir à la méthode dite d'appréciation globale des programmes couverts par l'examen.

Ceci nous a conduit à regrouper nos observations en deux catégories, à savoir: celles concernant la présentation d'une part, et d'autre part, celles concernant le contenu de l'examen. Nous avons très peu à dire à propos de la présentation du document de cet examen des programmes de terrain de la FAO, nous apprécions sa bonne structure ainsi que la clarté de l'analyse qui en ressort.

Contenu de l'examen. Chapitre I: "Tendances et perspectives", Une fois de plus les activités de terrain de la FAO ont connu une nette augmentation au cours du biennium écoulé. A notre avis cette augmentation du volume des activités de terrain pour l'exercice 88-89 est une fois de plus la preuve que la FAO recèle encore une grande capacité d'action en rapport avec l'image de marque qu'elle inspire à tous ses Etats Membres.

Si la FAO a encore fait des progrès en réalisant plusieurs activités au cours du biennium écoulé, c'est à sa collaboration toujours plus étroite avec le PNUD qu'elle le doit. En effet, pour avoir su lui inspirer confiance, la FAO a réussi à faire du PNUD sa principale source de financement pour les nouveaux projets approuvés.

Ce faisant, nous exhortons la FAO et le PNUD à poursuivre et renforcer leur collaboration fructueuse au bénéfice des pays en développement et cela également lors de la tenue des tables rondes du PNUD.

De même, nous nous félicitons de la collaboration tout aussi étroite qu'entretient la FAO avec la Banque mondiale ainsi qu'avec tous les autres donateurs qui contribuent au financement des programmes et activités déployés par la FAO à l'appui de l'investissement.

Avec une part de 48 pour cent des ressources des programmes de terrain de la FAO, l'Afrique nous le reconnaissons a une fois de plus reçu une bonne place dans les priorités de l'Organisation au cours du biennium écoulé. Nous savons aussi que d'autres régions en développement sont elles aussi confrontées à de graves problèmes qui requièrent une action vigoureuse de la FAO. Cela étant, vous voudrez tout de même nous permettre de rappeler à tout un chacun que l'Afrique n'est pas encore pour autant sortie de la zone critique d'ombre. Pour cette dernière raison, nous demandons que la FAO continue encore à lui prêter toute l'attention et la priorité qu'elle mérite.

Chapitre 2: "Evaluation des projets de terrain": Nous apprécions à sa juste valeur l'analyse franche et critique des projets de terrain telle qu'elle nous est présentée par la FAO dans le chapitre 2 du document à l'examen et nous nous félicitons en particulier des mesures qu'elle envisage d'appliquer pour améliorer encore l'efficacité et l'efficience des projets de terrain à partir des leçons tirées de l'évaluation des projets antérieurs. Dans le cas présent qui nous occupe, les leçons tirées des projets réalisés dans les PMA. et de l'examen du programme de relèvement de l'agriculture en Afrique, programme qui a connu un réel succès, nous paraissent d'une très grande utilité dans la mesure où ces leçons visent à donner un cadre institutionnel approprié aux projets de terrain.

Tout en appréciant le rôle joué par les représentants de la FAO dans l'examen préalable des projets de terrain, nous recommandons que les gouvernements des pays bénéficiant de l'assistance de la FAO soient aussi étroitement associés à l'évaluation des projets de terrain pour leur permettre de mieux tirer parti des enseignements qui en découlent. Dans ce même cadre, nous souscrivons à la proposition préconisant la publication des résultats des évaluations de projets de terrain sous forme de brochures. Nous y voyons un moyen efficace pour assurer un échange fructueux des résultats des évaluations entre les Etats Membres de l'Organisation.

Chapitre 3: "Promotion de l'investissement agricole": Nous sommes reconnaissants à la FAO pour sa contribution au soutien et à la promotion des investissements dans les PEVD par l'intermédiaire de son centre d'investissement. Nous apprécions ce rôle que joue le centre d'investissement

de la FAO, centre dont l'efficacité force l'admiration de tous nos Etats et a incité les institutions financières internationales, telles la Banque mondiale et le FIDA, ainsi que les institutions financières régionales à recourir à ses services notamment dans le travail d'examen sectoriel et d'analyse des politiques liées aux programmes d'ajustement structurel.

Nous sommes en faveur du maintien du lien qui doit exister entre les projets d'assistance de la FAO et le suivi de l'investissement. De même, nous tenons au lien qui doit continuer d'exister entre le Programme ordinaire et les programmes de terrain.

Dans ce dernier cas, il est déplorable que la pression de la crise financière que connaît la FAO ait eu entre autres effets négatifs la tendance au déséquilibre de ce lien. Bien que quelques progrès aient été accomplis, nous incitons la FAO à poursuivre ses efforts pour la formation des cadres nationaux évoluant dans les projets de terrain car pour plusieurs pays en développement cette solution constitue bien souvent le seul biais, l'unique chance de se mettre à l'heure des bienfaits de la recherche et des techniques modernes. Il en va de même du recours plus fréquent que la FAO devrait encore faire en direction des experts des pays en développement. A ce stade de nos travaux nous souhaitons une fois de plus rappeler tout notre attachement au PCT en faveur duquel nous continuons à réclamer davantage de ressources.

Notre conclusion: depuis novembre 1961 date de notre adhésion à la FAO, cela fait 28 ans que le Congo et la FAO ont appris à se connaître. Au cours de ce laps de temps passé ensemble, le Congo, à l'instar des autres Etats Membres, a lui aussi reçu l'assistance de la FAO pour la préparation et la réalisation de quelques projets de développement rural, projets financés soit par les fonds du PCT soit par ceux du programme PNUD de la FAO soit encore par les fonds propres de notre gouvernement. Ainsi qu'il est facile de l'imaginer, cette coopération n'a pas tout le temps été exempte de difficultés mais tout au fil des années les deux parties en présence ont eu le mérite d'entretenir un dialogue respectueux et franc dans la recherche commune des solutions rencontrées dans les projets qui les ont unies. Nous croyons qu'il en est autant de la coopération que la FAO a avec tous ses autres Etats Membres.

Pour cette raison plutôt que d'ennuyer les participants à la Conférence avec un inventaire des projets bénéficiant au Congo du concours de la FAO et de problèmes spécifiques rencontrés, nous aimerions simplement résumer notre opinion sur cette coopération en quelques mots. Ainsi, bien qu'étant satisfaits du travail accompli par la FAO au cours de l'exercice écoulé, nous estimons toutefois que des progrès sont encore possibles pour améliorer la qualité de la présentation et du contenu des évaluations et de l'examen des projets de terrain de la FAO à l'avenir comme le demandent plusieurs Etats Membres qui sont intervenus avec beaucoup de détails pertinents. Nous sommes convaincus que, dotée des ressources suffisantes, la FAO est tout à fait capable de plus de réalisation et d'une efficacité plus accrue.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Je crois pouvoir respecter l'engagement d'être bref. Ce débat est un débat intéressant et important puisque qu'il nous permet de situer notre position face à une activité des plus importantes de la FAD, les programmes de terrain. Je sais que vous n'avez nulle intention d'étouffer le débat et toutes les délégations auront l'occasion de dire ce qu'elles pensent à propos des programmes de terrain qui sont régulièrement examinés par les instances compétentes, en l'occurrence, ce type de programme. Comme nous le savons, l'essentiel du programme de terrain est

alimenté par le fonds fiduciaire et notre position est très claire. Nous devons, dans l'utilisation des fonds fiduciaires, quels qu'ils soient, avoir et garder un véritable esprit multilatéral. Il serait vain de vouloir continuer à essayer de faire exécuter par voie multilatérale des programmes bilatéraux en s'efforçant d'imposer sa manière de voir.

Le grand avantage de l'Organisation multilatérale et de l'exécution de projets multilatéraux c'est de mettre les pays sur un pied de parfaite égalité dans un dialogue franc et loyal. Nous avons l'expérience d'un certain nombre de problèmes qui se posent dans le cadre du déroulement des projets financés par les fonds fiduciaires et pouvons dire que le type du dialogue que nous avons avec la FAO et avec les pays bénéficiaires est toujours beaucoup plus facile et beaucoup ouvert, beaucoup plus fructueux qu'un dialogue directement bilatéral qui souvent place le pays bénéficiaire dans une situation plus délicate et plus difficile. Je crois qu'il est important que le véritable esprit bilatéral imprègne l'ensemble de nos actions. On a parlé du problème du PNUD. On a parlé de ce qu'on appelle la stratégie. On pourrait parler de la stratégie des fonds fiduciaires. En fait le PNUD est essentiellement un grand fonds fiduciaire chargé d'une tâche de coordination et non pas d'une tâche d'exécution. Et je crois qu'il est important, dans l'esprit d'une Organisation des Nations Unies, que les organisations opérationnelles puissent exécuter les opérations et que le PNUD puisse se situer à la place qui lui a été assignée et qui vise à la fois à assurer l'organisation entre les différents organismes de la famille des Nations Unies sur le plan opérationnel, sans vouloir se constituer en sa propre agence d'exécution. J'ai déjà eu l'occasion de le dire, et il est fort possible que dans l'avenir je sois encore amené à le redire, car c'est une déviation du système et par le biais de l'OPS ou par le biais de n'importe quel organisme, le PNUD se constitue lui-même en sous-traitant de ses propres opérations alors que la tâche essentielle du PNUD est de veiller à faire exécuter ses opérations de terrain par les organisations opérationnelles spécialisées. Je crois qu'il en est de même en ce qui concerne les sous-programmes. Nous l'avons déjà dit au cours de différentes réunions du CPA, je crois que le sous-programme ne peut pas se constituer en organisme indépendant. Il a besoin de travailler dans une relation suivie, étroite et confiante avec la FAO. Il serait abérant que des programmes d'aide alimentaire orientés vers le développement ne soient pas établis et réalisés en étroite connexion avec les services spécialisés de la FAO. Je trouve déplorable cette tendance à vouloir séparer ce qui doit être uni. Et je crois que dans la mesure où l'on peut continuer à être uni, on travaille beaucoup mieux ensemble.

Je ne parlerai pas des "over-head costs". J'en parlerai en Commission III. Le problème des dépenses d'appui est un problème extrêmement important qui doit être abordé car, pour le moment, une partie du programme ordinaire sert indirectement à financer les programmes de terrain. A partir du moment où les over-head costs ne sont pas suffisants, il est clair qu'on dépouille le budget ordinaire d'une partie de sa substance pour des opérations de terrain.

Je crois qu'il est important de souligner le rôle des bureaux de la FAO, le rôle du bureau du PNUD et des bureaux régionaux vers lesquels une large centralisation des décisions est indispensable. J'aurai l'occasion de le redire. Il est absolument inutile de vouloir imaginer des contrôleurs indépendants si les pays étaient incapables de juger de ce qui est bon ou de ce qui est mauvais pour eux. Un bon projet est un projet qui porte ses fruits et les pays sont parfaitement capables de voir quand un projet est bon, quand un projet est moyen. Nous sommes arrivés à une époque de l'histoire où il ne faut plus traiter certains pays de majeurs et certains pays de mineurs. Les

pays sont capables d'assumer leurs responsabilités et sont parfaitement capables de savoir ce qui leur faut. Je dois dire aussi que je suis personnellement tout à fait opposé à l'idée qui a été lancée que 2 500 projets sont nécessaires. Je voudrais savoir ce que cela veut dire car "2 500" c'est un chiffre qu'on lance et qui recouvre des réalités forcément différentes. Il y a des grands projets, il y a des moyens projets, des petits projets. Je crois que le nombre ne veut strictement rien dire. Ce qui est important, c'est de voir la qualité des projets et de voir dans quelle mesure ils sont reproductifs et dans quelle mesure ils peuvent servir de modèle soit dans le même pays, soit dans d'autres pays. Il me paraît beaucoup plus important d'avoir des projets qui servent de modèle que d'en voir diminuer le nombre car en ce qui nous concerne, je crois qu'il faut essayer d'avoir beaucoup plus de projets que par le passé dans la mesure où on est capable de les assumer, comme l'a très bien dit le représentant du Pakistan ainsi que le représentant de la Colombie. De plus en plus les pays sont associés à l'exécution des projets. Donc le problème du nombre des projets est en réalité un problème qui pour nous ne se pose pas. Bien évidemment on peut citer certains extraits du rapport des experts mais je me permettrai, au moment de la revue, de citer aussi d'autres extraits que ceux qui sont cités car à partir du moment où on cite certains extraits du rapport des experts, il faut citer l'ensemble des extraits du rapport des experts concernant un certain nombre de sujets précis et déterminés. Nous sommes aussi absolument opposés à l'idée qui a été lancée par certains délégués d'un super comité. En fait que se passe-t-il? Il existe un certain nombre de fonds fiduciaires qui sont financés que ce soit par des sources bilatérales, que ce soit par d'autres sources de financement. Il existe un certain nombre de projets financés par le PNUD, le programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, par des banques de développement, par le FIDA ou par la Banque mondiale, dans le cadre des activités du centre d'investissements, par la Banque inter-américaine, par la Banque asiatique, par la Banque africaine du développement. Tous ces organes examinent les projets, décident de leur exécution par la FAD. Peut-on, dans un super comité, examiner des décisions qui ont été prises par les instances compétentes de l'ensemble des organisations des Nations Unies? Je crois qu'il ne faut pas en arriver à des types de procédure qui annihilent, qui empêchent l'action et la stérilisent. Les projets sont appelés à remplir un certain nombre de besoins que les pays sont capables de juger. Alors, de grâce, ne créons pas comité sur comité. Il existe dans le cadre des statuts de la FAO un certain nombre de comités qui sont prévus. Veillons à les faire fonctionner et à les faire fonctionner correctement. On aura l'occasion, à propos de la réforme, ou plutôt de la revue, de parler de services d'inspection et de services d'évaluation. Je vous ai dit mon sentiment globalement sur le service d'évaluation. Il est peut-être bon d'avoir certains inspecteurs, encore que quand on parle de contrôleurs ou d'inspecteurs indépendants, qu'est-ce que l'indépendance en l'occurrence sinon la suggestion à celui qui paie la fédération du contrôleur ou de l'inspecteur? Alors il faut savoir pourquoi et comment et si le budget de la FAO permet d'assumer en plus ce type de tâches. En ce qui concerne l'évaluation, je crois qu'il faut respecter à la fois la souveraineté des pays, des organisations régionales, des bureaux qui sont en contact permanent avec les autorités politiques des différents pays et l'ensemble du système qui existe est parfaitement capable d'assumer cette tâche. Si on a besoin de tel ou tel type d'experts pour remplir telle ou telle mission qui n'est pas accomplie, le pays le sait, le bureau de la FAO le sait, les instances compétentes le savent, on doit rester en connexion étroite et les services techniques compétents de la FAO, en l'occurrence la division du développement. Telles sont, très brièvement, les quelques remarques que j'estimais devoir faire à propos des programmes de terrain.

HO SIREN (China) (original language Chinese): At the outset I wish to congratulate the Chairman for the comprehensive document C 89/4. I would like to make several points on this item.

Firstly, we are pleased to note that the Field Programmes have continued to expand for the sixth consecutive year, reaching a record level of US\$ 342 million in 1988 and an estimated US\$ 363 million in 1989. The UNDP approval increased in 1988 and its pledging target was raised at its Pledging Conference in 1989. FAO continued to be the largest executing agency of the UNDP as the UNDP was FAO's largest source of resources for field activities. There has been an expansion of FAO/UNDP cooperation in recent years. This expenditure is expected to reach a record level in 1989 and this indicates an encouraging prospect of cooperation between the two organizations in the agricultural sector. Meanwhile, FAO's government Trust Fund Programmes continue to expand and maintain a high level of 51% of the Field Programme expenditure. These developments are to the advantage of the developing countries with acute food and agricultural problems, particularly those which rely on external assistance to meet part of their economic and technical requirements.

Secondly, we have noted that Africa continued to be given priority in FAO's Field Programmes. This rose to 48% of its total expenditure with a view to promoting food production, sustainable development and the improvement of food security. Priority was given to crop production, particularly cereal production. There was a notable increase of resources allocated to forestry, livestock production and technical research. We consider this distribution desirable. We also appreciate the fact that the personnel component of Field Programmes further declined to 50% and the equipment component rose to 28%. We appreciate this fact.

Thirdly, in the field of activities the guiding principle of assisting recipient countries to achieve development and self-reliance was further implemented. FAO attached importance to the development of human resources and training, particularly the training of women. Many national staff of developing countries comprised 50% of all internationally recruited experts. FAO continued to encourage developing countries to execute and assist in projects themselves and to carry out technical and economic cooperation among themselves. We appreciate the above measures adopted by FAO and hope activities in these fields will be further enhanced.

Fourthly, we are pleased to note that FAO has made effective contributions to technical assistance and is promoting agricultural investment since its establishment 25 years ago. The Investment Centre has formulated 750 investment projects for Member States of a total value of over US\$ 34 billion. The FAO has done a lot over recent years in the fields of agriculture, project preparation, agricultural investment promotion through Technical Cooperation Programmes assisting Member States in building up their abilities in investment projects, selection and preparation. We wish to express our appreciation of this. However, we also note that commitment of international agricultural assistance has in recent years remained at a low level. The commitment in real terms on multilateral agricultural investment was less than that of 1980 and bilateral investment was equivalent to that of 1977. This was out of tune with the world of food agricultural production and that of the requirements of the agricultural development of developing countries. We hope that the international community will make a positive response to it.

Fifthly, Chapter Two. Assessment of Field Projects, document C 89/4, contains a comprehensive assessment of the formulation, implementation and the impact on Field Projects. It identifies its strength and weaknesses. We note in the improvement of Field Projects progress has been made in efficiency promotion but there is still room for further improvement. It is our hope that FAO will make further efforts to strengthen its coordination with recipient countries to improve its efficiency. In the past few years, China has obtained assistance and support from FAO and other international organizations. It has also provided assistance to other countries through FAO. Most of China's projects, directly or indirectly supported by FAO, have yielded good results and promoted the food and agricultural production in the country. I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to express our appreciation to FAO and FAO's experts who have worked in China.

John PONTOPPIDAN (Dennark) : We have before us the Report of the Field Programmes of FAO. It is a thorough and in many ways candid Report pointing to both strengths and weaknesses of FAO project performance. The Report forms a good and constructive basis for the discussion of the Field Programme.

Before I proceed to comment on the Report please allow me to address some of the more important trends in the world of the developing countries. The economic growth rates among the developing countries vary considerably. In Asia per capita income has risen more rapidly during the 1980s than previously, whereas other parts of the developing world have only experienced slight increases. In Sub-Saharan Africa per capita incomes have even been declining. Trends in the world economy unfortunately do not indicate general improvements of the economic situation in the Third World as a whole. The diversity among the developing countries will increase. Some will manage to integrate even better into the global economy, whereas others are expected to experience further marginalization. In a world of increasing inequality it becomes even more important to direct international assistance towards the poorest countries, towards those who need it most. This entails an even greater need to ensure the optimal use of funds and resources flowing to this part of the world.

The Report we have before us shows that a major part of FAO's Field Programme is now canalized to Africa: 48 percent of project expenditure was recorded for this Continent. This development took off two years ago. FAO reported to the Conference of 1987 a 39 percent share for Africa in 1985 and an estimated share of 44 percent for 1987. The final figure for 1987 turned out to be even higher, 47 percent and it is expected to increase by one percent in 1989. We welcome this development and hope it continues.

While food and agriculture problems in other regions of the world should not be neglected we do agree with the Foreword of the Report. Africa is the continent where the risk of food shortages and the challenge of achieving food security are greatest. In this connection I would like to draw your attention to the distribution of the overall FAO expenditure by sectors. Figures of the Report show that only 11 percent of FAO projects are classified as livestock projects. In our view more emphasis should be given to this sector which is extremely important in Africa.

Once again the main component of extra-budgetary expenditure on field projects in 1988 was Personnel. Accounting for 50 percent of project expenditure this component has been decreasing over the past years as should be the case. I would like to elaborate a little on this subject as the Report deals with it at length. The ultimate goal of development aid is, of course, government execution of projects and in due time withdrawal of donor assistance. Many persons from the developing countries have already been trained and educated in their country and abroad. This training enables many of them to perform duties in their country, thereby substituting expatriate experts. However, increasing demands on national experts seem to a certain extent to exhaust the available numbers of the experts. Donors are increasingly faced with the problem of host countries not being able to provide counterparts for the projects. Conclusions of FAO Evaluation Reports point in the same direction. With your permission I would like to quote a paragraph of the Report of the Field Programmes dealing with the absorption capacity and institutional problems in LDCs. It is stated on page 53, and I quote: "The evaluation reports consistently reveal that the capacity of LDCs to implement policy and planning advice, to use the results of surveys of research, to successfully apply farm inputs and services, to profit from on-the-job training and to effectively organize farmer training and other extension activities is seriously curtailed by the lack of skilled national personnel. All too often, the national institutions are too weak to use the output of projects effectively. The reasons usually are that the institution assisted by the project is short of staff and equipment, has little or no financial resources, and is often poorly coordinated with complementary institutions, which often find themselves in similar conditions". This conclusion indicates one should not move too fast and too directly towards the ultimate goal of implementing full government project execution. One should not regard government execution and project execution by expatriate experts as mutually exclusive alternatives. Intermediate forms containing elements of both are already in use and should be further developed, gradually leading to full government execution. Increased attention and training in project activities, transfer of skills and institution and knowledge-building are important tools to reach the ultimate goal.

Allow me to turn to FAO's assessment of the quality of project activities based on reports from FAO Resident Representatives and FAO Evaluation Reports. Whereas the Report does not show drastic changes, both positive and negative trends can be noted. Those projects which fall into the negatively assessed group seem to be slightly reduced in numbers. This is unfortunately also the case for the projects in the best group. It is, however, encouraging to note that FAO representatives judge transfer of skills and perspectives for project follow-up more positively than earlier.

It is discouraging to note on page 34 of the projects' performance in the poorest developing countries are increasingly lagging behind the others, the reason being the difficult environment in which projects are implemented. Proper planning of projects, policy advice and donor coordination is imperative, in particular in the least-developed countries. Effective project implementation and training are crucial. We do not doubt that FAO is fully aware of these factors. In some cases, however, we do feel that these considerations are lost somewhere along the line. The efforts of FAO must not be fortuitous: the LDCs in particular need to get the full benefit of all development aid.

Lars-Peter HERTELIUS (Sweden) : The FAO should be congratulated on this well presented document of the Review of the Field Programmes, C 89/4. The document is, as the United Kingdom and others have said, one of the most important documents under debate here in this Conference. We also definitely agree with what is said by the Director-General, that this document will stimulate, will hopefully stimulate active and constructive discussion we, hope, after this debate also.

Traditionally this question has called for special attention from Sweden. In the light of our own experience, from the work together with FAO, I should like to give the following observations on the document, the Review of Field Programmes. First, it was very much welcome that the trend is now, we hope, broken on the UNDP funded programmes; the increase which we have now seen is very helpful. Hopefully this increase will continue due to more emphasis to agricultural and rural development programmes in the developing countries' use of UNDP funds. It is also very positive that the increase of projects involving planning and policy analysis comes forward. This is the field where we think FAO can and ought to play a unique role as compared to other donors. We are not convinced that a declining personnel component is an entirely positive development. For FAO, as we see it, the intellectual input is very important. With this, of course, goes the comprehensive institution building for long-term commitment; this is again something for FAD.

FAD has made a judgement on the Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme for Africa, the ARPA; we find that somewhat exaggerated. The Prussic list presented has not given the impression of being well integrated in the countries' development plans.

Now we come to the Investment Centre; many speakers have talked about, and I think there is a big agreement on this one. We have ourselves been continuously positive on the work within the Centre. Stronger emphasis on the relevance of big investment projects in the present economic situation must though be further elaborated. We must ask ourselves, can the country really afford them, however sound they may be? Since the Resolution 1975 of New Dimensions, Sweden has always advocated this since its inception, cooperation instead of assistance; support to the countries in their execution of their own projects. FAO has been boasting of being advanced in this direction; we have yet found them to be slow, even though we do accept what has just been said by Denmark, but probably we have to find different solutions before we come to the ultimate goal of government execution.

In the document there is also discussion about financial and recruitment roles. We are of the opinion that we have to have a change here and that FAO must be more flexible to respond to these demands. We have asked for this in a number of Conferences.

At last, WCARRD: this has influenced FAO approaches, especially in the Forestry and Fishery parts. These principles which we can see and which have been carried forward should be promoted very much more vigorously by the FAO Management.

To end, we do see that we should pursue more the increased cooperation with the non-governmental organizations.

Richard SEIFMAN (United States of America): The FAO Secretariat has produced a thought-provoking and interesting report as contained in document C 89/4, one which is largely responsive to the concerns expressed by my delegation in the 24th Conference FAO should be commended on its efforts to report steps it has taken to improve the project design process; to examine issues of project sustainability and the transfer of technology and skills to recipients; to focus on improving coordination with UNDP; and to provide information on programme evaluation. The report synthesizes several useful lessons with respect to institution building, integrated rural development and other types of development projects, lessons consistent with our own experience.

The findings contained in the assessment of field programmes and projects support those of the experts on the need to improve field programme and project management, design, implementation, and backstopping. The report of the External Auditors also makes many similar points in regard to the field programme. We would appreciate it if in the next Conference report on the field programme the Secretariat indicates what has been done with the relevant External Auditor recommendations. As FAO pursues a strategy of institution building and skills transfer for recipient countries, we would expect it to stress and seek to integrate in project management systems and procedures not only mechanisms for periodic self-assessment reviews, but mid-term, completion and ex-post evaluations. It is obvious that it is very difficult to accurately judge project performance unless a systematic approach is taken at the outset.

Indeed the reports before us could have benefitted if there had been greater such emphasis in the past. Better objective assessment of project performance and results is related to adequate training of FAO and national project officers in evaluation methodologies, as well as in the development, adoption and application of consistently-applied evaluation standards.

We note it is often possible to assess leading indicators of change and critical assumptions of a project as a means of assessing the likelihood an activity will ultimately generate the beneficiary result desired. Further attention to this aspect of evaluation would seem appropriate for FAO, given the report's observation that national institutions are often too weak to use the outputs of the projects effectively, and the need to make tough decisions among competing priorities about where the allocation of resources will be most cost-effective. Without early attention to evaluation in the planning process, prospects for generating results for beneficiaries and for reliable demonstration effects are diminished.

In 1987 my delegation asked FAO to clarify how it determines priorities at the field level and to increase the rigour of its analyses with respect to critical agricultural development problems and the gaps in the effort needed to solve them as backdrop for decisions regarding programme priorities. In our view, unfortunately the report does not adequately respond in these areas.

We are concerned, and support the conclusions of the experts reviewing field programas that FAO does too many projects, given the limited resources for country programmes; further, that the current approach to project identification, approval and subsequent implementation results in a multiplicity of activities which in turn results in a lack of FAO country

programme focus and a dispersal of effect. With the same resources if there were fewer, more focused programmes and projects, it is reasonable to assume there might be less strain on FAO's administrative machine, better project delivery performance and greater impact.

With respect to TCP, in discussing the appropriate resources for TCP we would emphasize that a lower TCP funding level need not result in projects going unfunded. Such activities could be funded through other sources. My Government notes that in paragraph 72 of the Experts' report on FAO's Field Programme, document C 89/21-Sup.I Annex 2, they make two important points in this respect: (1) better coordination on a reciprocal basis in the UN system might relieve the pressure of demands on TCP; and (2) that some of the activities taken up under the TCP, with better planning by governments, can be included in the activities approved under normal procedures.

Turning to other matters, our consideration of Chapter Three of document C 89/4, Promoting Agricultural Investment, leads us to support its thrust which is to encourage greater linkage between technical assistance and investment in the future, and to encourage the Investment Centre to serve as a conduit in attracting and mobilizing resources to finance recipient country proposals in agriculture and agro-industry, including efforts to reactivate and strengthen the FAO/Bankers Programme. Further, we were pleased to note that after its review of the Cooperative Programme, the World Bank has reconfirmed its long-term commitment to this programme, as indicated in paragraph 3.29 of C 89/4. Along with the Regular Budget, cost-sharing by, and resources from, other multilateral financing institutions for projects and investment, promotion has been and should be an important feature of the Investment Centre, and one which we support.

As the document points out in paragraph 3.85, FAO stands ready to assist countries to improve the legal, fiscal, institutional and bureaucratic environment. We would encourage the Secretariat to prepare, for the next Conference, a document which details what various FAO divisions have done in this important area, in assisting in entrepreneurial development, both indigenous and external.

Finally, we support the expert's recommendation that FAO evaluate the WCARRD programme in this biennium. An intensive and extensive evaluation of the programme would be of value for the institution and for the beneficiaries.

In conclusion, let me again commend the Secretariat for producing this useful document for our consideration.

Antonio RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je tiens tout d'abord à féliciter M. Rinvile pour l'excellent exposé de ses documents qui constitue un point important de l'ordre du jour de nos débats. La délégation du Cap-Vert a fait une analyse détaillée des documents C 89/4 et de l'examen du programme de terrain. Ce document que nous appuyons est très bien préparé et présenté, car il souligne l'importance des activités de terrain, et nous sommes en particulier satisfaits de la structure et de la clarté d'analyse contenues dans ce document.

Deux-mille-cinq-cents projets, que beaucoup trouvent trop nombreux - nous pensons que ce n'est pas beaucoup -, ont été évalués d'une manière qualitative et quantitative. Nous devons appuyer la FAO pour qu'elle continue dans cette voie. Nous sommes heureux de constater l'augmentation constante du

volume d'activité de terrain durant l'exercice. En tant que Représentant d'un pays africain qui a bénéficié du programme terrain, nous nous félicitons de l'organisation de la place réservée à juste titre au continent africain, de la productivité accordée aux cultures et au développement, voire aux actions forestières: la pêche, les service d'intrants, cela nous paraît une très bonne stratégie. Toutefois, ma délégation déplore la réduction de l'appui technique indispensable direct aux projets, causée par la crise financière qui empêche les divisions techniques du siège de fournir au projet les services de soutien dont ils ont bien besoin.

Nous marquons notre accord sur l'analyse franche et critique des actions de projets de terrain figurant au Chapitre 2, et pour les efforts que la FAO a déployés pour améliorer l'efficacité et l'efficacé des projets de terrain.

Permettez-moi de souligner le rôle fondamental et indispensable que joue la Représentation de la FAO dans nos pays.

Ma délégation saisit cette opportunité pour exhorter l'Organisation à renforcer la représentation de la FAO, de même pour les bureaux régionaux, et en particulier pour le bureau de l'Afrique. Nous soutenons les actions de représentation de la FAO et du service d'évaluation pour l'examen de la performance des projets, cela serait d'une grande utilité. Nous espérons que les résultats des évaluations seront publiés à l'attention des pays membres car ils représentent une source importante d'informations et permettront ainsi d'honorer davantage la conception de nouveaux projets. Nous sommes d'accord avec les propositions que les gouvernements bénéficiaires doivent faire leur propre évaluation des résultats des projets. Nous donnons notre accord aux conclusions figurant dans les points 2.119 à 2.123, en particulier le sous-point I concernant la formation sur une large base à plusieurs échelons et au renforcement de la capacité de vulgarisation.

Nous encourageons notre Organisation dans l'utilisation d'intrants dans les pays en développement dans le programme de terrain et en particulier, l'utilisation d'experts avec la capacité des responsables nationaux qui constituent les garants d'une réussite de leurs propres programmes et projets. Nous tenons à appuyer la déclaration de la Chine.

L'intégration des secteurs Pêche, Agriculture et Forêt, etc. dans les activités du terrain de l'Organisation, nous semble particulièrement importante, de même que la promotion des femmes pour le développement rural figurant aux points 2.47 et 2.50 du document C 89/LIM 19, page 3.

Notre délégation saisit cette occasion pour témoigner de l'importance du programme au fonds fiduciaire de la FAO qui a joué un rôle crucial pour le financement des divers projets dans mon pays, dans le cadre du plan de la faim, du développement du secteur agricole forestier, pêche, formation, expansion rurale: secteurs vitaux pour le Cap-Vert.

Nous remercions les pays partenaires du Cap-Vert qui ont participé activement au financement des divers projets dans le cadre du programme FAO, et les gouvernements, en particulier permettez-moi de souligner le rôle qu'ont joué la Belgique, les Pays-Bas et l'Italie entre autres. La promotion des investissements, le Centre d'Investissement de la FAO, unique en son genre dans le système des Nations Unies, a joué un rôle fondamental et catalyseur. Mon pays a bénéficié d'une aide importante qui lui a permis, grâce aux projets élaborés en étroite collaboration entre le Centre et les départements responsables nationaux dans le secteur des pêches d'avoir un financement, des investissements très importants dans le cadre de la coopération BAD et FIDA.

L'efficacité du Centre recueille l'admiration de mon gouvernement.

La délégation cap-verdienne s'associe à la déclaration de la délégation française en ce qui concerne le rôle accru que le Comité de programme doit jouer dans le suivi et le contrôle des programmes de terrain.

Pour terminer, nous pensons que la question de l'évaluation des projets est aussi avant tout une affaire nationale et qu'il faut respecter la capacité et la souveraineté nationale et faire confiance au bureau régional de la représentation de la FAO dans nos pays. Nous appuyons la déclaration de l'ambassadeur de Belgique à ce sujet.

Cornelis B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands): We consider the Field Programme of the utmost importance for agricultural development in the world. We think, therefore, that FAO very rightly gives the Field Programme the attention it deserves through this review. This emphasis is all the more welcomed by us because of the considerable size of our multi-bi programme with FAO, not to mention our indirect contribution to the FAO Field Programme one of the major donors of UNDP.

Document 89/4, a Review of the Field Programme more or less similar to the documents on the Field Programme the preceding Conference. In the Conference of 1987 many delegations welcomed the information this document supplied on the one hand, but on the other hand expressed the view that this information should be more analytical and systematic. Also, the information received no is too descriptive. A more analytical review could indicate the impact of activities undertaken. We would also like to read in the Review of the Field Programme that the policy and guidelines discussed in governing bodies are reflected in the Field Programme.

In addition, we would like a more detailed description and evaluation of the different programme areas, such as food security, and the involvement of the various technical divisions of FAO in this respect. In such a way, the coherence between the Regular and Field Programme may become more visible and understandable. In order to facilitate the inter-disciplinary monitoring of the Field Programme, we believe that a single governmental body should preferably be established.

Apart from this analytical description, we also missed the thematic evaluation as carried out for the Food Security Assistance Scheme in the former biennium. There were at that time a few more schemes that have been evaluated. Nevertheless, we are pleased to see that FAO takes her evaluation task more seriously than in recent years but, with all due respect, we have some doubts about the effect of evaluation done by the FAO representatives themselves. Strengthening of the role of the evaluation unit, or perhaps the establishment of an inspection unit, seems more appropriate, as well as the involvement of external experts of respected institutions in developing and developed countries.

We fully agree with the analysis that FAO's field activities in many LCDs should reflect a comprehensive institution-building strategy with long-term commitments from both donors and recipient countries.

We have just touched upon the work of the FAO Representative. We should like to see his role and function strengthened through delegation of responsibility from Headquarters to country offices, not only in developing project ideas and monitoring but also through a stronger involvement in agricultural policy advice. This means, of course, that the FAO's Representatives should be equipped with sufficient know-how and authority to enable them to fulfil their role.

Regarding the review of the Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme in Africa (ARPA), we consider its evaluation at the end of the Programme period very useful. We only wonder whether it would not have been more appropriate to have the evaluation done by all parties involved, namely recipient countries, UNDP, donor countries and FAD. I mention this because I have the impression that although a number of relevant issues concerning ARPA have been addressed, a basic question was not dealt with. To us, a main question is whether such an enterprise as ARPA is a useful tool to be repeated if necessary.

Coming now to the promotion of agricultural investment, the Review of the FAO Investment Centre, which has been operational for 25 years, describes in a clear way the changes of the Investment Centre during the past decade such as the strong growth of the Investment Centre during the 70s; and the stabilization of the Centre during the last ten years. The change from less project specific loans by the World Bank to more structural adjustment loans was one of the reasons for the stabilization process. The Investment Centre occupied itself more and more with the sectoral analysis concerning structural adjustment. Therefore, we would have welcomed a reference to a discussion on whether the Investment Centre considers analyzing the effects of structural adjustment loans an important task for the future. Only incidentally the Review document mentions the mutual interest of the Investment Centre and the Policy Analysis Division on policy advice at country level.

As you might well be aware, Mr Chairman, the Netherlands considers the policy advice role of FAO a serious one. We therefore recommend that the Investment Centre and the Policy Analysis Division work together in a more systematic way.

There is one more question I would like to raise. In this chapter concerning the promotion of agricultural investment we missed a paragraph on the involvement of the private sector and possible stimulation plans for the private investment sector. Often it is not finance but ignorance and disinterest which form bottlenecks for investment in the agricultural sector. We would welcome plans for stimulating private investment in this sector.

In paragraph 3.41 FAO states that the promotion of private investment is a task of the FAO/Bankers' Programme. However, the activities of this Bankers' Programme have been suspended due to the financial crisis of FAO, and we agree with that. We still recommend that the promotion of private sector participation becomes part of the investment projects.

Iutta BURGHARDT (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): We

read document C 89/4 with great interest. We are ready to accept the fact that this is a unique document in the UN system which presents the FAO operational activities for development in a comprehensive manner.

We also welcome the self-critical comments, particularly with respect to ARPA, and the timely comparison of project results between LCDs and other developing countries. Nonetheless, we have some questions.

The Secretariat, in a follow-up to the discussion of the Regular Programme, told us in this Committee that limited financing of a project does not necessarily also mean or imply low quality. In principle, that is correct. However, from our experience in bilateral technical cooperation we have seen that the viability of project investment - and this is what we are all interested in, I think - is in direct relation to a realistic analysis of the development situation, a precise definition of project goals, a careful and comprehensive preparation of the elements of the project, intensive back topping and running, including evaluation, and, in certain circumstances, follow-up. In our experience, this type of procedure is linked to world-wide comparable cost dimensions which we do not see reflected here.

In the light of the fact that each project, no matter who is executing it, does put claims on the resources of the developing country involved, we must demand that everything be done in order to guarantee the success of projects, even if this means that there must be a reduction in the overall number of projects.

A quantification of the type we see in this report is certainly a necessary element of solid dissemination of information. We have learned of a multiplicity of measures and instruments, but we do not see what effect they have had. In order to assess project performance, the viability of measures and their relevance, we would need from FAO information on their development, policy approach envisaged and their goal in terms of economic and social policy. We feel that the fact that LDCs are highlighted in the report should have led to a substantial consideration of their situation, as it is the case for the Review conference that is foreseen for 1990, i.e. considerations about what realistically could be done within the framework of the limited growth possibilities of LDCs and other related considerations.

On page 65 of the document we read that FAO considers cultural traditions as factors which are external to projects. In bilateral cooperation we have recognized that projects which have basic problems of acceptance are not viable. The cultural traditions of human beings are, to our way of thinking, not a factor of disturbance but rather the basis on which viable development must be built. We are convinced that FAO also serves this conviction and, based on related knowledge of other UN institutions, such as Unesco or UNIFEM, carries out participatory development cooperation.

The UN system provides developing countries with only a very small part of what is available to developing countries within the framework of operational activities for development from contributions of Member States. We feel that it is vital that these means be used for those tasks which are best suited to the achievement of what can be done by the multilateral system. This can be made available to the greatest use of developing countries only by having an integrated, systematic and coordinated procedure.

The extra-budgetary resources which FAO has available for the development of projects go far beyond what is available in the Regular budget. These means are made available to the FAO in the expectation that it will use this to improve the situation of developing countries within the framework of its own specialization.

Might I sum up what the Federal Government feels is absolutely necessary in order for the FAO to meet its profile with respect to technical cooperation. First, close cooperation of the FAO within its relationships with the UN system, particularly with respect to the financial institutions, in the field of political dialogue and within the framework of adjustment programmes.

Second, the focus of the Technical Cooperation Programme and the Field Programmes on essential development policy matters. Here we feel that there should be clear priority given to the environment, to women and to subsistence farming.

Third, the establishment and extension of national capacities in developing countries.

Fourth, development of country policy studies which make systematic use of the macro-economic know-how of financial institutions and the development of additional reliable national data.

Fifth, improvement in the relevance and durability of project work on the basis of clear goal-setting, and using the entire project environment in project planning.

Sixthly, there should be an endeavour to have programme orientation rather than project orientation together with country-specific orientation which take realistic account of the economic situation and the cultural conditions of the countries concerned.

Finally, we should strengthen endeavours to have coordination in the entire context of the United Nations, for example in the field of execution of projects by the developing countries themselves, increased local procurement, strengthened execution of the TCDC, camion field representation, common programming, the acknowledgement of the Resident Coordinator as representative of the UN System. What we are looking at is a coordinated procedure which will as far as possible reduce the burden of the costs of administration for developing countries and enable the best possible results to be obtained.

David DRAKE (Canada) : The Canadian delegation is encouraged by the increased clarity, objectivity and frankness of the Field Programme Report, and welcomes the improvements made to the presentation of field activities in this document. Without taking away any of our appreciation of the report, and with a view to providing a constructive input into the discussion, we would like to make some suggestions about some areas where we feel additional information would be useful to Member States and would produce improved project and programme delivery for beneficiaries.

The Canadian delegation feels that there are many useful proposals put forward by the experts and the Finance and Programme Committees in the SJS Report which could lead to strengthening the Field Programme. This point was made most eloquently by the distinguished delegate of Finland this morning, and therefore I will not go into greater detail at this point. However, one recommendation made in the SJS process which in our view applies to field programmes is that regarding increased inter-agencies coordination. Canada

fully supports the efforts of the FAO to strengthen cooperation between FAO and other UN organizations at the field level, and encourages the organization to explore additional avenues of collaboration with UN and other international development-oriented agencies.

The Canadian delegation also supports the view that the process of priority-setting can be strengthened at the field level. Canada endorses the view of the experts reporting to SJS that the organization should exercise greater selectivity in its acceptance of field projects. Furthermore, Canada joins other delegations in recommending that the FAO should concentrate its field activities in high priority sectors, where it has a clear advantage in capability or expertise over other UN agencies, bilateral donors, NGOs or other groups. This is particularly important in view of the financial constraints which affect all sources of funding which the organization receives.

The Canadian delegation fully supports the introduction of environmental considerations into FAO programming, such as that reflected in this Report. This is a very positive development and should continue to be encouraged by all Member States. Canada will be paying close attention to the FAO's growing response to incorporating environmental concerns into its programmes over the next biennium.

The Canadian delegation notes that the Field Programmes Report refers to the increasing role played by the Audit and Evaluation Groups in assessing field programmes. While the Canadian delegation applauds the progress made in evaluation across FAO programmes, it believes that the organization should continue to strengthen its evaluative functions, with the aim of achieving an increased level of independent evaluation. My delegation also notes that Canada would like to see increased participation of recipient, or rather, partner governments in field programme evaluations, as referred to in paragraph 2.41 of document CL 96/4, the Report of the Programmes Committee.

The Canadian delegation is very pleased to note from this Report that the FAO is seeking ways to cooperate more with NGOs in its programming. My delegation supports the FAO's efforts in this regard and encourages the organization to look further into NGO implementation of some portions of FAO Field Programmes.

The Canadian delegation notes that the reporting on Women in Development in the Field Programmes Report is not as strong as the standard set in the FAO Plan of Action for WID. However, my delegation is confident that this type of problem will be overcome to a great extent as gender issue sensitization and project development support activities take place in the context of the FAO Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development. My delegation will address this point at more length in Commission I.

My delegation would like to join previous speakers in complimenting the FAO Secretariat on the preparation of the section of the Report on the Investment Centre. Our delegation considers this chapter to be an excellent example of healthy internal reflection.

The Canadian delegation is pleased to see the increase in the training in field programmes. However, we note that there is a corresponding decrease in training activities in the Regular Budget. This underlines once again the need for close linkage between Field and Regular Programmes which we have

stressed in previous sessions of this Conference. My delegation believes that, with some further strengthening/ the Field Programmes' document could serve as a highly effective mechanism to focus on the extent to which these two programmes do, and should, relate to each other.

The Canadian delegation fully supports the views of the distinguished delegate of Pakistan with regard to the increased use of natural resources in project management and local purchasing. Canada believes that tapping recipient nations' materials and human resources promotes local development and in many cases is more cost-effective than procuring goods and services from abroad. My delegation applauds FAO's increased use of natural resources in project management and local purchasing, and encourages the organization to strive to expand this practice wherever feasible.

Finally, my delegation observes in Table I of the Appendix that the dollar value of trust fund field activity has for some time now been slightly higher than that of its UNDP programmes. In this regard we would strongly support the observations of the experts that there is a need for policy decisions on priorities in field operations from trust fund donors. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Sra. Mercedes FERMÍN GOMEZ (Venezuela): A estas alturas, después de esperar tanto tiempo, quiero decir que deberíamos limitarnos a apoyar lo dicho por el Embajador de Bélgica, quien ha expresado de una manera clara y contundente la verdadera posición que deberíamos tener con relación a este tema que nos ocupa de los Programas de Campo, pero como ha habido tantas voces disidentes a la opinión de Bélgica, de Colombia y de Francia -con las cuales estamos completamente de acuerdo-, parecería que se han alejado mucho de nuestro memento de hablar. Por eso queremos referirnos a algunas de las objeciones o de las posiciones encontradas con relación al Programa de Campo. Por eso queremos hacer referencia a alguna de ellas. Por ejemplo, la República Federal de Alemania habla de las experiencias de cooperación bilateral en relación con la evaluación de los proyectos. Parecería que la República Federal de Alemania, o su delegado, quisiera establecer realmente una especie de juicio de los proyectos de FAD, identificándolos como proyectos de relación bilateral. Y yo no puedo pensar que el delegado de la República Federal de Alemania olvide que la FAO es una organización que actúa aplicando una política de acción multilateral, que es la que le compete por su Constitución.

En ese sentido, no podría esperar lo que parece que espera la República Federal de Alemania con relación a la ventaja que debe sacar de la aplicación de estos proyectos. Ese mismo criterio parece ser se ha expresado por el delegado de los Países Bajos, por el delegado de Suecia y por el de Suiza -ya en otras oportunidades también lo han expresado-, en el sentido de dar más peso a los programas agropecuarios, más proyectos, más análisis en los planteamientos; pero ¿dónde están los recursos? Todos estos análisis, estos Comités de Expertos para la evaluación, para la inspección, para la supervisión de los Programas de Campo, no pueden hacerse con un presupuesto que está sometido al criterio del crecimiento cero. Por el contrario, necesitaría más recursos, mayores inversiones, y esto es precisamente lo que le están negando los mismos países que lo están exigiendo. Por eso pensamos que es una posición completamente contradictoria con la realidad.

Nosotros consideramos que el trabajo de campo es esencial, fundamental para el fin que persigue la Organización en beneficio de los países en desarrollo y de los países menos favorecidos por el desarrollo, y para hablarlo de una manera más correcta, para los países más atrasados. Estos países necesitan de la FAO, de sus Programas de Campo, tal como están concebidos y como se vienen realizando. Y no podemos decir que no son programas evaluados. En el documento que estudiamos, en los párrafos 2.41 y 2.42, se habla del examen de los representantes de la FAO en un servicio de evaluación con respecto a la realización de los proyectos, y luego habla de que el Comité expresó su aprecio por la labor más intensa realizada por el Servicio de Evaluación que estaba participando en la organización de más de 85 evaluaciones del Proyecto de Campo al año por misiones independientes. Entonces, sí existe un proceso de evaluación, sí se evalúan estos proyectos. Pero en una situación de 2 500 proyectos que simultáneamente se están llevando a cabo, ¿es posible tener 2 500 misiones de supervisión de análisis, de evaluación en la superficie del planeta? ¿Y cómo podríamos nosotros establecer, siendo dirigentes de FAO, las prioridades sino como las que ya están establecidas en los programas? Si todos los países tienen el mismo derecho, como países beneficiarios, para solicitar asistencia técnica y financiera de la FAO de acuerdo con sus necesidades que deberían ser los criterios de prioridades no podemos estar pensando, como alguien ha dicho, que lo más importante y más inmediato de los programas tiene que ser Africa; y yo no estoy contra Africa de ninguna manera, sino que considero que tiene todo el derecho y toda la atención que debe prestársele y es necesaria porque el problema de Africa es muy difícil.

Estuvimos absolutamente identificados con el problema de Africa, cuando surgió en el 85 y en el 86, y se le dedicó toda la atención que se pudo, desde el punto de vista internacional. Pero sin ánimo de ir en contra de eso, yo debo recordar aquí que hay otras regiones en el mundo -y no voy a dejar de mencionarlas por amor propio o quizás por pudor- como la América Latina y la región del Caribe. En la América Latina, en la sierra del Perú, en las junglas del Brasil, en el altiplano boliviano, en las extensas expansiones de los países de América Latina y de las Islas del Caribe hay tantas dificultades económicas y tantas necesidades de asistencia técnica y financiera como en cualesquiera de los países, porque son pueblos que están abandonados hace mucho tiempo de una asistencia técnica que han necesitado, y que no se les ha dado la atención que merecen. Logramos que se realizara la Conferencia de la FAO -Conferencia regional en Recife-, y allí se acordó un plan de acción que esperamos va a tener efecto, y pienso que ese plan de acción tendrá que tener muchos proyectos de campo y muchos proyectos de cooperación.

Pero agregando estos problemas de América Latina a los de Africa y Asia que ya existen, me parece que la FAO tiene muchos más de 2 500 proyectos que atender. Si esos proyectos van a atenderse por los equipos en las condiciones que ya hemos escuchado plantear aquí, con expertos nacionales o locales, o con expertos extranjeros, será siempre necesario atenderlos en el momento en que los necesiten, y los recursos serán dedicados a esos proyectos. Mi conclusión es: ¿con qué recursos entonces vamos a atender a estos equipos externos que solicitan estos países industrializados que han hablado esta tarde y que hay que aplicarlos a los proyectos de la FAO para que les merezca a ellos confianza la labor de la FAO? Porque lo que se desprende de todos estos países que han tomado la palabra es -digámoslo de una manera sincera-una desconfianza que alguien tuvo la osadía de mencionarlo la otra vez con sus propias palabras.

De manera que nosotros seguimos teniendo confianza en que la FAO es un Organismo que puede dar solución a los países en vías de desarrollo y a los países atrasados a través de este Programa de Campo. ¿Por qué? Porque es el único programa que puede examinar las condiciones reales de las necesidades de esos países en el propio terreno; sea por los expertos nacionales, sea por los expertos externos, es allá, in situ, donde la realidad puede ser analizada y donde las soluciones pueden ser estudiadas y llevadas a cabo. Entonces, necesitaríamos una duplicación de recursos: la de aquellos expertos y técnicos que van a realizarla y la de expertos y técnicos que van a vigilarla y evaluarla. Eso significaría duplicar el presupuesto de FAO, porque no podrían esperar la terminación de estos proyectos para luego realizar la evaluación.

Por esa razón pienso que tanto el problema planteado con relación a este Comité de Evaluación o a este equipo de evaluación, como la otra política que se sugiere, que es la de concentración en un pequeño número de proyectos, a mi juicio no son viables porque no respetan la equidad que debe tener la FAO cuando dispensa sus realizaciones en favor de los proyectos para los Estados Miembros.

Termino porque sé que no debemos extendernos mucho, pero creo que estamos de acuerdo en que debemos darles más peso a los programas agropecuarios; que deben ser preparados debidamente los proyectos para que no fallen, pero seamos justos y no pongamos en primer lugar a la FAO en la condición de un fondo de inversión al cual países poderosos vienen para obtener beneficios, porque ésa no es la misión de la FAO. No estamos en condiciones de hablar de la FAO como un fondo de inversiones en el cual nosotros colocamos un dinero para luego retirar dividendos. Es una organización a la cual todos los países-pequeños y grandes- contribuyen en la medida de sus posibilidades con aportaciones voluntarias y con la finalidad de realizar una tarea de beneficio desinteresado para los países que lo necesitan. Ese es el verdadero criterio de la FAO y de ninguna manera el de un banco para beneficio de los inversionistas.

Estamos de acuerdo con que necesitaríamos ajustar los programas de cooperación técnica y de trabajo de campo para que marchen coordinadamente.

Es posible que sea necesario extremar la coordinación en las labores de la FAO, pero no podemos pensar que manifestemos una desconfianza utilizando frecuentemente las palabras claridad, transparencia, sinceridad en los informes que presenta la FAO, porque parecería que tenemos una actitud de desconfianza contra la labor que ella realiza. Por esa razón, señor Presidente, voy a apoyar la posición presentada aquí por las delegaciones que ya mencioné, y las repito: Bélgica, Colombia y Francia; y expreso nuestra misma posición de apoyo a este trabajo de campo, esperando que sea posible mejorarlo en el sentido de su perfeccionamiento, para atender de una manera más efectiva a la realización práctica, real y sobre todo coordinada con otros organismos internacionales, si esto es necesario, y no porque consideremos que el equipo de investigación y de realizaciones de la FAO sea incapaz de lograrlo.

A.K.M. Fazley Rabbi, Vice-chairman of Commission II, took the chair

A.K.M. Fazley Rabbi, Vice-Président de la Commission II, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia A.K.M. Fazley Rabbi, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

Jilali HASSOUN (Maroc): L'exposé fait par M. Rinvillle au sujet du programme de terrain est extrêmement clair et résume avec fidélité et précision les détails donnés sur le document C 89/4. On peut ainsi avoir une vue complète des programmes de terrain en cause sans même avoir lu le document susmentionné.

On est tenté de comparer les programmes de terrain à un solide routier qui s'est forgé une solide expérience après 40 années de travail acharné. Grâce à cette expérience, ce programme est arrivé à un état de maturité caractérisé par des qualités que tout le monde apprécie, à savoir le caractère multidisciplinaire qui a permis la mise sur pied et l'exécution de projets intégrés qui ont rendu et qui rendent d'énormes services aux populations concernées, car ce type de projets permet d'intégrer différentes composantes telles que:

- les ouvertures de voie d'accès dans les zones surtout de montagne,
- les équipements ruraux et les équipements hydrauliques de petite et moyenne portée,
- les groupes scolaires,
- les travaux de défense et de restauration des sols, conjugués avec des plantations d'arbres (d'arbres fruitiers ou forestiers),
- la protection des équipements hydro-agricoles,
- la reforestation,
- le développement d'élevage,
- la formation et la vulgarisation.

Ces projets sont également caractérisés par la souplesse dans la coopération qui répond efficacement aux besoins d'urgence, difficiles à programmer ou à prévoir. Le dernier programme de lutte anti-acridienne en est une illustration plus que convaincante. L'implication directe des nationaux dans l'exécution et le suivi des réalisations en est un autre caractère.

C'est donc avec satisfaction et grande conviction que nous applaudissons aux grands axes d'intervention que le document C 89/4 assigne comme base aux programmes de terrain, à savoir:

- la formation dont le rôle dans le développement n'est plus à démontrer,
- la participation du personnel national dans le développement de projets, aussi bien en tant que directeurs de projets que d'experts, ce qui assure donc la continuité voulue,
- l'expansion de la CTPD qui permet aux pays en développement de collaborer et de profiter mutuellement des expériences acquises dans ce domaine,
- l'interaction avec les ONG locales et la promotion de la condition féminine, ce qui élargit encore les domaines d'action de ce projet.

Les programmes de terrain restent donc l'une des principales voies vers un développement raisonnable et équilibré. Encourager ces programmes doit donc constituer l'une des priorités de la FAO et il est du devoir des pays membres d'apporter à cette Organisation les soutiens nécessaires pour qu'elle puisse mener cette tâche vers la voie de la réussite dans les meilleures conditions possibles.

Hideki ITO (Japon): My delegation would like to give our comments on this agenda item very briefly.

First of all, I would like to congratulate FAO on the concrete achievements of its field activities in terms of quality and quantity, despite the critical financial situation. At the same time, we cannot overemphasize the importance of the review process in order to make FAO's field activities as effective as possible, utilizing the funds available through UNDP Trust Fund and others.

At present, there are two ways of assessment of field projects, namely assessment done by FAO representatives and assessment by FAO's Evaluation Service. We are of the opinion that in the case of the evaluation by FAO's representatives it is difficult for them to be objective since they are dealing with most field projects in one way or another. On the other hand, in relation to the evaluation by the FAO Evaluation Service, the number of projects under review is limited and it is difficult to grasp the whole picture of projects all over the world. My delegation wishes to ask the Secretariat to explain how the projects to be reviewed are selected. I would also like to request the Secretariat to carry out, in the future, more detailed evaluation for its further improvements, taking into account the difference in project categories, countries, regions, etc.

Regarding TCDC, we believe self-help efforts for development of human resources by developing countries are very important. My delegation appreciates the promotion of network for TCDC and utilization of increasing numbers of national experts.

With regard to TCP, we have already requested the Secretariat for more information in a previous agenda item, for which Mr Shah promised that further information would be provided in future documents.

Finally, I would like to assure you that Japan attaches great importance to the field projects carried out by FAO. Japan has contributed financially every year since 1980 and we are going to contribute US\$ 5.27 million to about ten projects in the fiscal year 1989.

Sidasty AIDARA (Sénégal): L'heure avance et je crois comprendre que nous devons absolument terminer ce soir l'examen de cet important point de l'ordre du jour. Je serai donc bref, je le serai d'autant que l'Ambassadeur de Belgique dans son éloquence habituelle a évoqué certains aspects que ma délégation souhaitait soulever, et que d'autre part la délégation française a émis ici une opinion que nous partageons à propos de la participation, à propos de l'implication des compétences et des ressources humaines et nationales dans l'exécution des projets des pays bénéficiaires. Le point de vue du Sénégal, développé par ailleurs par ma délégation, sur les programmes de la FAO en général au cours des discussions sur le point 13, nous permet également de limiter notre intervention sur l'examen de cette question.

Ma délégation souhaiterait avant tout féliciter le secrétariat pour le document de qualité, présenté au titre de ce point de notre ordre du jour. C'est un document clair qui donne une idée précise de l'exécution des programmes de terrain; en même temps nous félicitons le secrétariat pour cet excellent travail, nous l'encourageons à persévérer dans cette voie.

Ma délégation a écouté avec beaucoup d'intérêt les différentes délégations qui se sont exprimées avant elle sur cette question. Nous ne souhaitons revenir sur certains aspects que pour réaffirmer notre attachement, en tant que pays bénéficiaire, au bon déroulement des opérations et programmes de terrain de la FAO. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous ne cesserons de solliciter le renforcement de la capacité d'identification de formulation et de gestion des services compétents de la FAO, y compris bien entendu le Centre d'investissement et les représentations de la FAO dans les pays comme dans les régions.

Nous continuons de considérer qu'il est important de renforcer les projets de production vivrière et de formation, pour ne citer que ces deux domaines. 48% des programmes de terrain sont consacrés à l'Afrique. C'est un effort louable qui nous réjouit, mais nous pourrions l'être encore davantage si ce pourcentage pouvait atteindre au moins les 50%. Je le dis au risque de ne pas satisfaire la distinguée représentante du Venezuela pour laquelle j'ai beaucoup d'admiration et de déférence, mais je le dis parce que l'Afrique est le continent où le risque de pénurie alimentaire est le plus élevé. S'agissant des structures de contrôle et d'exécution et de la gestion des programmes de terrain, nous souhaitons clairement indiquer ici que nous ne sommes pas favorables à la création d'un comité, quelle que soit l'appellation de ce comité chargé de ces tâches, alors même qu'il existe à la FAO un organe de la Conférence générale chargé de cette mission, et j'ai nommé le Comité du programme.

En terminant, ma délégation voudrait se féliciter de la coopération et de la coordination qui existent de plus en plus heureusement entre la FAO, le PNUD et la Banque mondiale, entre autres, à propos de l'exécution des programmes de terrain. En tout cas, au Sénégal, cette coopération est une réalité et nous nous en réjouissons.

Zbigniew KARNICKI (Poland) : Poland with satisfaction welcomed the document C 89/4. This document contains a number of data and information allowing us to judge and evaluate the FAO field activities. We are seeing the genuine efforts of the Organization in improving field operations and the fact that despite economic problems the Director-General and his staff have managed to maintain and even slightly increase the real volume of the FAO technical cooperation as an unquestionable success. We see the Field Programme as the most important element of FAO activities and the way to examine, as the delegate of Venezuela said, in situ the problem and needs. It is a very good document, but as nothing is perfect in this world, we have some remarks which we would like to point out, hoping for future improvement. We read this document with interest and when we finished it we were looking for a Chapter 5, which could be entitled "The Future Prospects and Priorities", and we did not find it. We think that lack of this chapter significantly reduces the vision and perspective of FAO's activities in the field. This also reduced our judgement on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 as we are also looking for an evaluation, not only done by FAO country officers, but also we were looking for an evaluation of the backstopping by Headquarters but done by the field projects themselves. We were looking for the evaluation of the services of the Headquarters to the field but seen by the eyes of the field operation. I think that would be interesting to answer the question, is this backstopping efficient and speedy enough or it is coming late and insufficient? Does the internal organization structure of the FAO assure a speedy flow of a decision and information regarding backstopping, assuring

maximum efficiency of the field programmes, or is there a twisted road with a chance of red lights on the way? My delegation feels that with such an evaluation added to that one, provided by FAO representatives, would significantly enhance the self-evaluation of the FAO field activities.

We are also looking in this document, which is very descriptive and provides a lot of figures, but we are also looking for sane information about the life-span of the projects and follow-up activities and also the impact which the the field projects are making on the areas under consideration. We hope that this information would be possible to find in the next Review of the Field Programme.

The Investment Centre is 25 years old. This is the age of greater strength and activities. Poland regards very highly the activities of the Investment Centre and its role in the identification and preparation of investment projects. We wish the Investment Centre good health and further achievement in generating resources and we fully agree with the areas in which the Centre itself wants to improve its performance, as described in paragraphs 3.9.4 and 3.9.5 on pages 101 and 102.

We are welcoming the increased use of experts from developing countries. We fully support this trend, hoping that it will continue. Forty years of FAO activities in training should now be paying back as many of the experts in developing countries have been trained by FAO. It proves that our funds spent on training activities have been properly invested and we note with satisfaction a continued expansion in FAO's efforts in regard to field training.

In this connection, we also welcome the greater use of national experts in FAO projects. In doing so we are seeing this as an important step in assuring the better adaptation of a project to local conditions and also ensuring a follow-up of activities after projects terminate, as many of these experts are treating the project activities as their own babies.

We very much welcome the efforts put into the TCDC and the TCDC research network constant review, and we do hope the resources for this will continue to be provided. This is also an important area for activities. This means looking at how to generate more funds for the field activities and how to coordinate the better use of these resources. I think we have to put in this room the question why so much aid is going now on a bilateral basis. Is it only because the countries have found this way more efficient or are there also different, for example, political reasons? In our opinion the world climate is changing recently, in all meanings of these words. Confrontation is gradually replaced by cooperation and a global warming effect should in our opinion create a better condition for multilateral cooperation. My delegation believes that this matter needs in-depth consideration and encourages FAO for doing so and continuing dialogue with the countries and the organizations.

H. RWEHUMBIZA (Tanzania): My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the document C 89/4 which has given a good and concise review of field programmes.

We note two points from the Review: one, an encouraging increase in the level of funding for the field programmes, and two, the satisfactory implementation of the programmes reviewed. We would like at this state to salute the donors who have made the increase in the funding possible. Secondly, given the satisfactory performance of the programmes reviewed, we appeal to donors to find it possible and useful to increase trust funds in the coming biennium.

On the observations about the performance of the field programmes there are definitely areas that need improvement such as project design, and inappropriate policy and institutional environment. FAO and beneficiaries should do these improvements for it is possible to be done. While on this topic, I would like to comment on the observed, less satisfactory performance of programmes in the LDCs vis-à-vis non-LDCs. In many ways this is not a strange happening, for the difficulties which are prevailing in LDCs also effect programme implementation. What needs to be done is to continue to take measures to improve the implementation in these areas. On this we agree with the recommendations of the Programme Committee as contained in document 89/LIM/19 paragraph 2.3.4.

We in Africa appreciate the timely assistance through Trust Funds to deal with the locust threat. Unfortunately one cannot say with certainty that further assistance of this nature will not be needed. We do hope that if the situation arises in the future we shall all participate to deal with this threat quickly and expeditiously.

We have also noted with appreciation the trend to reduce, personnel cost component in the projects and programmes implemented. I share the views of the delegate of Poland who has just spoken. We believe this is a result of the impact of training that has been going on. I wish to link this with a related aspect of project management in which the number of national project directors is increasing. We believe this trend should be supported and encouraged, for we are moving towards sustainable development as we increase national capacities to implement programmes. The training component should also include training nationals to manage their own projects.

Under the section of Overview, there is a remark that increasingly UNDP is managing the funds of project-related areas where FAO is competent but no reason for this trend has been given. I propose that consultation continue to be made with UNDP to find out why this trend is happening.

On TCP, again the assessment confirms the view that many members hold on TCP, that they respond quickly and efficiently and they are of value to us. We endorse this assessment.

On various programmes my delegation would like to make the following comments. The work on farming system analysis is welcome in order to enable us to formulate sound policies and plans.

The work on livestock development is plausible, if only to note that this sector could be given more resources. In many countries, especially in Africa, livestock production per capita is dropping fast, despite the potential. I support the remarks by the delegate of Denmark and others on this issue. In this regard we support work on fodder and pasture, control of animal diseases and research. The review shows FAO's attack on many problems in livestock but the challenge remains on the plight of pastoralists and the whole system of pastoralism. There are very many issues to deal with in this area. The multidisciplinary capacity and orientation of FAO could be used to help countries in which pastoralism is still important.

My country supports the good work done under the Tropical Action Plan. We have been beneficiary to this programme and I am happy to inform this Commission that our national forest plan is ready and we shall begin implementation as soon as the resources are put together. We thank the donors, including FAO, on this programme.

Finally, a word on Chapter Two on Assessment of Field Projects. My delegation would like to note that one area where improvement could be made to improve implementation is to speed recruitment of FAO project staff. The practice of recommending one expert at a time for a post is time- wasting. Why can the Organization not propose at least three people from which host governments can choose one?

Ibrahim KARA (Guinée): Je vous remercie, M. le Président. L'exposé de M. Rinvile, fait sous forme de prose poétique, a retenu l'attention puis le souffle à plus d'un auditeur, non seulement en raison des comparaisons imagées, fort justes, puisées du fond de son métier de forestier expérimenté mais aussi pour l'objectivité et la clarté de l'analyse des diverses activités de la FAO au cours de l'exercice biennal 88-89. Nous l'en remercions et lui restons reconnaissants pour son interpellation quant au rythme accéléré de la croissance démographique et du besoin alimentaire pressant qui en découle.

La délégation guinéenne se félicite de constater une amélioration progressive des méthodes de travail de la FAO sur le terrain. En effet, comme cela nous est rapporté dans le document et aussi comme cela se déroule en Guinée, nous constatons une participation plus accrue des bénéficiaires à la réalisation des projets, non seulement des populations rurales elles-mêmes mais aussi du personnel d'encadrement et de gestion ainsi que de formation. C'est un progrès que nous saluons. La notion de "Nouvelles dimensions" est en voie de devenir une réalité. Nous apprécions aussi et de manière particulière les bonnes relations de travail entre le PNUD et la FAO, ce qui est un élément réconfortant dont nous encourageons le renforcement. En tout cas, le Directeur général nous rassure, dans son avant-propos, d'un avenir très encourageant quant à l'évolution favorable de la qualité de ces rapports de travail. Ce maintien de l'Afrique parmi les préoccupations prioritaires de la FAO constitue une situation qui se justifie pleinement. En effet, le rôle de la FAO, en cette phase des programmes d'ajustement structurel dans nos pays, est irremplaçable. C'est pourquoi nous apprécions l'action du Centre d'investissements qui, à travers ses études de projets, bien conçues, participe efficacement à la réalisation d'investissements adaptés au développement de nos économies. Nous encourageons la coopération de la FAO avec la Banque mondiale, le FIDA, la BAD et avec les autres institutions de financement. Pour terminer, je rappellerai tout simplement la grave mise au point faite par M. Shah ce matin: en effet, M. Shah nous a signalé que, depuis des années, nous adoptons des budgets avec un faible taux d'accroissement. Certes, mais en réalité, dans leur exécution, sur le terrain, ces budgets se présentent à un niveau au-dessous de zéro. Quelle douloureuse constatation...

C'est pourquoi, en réitérant l'importante interpellation de M. Rinvile qui situe notre responsabilité collective face aux besoins croissants d'une démographie galopante, la délégation guinéenne rappelle à notre Commission que le paiement des contributions des Etats Membres reste la clef d'une intervention efficace de la FAO dans le développement de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde.

Salim SARRAF (Liban) (langue originale Arabe): La délégation du Liban souhaite exprimer ses remerciements et son appréciation à M. Rinvile pour l'exposé présenté au début de cette séance. L'image qu'il a évoquée est expressive et révélatrice de l'importance des programmes de terrain. Ils sont pour nous, ce que les racines principales sont pour l'arbre. Tout en appuyant cette comparaison, nous souhaitons la compléter en disant que les racines et les racines secondaires d'un arbre sont la principale source de sa nourriture, comme le sont les nombreux programmes ordinaires de notre Organisation.

La délégation du Liban appuie tous les programmes de terrain présentés par le Secrétariat et considère que l'évaluation effectuée dans ce cadre-là reflète clairement les améliorations qu'il devrait leur apporter à l'avenir.

Ainsi, nous n'estimons pas nécessaire de recourir à une nouvelle évaluation externe de ces programmes. Tous les pays peuvent jouer ce rôle d'évaluation et nous souscrivons à tout ce qu'a dit le représentant de la Belgique à ce sujet.

Ma délégation souhaite aussi mettre l'accent sur l'importance du programme de coopération technique et le succès qu'a connu l'expérience qui consiste à employer des directeurs de projet et des experts locaux dans le cadre des projets de ce programme. Nous espérons qu'à l'avenir cette méthode sera généralisée.

D'autre part, la délégation de mon pays voudrait souligner l'importance des deux points suivants:

Primo, la nécessité de développer et d'étendre les activités du Plan d'actions forestier tropical, le PAFT, afin qu'il couvre toutes les autres régions, notamment le Proche-Orient et la Méditerranée. Nous appelons aussi à l'augmentation des fonds qui lui sont alloués.

Secundo, la nécessité de préparer et d'adopter un programme régional pour la protection de l'environnement dans les pays du bassin Méditerranéen ainsi que l'élaboration et l'exécution de projets de reboisement et d'autres projets visant à lutter contre l'érosion du sol et à protéger les forêts des incendies.

Un tel programme nécessite bien entendu une coopération très large entre les pays du bassin Méditerranéen, y compris les pays européens appartenant à cette région. Enfin, il faudrait souligner et se référer aux rapports des experts relatifs au programme de terrain et aux fonds alloués à son application pour parvenir à un maximum d'efficacité. Car le programme de terrain, s'il disposait des fonds prévus dans ces rapports, une fois ces fonds adoptés par la Conférence, pourra parvenir à un maximum d'efficacité.

Bagouro NOUMANSANA (Mali): Je voudrais tenir compte du temps imparti et dans ce sens je dois dire que mon intervention rejoint beaucoup la position exprimée par les délégations de la Colombie, du Royaume de Belgique et également de la France. Le document est un outil d'information vraiment complet et surtout c'est un progrès en matière de connaissances, de maîtrise de l'intervention de la FAO, par les organes de la FAO, j'entends. Nous pensons qu'il y a un chapitre qui manque. A savoir les recommandations à partir des contraintes réelles. Nous avons constaté que la crise financière au niveau de l'entreprise, et même au niveau des bailleurs de fonds, conduit souvent à l'adoption du projet d'un budget convenu et finalement d'une enveloppe qui se situe en deçà des prévisions initiales. Cela amène les pays bénéficiaires à participer davantage au moment même où ils n'ont pas de moyens, au moment même où leurs moyens sont encore réduits davantage.

L'implication des cadres nationaux qui évoluent pose également un certain problème de réadaptation, de compétence de la FAO en tant qu'organe d'exécution car on ne peut pas intégrer les cadres nationaux sans leur donner, en tout cas, le maximum de pleins pouvoirs pour qu'ils puissent décider s'il est nécessaire d'augmenter, au moment de la conception des programmes, la part réservée à l'équipement. Cela aussi va dans le sens du développement durable, car un projet fait partie d'un ensemble de planification nationale. Il est bon qu'il y ait des moyens d'équipement, et que ces moyens restent appropriés pour l'avenir. Nous souhaitons et nous estimons qu'il est absolument nécessaire de faire une évaluation conjointe entre les organes de la FAO et les pays bénéficiaires. Ceci aura l'avantage de profiter aux deux parties et de présenter une situation beaucoup plus détaillée et convaincante. Nous souhaitons le renforcement de la participation du Centre d'investissement.

Nous pensons qu'il n'est pas nécessaire de créer de nouvelles instances, des contrôleurs indépendants ou autres; cela nous conduirait d'abord à des augmentations de coût qui grèveraient les moyens d'intervention, ensuite cela nous conduirait à créer des superstructures, amenant une confusion.

En matière de développement, tout au moins de contrôle, des projets, nous ne voyons pas la place du secteur privé qui n'a aucune compétence en affaire de contrôle. Il rend peut-être un service de fournitures que tous les projets FAO dans tous les pays du monde saisissent. Mais en matière d'intervention du privé dans le secteur de l'agriculture, il y a incompatibilité de conceptions. Nous estimons qu'on ne peut pas mesurer l'efficacité des services de la FAO par rapport à la participation du privé.

Nous saisissons cette occasion pour remercier la FAO de l'efficacité du service qu'elle rend à travers les bailleurs de fonds, du Fonds fiduciaire, notamment pour les progrès remarquables qui ont été constatés à travers le document C 89/4.

Et c'est sur cette base que nous recommandons l'adoption du document.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Algérie): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de remercier et de féliciter M. Rinvile pour son exposé introductif que je qualifierais personnellement de limpide. Nous tenons également à féliciter le Secrétariat pour le document exhaustif qu'il a élaboré.

La délégation algérienne se réjouit des résultats positifs enregistrés en ce qui concerne les programmes de terrain; notre délégation apprécie pleinement les efforts déployés sur place et sur le terrain pour y parvenir, et nous voudrions associer dans cet hommage les principales sources de financement que sont le PNUD, la Banque mondiale et le FIDA.

En ce qui concerne l'évaluation des projets de terrain, la délégation algérienne voudrait toutefois faire part d'une préoccupation qu'elle partage avec le Secrétariat, et qui concerne le résultat relativement faible enregistré dans la participation gouvernementale, le transfert des compétences et les perspectives d'actions consécutives.

Comme je l'ai déjà dit de façon générale, notre délégation a noté des évolutions favorables dans l'exécution des programmes de terrain, et je voudrais mentionner plus particulièrement la part importante des projets exécutés dans le cadre du Programme pour le redressement de l'agriculture en Afrique.

En effet, il nous paraît juste que cette région, qui connaît la situation alimentaire la plus préoccupante, continue de profiter en priorité de la solidarité internationale.

Comme bon nombre d'orateurs qui m'ont précédée, je suis également en faveur de la pratique qui consiste à avoir de plus en plus recours aux spécialistes nationaux; de même, il nous paraît éminemment souhaitable de confier, dans la mesure du possible, la direction des projets à des compétences nationales.

De même, nous souhaitons exprimer notre soutien pour l'augmentation d'un recrutement d'agents originaires des pays en développement.

La délégation algérienne se félicite de l'intérêt accordé par la FAO à la promotion de la capacité des Etats d'identifier et de préparer eux-mêmes des projets d'investissement; néanmoins, elle s'inquiète du sort réservé aux programmes de formation prévus à cet effet, et suspendus en 1987.

Pour terminer, je remarque avec satisfaction l'intérêt réel et la place prioritaire accordée par les intervenants aux programmes de terrain, en raison de leur apport concret; il nous semblerait regrettable d'alourdir ces programmes par la mise en place de nouvelles procédures d'évaluation.

Mohammed Suleiman KARBOUG (Syria) (original language Arabic): My delegation wishes to commend the Secretariat on their excellent and highly relevant preparation of this document. We would wish also to voice our opinions regarding the reshuffling of Field Programmes and the enhancement of their efficiency.

If we look at this document C 89/4, Tables 1 and 5, we see the main features and the extra-budgetary spending items on field projects and the sending out of experts and consultants, we find high percentages, other contracts, logistics and so on, but the item for advisers is more than 50 percent of the overall allocation which we feel is somewhat high if you are going to weigh this against the advantages because they are a driving force in such an operation. Nevertheless this is a very large amount, an excessive amount of money, we feel, which is allocated which we think is exaggerated; exaggerated also if you think of the logistics which are just as important - input,

equipment, facilities. Do not forget that these countries are frequently very needy of such equipment such as logistical support material. Here we find the wishes of national leaders very important. They know the area. Their advice is often very much more keyed to the actual needs.

In the case of the absence of local expertise and skills, then one could think in terms of calling in the neighbouring country's expertise and know-how, and the area of technical cooperation between developing countries. That would be a very felicitous solution.

M.A. SYED (Bangladesh) : For a great part of today we have been having a debate on a most useful report, a review of Field Programmes of 1988-89, for which FAO deserves to be thanked. It is a most important and stimulating report, characterized by lucidity and candour.

Mr Rinvile's introduction of the report was very apt and perceptive.

As regards trends in expenditure, it is particularly heartening that FAO expenditures have continued to increase and that the previous peak delivery of US\$ 318 million reached in 1981 was, for the first time, exceeded in 1988 with a total expenditure of US\$ 342 million.

My delegation is pleased to note that UNDP funds contributed most to the overall increase in Field Programme delivery. My delegation believes that FAO has the professional capability and dedication to undertake more responsibilities. The professional capability can certainly be further improved. My delegation will revert to this subject in subsequent sessions.

We would like to see the TCP programme increasing further.

While intervening in the discussions on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91, my delegation expressed its view and its concern. Regarding the distribution of expenditure of FAO field projects, it is a little disturbing to note that for Asia expenditure has declined to 23 percent although the Report recognizes that it is the most populous region. There exists massive poverty and a state of underdevelopment in many countries having still huge, burgeoning populations.

The Report summarizes evaluation missions' findings and assessments of project design, implementation and results which reveal an optimistic trend towards improvement which is very refreshing. For continued improvement of project performance, a system of effective monitoring both by recipients and donors, or donor agencies, will have to be established. It is worth investing in the development of an effective monitoring arrangement. Often in this matter we tend to adopt a penny-wise, pound-foolish attitude. Having full-time project managers or directors for every major project is a must. Also of critical importance is regular and intensive review, which sometimes is followed in the breach. I agree with the observation of the United Kingdom delegate that the evaluation of cost-effectiveness for projects is also most vital. Money is a very scarce resource and we have to make the best use of it.

My delegation is happy to see that FAO is becoming involved in policy development. Bangladesh has asked the FAO to help in developing a national seeds policy. Why do some projects fail and others succeed? Flawed policies could contribute to failure and good policies could help success. We have to get the policies right: first things first.

In Chapter 4 of this Report selected features of field activities are dealt with. FAO's concern is to build up development and self-reliance, as reflected on page 110: a very interesting chapter indeed. Training and study are important to us. There is an objective to use a national projects director, and to increase recruitment of national experts and consultants, which would be a step in the right direction and should be expanded further.

On training, it is refreshing to note that training activities within FAO/UNDP field projects reached the high level of 13 percent of all inputs delivered in 1988, while under trust fund projects the figure was 8 percent. Training is also a significant activity of TCP projects, that is to say, of 23 percent of them. My delegation attaches the utmost importance to training. It is one of the best means of technology transfer. Chapter 3 deals with the promotion of agricultural investment assistance and this has been very lightly underscored as a priority of FAO's activity. The role of the Investment Centre, which draws upon the rest of FAO for technical support, is very critical.

I agree with the observation of the Netherlands delegation that FAO should assist the priority sectors also. From the point of view of ray country, a priority area in current circumstances would be the area of agro-industries and agro-processing which could further activate the agriculture sector. It is interesting to note that on average the Investment Centre works on more than one hundred projects a year. It is indeed a very impressive figure. During each of the last five years, 40 identified projects are prepared by FAO and have been approved for financing. In the area of investments, my delegation feels that because funds are becoming so scarce these days a strict criterion of cost effectiveness should be applied. Low cost technology and appropriate indigenous technology, where it is suitable, could also offer the best answer.

Marcos NIETO LARA (Cuba): En primer lugar, la delegación cubana quisiera expresar su agradecimiento a la Secretaría por el excelente documento que ha presentado, y agradecer también al Sr. Renville la presentación tan clara y precisa que nos hizo del tema.

Nosotros hemos apreciado con satisfacción el crecimiento que ha experimentado el Programa de Campo en los últimos dos años. Realmente, en el año 1987 se discutía y en el 1985 se discutía con inquietud la baja de la participación de los fondos del PNUD en el Programa de Campo.

En los últimos tiempos hemos visto una recuperación, y esto nos estimula bastante para seguir adelante. Creemos, sin embargo, que es lamentable que el Programa de Cooperación Técnica siga acusando una baja continuada, de manera que se reducen por esta vía las actividades de Campo.

El otro problema que queremos resaltar, es la afectación que ha tenido el Programa Ordinario con relación a las actividades de Campo, y sería deseable que hubiera una mayor vinculación en el examen de estos dos problemas.

Como ya señalamos en el Programa Ordinario, persisten los problemas de la aguda crisis económica, los problemas de la deuda y la precariedad, en general, de la situación alimentaria generalizada.

Es por esto que consideramos que las acciones de la FAO dirigidas a resolver problemas concretos de base mediante la evaluación e implementación de proyectos, es realmente una muestra de la capacidad de gestión de la FAO en avanzar en el desarrollo agrícola y, por supuesto, en ayudar a los Estados Miembros a salir del estado de desarrollo en que se encuentran en estos momentos.

Señor Presidente, la capacitación a través del Programa de Campo ha tenido un impacto altamente positivo y somos muchos los países en vías de desarrollo que cuentan ya con personal como expertos o como directores de proyecto, que puede por sí llevar adelante y ejecutar los proyectos. Creo que en este sentido la Organización debería continuar insistiendo para crear las capacidades institucionales que permitan a los países una independencia en este sentido.

Una mención aparte queremos hacer del trabajo del Centro de Inversiones. Creemos que en sus años de existencia ha ido cada día incrementando sus actividades, y la cantidad de proyectos que han sido preparados y que han sido aprobados para ayudar al desarrollo son muy elocuentes.

Quisiéramos resaltar lo que hace a la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo y el papel que ésta puede jugar dentro del Programa de Campo y en el caso particular de la región de América Latina el establecimiento de las redes de cooperación técnica ha sido un hecho y han tenido un éxito comprobado. En esto ha jugado un papel importante la Oficina Regional de la FAO para América Latina.

Creemos que también la Organización debería examinar la posibilidad de fortalecer los vínculos de cooperación, ya sea con el PNUD, con la UNICEF, con la Organización de la Mujer y poder hacer un trabajo integrado a nivel de campo.

Cuando se integran todos los esfuerzos, el resultado indiscutiblemente es muy superior. Actualmente estamos trabajando en esta dirección en nuestro propio país y los resultados son muy alentadores.

Finalmente, expresamos nuestro respaldo a este documento que nos ha sido presentado por la Secretaría.

Roger PASQUIER (Suisse): Je n'ai malheureusement pas pu être là pour la présentation de M. Rinvile, mais des experts suisses et moi-même avons étudié l'excellent document qui nous est soumis. Je voudrais faire quelques brefs commentaires.

L'appréciation de la performance par les représentants de la FAO, qui a un certain caractère d'auto-évaluation, me semble utile et devrait être maintenue. Les évaluations tripartites sont d'autant plus utiles lorsqu'elles peuvent être combinées ou accompagnées d'un renforcement de la capacité nationale. Le rapport nous indique que des cours sur le suivi et l'évaluation sont donnés à Rome, au Siège de la FAO; c'est sans doute utile mais, s'agissant du renforcement de la capacité nationale, il serait souhaitable de s'en occuper dans les pays. La FAO pourrait participer au renforcement de la

capacité nationale dans certains cas, en collaboration avec le PNUD, le FIDA et les banques de développement, dont nous savons qu'elles ont des objectifs semblables, liés à des programmes d'une certaine envergure et d'une certaine durée.

Je voudrais évoquer un troisième point. Tout comme le Comité du programme et le Comité financier, ma délégation est favorable au renforcement du rôle des pays membres dans l'orientation des politiques applicables aux activités de terrain; entre les deux solutions évoquées jusqu'ici, ma délégation donne la préférence à la création d'un comité des programmes de terrain.

Quatrièmement, concernant la délégation de compétence aux représentants locaux de la FAO, nous ne pouvons appuyer la recommandation de renforcer cette délégation de compétence.

Nous venons d'entendre le délégué du Bangladesh souligner l'importance qu'il fallait accorder à la relation coûts/avantages. Nous partageons cette opinion.

Après avoir entendu le Ministre de l'agriculture du Bangladesh déclarer en séance plénière que l'approche par programme devait être préférée à l'approche projet par projet, je voudrais dire aussi que nous sommes favorables à une telle tendance, surtout lorsque de tels programmes s'inspirent du modèle du Plan d'action forestier tropical avec tous les avantages de plus en plus connus qui en découlent.

Je ne voudrais pas à ce stade m'étendre davantage sur ces questions d'activités de terrain, étant donné que ma délégation y reviendra, à l'occasion du prochain point de l'ordre du jour de notre Commission dès lundi, donc sous l'angle de l'examen de la FAO.

Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): In the name of God, the most compassionate, the delegation of my country wishes to thank Mr Rinvile for his clear presentation of this item which constitutes the basis of FAO's work and the means to achieve development in developing countries.

We wish to express our satisfaction that the number of field projects has reached 2 500 with a budget of US\$ 2.12 billion, an expenditure totalling US\$ 324 million. However, we are concerned that the current level of expenditure in real terms is lower than that of 1980-81.

The representative of Pakistan made an observation concerning the share of extra-budgetary resources allocated to field projects designed to support research activities. This share amounts to 2%, as contained in Table 1.4. Due to the importance of this programme, my delegation would like to second Pakistan's proposal to increase this percentage during the next biennium.

We would also like to express our satisfaction on the achievements of the Investment Support Programme which has attained a lot in mobilizing the resources of developing countries. My delegation considers that the evaluation allowance for the assessment of project performance and the identification of difficulties, in order to seek appropriate solutions, and would refer to paragraphs 2.1 and 2.119. We would like to comment on FAO's interest in improving product performance and project investment in LDCs as contained in paragraphs 2.104 to 2.118.

We are pleased to see in paragraphs 1-13 and 1-24 that UNDP remains a source of funding for FAO's field activities and the fact that more attention was given to full government execution as a means of ensuring an effective implementation of the TCP, financed by UNDP and contained in paragraph 1.18. It has reached 15%. Africa has reached 48% of the total field programmes financed by Trust Funds and this they have received.

My delegation expresses satisfaction with the content of paragraphs 1.78 to 1.83 concerning the appointment of international field experts from developing countries and the increased use of resources in the field of training. This reflects a transition in aid in order to achieve self-reliance and cooperation. We also hope that the TCDC approaches continue to be promoted and achieve more importance.

Y.Y. AL-YOISSFI (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): It is for me a particular pleasure to take part in this discussion although there have been many previous speakers and, in fact, we are quite pleased that there have been. We would like to extend to you our congratulations.

We are very pleased to see that 48% of the budget is devoted to Africa and we are also pleased to see that there is an increase of field program allocations to Latin America and the Caribbean. We would like to emphasize the part played by local professionals and their cooperation with FAO's representatives. We would favour that FAO send people from the region as representatives because they know the situation better and therefore can be of more effective assistance. We also know it is very important to use local inputs, local experts and advisers and their knowledge of local conditions is of great assistance to the Organization and reduces the risk of failure. We would also attach a great deal of importance to training, upstream and downstream training. We believe in this fashion, and through the national bureaux, FAO can best control its activity.

The second item I would wish to comment on is that we would like to support those delegations who spoke in favour of the interim assessment of projects. We feel we must be quite honest with ourselves. We have to allow ourselves the possibility of interrupting a project at whatever stage it may be. I read a figure of 140 countries. What is the rate of success and what were the reasons for failures when there were some?

So far as investment in the agricultural sector is concerned, we would like to call for greater guarantees provided for invested capital. We believe this will attract investors in agricultural projects because the rate of return cycles in this type of project is very low. The Amir of Kuwait spoke before the 144th Session of the General Assembly, as well as at the non-aligned meeting recently held in Belgrade, and at both meetings he called upon the International Monetary Fund to adopt more flexible conditions in granting loans, particularly to the most underprivileged nations. We would also call upon the FAO to adopt these methods in evaluating the project which it undertakes.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): India was associated, as a member of the Programme Committee, with the consideration of document C 89/4, Review of Field Programmes. We note that the Programme Committee has commented favourably on the "structure, clarity and analytical content" of this document. Similarly, the Finance Committee noted that this document "contained both a quantitative description and a qualitative assessment of the diverse field operations".

The FAO Secretariat deserves to be complimented on the visible improvement in the standard of documentation and analysis and more particularly the enhancement of transparency. So does Mr Rinvile, the Assistant Director-General, for his clear introduction.

Whilst dealing with this document, as rightly observed by some of the distinguished delegates, we should also take cognizance of the document C 89/21, which contains the recommendation of the SJS on the field programmes as a part of the review of FAO and the views and comments of the Director-General on these recommendations as contained in document C 89/21. We should also keep in view the report of the Group of Experts SJS 3/2 which is before us as Appendix 2 to document C 89/21, Sup. 1.

However, while doing so we should not lose sight of the important fact that this report, which was an input to the SJS of the Programme and Finance Committees, has been considered by these two Committees and their views on the Group of Experts report along with the Director-General's views and comments thereon are contained in document C 89/21.

May I particularly, invite your attention to what the Group of Experts says while dealing with the factors affecting FAO's field programmes in paragraph 44. "The factors, internal and external, that hamper the effectiveness of field activities and the deficiencies in their formulation and implementation have been substantially identified in a number of FAO documents. Discussions with the sister agencies and also with the FAO field staff and representatives of governments frequently focussed on the same issues. During the discussions in FAO's Headquarters, as also in the field, it was clear that FAO has been aware of these issues and has been making efforts to deal with many of these problems and to improve performance. The Review of Field Programmes for 1986-87, document C 87/4, considered by the Conference in November 1987, reflects the efforts being made by FAO to improve performance in field operations. A number of factors are beyond FAO's control and improvements in many instances depend upon the availability of adequate manpower and financial resources".

Noting in paragraph 48 that, "In field operations, quality of assistance and speed of delivery are of prime importance" the Group of Experts has concluded that "FAO's rate of project delivery compares well with other agencies in the UN system".

The Group of Experts also commented in paragraph 45 on the highly complex nature of FAO's field operations saying, "Taken as a whole FAO's field operations are highly complex due to the multidisciplinary nature of much of the Organization's work, their large size and geographical spread and the variety of funding sources".

Dealing with the problems of implementation the Group of Experts in paragraph 50 of the report observed, "Inability of a recipient government to ensure the timely delivery of its inputs and the slowness and diffusion of its mechanisms dealing with technical assistance projects, particularly those

of a multidisciplinary nature, are sometimes at the core of implementation problems. Yet the expectations of governments regarding the quality of advisors and consultants have risen, along with the increasing availability of well-qualified national personnel".

In paragraph 52 the Group of Experts also observed, "Technical support represents a considerable problem" and goes on in paragraph 53 to observe, "A review of the present professional staffing levels for the Regular Programme in FAO reveals that as compared to the levels approved by the 1975 Conference the number of staff in position is much smaller. Particularly in the Headquarters Divisions, the professional staff strength has tended to remain steady over the last decade or so. During this period, however, the activities in the field have expanded in terms of numbers, variety and geographic distribution. This has been one of the factors hampering the effectiveness of FAO's field operations and has also contributed to the deficiencies in the formulation of and implementation of field operations". This emphasizes and underlines the needs for having additional staff, whether they are project officers or technical personnel.

The SJS, page 21 paragraph 2.60, refers to the Groups of Experts' recommendation that steps should be taken to examine the possibility of setting up new special action programmes. The SJS, while supporting this proposal, has recommended in paragraph x of paragraph 2.64 on page 24 "that a small number of new special action programmes be established covering areas considered to be of high priority so as to focus and mobilize trust funds for projects and programmes of particular interest to Member Nations". The Director-General, in paragraph 43 of his views and comments, has welcomed the suggestion but has not advanced any specific proposals for new special action programmes. However, he did raise the issue whether the new special action programmes could be organized and maintained by the existing staff of the Regular Programme or whether they would require additional personnel.

As you are aware, the Director-General has, in document C 89/21 in paragraph 52 page xii, proposed the appointment of twelve additional Programme Officers and six Technical Officers. These, as also the project programme formulation facility referred to in paragraph 53 of the Director-General's views and comments, the field inspection unit proposed in paragraph 49 on the facilities for staff training proposed by the Director-General in paragraph 67 are all to be looked at in this context. It would not be realistic on the part of the Member Nations to expect that improvements in field programmes, whether they be in the project formulation, implementation, technical backstopping monitoring, inspection or evaluation, could all be achieved, along with more detailed documentation aiding transparency, without any additional staff. This is a hard but important decision and we have to take a view consistent with our expectations from FAO.

A look at Table 7 of document C 89/4, even if we for the moment ignore the fact that the percentages of experts from the developing countries have tended to stagnate over the last nine years at around 45 percent, brings out clearly two trends which cannot but cause concern to the developing countries. In terms of contracts awarded there is a steady decline from 57 percent to the developing countries in 1985 to a mere 13 percent in 1988. Similarly in terms of equipment orders placed on developing countries also there has been a steady decline from 21 percent in 1983 to 13 percent in 1988. Dealing with these two aspects the Finance Committee has observed in paragraph 3.119 "It was noted that the recent authorization to the field by FAO to double the allowed level of local purchasing would improve the situation". While one could be optimistic on this count, in dealing with the

question related to the equipment orders, the Finance Committee tried to rationalize about contracting by saying that, with regard to contracting "It was recognized that input formed only a minor share of field programme inputs and was therefore subject to wide variation, depending on one or several particularly large contracts in a given year". The data in Table 7, however, would go to show that while this could explain the position from 1982 to 1983, from 1983 to 1988 the steady decline in equipment orders to developing countries is not explained by this observation. This, we think, is a matter which should be kept under constant review.

We would strongly plead for a greater use of TCDC and related mechanisms, like networking, which could be widely emulated, based on the good experience that has been gained in the Latin American region.

Under the new dimensions policy the aim is to reach a higher level of execution of field programmes through national governments. The difficulties in this behalf are well documented not only in the Report of the Groups of Experts but also in the document C 89/4. Here the distinguished delegate of Denmark has also made very pertinent observations about the problems.

We are particularly happy to deal with Chapter 3 of document C 89/4 entitled "Promoting Agricultural Investment". This chapter is consistent with the uniformly high standard of work turned out by the Investment Centre and the very high reputation that FAO's Investment Centre enjoys among the peer groups in the sister agencies and organizations in the UN system.

The Section D "Issues and Prospects", from page 99 onwards, is particularly stimulating and the conclusions presented in paragraph 3.94 on pages 101 and 102 typify the transparency Member Nations have been speaking about. Reading this has been a heartwarming experience because these are the kind of efforts for constant improvement in performance and documentation which one is very happy to see in FAO.

We must compliment and congratulate FAO on its efforts to improve the standard of documentation, particularly of the field programmes. We believe that this is a continuing exercise and future reports should be progressively even more analytical, introspective and transparent. Against this background we would particularly endorse the suggestion made by the Programme Committee that while assessing the projects' performance, an assessment by the recipient government, in addition to the assessment by the FAORs and FAO's Evaluation Service would further enhance the analysis.

One last point before I conclude: my delegation is supportive of the strong focus on field programmes in Africa. At the same time we are also strongly of the view that while the field programme focus should be regional, the weight of attention should, cutting across regions, have a direct and responsive nexus with the magnitude and spread of the problems of underdevelopment to be tackled in the regions. This will ensure that the flow of assistance will have an equitable relationship with the extent and distribution of needs.

May I conclude with the firm belief that FAO will continue to strive energetically to maintain the gratifying trend in improving the standard of documentation on field programmes.

CHAIRMAN: In our list the last speakers are Australia and Ghana but they have informed the Secretariat that they have to leave and have handed over the statements to the Secretariat for insertion in the verbatims, I think we do not have any problems in accepting this,

Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission II, took the chair

Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission II, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Joseph Tchicaya, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (Mexico): Mi delegación le da gran importancia a este tema, ya que el programa de campo significa la presencia de la FAO en nuestros países. Por ello, nos congratula que haya un reconocimiento general al trabajo que la Organización desarrolla y al documento que lo presenta. Nos complace asimismo el incremento de actividades financiadas por el PNUD y los fondos fiduciarios.

Esperamos que esto se fortalezca, pero también llamamos la atención en relación con la tendencia a la bilateralización o distorsión respecto al interés o desinterés para financiar programas, como son los emanados de la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca, el PAC, el PAFT y otros así como su aplicación a las regiones.

Nos unimos a las delegaciones de Bélgica, Colombia, Francia, Pakistán, Congo, Venezuela y otros en aras de la brevedad.

En lo que toca a la evaluación, nos satisface que cada vez se hace más eficiente e independiente para tomar en consideración aspectos básicos como son la consecución de objetivos tales como la formación, transferencia tecnológica y otros parámetros que definen el nivel de éxito logrado.

Respecto al Centro de Inversiones, nos congratula el apoyo que recibe pero, como ya ha sido mencionado consideramos que en el trabajo de identificación y preparación de los proyectos de inversión o en los análisis sectoriales, debe tomarse como base la experiencia de los departamentos técnicos de nuestra Organización y la experiencia y tecnología existentes en los propios países receptores, para transformarlos en proyectos bancables, algunos de los cuales, incluso, se hacen con propósito de corregir los problemas de ajuste estructural que aplican los países en desarrollo y no que se plantea a la inversa. Esperamos, que pueda reforzarse la fructífera colaboración con el FIDA y los bancos regionales.

Mi delegación apoya la participación, cada vez mayor, de personal nacional en la operación de los proyectos, así como el uso de consultores de los países en desarrollo. La operación de red del CTPD en las cuales la FAO ha demostrado una gran capacidad mereciendo todo nuestro respaldo y en este punto insistimos en la solicitud que el GRULAC hizo en el punto anterior con el objeto de que se busque la solución a la red de acuicultura para América Latina comprendida en el proyecto Aquila, a fin de evitar su cierre ya que su interrupción conllevaría una pérdida irreparable. Hacemos un atento llamamiento para una respuesta positiva.

Mi delegación expresa su apoyo al programa de la Campaña Mundial contra el Hambre Acción pro-Desarrollo esperando que la reconocida labor que está desarrollando con las ONGs pueda ser incrementada así como también el apoyo al PMA. Esperamos asimismo, que se dé especial atención a la incorporación de los minusválidos a través de componentes o proyectos que les permita realizarse como parte integrante de nuestras comunidades rurales.

Hermann REDL (Austria) (original language German) : The explanations contained in document C 89/4 give a very good overview of FAO's field activities. Mr Rinvile in his introductory statement gave us sane very valuable information for which I am very grateful. As we know, in developing countries FAO is giving direct, practical help and aid, particularly technical, in the field of food, forestry, agriculture and fisheries. These field projects have further strengthened our opinion that the local mechanisms and training and research and demonstration of new technologies could be further supported and in the future even further enhanced.

We welcome in particular that in many projects the staff of the country itself, the national government of the country involved are working and that the projects are worked out in such a way that after this conclusion local, national and regional measures follow. Austria supports above all those particular projects which give help towards self help.

Since it is so late, I would as a member of the Programme Committee like to refer to document C 89/LIM/19, paragraphs 2.36 and 2.50, which I fully support.

With respect to the assessment of projects, we think that the existing Organization of FAO should be brought in. We would be against the setting up of new units of the Organization and we furthermore endorse the comments of the delegate of France talking about the activities and tasks of the Programme Committee.

Austria, however, welcomes the cooperation of the FAO with the World Bank and other finance bodies and we hope that in future this will be further strengthened.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): Allow me first of all to convey my warmest thanks to Mr Rinvile for the presentation he has just given us in connection with this Review of the Field Programme for 1988/89. The consideration of this document clearly shews the efforts made by the Secretariat and in it the way in which field programmes have been implemented is clearly explained.

At this late hour I cannot but associate myself with the comments already voiced by a number of delegates, particularly the delegations of Brazil, Lebanon, Venezuela and Congo. So I would entirely agree with their statements.

However, allow me to emphasize certain points which are the object of particular concern to my delegation.

As far as the TCP is concerned, the head of our delegation during the Plenary Session this morning emphasized the part played by the TCP and how important this programme is for the development of agriculture in developing countries. The head of our delegation pointed out how attached he was for the Organization to increase the importance given to this Programme, which has proved its worth.

My delegation would like to pay tribute to the efforts made by FAO with the aim of improving the review and follow-up process of field programmes. We feel that setting up a small organization that would be responsible for outlining and designing field programmes would be worthy of our support.

As far as the investment centres are concerned, in perusing this document it would seem that these investment centres attracted investment for a total amount of \$ 34 million which were invested in developing countries. This is clear proof of the value of these centres. FAO should further bolster its action, providing it with the necessary resources and staff, particularly from developing countries.

As far as training is concerned, it is stated here that over the past biennium training activities were reduced because of the financial crisis. This is most unfortunate, because in the developing countries we depend for the establishment of projects on the advice provided by external and foreign consultants. You are fully aware, of the amount that our countries invest in setting up such projects. So these consultant agencies compete among each other and therefore the development of a project increases and is passed on and added to the final cost of a project.

As far as the national project directors' role is concerned, we must say that we feel that the part they play is absolutely vital and in this we would support the guidelines laid down by FAO. However, we would like to point out the following. Skills and competence should be the basic criteria in selecting these national project directors. Furthermore, one might provide them with more thorough training so that they may fulfil their tasks in the best possible fashion. These project leaders should be assigned full time to these tasks and not only part time, as seems to be the case occasionally.

Another point I feel compelled to make is the importance of the cooperation between FAO and UNDP. This cooperation has been in the past, and continues to be, efficient. It is a very positive link which exists between these two organizations. It has produced concrete results. However, the projects executed by FAO and financed by UNDP are becoming increasingly limited in their scope and UNDP is resorting increasingly to organizations other than FAO for the execution of such projects and we hope to be able to reserve this tendency, particularly in projects relating to agriculture and food. These projects should and must be executed by FAO, since FAO is the Organization which is fully competent in this field. This will quite obviously limit the cost, strengthen the project capacity, and I believe we all agree in saying this.

One final comment: the parts played by regional bureaux. The decentralization policy which was adopted by the General Conference at its last session has shown what it is worth. We feel that regional offices have been a positive element in the cooperation established between FAO and the countries pertaining to the region, in particular developing countries. We are quite convinced that the success for completion of FAO projects depends to a great degree on the role played by FAO regional offices, in particular specific countries.

As far as south-south cooperation is concerned, any observer of these actions can only note that this cooperation is a mere dream. This type of cooperation has not materialized and this unfortunately does not depend on FAO but rather on the political will in our countries. Therefore we would launch an appeal for such a political will to be expressed concretely so that effective south-south cooperation may take place. South-south cooperation may be lacking in resources and this is why an international organization such as FAO should foster this type of cooperation. One might perhaps establish organizations and institutions that would be responsible for south-south cooperation. Indeed this type of cooperation is of vital importance, all the more so since the international organizations which have representatives in developing countries know the economic and political circumstances of the country, and therefore their contribution to this process is most valuable.

Benjamin K. KISILU (Kenya): Mr Chairman, we did raise our flag in the morning and unfortunately we do not know how we missed your eyes but now that we have got your eyes we feel that we should make our contribution during this session.

Allow me first to join the other speakers in thanking the Secretariat for the very elaborate introduction of this item of the agenda.

My delegation knows the views taken by the 57th Programme Committee on the same item and concurs with the satisfaction expressed regarding the clarity and the usefulness of the documentation. We also appreciate the fact that the largest share continues to be directed to crop and agricultural development in general. This is of course in line with the importance of agriculture and the need for Member States to realize efficient levels in basic food commodities. The biennium was a period of recovery for many of the countries in Africa after the severe droughts and the consequential food shortages experienced in the mid 1980s. There is nevertheless the need to increase resources or at least reach a better balance of projects directed towards supporting livestock development.

Paragraphs 1.49 and 1.50 and 1.60 cover a number of projects relating to livestock development and we note the emphasis on nutritional programmes. These activities should continue to be given increased attention, for they mean a lot to the communities who depend on livestock for their existence.

Agricultural mechanization, farm power, food processing technology, remain a major constraint in the main developing countries, and hence our feeling that more priority should have been directed to these activities during the biennium. We urge the future programmes to consider strengthening inputs relating to the appropriate technology and the mechanization suitable for adoption by developing countries, and in particular by small-scale farms. Simple skills, tools and other energy saving techniques could save a lot of hours spent by rural farmers, and in particular the women, while carrying out manual jobs with outdated tools.

Looking at Table 1.4, we strongly feel that the extra-budgetary resources should be increased in percentages to address more effectively the nutritional and research activities. My delegation commends the Secretariat on the increasing prioritization of the Fisheries and Forestry Programmes. We maintain that these resources play an important role in food security, and in the case of fisheries they have opened new frontiers for many of the developing countries as sources of food.

Forestry plays an important role in improving the environment. Therefore, future support on this sector should concentrate on afforestation activities in the marginal lands, and this should be integrated in a pronounced manner in the Tropical Forestry Action Plan because the expanded forest reserves would reduce the pressure being exerted in the tropical forests currently.

Mr Chairman, we would wish to underscore the importance of the FAO Investment Centre, and we are happy to note under paragraph 3.1 that some 750 investment projects in 108 countries have been achieved. We would urge training activities to facilitate training for project planners and policy-makers in the greater utilization of the Centre be undertaken.

My delegation welcomes the FAO support through TCP, hence our concern at the reported decline in the level of the TCP resources available for developing countries. We wish to underline the importance of investment support programmes offered through the World Bank, IFAD and the UNDP among many other donors.

In the case of UNDP, we hope that the US\$ 1.3 billion will be used efficiently in priority areas. In this regard, we believe coordination and consultation among the UN agencies, donors and the non-governmental organizations will need to be enhanced to ensure maximum benefits to the beneficiaries.

We have taken note of the observations made in paragraph 4.28 and 4.36 regarding national project experts. In our view, increased use of national experts would augment the increasing role of beneficiary governments in the execution of donor-funded projects. We call upon FAO and the UNDP to cooperate in training programmes directed at project managers, policy-makers and decision-making staff as underscored at paragraph 4.24 as well in the training of middle-level technicians outlined in paragraph 4.23.

We know very well that no expert is born an expert. Experts are made, and they are made through training, through availability of scholarships, through exposure and through working with experts. We call upon FAO to increase the line of action in that direction. We are happy to note under paragraph 4.11 the added impetus under the "new dimensions" contained in the resolution of the 1975 General Assembly, No. 3405, XX, which called for the fullest possible contribution of national capacities within UN technical cooperation.

As regards the lessons learned, we wish to echo once again the statement made in the Plenary by the leader of our delegation, which singled out the problems of limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, weak institutional capacities and inappropriate resource management in the main developing countries. These are articulated also under paragraph 2.75.

We further wish to pinpoint the problems faced by developing countries in project design, priority identification, as well as problems involved in the multi-disciplinary projects. We urge FAO and other donors to come to the assistance of the developing countries in resolving these constraints.

In conclusion, we wish to add our voice in support of TCDC approaches in agriculture and forecasts on the role of women in field activities. We appreciate the efforts made by FAO under the very difficult financial constraints, whilst on the other hand we feel disappointed that a number of programme activities had to be cut or reduced.

LE PRESIDENT: Avec cette intervention du Kenya, nous arrivons à la fin du débat au niveau des pays membres. Il nous reste un observateur que nous allons écouter; nous espérons qu'il suivra l'exemple des Etats Membres qui sont intervenus cet après-midi, afin que nous puissions terminer nos travaux le plus rapidement possible et permettre au Comité de rédaction de se réunir ce soir et de commencer ses travaux.

Joseph TURKSON (Ghana): Mr Chairman, further to the comments made by India and Mexico which we wholeheartedly endorse, the Ghana delegation is of the view that given the long-awaited transparency of FAO field operations, there should be no further impediments in the implementation of FAO field programmes. Ghana supports the increased use of local expertise in the implementation of TCP programmes. Further, the tradition that FAO/UNDP-financed projects should be manned by expatriate personnel, calls for a review.

My delegation believes that FAO should play a leading role in coordinating the many varied donor projects. Such a coordination will help avoid the scatter-shot effects of these projects in order to maximise the benefits from them.

Ghana further appreciates the flexible and quick manner in which TCP funds are made available and therefore supports the recommendation that TCP be maintained in its present form as a vital element in FAO's field operations and that funds allocated to the TCP, which are inadequate to meet the overall requests, be gradually increased.

Ghana is also of the opinion that FAO's involvement in policy-oriented studies will lead to more productive results if:

1. The Study is initiated at the request of the recipient government.
2. Coordination is maintained with other institutions, especially the World Bank, IFAD and the ADB.
3. FAO's participation in the fora where the findings and recommendations are discussed be guaranteed.
4. The monitoring of the follow-up action be limited to FAO and recipient governments.
5. Every effort be made to build up the institutional capacity of member countries in policy analysis, and that FAO's involvement begin at the earliest possible stage of the process.

Ghana further endorses the strengthening of both the Regional and Country Offices. The level of staffing position should be uplifted to a satisfactory level to meet the burgeoning request for technical assistance from member countries including training of nationals to man projects.

In conclusion, Ghana supports the realistic views and comments of the Director-General on the Review of Field Operations because of the pertinent issues affecting the smooth and effective running of the Organization. Ghana further supports the recommendation that on the basis of its comparative advantage and experience, FAO be recognized as the lead agency and coordinator for sectoral and subsectoral reviews in the field of competence, and it be fully associated in the process of preparations and holding multilateral coordination meetings such as the UNDP Round Tables and World Bank Consultation Groups as well as with UNDP-sponsored national technical cooperation assessment programmes, so that it can provide essential technical contributions and so that mutual understanding and rapport among the UN agencies can be strengthened.^{1/}

David COUTTS (Australia): Mr Chairman, Australia has studied closely the report on the field programme. We commend the Secretariat for producing a very useful document which is comprehensive and sets out clearly the results of the evaluation process that has been undertaken within FAO:

- we believe that the quality of the report could be further improved with more detail of evaluations of individual projects and an assessment of individual country programmes
- it would also be useful to have more financial information on the operation of Trust Fund and other extra-budgetary resources.

The results show that while there have been improvements in the design and implementation of projects during this decade there are still many difficulties to overcome especially with regard to agriculture and rural development projects in LDCs:

- we note the special emphasis placed in the review on the problems with LDCs and the areas identified for improvement in design and implementation of projects in LDCs in paras. 2.119 and 2.220. We believe that the institution-building strategy proposed for LDCs has merit.

The field programme activities of FAO are an integral part of FAO's work and it is important that they continue to be effective and relevant. The evaluation process is important in ensuring this and it is hoped that FAO will continue to strengthen the process and maintain efforts to improve project performance

- it is pleasing in particular to note the work of the Field Programme Committee which is reviewing the current procedures and methodology which apply to the entire field project cycle (para. 2.5)

1 Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

We would hope that the recommendations of the SJS Report on the review of FAO relating to Field Operations will be endorsed by the Conference and purposefully implemented to ensure that the field programme continues to be effective in contributing towards the long term objectives of FAO.

We are still concerned that FAO tends to stretch itself too thinly in terms of the number and type of projects it takes up. We will mention this again in the discussion on the review of FAO but would underline at this stage that FAO must continually strive to concentrate these areas where it has comparative advantage over other institutions, they may well lead, as the review experts suggested, to fewer but better funded projects.

Under the item on the review we will also express our concern that the system for assessment of the field programme in FAO needs upgrading. By this I mean the way these programmes are envisaged by the Governing Bodies. We would have preferred to see establishment of a specific committee to oversee field programmes, with the same status as the Committee for Agriculture etc. However, as I said we will return to this matter under the review item. 2 /

Eugene YOUKEL (UNDP): Ambassador Bula Hoyos enquired as to the status of the honeymooners, that is UNDP and FAD, at this particular moment. Well, as is wellknown to all of us, we were not wed yesterday; we were married four decades ago. By now we are not honeymooners any more. We have gone through our ups and downs and through life for four decades. I think we have learned from each other's experience, and we are much better partners. There is one thing when it comes to spouses, when they are married, they become very practical; they also become very patient. During the thirty years of my service in the international organization I also have become patient, and patience has many virtues. It is in that spirit that I will say a few words.

I can go over the figures which were cited this afternoon which show the upward trend, and we are very encouraged. The figure of \$ 342 million of expenditure was mentioned. For 1989 the expectation is \$ 363 million. The main factor underlining this increased expenditure, as provided in the document, which amounts to about 9 percent, is the sharp rise in the delivery under the UNDP-funded programmes. That is all very fine. We have also noted that the expectation is that for the next few years the future looks "reasonably encouraging".

I should like also to tell you that before coming here I checked with our computer figures. They show that as of last month the approval figures amounted to \$ 232 million. We are very pleased to note that the project approval is moving so fast. We are also very happy to see that 48 percent of this figure, as indicated by many distinguished delegates, has gone to Africa. We are also appreciative of the fact that 25 percent on that very impressive chart, which has been presented, has been spent on crop production. Then I see the next items are rural development, natural resources and forestry.

As the distinguished delegate of Denmark indicated, it is very encouraging also to see the increase from 6 to 10 percent for planning and policy analysis. FAO is doing an excellent job on that.

2 Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

These trends are fully in line with the evolving needs of developing countries. We are extremely happy to see all these developments.

On use of national staff instead of international project directors and the international experts, we are happy with the progress, we have heard the comments on whether we should go all the way or whether we should go slow, but all these relevant comments have been duly noted.

We have also noted with satisfaction, FAO's suggestions under Chapter 4 of the document (89/4) entitled "Towards Full Government Execution". We see that FAD, together with UNDP, is moving very much towards the government execution modality, and we are pleased to be fully together there.

A lot of discussion took place this afternoon on evaluation. I am extremely happy to say that FAO and UNDP have worked very closely with each other on this and I was most encouraged to read in the document (and this comes from FAO):

"The productive liaison between FAO and UNDP in reviewing problems and difficulties encountered in the planning and implementation of that major programme ..."

I promise all those delegates - whether it was from Tanzania, Guinea, Libya or from any other country who wished for closer cooperation between FAO and UNDP that indeed we have every intention to talk to each other, to consult each other and to work very closely with each other.

As I told you earlier, if spouses have any problem after being used to each other for forty years they sometimes have problems of communication. As far as communication between UNDP and FAO is concerned, apart from ACC, CCSQ, (OPS) and IACM, important and good meetings have taken place between the regional bureau of UNDP and the corresponding departments in FAO over the last two years. There is no way that a UNDP Resident Representative, whilst visiting Europe for one reason or another, has not passed through FAO in order to discuss on-going projects or pipeline projects, or any other related issues which concern UNDP/FAO relationships.

In this context, since I am serving in Geneva myself, I can assure you that the Geneva office follows-up, with the agencies, whatever the Resident Representatives discuss, and we are trying to be of assistance both to the Resident Representatives and to the agencies.

Another important thing which I have to share with you is the way we share the Governing Council documents of importance with the agencies. We circulate them in advance to the agencies for their perusal and for their comments. I know there have been all sorts of reactions as to some agencies reacting maybe too strongly, too quickly, or not reacting at all. In the case of FAO I must say that these consultations and the comments of FAO have always been most responsive and they have actively participated in this process.

The extensive consultations which I am indicating also comply with the recommendations of the Expert Group on FAO's objectives, roles, priorities and strategies, and the Joint Programme and Finance Committees recommendation that there should be more consultation and dialogue between UNDP and FAO. There is a whole series of areas where I have gone over the document, and of

course we welcome - as a speaker indicated previously - the cooperation which exists between the FAO Investment Centre and UNCDF. We are extremely pleased to see that 90 percent of all rural development and agricultural projects of CDF are going through FAO.

We are very happy to see the emphasis put on the role of women. Another very good point is the fact that any meeting I attend there is mention of a project involving three agencies: FAO, UNDP and the World Bank, namely the Tropical Forest Action Plan. Environment being a subject which is very close to our hearts, as many delegates have indicated, I can assure you that in many places where I have been, this particular plan has been praised enormously and UNDP/FAO cooperation has been cited as a good example.

We are very happy to see that FAO is interested in participating in NATCAP arrangements for Africa. We are now extending that. We have already done so in 18 countries and we hope to do more. We would like to support FAO's desire for greater participation.

Regarding the query about the round-table meetings mentioned by Mr. Bula Hoyos, I have to indicate that it is not UNDP who decides who will participate in the consultative groups or in the round-table meetings. It is the donor countries and the financial institutions involved who have to decide among themselves. More than anything else, the beneficiaries and the countries themselves have decided whether they want to belong to the consultative groups or to the round-table meetings. As far as UNDP is concerned, under the present arrangement we welcome FAO's participation in preparatory work and also in follow-up work, but it is not UNDP that decides on the extent of FAO participation.

On the question of OPS, I am most grateful to Director Kochanen, of FINNIDA, and to members of the United Kingdom delegation, who emphasized over and over again that it is not the UNDP, as it was before the consensus, which indicates the kind of allotment that is to be made to the different agencies.

I have just spoken in the Plenary Meeting and told the delegates; "as you go back and as the Fifth Cycle is approaching and all of us here have appreciated the importance of the agriculture sector, please talk to your coordinating authorities at home. Please ensure that the UNDP Representative and the FAO Country Representative in your country will participate in the whole process of coordination at field level (which is the Government's responsibility) and ensure that the Government has been fully aware of all the discussions that have taken place, including the preparatory work so that the agricultural portion of the Fifth Cycle could be dealt with in the full knowledge of what is available and what the Government intends to do by the way of allocations".

Perhaps it should not be for the UNDP Observer to draw this point to the attention of the distinguished delegates but these are the realities of life. These are the procedures which have been established. At no time has the UNDP considered that the agricultural sector has this or that importance to the economy. We consider it is very important in every country's economy. Nevertheless it is the country which decides on the proportion of the resource flow from abroad, either multilateral or bilateral or from wherever it may come - which should go to the agricultural sector.

There were a lot of questions about the OPS. I should like to share a document DP 1989/75, with the distinguished delegate from Columbia, who asked many questions - whether for one arrangement or another, whether OPS gets one proportion or another and whether it charges a higher or lower percentage for support costs, whether other arrangements, management fees and so on, are the kinds of arrangements which are dealt with in certain ways. Some people do not realize the manner in which these arrangement are made because it might seem that seem of the agencies do not benefit. However, everything is explained there, the percentages, the OPS's experience, the reasons and the factors which have gone into that.

I would be very happy to go into detail to say exactly how CDF pays and how much other agencies get from direct execution, but I do not think that will help in any way at this late hour, particularly taking into account that the recipient governments are involved. The distinguished delegate from Belgium said that developing countries are intelligent enough to know which project is good and which project is not good. I come from a developing country. Yes, we are intelligent enough to know which project is good and which is bad but we are also intelligent enough to know where to apply to ask for the execution of those projects on our behalf. We cannot be intelligent in knowing which projects are good or bad and then not be intelligent enough not to know where to go and which modality is the best.

I am not defending anything. As an ex-staff member of FAO, I should like to see nothing better than that the most exemplary relations should exist between the two organizations. But we are also living in a real world where the recipients of multilateral assistance also sit down and decide which is the best way for that country to gain the most benefit from this flow of external resources to their country.

Looking through my notes, I should like to thank all those who wished for FAO and UNDP the best of relations. Our relations are excellent and we shall continue working together and I can assure you that if you look at what I have said in the Plenary meeting you will see nothing but goodwill on the part of UNDP.

However, let me not deal with semantics. Let me tell you in very precise terms. After checking with my Headquarters in New York, I asked them about the relationship between us and what should I say about it at the FAO Conference. What I heard from my Headquarters is as follows:

First: Contacts with FAO have been improving in terms of frequency, quality and the constructive nature of the dialogue;

Second: UNDP funds going to agriculture, fisheries, and forestry are again increasing since 1987 (as pointed out earlier in my statement);

Third: Areas which we feel UNDP can increasingly participate in, together with FAO, are: rural development, nutrition, environment, joint/UNDP/FAO country specifics, high-quality sector studies and issue-focused seminars (irrigation, extension work and sustainable institutional development.

My Headquarters went on to say that they looked forward to further suggestions from FAO on these issues. I was asked to convey this information to the FAO Conference. My Headquarters went on to say this:

Fourth: Within WCARRD follow-up, we are working closely with EAO on the macro-economic policy impact on rural poverty and we should like to further extend our cooperation in this area;

Fifth: We are pleased with the cooperation of the FAO Investment Centre with UNCDF."

They said that I might wish to share the knowledge of the exemplary relationship which exists between the UNCDF and the FAO Investment Centre.

Sir, I have shared with you all that I can share in respect of our relationship and I will finish my note on that. I can only tell you that whether it is UNDP Headquarters, whether it is our field officers or FAO Headquarters or FAO field officers, we will do our best to serve the developing countries in the best way possible.

UE PRESIDENT: Merci de cette intervention de l'observateur du PNUD. Nous avons terminé les débats. Nous allons nous tourner maintenant vers le Secrétariat pour obtenir les réponses aux questions ou observations que vous avez pu faire. Je vais d'abord donner la parole à M. Rinvile et ensuite à ses collaborateurs.

F. RINVILLE (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement): Je

voudrais tout d'abord vous dire que nous souhaitons, mes collègues et moi-même, ne pas être trop long à l'heure qu'il est dans les réponses que nous pourrions apporter à ce débat très riche auquel nous avons participé, pour plusieurs raisons. D'abord, parce qu'il était essentiel, pour nous, avant tout d'être à l'écoute attentive de ce qui se disait, de prendre des notes et de se dire que nous retrouverons dans les Verbatims le détail de ce qui a été dit, de nous dire que nous suivrions les résolutions finales qui seront prises à la suite de ce débat et dire donc qu'il n'est pas question pour nous de répondre à tout ce qui a été dit dans la mesure où tout n'appelle pas de réponse. C'est simplement aussi pour dire que si, dans le document de 150 pages que nous vous avons proposé, il y est exposé de la manière la plus franche possible toutes nos faiblesses, ce n'est pas pour nous en contenter, ce n'est pas pour les accepter. C'est tout simplement pour nous engager à y remédier. Et dans le fond, les plus critiques des interventions à l'égard de nos opérations de terrain puisent leur substance dans l'ensemble des documents que nous avons soumis, dans les rapports des auditeurs externes et dans d'autres documents. Dans la mesure où ces informations y sont puisées, nous les connaissons aussi et nous en ferons une analyse presque identique. Cela veut dire aussi que ce 5ème chapitre qui était souhaité par certains d'entre vous, c'est le chapitre que nous écrivons par notre travail de chaque jour. Nous n'aurons pas pu clore le débat en rajoutant dans ce document un 5ème chapitre et dire "Voilà, maintenant les choses iront bien". Ce 5ème chapitre nous l'écrivons d'abord à l'analyse des documents que nous avons élaborés et que nous vous avons soumis. Ici, toutes les divisions et unités concernées par les programmes de terrain sont les pré-dateurs de l'examen du programme de terrain. Nous l'avons élaboré à partir de toutes les informations dont nous disposons et qui sont rassemblées par ceux qui suivent le programme de terrain. Elles sont à l'ordre du jour de toutes les réunions internes qui traitent des activités de terrain et tous les jours nous en faisons notre leçon pour améliorer notre pratique.

Mais comme vous avez pu le constater à la lecture de l'examen et compte tenu des moyens que nous avons, compte tenu des contraintes budgétaires, nous avons du travail pour longtemps; nous en aurons d'ailleurs toujours car il y aura toujours moyen de faire mieux. A nous de trouver l'équilibre et de ne pas aller contre l'efficacité en nous neutralisant, dans un souci de perfection. Avant tout, on attend de nous un service, et nos capacités de le rendre sont tellement sollicitées que nous devons trouver un équilibre entre nos différentes préoccupations. Dans le fond, tout ce que vous déciderez d'adopter comme priorités au titre du programme ordinaire qui seront le programme de travail de nos divisions techniques, qui seront présentes dans toutes nos activités et dans toutes nos réunions approvisionneront notre réflexion et la réflexion de tous ceux que nous rencontrons. C'est comme cela qu'elles interviennent comme priorité dans le cadre de la concertation que nous menons avec nos partenaires au niveau des pays. A partir de ce nouent, ce ne sont plus, bien sûr, les priorités de la FAO qui s'imposent en tant que telles, ce sont les priorités qui sont issues de cette concertation et choisies par le pays lui-même. Nous sommes l'une des parties dans la concertation, dans le conseil, et les décisions qui sont prises ensuite, et que nous espérons inspirées de ces priorités que vous nous proposez, deviennent les priorités du pays. C'est donc cet aller-retour permanent qui fait qu'il peut y avoir de très grands domaines de recouvrement entre les priorités de notre Organisation et les priorités qui sont choisies pour le pays; si nous avons été convainçants et surtout si nos priorités sont adaptées à la conjoncture économique, aux contraintes techniques, aux contraintes sociologiques, et aux contraintes sociales du pays, il y a alors un bon recouvrement.

J'ai voulu parler de cette approche au niveau du pays que nous essayons d'organiser pour le programme de terrain. C'est aussi notre souhait de faire une approche par programme qui précède les projets. Nous avons entendu parler de ce mot qui en français est assez inadapé "rétro-information" mais qui est plutôt de la rétro-alimentation; il s'agirait d'améliorer notre pratique par l'enseignement que nous pouvons tirer de ces évaluations; c'est pour nous une préoccupation importante et cela interviendra au fur et à mesure que nous ferons l'analyse et la synthèse de toutes les évaluations dont nous disposons.

Il a été beaucoup question aussi, et je pourrais presque les rassembler dans un même ensemble de concepts, de la coopération Sud-Sud, de l'exécution par les gouvernements, du recrutement de cadres nationaux, experts ou consultants. Oui, c'est la bonne tendance mais c'est notre souci de n'aller dans ce sens que parce que cela correspond aussi à un accroissement de compétences pour le projet et que ce choix est fait parce que l'expert national est le meilleur. Quand un directeur national est désigné, c'est parce qu'un directeur national est meilleur pour faire le travail. Et cette tendance doit être accompagnée d'un effort de formation. Il ne faut pas confondre les objectifs. Nos efforts sont orientés vers la qualité du projet et resteront orientés vers cette qualité. Au titre des reproches faits à nos méthodes d'évaluation, il a été question de l'évaluation des projets par les représentants de la FAO, comme d'ailleurs il a aussi été dit par certains d'entre vous que cela était une bonne chose. Effectivement, l'évaluation par soi-même de la qualité de ce que l'on fait peut être sujette à caution. Mais ce n'est pas tout à fait de cela dont il s'agit parce que le Représentant de la FAO qui fait l'évaluation n'est pas l'opérateur responsable du projet, il participe, il assiste, il s'efforce de le faciliter mais il n'est pas le responsable, et ce serait dommage de ne pas profiter de sa capacité

d'analyse. Il ne faut toutefois pas lui donner une valeur absolue et définitive. C'est une bonne manière d'employer nos capacités d'évaluation interne et d'employer nos moyens, contribuant ainsi très richement à l'amélioration de nos pratiques.

Je voudrais après ces quelques réflexions générales vous demander, M. le Président, si vous le voulez bien, de passer la parole à mes collègues qui pourront probablement répondre à quelques points plus précis en insistant bien sur le fait que notre projet n'était pas de répondre à tout mais était surtout d'enregistrer, pour en faire notre quotidien, les apports de ce débat très riche.

André REGNIER (Directeur, Division du développement des programmes de terrain): Merci, M. le Président. Si vous me le permettez, peut-être pourrais-je répondre à quelques questions plus précises qui ont été posées, et je voudrais d'abord commencer par la question de l'évaluation, puisque le distingué représentant du Japon a demandé quelle était la base pour la sélection des projets soumis à évaluation.

D'abord, je voudrais dire que si nous prenons les projets du PNUD, leur évaluation est prévue dans le document de projet lui-même; en particulier les projets supérieurs à 400 000 dollars font en principe l'objet d'au moins une évaluation dans le courant de leur mise en oeuvre.

Dans tous les cas, le gouvernement ou le PNUD peuvent demander une évaluation en cours de mise en oeuvre et il arrive également que les entrevues tripartites qui sont régulièrement menées concluent à la nécessité d'une évaluation. Si l'on prend les fonds fiduciaires, très fréquemment dans le document lui-même et à la demande souvent des pays donateurs eux-mêmes, des missions d'évaluation sont prévues; en ce sens, on ne peut pas dire que l'unité d'évaluation de la FAO fasse une sélection des projets pour une évaluation individuelle. Cela se fait dans le cours de la préparation des projets et de leur mise en oeuvre.

Par contre, l'unité d'évaluation, elle, en collaboration avec les différents partenaires, y compris le PNUD, les récipiendaires et parfois les donateurs, fait la sélection de projets qu'il convient d'évaluer dans le contexte de ce que nous appelons des programmes thématiques. Ceci permet d'enrichir en quelque sorte les leçons que l'on tire du programme de terrain sur des groupes de projets ou des thèmes spécifiques de projets, carme, par exemple, l'aquaculture. Ceci permet également d'améliorer le feedback - la traduction française rétro-information semble peu adéquate; le feedback d'une évaluation faite pour un projet individuel permet de faire des recommandations concernant la réorientation éventuelle du projet ou son extension.

Pour les évaluations de type programmatique ou thématique, c'est surtout un enrichissement de notre capacité à préparer et à dessiner les projets pour le futur que nous pouvons faire; je dois toutefois admettre que la question du feedback des projets est une question extrêmement difficile, étant donné la diversité des projets. Si nous organisons, comme cela a été prévu dans le programme 3.1, un groupe de formulateurs de projets, je pense que cela permettra de tirer davantage parti des expériences passées tirées des projets de terrain.

Je reconnais donc qu'il y a là de la place pour des améliorations ; et la Division du programme de terrain est très certainement consciente (elle l'a inscrit dans son propre programme pour le prochain biennium), qu'il y a là le besoin de davantage exercer cette fonction que, peut-être, on a pu le faire dans le passé - faute souvent d'ailleurs de personnel.

Par ailleurs, nous sommes également conscients qu'il y a un besoin d'améliorer la formulation des projets et, à cet égard, je voudrais dire que la FAO a collaboré pour la formulation des projets à ce qu'on appelle "le nouveau format du PNUD". Nous y avons substantiellement contribué en discutant avec le PNUD, et nous allons étendre à partir du 1er janvier de l'année prochaine ce format du PNUD à tous les fonds fiduciaires de manière à assurer plus de cohérence et d'harmonisation entre les différents projets, quelle que soit la source de financement.

Nous avons également, dans la Division du programme de terrain, suggéré que des directives soient mises en place pour les missions de formulation; et si les ressources le permettent, nous avons l'intention de préparer ces directives pour le prochain biennium. Ces directives serviront également à ce groupe de formulateurs dont j'ai parlé tout à l'heure. En outre, nous essaierons dans la mesure du possible, de procéder à la formation des fonctionnaires qui s'occupent de cette formulation. Un séminaire a déjà été organisé à l'intérieur de la maison pour l'utilisation du format du PNUD; c'était un séminaire interne pour habituer les fonctionnaires chargés de la préparation des projets à ce nouveau type de formulation.

Des questions ont également été posées concernant l'utilisation des capacités des pays en développement eux-mêmes. On a beaucoup parlé des directeurs de projets et du personnel de projets; je ne voudrais pas y revenir. Mais on a surtout posé des questions concernant l'utilisation des équipements en provenance des pays en développement, et des sous-contrats. A cet égard, je dois admettre qu'en 1988, le niveau d'achats d'équipements dans les pays en développement est tombé à 13 pour cent, comme les documents vous le montrent.

A ce sujet, je voudrais dire deux choses: d'une part un pourcentage élevé, de l'ordre de 20 pour cent des équipements, correspond en fait à des moyens de transport, des véhicules en particulier; et il est évident que nous suivons à ce sujet les règles du IAPSU pour la standardisation des véhicules dans le système des Nations Unies.

D'autre part, nous sommes évidemment tenus de respecter les préférences spécifiques des gouvernements, et la nature des projets que nous exécutons est telle que de nombreux gouvernements ont besoin d'équipements de plus en plus sophistiqués qui, très souvent, ne sont pas disponibles dans les pays en développement eux-mêmes. Ce qui permet de comprendre que nous avons quelques difficultés dans ce secteur; mais nous sommes conscients du besoin de favoriser autant que faire se peut les achats directs, y compris d'ailleurs sur place, de manière à accélérer la livraison des équipements.

Par ailleurs, il est vrai également, en ce qui concerne les sous-contrats, que ces sous-contrats en provenance des pays en développement sont tombés de 27 pour cent en 1987 à 13 pour cent en 1988. Je peux toutefois vous donner une bonne nouvelle en vous disant qu'à ce jour la part des sous-contrats allouée à des pays en développement est remontée à 30 pour cent pour 1989. Ces chiffres n'ont toutefois qu'une valeur très relative étant donné la part

relativement peu élevée des sous-contrats dans le programme général de la FAO, et ainsi la passation d'un contrat important avec un pays peut modifier le pourcentage de manière significative. De sorte que les chiffres ne doivent pas être pris au pied de la lettre sans analyse préalable.

On a posé la question de la part de l'Amérique latine dans les activités de la FAO financées par le PNUD; et le distingué ambassadeur de Colombie a demandé si ce pourcentage relativement bas était le résultat d'une diminution de la part de l'agriculture dans le chiffre de programmation indicative des pays d'Amérique latine.

Je répondrais négativement puisque, pour le troisième cycle, la part de l'agriculture en Amérique latine dans les chiffres de programmation indicative était de 19 pour cent et qu'elle est remontée au quatrième cycle à 23 pour cent, alors que la part de la FAO dans cette même période, tombait de 22 pour cent à 11 pour cent.

Je reconnais toutefois, comme la distinguée représentante de la Finlande, qu'on ne peut pas parler d'une part en soi, ceci étant simplement symptomatique d'un niveau d'activités en Amérique latine. Bien entendu, il y a sans doute de nombreuses raisons à cela, y compris la multiplication des agences d'exécution - c'est évident. Les gouvernements eux-mêmes exécutent davantage de projets que dans le passé. De même la Commission économique régionale pour l'Amérique latine en exécute de plus en plus, comme d'ailleurs l'ensemble des commissions économiques régionales, même dans les secteurs où on peut se demander si elles ont vraiment la compétence technique pour assurer le backstopping des projets. C'est également vrai pour l'OPS.

Avant d'en venir à l'OPS, je voudrais dire plus généralement que le souci que nous avons vis-à-vis de l'Amérique latine a fait récemment l'objet d'une déclaration de la part de la FAO à la réunion des représentants résidents du PNUD pour l'ensemble de l'Amérique latine. A la suite de cette déclaration il a été décidé que le Bureau du PNUD pour l'Amérique latine et la FAO tiendraient des consultations très prochainement, en principe au début du mois de décembre, pour examiner cette situation qui est très préoccupante, et voir dans quelle mesure la FAO pourrait contribuer davantage à la préparation du prochain cycle du PNUD et assurer une meilleure exécution des projets.

Je reviens maintenant un instant sur l'OPS parce que c'est certainement aussi une des raisons pour lesquelles, en Amérique latine, l'activité de terrain de la FAO a baissé, et j'y reviens surtout après l'intervention du représentant du PNUD.

Et je voudrais dire qu'il est certain que l'OPS a pris une importance plus grande au cours des dernières années: les ressources du PNUD confiées pour exécution de projets à l'OPS sont bien plus élevées que le niveau annoncé de 10 pour cent puisque le PNUD est en fait devenu la première agence d'exécution de ses propres ressources.

En outre 20 pour cent de ses ressources du portefeuille de l'OPS relèvent des secteurs de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches. En réalité, l'OPS exécute maintenant 81 projets dans le secteur agricole dont seulement 10 ont fait l'objet d'un accord de coopération de la part de la FAD. Bien que les autres projets soient dans le secteur agricole, ils n'ont pas été ou n'ont pas fait l'objet d'une coopération particulière avec la FAD.

Enfin, un dernier mot pour répondre à une question qui a été posée de divers côtés qui est de savoir quelle est la liaison qu'on peut constater entre le programme de terrain et les décisions des organes directeurs de l'Organisation. Ce serait en soi un trop vaste sujet pour que je le développe en détail mais je voudrais dire rapidement au moins trois choses sur ce sujet:

D'une part, en ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique, il agit sur la base de critères extrêmement précis qui ont été définis par les organes directeurs de la FAO, le Conseil et la Conférence, et la liaison est donc connue et claire.

D'autre part en ce qui concerne les fonds de dépôt, je voudrais rappeler qu'à peu près deux-tiers de tous les fonds de dépôt financés par des donateurs et mis en oeuvre par la FAO sont affectés à des programmes d'action spéciaux, c'est-à-dire à des programmes qui ont été reconnus par les organes directeurs de la FAO comme très prioritaires.

Enfin, la dernière source importante est le financement du PNUD dont on a suffisamment parlé; un mot seulement pour dire que la programmation indicative est bien entendu le reflet des priorités que les gouvernements eux-mêmes donnent à l'utilisation des chiffres de planification indicative.

Dans une certaine mesure, nous ne pouvons donc intervenir que par les conseils que nous donnons aux gouvernements et par les discussions que nous pouvons avoir avec le PNUD pour montrer l'importance du secteur agricole; mais la décision est évidemment une décision essentiellement des pays eux-mêmes.

J'ajouterais seulement à ce sujet - et ici en liaison avec ce qu'a dit tout à l'heure le représentant du PNUD - que la FAO est heureuse de voir que le PNUD souhaite une plus grande implication de la FAO, notamment dans les NATCAP puisque jusqu'à maintenant nous n'y avons pas été associés ni de près ni de loin; et qu'il souhaite également, pour la préparation du prochain cycle, davantage de consultations avec les agences spécialisées au niveau de l'analyse sectorielle et de la préparation des programmes dans un premier temps; analyse sectorielle et programmes dont découlerait ensuite la définition des projets spécifiques cas par cas.

En ce qui concerne la FAO, nous estimons que cette approche du PNUD, qui nous permettrait d'être plus impliqués dans le cinquième cycle que nous ne l'avons été dans le quatrième, est extrêmement souhaitable et nous l'approuvons.

R. GUSTEN (Director, Investment Centre): Before answering three or four of the direct questions addressed to the Investment Centre, I should first like to acknowledge the many expressions of appreciation and confidence that have reached us from the floor regarding the Investment Centre, appreciation both for the work of our staff and for the presentation of this work in the document which is before you.

I should also like to thank in particular France for having given concrete expression to its appreciation by agreeing to finance an associate expert for the Investment Centre who has been working with us for nearly a year now and who we hope will be joined soon by a second one.

Let me now turn to a few of the questions. The delegate of France has expressed the wish that the Investment Centre get involved more in work on priority topics such as food security and in particular the TFAP. We, of course, share this wish and we expect that this will be the case.

As you know, the work of the Investment Centre is largely demand driven, that is driven by the demands of the various financing institutions with whom we work. This is perhaps a limitation but it is also the strength of the Investment Centre because it ensures that most of the tasks that we take on will finally end up in some concrete investment and thereby contribute to the economic use of resources and cost effectiveness. So we expect that, as the finance institutions decide to give a greater prominence to work on these priority topics in the programmes, we will automatically get involved even to a larger extent, even than we are now.

The delegate of the Netherlands asked first our view on the importance and the role of FAO in the ex-post evaluation of structural adjustment operations. Of course, these are extremely important and according to recent discussions which FAO had, not only with the World Bank but also with the International Monetary Fund, it appears that both these institutions are interested not only in seeing FAO involved in this ex-post evaluation but, more important, also in seeking its views in the preparation of further structural adjustment operations. The Investment Centre, of course, when this occurs, stands ready to assist in particular the Policy Analysis Division, which is mainly responsible for this work, as we assist all other economic and technical departments of FAO whenever we are called upon to do so.

The delegates of the Netherlands and Bangladesh have both regretted the closing or the suspension of the Bankers' Programme and thereby the support to private sector investments which the Investment Centre had given over the past 15 years before 1987 and wished that we would resume this activity. Here again we can only agree, but the financial conditions which forced the suspension of these activities still persist and unless we specify where the resources for such activities should come from, I am afraid that this wish must remain to some extent a pious and abstract one. This being said, we are on a very modest scale trying to resume these activities and we expect that in future, and in contrast to the pre-1987 practice, this will be largely on a cost-sharing basis with the prospective source of investment. This is necessary, not only for financial reasons but we think also desirable in order to test the commitment of whoever asks for such study, the willingness to pay test.

Finally, let me address the statements made by the delegates of Algeria and Libya who both regretted the suspension of our Trainees Programme. We ourselves have always regarded it not only as a duty but actually as a pleasure to welcome for one year half a dozen staff of Member Countries among ourselves to share our work, and you can be sure that as soon as financial conditions permit, we will resume these activities.

Richard SEIFMAN (United States of America): I was curious as to whether the Secretariat heard, or was intending to respond, to the question I had posed with regard to a potential inclusion in the coming biennium's Conference report on activities done in the Field Programs with respect to entrepreneurial encouragement?

F. RINVILLE (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement): Il ne

nous est pas possible de répondre maintenant à cette question, ainsi d'ailleurs qu'à d'autres de même nature. L'inclusion de ces travaux dans le prochain biennium pose des problèmes de ressources humaines et de ressources financières. Il y aura lieu de faire des choix; ce n'est ni un refus ni une acceptation, mais ce problème doit être étudié soigneusement afin que nous puissions assumer pleinement les activités qui seront décidées dans le cadre de nos moyens.

LE PRESIDENT: Le débat sur le point 14 vient de prendre fin; cela a été un débat large et riche avec 35 interventions des Etats Membres, et une intervention d'un observateur.

Dans l'ensemble, la Commission a accueilli avec satisfaction ce rapport sur l'examen des programmes de terrain; elle le trouve franc, complet et suffisamment critique.

Tous les membres ont reconnu les progrès faits dans la présentation de ce document, même si quelques-uns ont indiqué leur souci de voir des améliorations supplémentaires; par exemple, certains préféreraient un examen de nature rétro-active plutôt que prospective.

D'autres auraient voulu que les aspects relatifs à la complémentarité entre les programmes de terrain et le programme ordinaire soient davantage mis en relief.

Les membres de la Commission, qui ont tous mis en exergue l'importance de ces programmes de terrain comme étant l'une des activités les plus importantes de notre Organisation, se sont félicités de la croissance qu'ont connue les ressources consacrées à ces programmes de terrain, au cours des deux derniers exercices grâce, notamment, à l'augmentation des ressources du PNUD. Ils souhaitent que ce dernier organisme fasse exécuter ses projets agricoles de préférence par la FAO, pour utiliser pleinement l'expérience et les capacités de cette institution. De nombreux membres ont relevé également que la crise de liquidité qui a affecté le programme ordinaire a mis à dure épreuve sa capacité de soutien des programmes de terrain.

Sur le plan de la distribution géographique, le renforcement des dépenses de terrain en faveur de l'Afrique, dû au besoin de sécurité alimentaire, a été appuyé par la Commission. Les représentants de l'Amérique latine se sont néanmoins inquiétés de la part consacrée à leur région, et souhaitent le redressement de cette situation en rapport avec le PNUD. Le fait que plus de 50 pour cent des projets vont aux PMA a été jugé avec satisfaction.

L'augmentation notable dans les activités d'appui à la planification et les avis politiques qui constituent à présent 10 pour cent de l'effort total, et qui revêtent une importance particulière dans le cadre des programmes d'ajustement structurel, a reçu un soutien unanime des membres de la Commission.

Quelques membres ont indiqué qu'ils auraient voulu qu'une plus grande importance soit donnée à l'élevage dans ces programmes de terrain.

Les membres de la Commission ont unanimement apprécié les progrès accomplis dans l'utilisation des capacités des pays en développement; irais à cet égard, l'accroissement constaté de l'emploi des directeurs nationaux des projets est encouragé ainsi que l'utilisation des experts de ces pays.

Quelques membres ont cependant attiré l'attention de la Commission sur le fait qu'il convenait de le faire progressivement, même si le but ultime est de responsabiliser entièrement les pays bénéficiaires.

Quelques membres ont proposé l'établissement d'un Comité spécial chargé d'examiner les programmes de terrain; cette idée ne semble pas séduire de nombreux membres qui ne jugent pas nécessaire la multiplication d'organes qui risquent de stériliser l'action de la FAO.

Des délégués ont indiqué la nécessité, pour les fonds fiduciaires qui financent les programmes de terrain, de garder leur caractère multilatéral.

Le rôle des bureaux nationaux dans le contrôle et l'évaluation a été apprécié par de nombreux membres qui ont souhaité leur renforcement; quelques membres ont néanmoins demandé que la FAO ait recours à des contrôleurs indépendants, et, à cet égard, certains membres ont indiqué qu'ils aimeraient que l'aspect d'évaluation soit encore renforcé, y compris l'analyse de l'incidence des projets et le retour d'informations résultant des évaluations, et ce, pour mieux guider la formulation et la gestion des programmes de terrain.

La Commission a favorablement apprécié le rôle joué par le Centre d'investissement qui a généré plus de 34 milliards de dollars en 25 ans d'activités; un lien plus étroit a été suggéré entre l'assistance technique de la FAO et les activités consécutives à l'investissement; et, à cet égard, la FAO devrait renforcer ses liens avec les institutions de financement tels que le FIDA, le PAM et d'autres institutions.

De même, la Commission a préconisé un renforcement des activités de formation de personnel national en préparation des projets.

Les efforts de la FAO pour consolider et renforcer son soutien au réseau CTPD ont été salués; de même, la Commission a apprécié le rôle accru des ONG locales dans les activités de terrain de la FAO et pour l'attention croissante à la promotion d'activités conduites par les femmes.

Tel me semble être le résumé de nos débats; bien entendu, le Comité de rédaction saura refléter les points de vue exprimés par les uns et les autres.

The meeting rose at 20.00 hours

La séance est levée à 20 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.00 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/II/PV/9

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

NINTH MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE
NOVENA SESION
(20 November 1989)

The Ninth Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La neuvième séance est ouverte à 10 heures
sous la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la novena sesión a las 10.00 horas
bajo la presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II

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

- 15. Conclusions of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations
- 15. Conclusions de l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO
- 15. Conclusiones del examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAO

LE PRESIDENT: J'espère que vous avez passé un bon week-end, que tous vous êtes bien reposés, tout en travaillant bien sûr et que, ce matin, nous allons reprendre nos travaux avec le même entrain que la semaine dernière.

Comme vous le savez, nous allons aborder le point 15 de l'Ordre du jour. Les documents relatifs à ce point sont connus: il s'agit des documents C 89/21, C 89/21-Sup.I et C 89/LIM/20-Rev.I. Je suis heureux de constater que, pour l'examen de cet important point de notre Ordre du jour, si la salle n'est pas comble, au moins tout le monde s'est efforcé d'arriver à l'heure ce matin.

Dans l'examen de ce point de l'Ordre du jour, je vais successivement donner la parole au Prof. Mazoyer, Président du Comité du Programme, et au Directeur général, pour nous présenter le rapport.

M.J. MAZOYER (Président, Comité du Programme): Voilà deux ans que la Conférence, en adoptant la Résolution 6/87, a confié au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier, travaillant conjointement, la tâche exceptionnelle d'entreprendre un examen approfondi de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO.

C'est un honneur pour moi de présenter, comme je l'ai déjà fait à la quatre-vingt-seizième session du Conseil, les conclusions et recommandations de cet examen qui a été conduit par les deux comités, conclusions et recommandations qui vous sont soumises sous les cotes C 89/21 et C 89/21-Sup.I. J'aborderai deux aspects dans cette intervention, qui me semblent utiles pour la Conférence. Tout d'abord, les modalités de mise en oeuvre de la Résolution 6/87 dont les comités ont rendu compte au Conseil à plusieurs reprises et, ensuite, la manière dont nos conclusions et recommandations répondent aux prescriptions de la Résolution.

Tout d'abord, à propos des modalités de mise en oeuvre de la Résolution 6/87, je voudrais dire un mot sur l'esprit qui a animé les travaux des deux comités, qui se sont réunis quatre fois pendant ces deux années en sessions spéciales conjointes pour accomplir la tâche qui leur avait été confiée.

Dès le début, nous étions conscients des circonstances ayant conduit à cet examen exceptionnel. Il y a eu à la Conférence, lors de l'adoption de la résolution, un accord unanime sur la nécessité de renforcer la FAO de toutes les manières possibles afin qu'elle puisse continuer à jouer un rôle de chef de file dans l'agriculture mondiale dans les années à venir. Il existait donc sur ce point essentiel un accord préalable, qui est fondamental, pour tout consensus sur l'objectif de l'examen.

Cela dit, la Conférence n'a pas abouti à un accord complet sur la manière d'atteindre cet objectif et la résolution elle-même est le résultat d'un compromis entre les points de vue différents, tout d'abord en ce qui concerne l'opportunité et l'étendue de l'examen, et ensuite en ce qui concerne les modalités de réalisation de cet examen. En l'adoptant, la Conférence a sans doute voulu confier aux deux comités la responsabilité de rechercher une voie qui conduirait à un consensus. Il incombait donc aux deux comités de respecter ce souci et, tout en essayant de répondre le plus possible aux attentes des uns et des autres, de s'en tenir scrupuleusement aux termes de la résolution. C'est ce que nous avons fait. Nous avons abouti à un ensemble de conclusions et recommandations dont la plus grande partie a fait l'objet d'un consensus aux comités, et cela sans sortir du cadre qui nous était inparti par la Conférence. Je crois que ce principe est fondamental et qu'il le sera aussi dans la phase finale de l'examen si l'on veut aboutir à des résultats concrets et permettre à l'Organisation de reprendre sa vitesse de croisière au début de la nouvelle décennie.

La résolution stipulait que les deux comités seraient assistés d'un petit nombre d'experts, ces experts étant choisis, en fonction de leur compétence dans le domaine de l'agriculture, du développement, des finances ou de l'administration, par les comités en consultation avec le Directeur général et en tenant compte d'une répartition géographique équilibrée.

Nous avons choisi, au total, treize experts de compétence reconnue dans divers domaines. Pour l'étude sur les objectifs, le rôle, les priorités et les stratégies de la FAO, nous avons nommé comme rapporteur le Dr. Just Faaland, de la Norvège. Les experts du groupe étaient: G.J. Facio, du Costa Rica, J.P. Lewis, des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, P. Masud, du Pakistan, C. Nagata, du Japon, A. Sawadogo, de la Côte d'Ivoire, B. Shaib, du Nigeria, et S. Sunna, de la Jordanie.

Pour l'étude des opérations de terrain de la FAO, le rapporteur était le Dr. Sastry, de l'Inde, et les experts du groupe étaient: E.P. Alleyne, de Trinité et Tobago, K.G. Jansson, de la Finlande, S.G. Sarraf, du Liban, et D.F. Smith, de l'Australie.

Nous avons donné à ces deux groupes d'experts des mandats très larges et nous leur avons laissé tout le temps et liberté d'accomplir leur tâche en toute indépendance. Leurs rapports ont constitué une contribution très importante à l'examen, d'autant plus que l'un et l'autre groupe ont présenté leurs conclusions après des débats entre les experts de chaque groupe et à l'unanimité. Si l'on considère la diversité des membres de ces groupes, c'est déjà un résultat tout à fait louable et utile pour préparer nos propres travaux.

Pendant nos travaux, nous avons bénéficié également des rapports et commentaires du Directeur général et d'une large documentation fournie par le Secrétariat. Nous avons joint à notre rapport la partie la plus importante de ce matériel afin de permettre à tous les Etats Membres de disposer des mêmes sources que nous pour alimenter et enrichir leurs propres réflexions ainsi que la réflexion collective au Conseil et de la Conférence.

Notre rapport est bref, comme il se devait de l'être. Il représente la synthèse des conclusions et recommandations auxquelles ont abouti, à la suite de leurs lectures et de leurs débats, les vingt membres des deux comités.

J'ajouterais que ces vingt membres ne sont pas moins différents entre eux comme origine géographique et orientation technique, que les treize experts, et malgré cela, comme je l'ai déjà dit, la plus grande partie de leurs conclusions et recommandations a fait l'objet d'un consensus.

Les comités espèrent que leur rapport pourra également constituer la base d'un débat et d'un consensus à la Conférence.

En ce qui concerne les conclusions et recommandations, je ne veux pas essayer de résumer ici nos conclusions et recommandations. Je veux seulement rappeler le contenu de notre rapport en partant des termes de référence du paragraphe 2 de la Résolution 6/87 afin de montrer comment nous avons répondu aux prescriptions qui nous étaient faites par cette même résolution.

Très brièvement, au paragraphe 2(b) de la résolution, il est d'abord fait état du ferme attachement des Etats Membres au texte de l'Acte constitutif de l'Organisation. Un point sur lequel tous les experts et tous les membres des comités se sont trouvés d'accord, c'est que l'expérience a démontré le bien-fondé et la validité du Préambule et de l'Article premier de l'Acte constitutif au regard de la situation et des tendances de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. Quarante-cinq ans après la création de la FAO, ses finalités et ses objectifs majeurs restent pertinents et on pourrait dire qu'ils restent plus importants que jamais.

La résolution parle ensuite du renforcement du rôle consultatif de l'Organisation dans le domaine des politiques alimentaires et agricoles, ainsi que de sa fonction de catalyseur et de son rôle de dispensatrice d'aide. Nous avons consacré une attention particulière au rôle de la FAO en matière de politiques, et nos conclusions ainsi que nos vues sur d'autres renforcements souhaitables sont contenues dans le Chapitre 2. Le Chapitre 3 contient nos conclusions détaillées au sujet des activités d'assistance et de coopération technique, par le biais des opérations de terrain.

Les paragraphes 2 c) et e) prescrivent un examen "des façons d'adapter le processus d'établissement de priorités au sein de la FAO" et "des mesures propres à garantir que les processus de budgétisation, de comptabilité et de planification de la FAO fassent clairement apparaître le lien entre les stratégies, les priorités, les activités prévues et les ressources attribuées". Notre Chapitre 2 couvre cet ensemble de questions et fait des recommandations précises dans ce domaine.

Le paragraphe 2 d) demande un examen des relations de la FAO avec d'autres organismes, organisations et organes du système des Nations Unies et institutions financières internationales, y compris les activités du programme de terrain. Notre Chapitre 4 examine ces questions de relations interagences en général, et certaines conclusions et recommandations du Chapitre 3 couvrent également le rôle de la FAO vis-à-vis d'autres institutions fournissant une assistance technique ou financière.

J'en viens maintenant au premier sous-paragraphe 2 a). Il nous était demandé d'examiner "la façon dont la FAO pourrait apporter sa contribution la plus efficace aux efforts des Etats Membres et des populations en vue d'éliminer la faim, la malnutrition et la pauvreté, compte tenu des ressources dont dispose l'Organisation",

Un constat sur lequel nous étions tous d'accord, que les experts ont relevé avec force et que le Directeur général souligne lui aussi dans ses observations, c'est que malheureusement la faim et la malnutrition continuent de s'accroître. Notre examen a été conduit en gardant toujours présentes à l'esprit les grandes finalités de la FAO telles que stipulées dans le Préambule. Toutes nos recommandations visent à mettre l'Organisation mieux à même de continuer ses efforts dans cette direction, pour parvenir à libérer l'humanité de la faim.

Mais, pour que nos recommandations soient mises en oeuvre, des renforcements seront sans doute nécessaires. Ces renforcements exigent des ressources. D'où viendront-elles? Ici, les membres des comités n'ont pu unifier leurs points de vue, qui sont donc présentés séparément dans leurs rapports. Ils ont quand même suggéré certaines mesures à utiliser d'une manière indépendante ou combinée pour financer les recommandations que la Conférence retiendra.

C'est maintenant aux Etats Membres de décider des moyens qu'ils pourront et voudront donner à l'Organisation pour faire face aux exigences de la situation et de l'avenir prévisible. Les comités, pour leur part, à l'issue de cet examen, tiennent à souligner que, malgré les difficultés des dernières années, la FAO va continuer à être une organisation solide, dynamique, et qu'elle mérite sans aucun doute la confiance de ses Etats Membres.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am not going to make a long statement, repeating all that I have said in my Conclusions in the documents before you. Instead, bearing in mind what happened in the Council, I want to concentrate on how the Conference can in just a few days bring to a successful conclusion the exercise they started, after much controversy and doubt, two years ago.

Let us face it then, the great majority were not really convinced that such an exercise was necessary or desirable. They went along with it, as prescribed in Resolution 6/87, in a spirit of compromise.

The absolute and relative costs of the exercise have not been negligible - US\$ 2 million in direct costs which had to be spent at the expense of substantive activities on top of US\$ 68 million's worth of activities which had to be struck from the substantive programme because of the financial situation, plus countless man-days, man-weeks and man-months of staff inputs and support.

The unfortunate financial background must sober my hopes about being able in the event to extract the maximum good out of the whole exercise. If the major part of the arrears is not paid soon - which would be wrong, if more cost increases are to be absorbed, if there are to be no additional Regular Programme resources, how can all or any of the 32 recommendations be implemented, let alone the approved Programme of Work which is the base of all our efforts?

My colleagues and I have tried to react constructively and positively to all new ideas and to construct a serious and practicable response. Hence the priority Table 1 included in ray Conclusions in the document in front of you.

I will, of course, always obey the decisions of the governing bodies but I find it difficult to envisage how it will be possible for my colleagues and myself effectively to implement some, if not all, of the recommendations without the necessary means.

In normal times, with a nearly full Treasury and money in reserve in the Working Capital Fund and Special Reserve Account, plus generous extra-budgetary contributions for appropriate specific activities, it was possible to fit extra Regular Programme or activities into the same budget level. But nowadays we are in a completely different situation: we all have to be realistic. As the Council said, everyone prefers a consensus.

From the Council's debate last week, it seems however that there may have been some confusion about the difference between consensus and unanimity. My understanding has been that consensus does not mean that just one dissenter can exercise a veto on the rest, that one dissenting voice would make the whole Review lapse into nothing, no decision and no action at all. This would surely be a pity. In any case, I do hope there will not be any need for voting.

I hope and trust that the controversy and disarray which characterized much of the last Conference's proceedings on this subject will not occur and that the Conference will reach conclusions which may not please everyone in every detail but from which everyone can draw some satisfaction.

Frankly, my sense, after hearing the Council and seeing many delegates individually, is that the great majority have a genuine will to achieve harmony and consensus and that the threat to this lies not in current differences over the meaning or scope of the recommendations actually on the table but mainly on the key question of resources.

There is also the apparent wish of one or two delegations to insert into the discussion and decision process some issues which the majority in the Council believed were extraneous to the scope of Resolution 6/87. These issues may have been thought of or even mentioned in discussions two years ago but were not accepted then and not covered by the Resolution. The Experts and the two Committees faithfully followed the mandate given them by the Resolution. Frankly, I do not see how you will be able to finish this Agenda item at all if you get into such matters.

It is up to you, but for my part, I would like to stop digging up the tree to see if the roots are healthy and to be able to reap the tree's fruits, that is to say that I very much hope that we can now get on with the real substantive work of the Organization in the period ahead.

In saying this, I am not suggesting that further improvements in our programmes or priorities or in the organization of the Secretariat in future biennia will be undesirable or impossible. Of course not! Such changes may well prove in the light of experience to be necessary and desirable and I will be the first to want to come forward with proposals, especially if by them I can also save some money for use on substantive activities.

But, Mr Chairman, I believe that there must be a sense of realism and restraint about the need, the scope and the frequency of being expected to do this, I would therefore suggest that the Conference should concentrate on the few recommendations in the reports under this item where there are unresolved aspects or details. The two Committees were in fact in general agreement on most of the content of their report. The differences were comparatively few and some are related to each other. They are not all of the same degree of importance or difficulty.

As I have already mentioned, the key problem concerns the recommendations for additional resources. As for the rest, the differences often seem to me to be somewhat academic or capable of more definition only after experience over a reasonable period of time.

For example, what should be the balance between the different roles of FAO? Where, in particular cases, is the "comparative advantage" to be found? Or will it make a difference, to the biennial budget levels, if a medium-term plan is costed? Mr Chairman, I do not see the need for anyone to die in the last ditch over these or similar differences at this stage. The proof of the pudding will be in the eating.

I will avoid going into more detail at this stage. I am of course ready to intervene if necessary on particular points, but for now I have given you my broad reflections in the light of the discussions in the Special Joint Session and the Council.

I certainly will lend my efforts here and in any contacts that might take place outside this room, either directly or through my representatives, to resolve the divergences and, with the necessary goodwill and understanding, to bring this exercise to a satisfactory and successful conclusion.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci Monsieur le Directeur général. Avant d'ouvrir le débat sur ce point 15 relatif à l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO, je souhaite attirer votre attention sur la nécessité d'instaurer, sur cette question, un débat clair nous permettant de nous faire une idée exacte des opinions des uns et des autres, ce qui favorisera un dialogue fructueux sur les points de divergence.

Je vous propose donc non seulement de vous prononcer sur les recommandations et mesures à mettre en oeuvre pour renforcer l'action de la FAO, mais encore et surtout de nous indiquer le mode et les sources de financement des conclusions qui seront arrêtées.

En effet, chacun sait que le débat sur le Programme de travail et budget a fait apparaître différentes opinions sur cette question; je me permets de vous signaler que ce rapport, qui vient d'être introduit par le Professeur Mazoyer, Président du Comité du programme, et complété fort éloquemment par le Directeur général qui nous a présenté ses vues et observations, est conforme aux termes de la Résolution 6/87 de la dernière Conférence. C'est le fruit d'intenses discussions au sein des deux Comités à qui revenait la mission de conduire cet examen.

Ainsi, je souhaite qu'au moment où s'engage ce débat ultime vous fassiez preuve de concision dans vos interventions; plus vous serez brefs et précis plus nous aurons le temps nécessaire pour nous accorder sur l'essentiel. Je le dis parce que ce rapport est désormais bien connu de nombre d'entre vous;

des ressortissants de près de 30 pays membres y ont été étroitement associés, puisque 13 experts et 20 membres du Comité financier et du Comité du programme y sont à la base et, comme chacun le sait, toutes les tendances sont représentées. En outre, 49 membres du Conseil, lors de sa 96ème session qui s'est terminée il y a dix jours, ont consacré le plus clair de leur temps à ce point de notre Ordre du jour. Autant dire que le débat est suffisamment engagé et les divers points de vue connus.

J'espère sincèrement que vous tiendrez compte de ces observations afin que tous les membres de notre Commission qui le souhaitent puissent s'exprimer sur cette importante question, d'ici la fin de la séance de cet après-midi ou au plus tard demain matin, de sorte que nous puissions consacrer le reste du temps à rechercher les solutions susceptibles de réunir le consensus souhaité par tous.

Dans l'intérêt de notre Organisation et de ses Etats Membres j'y travaillerai activement. Je sais que malgré l'importance du sujet, et sans doute en raison de cela notre débat restera, comme cela était le cas depuis le début de nos travaux, courtois et franc. Je tiens personnellement à ce que cette ambiance propice au dialogue se poursuive pour le succès de nos travaux. Je lance un appel à chacun de vous pour qu'il ne sorte pas du sujet et reste dans le cadre de la Résolution 6/87.

Y-a-t'il des commentaires?

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I listened with great appreciation to the introductions. I only wish to make a comment on what you have now said. You have suggested that we should remain strictly within the scope of Resolution 6/87. I must tell you that, of course, it is our duty as members of the governing bodies of this Institution to look not only at the content of the outcome of that resolution but of course at the wide subject which it addresses itself to. My country intends to do this since obviously the recommendations and indeed the outcome of the Resolution need to be placed in full context and I wish there to be no misunderstanding about this right at the beginning. We shall, of course, be very glad to make a very full, concise, or rather precise presentation of our views and I expect we shall do this tomorrow, as you have indicated.

LE PRESIDENT: Je répondrai au délégué du Royaume-Uni que cet examen se tient dans le cadre de la Résolution 6/87; il importe que chacun de nous travaille à la mise en oeuvre de cette Résolution; il faut se maintenir dans ce cadre sinon nous aurons un dialogue de sourds; en effet, si vous sortez de ce cadre vous risquez d'être seul à aborder une question que d'autres ne saisiraient pas. Comme je l'ai indiqué il nous faut travailler dans le cadre précis de la Résolution 6/87, et il nous faut respecter ce cadre.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Queremos solamente hacer un comentario en apoyo de lo que está usted diciendo. Nosotros consideramos, como seguramente todos los Estados Miembros de esta Organización, que es fundamental seguirla fortaleciendo y construyendo. Pero para construir un edificio se tiene que empezar desde la base, y parece que hay siempre alguien o algunos que quieren poner ladrillos muy alto en el cielo, y corremos todos

el riesgo de que nos caigan en la cabeza. Vamos a tratar por tanto de ir poco a poco construyendo, edificando lo que hasta ahora hemos logrado y partir desde el principio, que es la revisión atendida al contexto de la Resolución 6/87. Por tanto suscribimos lo que usted nos ha solicitado.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): C'est aussi pour appuyer votre intervention que nous intervenons, parce que effectivement le point 15 que nous abordons traite des questions qui ont été décidées par la résolution de notre dernière Conférence. Les autres points concernant la 25ème Conférence sont abordés dans d'autres points de l'Ordre du jour. L'Ordre du jour qui nous intéresse ce matin concerne uniquement l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO comme il est dit dans la résolution qui concerne ce point.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom) : I wish to make clear that my country will indeed comment on the outcome of Resolution 6/87 but there are elements of logic which need to be inexorably pursued in relation to the recommendations which are before us and I remain free as a representative of a sovereign state to bring forward those points within this Commission.

Muhannad Saleem KHAN S. (Pakistan): I do not want unnecessarily to extend this debate, because we are taking ourselves away from discussing the substantive issue for which, as you mentioned, we have a very limited time, and it is important that we reach a conclusion.

We cannot deny any sovereign country from making any statement it prefers, but, as you have appealed, we have a resolution before us, we have the text of the resolution before us, and the terms of reference in that resolution. We have carried out a process within those terms of reference and we have to go step by step. I think it would be much appreciated if we confine ourselves within the terms of Resolution 6/87 and not initiate new issues and issues which have already been rejected in the experts' report.

Sidasty AIDARA (Sénégal): Je ne voudrais pas que la Commission se lance dans un débat de procédure. Nous avons, comme on dit, beaucoup de pain sur la planche et nous avons tout intérêt à concentrer nos efforts sur l'essentiel. Or, quel est l'essentiel, sinon l'examen des buts et opérations de la FAO, tels que cela est inscrit au point 15 de notre Ordre du jour. Tous les Etats sont souverains. Ils peuvent à tout moment évoquer n'importe quelle question, nous n'en disconvenons pas. Mais cette souveraineté est renforcée par les procédures que nous avons adoptées. Il est important de les respecter. Dans le cas qui nous intéresse, quelle est la procédure? C'est de nous limiter à l'examen des questions inscrites dans le cadre d'une résolution de la Conférence générale et adoptée par cette dernière en 1987. Il s'agit de la Résolution 6/87. C'est la raison pour laquelle non seulement je me rallie à l'opinion que vous avez émise et qui est partagée par d'autres collègues, mais je voudrais également saisir cette occasion pour lancer un appel solennel à tous les Etats Membres pour qu'ils comprennent davantage la portée de notre discussion, parce que cette discussion va engager l'avenir de notre

Organisation. L'avenir de notre Organisation est entre nos mains. Il faudrait que chaque Etat ait conscience de cette responsabilité. J'en appelle à la sagesse de tous pour que nous limitions nos débats à l'examen de la question inscrite à l'Ordre du jour dans le cadre de la Résolution 6/87.

S'il y a des opinions et des points de vue divergents, ces opinions et ces points de vue peuvent être examinés, peuvent être débattus, peuvent faire l'objet de négociations, de contacts, d'explications en dehors de la salle. Mais s'agissant de nos débats il importe encore une fois que nous nous limitions à l'examen de ce point dans le cadre de la Résolution 6/87.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vois qu'il y a d'autres inscrits, mais je crois que le Royaume-Uni ne souhaite pas prolonger ce débat. Je crois donc qu'il est bon de clore ce débat pour que nous puissions passer aux interventions proprement dites sur cette question.

Bien entendu, nous partageons le point de vue qui a été émis selon lequel il n'y a que des Etats souverains qui peuvent s'exprimer comme ils le désirent. Mais je crois aussi que nous devons nous soumettre à une certaine discipline et nous sommes ici pour faire respecter cette discipline et que le débat puisse avancer. Je crois que tout le monde l'a compris. Nous ne voulons limiter les points de vue de personne mais puisque nous devons présenter un rapport à la fin de nos débats, ce rapport doit être en conformité avec le point inscrit à notre Ordre du jour qui nous paraît suffisamment précis. Je voudrais donc lancer un appel à tous pour que le débat soit clos sur cette question et que nous puissions commencer les interventions proprement dites.

Je vois que la République fédérale d'Allemagne voudrait poursuivre le débat sur cette question. Je lui donne la parole.

Hartmut STALB (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): I would like to say a few words in connection with your introduction. I think we are discussing a matter of the utmost importance, namely, the very future of this Organization, and we cannot allow time pressures, for example, to be invoked which would mar the outcome of our discussion. Of course the delegate of Mexico rightly said that you have to begin building any edifice with the foundations, but you have to know what you expect and want the building to look like.

The Director-General has just explained that this Review was a very costly exercise, costly to FAD, and this investment must not be jeopardized by in any way curtailing the discussion of this matter, or limiting it. We will make a statement on this tomorrow morning, Sir.

LE PRESIDENT: De toute façon vous présenterez votre déclaration demain. Vous êtes inscrit pour demain.

Muhammad Saleem KHAN S. (Pakistan): We would like to start by thanking Professor Mazoyer for his presentation this morning and the Director-General for his valuable additional comments. We have noted the appeals you have made in your introduction and assure you that on our part we will abide to the maximum with what you have asked us to do.

The Review of some aspects of FAO's roles, goals and activities set up under Conference Resolution 6/87 has been overshadowing proceedings within the governing bodies and even the technical committees of FAO over the past two years. Over US\$ 2 million have been spent and innumerable man hours, as the Director-General mentioned in his comments earlier, invested to take the process to a satisfactory conclusion. We have today before us in document C 89/71 the outcome of this exhaustive effort. We would like to thank the Chairman of the Programme and Finance Committees, the members of the two Committees, the members of the two groups of experts who assisted them, the management consultants, and not least the Director-General and members of FAO staff for their considerable efforts in this exercise.

We would also like to compliment the two Committees and their Chairmen on a concise but most complete report presented with extreme clarity and objectivity in its analysis, submissions and recommendations. The review process in 1987 was to an extent actuated by the perceptions of some Member States that FAO has strayed from its Mandate since it was set up and that the Review would reveal deficiencies, the removal of which would make available resources to strengthen the Organization.

The Member States, comprising the Group of 77 which Pakistan currently has the honour to chair, had never felt convinced of the need for a review as they were always of the view that FAO was an efficient Organization which over the years has successfully adapted itself to providing its Member States with a variety of services and technical assistance in accordance with the Mandate assigned to it by its Basic Texts and within the directives given to it by its governing bodies.

However, in the interest of maintaining the spirit of cordiality and consensus which normally prevails in the process of decision-making in the governing bodies of this Organization, and with a view that the Review would further strengthen the Organization to make it even more effective and even more efficient, we accepted the review process in the Conference. It is satisfying to note that the two Committees, as well as the experts, have testified to the solidity and dynamism of FAO - a view which we also always held - and have given the Organization a bill of clean health.

The purposes spelled out in the Preamble to FAO's Constitution have been found to be still valid, their objectives fully relevant and in consonance with the purposes in the Preamble, and no need whatsoever has been expressed for changes in the texts. Nevertheless, the Review has resulted in some very important conclusions the implementation of which could provide opportunities for further strengthening the Organization.

It is heartening to note that for the most part the report is unanimous and, even in the few cases, a wide consensus prevails amongst the Members of the two Committees. This singular effort at consensus provides us with an opportunity to aim at an implementary framework which would make the results of the review as fruitful as possible. We on our part are fully

willing to work towards such an end, and in the process are open to any meaningful negotiation within the terms of reference set out for the Review under Resolution 6/87 and within the limits of the Basic Texts of the Organization.

Whilst respecting the sovereign rights of any Member State to freedom of expression, we would emphasize - as we have done earlier this morning - that the introduction of any new issues at this stage, or the revival of proposals already rejected by the two Committees, would be avoided as such a course of action would be contrary to the spirit of Resolution 6/87 and might unduly hamper our efforts to reach meaningful conclusions on the Review results.

It is also important that the present review exercise should end at the Conference, and that the period after the Conference, instead of being used in pursuit of further studies, should be used to implement practical measures on which a consensus to strengthen FAO can be obtained.

Keeping what I have already said in perspective, it would be appropriate to turn to some of the specific aspects of the Review. First and foremost, we feel strongly that the three roles of FAO are equally important and complementary. We support the majority view at paragraph 2.11, that technical assistance - including TCP which is crucial to the interests of many member countries, particularly developing countries - must be stepped up. The TCP is an important instrument which has always responded most effectively and efficiently to the requirements of developing countries. The level of this programme in the Budget over the years has declined to only 11.8 percent of the Regular Programme resources and should be progressively increased to reach, at a minimum, a level of 17 percent.

We accede to the importance of the information dissemination and policy advice roles within the context of the existing equation of complementarity. In order to ensure that policy studies are fruitful, we consider that the criteria for undertaking policy studies, enunciated by the Programme and Finance Committee in paragraph 220 of their Report, is important, and we endorse it.

In the context of policy-oriented undertakings, we support the suggestion for FAO's active participation in UNDP round tables and in the World Bank consultative groups in areas of FAO competence. We agree with the conclusions of the Review which clearly indicate that the determination of structural adjustments should involve the full participation of FAO and take into consideration the policy approaches formulated in FAO. We have always felt that the New International Economic Order constitutes an essential framework for the sustained development of the world economy, including the food and agricultural sector. Therefore, we would stress that FAO activities be further oriented towards the objectives of the NIEO. In this context, we especially recognize and support recommendation 2.64(iv) relating to FAO assistance to developing countries in GATT negotiations and regarding FAO's role against protectionist measures and other trade-hindering practices.

We consider that there is substantial scope for TCDC in the task of improvement, transfer and promotion of available technologies, genetic resources and appropriate farming systems, and support the Director-General's recommendations for an expanded FAO role in assisting a two-way flow of information between country research systems and the CGIAR network.

In terms of research and transfer of technology, we agree with the Committees that research and transfer of technology need to be oriented to the benefit of the developing countries in general and the needs of the most under-privileged and the most deprived producers in particular, and that links between FAO and IARCs need to be strengthened, as does also the cooperation between FAO and national agricultural research systems.

We endorse the view that FAO should take account of developments in biotechnology; should encourage the IARCs to make greater use of biotechnology in research on behalf of the developing countries; should monitor findings and publicize promising avenues of research in those countries; should encourage TCDC and the participation of the countries in biotechnology networks; should ensure that biotechnology questions are widely discussed by specialist groups; and should promote the means of discouraging moves to restrict the developing countries' access to biotechnology.

We also feel that FAO, in keeping with its Mandate, must continue to play a leading role in the conservation of natural resources as well as genetic and biological diversity of real or potential, economic and social benefit in agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries. The task should be taken up in full cooperation with other organizations, based on the same spirit and principles which underlie the international undertaking on plant genetic resources.

Mr Chairman, we note the recommendations of paragraph 2.64(ii) and the listings at paragraph 2.35 regarding sustainable development, but feel there is need for a clear articulation by FAO of requirements for additional external resources for the developing countries to offset additional costs of integrating for environmental protection. We see merit in the Director-General's viewpoint for the creation of a Special Action Programme for this purpose.

Given the importance for promoting the integration of Women in Rural Development, we note with satisfaction the recommendations of the Committee in this regard and reiterate the necessity for efforts to implement the Plan of Action of FAO for Women in Development.

The Committees have recommended the introduction of a medium-term plan covering three biennia including, if possible, a provisional indication of resources by programme. There can be serious questions as to how a medium-term plan with no provisional indication of resources by programme can be a useful exercise. These questions are reinforced by past experience on FAO's medium-term plans. However, conceptually we find the idea acceptable and are willing to go along with the consensus to give it a fair try. While doing so, we want to underline the fact that an indication of resources by programme, providing for reasonable growth in the light of increasing responsibilities of FAO in its field of competence, is a prerequisite for establishing a realistic and useful medium-term plan.

The concept of zero real growth vitiates against efforts towards meaningful planning and meaningful development, and therefore cannot be accepted. In this context, it would also be pertinent to state that it is necessary that any medium-term plan takes into account strategies adopted and recommendations made by special world conferences of the FAO.

We welcome and endorse the Committees' support for the establishment of a small number of new Special Action Programmes and recommend their use for the global priorities highlighted by some members which are impossible to meet from normal resources. We hope that such Special Action Programmes will be able to obtain necessary financial backing from the key donors.

It needs no emphasis that the efficiency of the FAO and its personnel depend basically on the technical capacity and the understanding of the developing world. It is therefore essential that experts recruited should have close knowledge of the problems of developing countries. Moreover, it is equally desirable that technical staff be provided with opportunities to update their skills keeping in view the resources available. We fully agree with the Director-General's recommendations in this regard. Now turning to the Field Operations, the report is as exhaustive on Field Operations as any other aspect of the Review. The experts have found the proposal of the Field Programme Committee impractical and have proposed an alternate new arrangement for discussions on the field operations by governing bodies which needs to be approached as an experiment to be defined on the basis of experience. The setting up of a Field Inspection Unit to reinforce the evaluation services, and focusing mainly on project management and organization, deserves support but, in view of the position explained by the Director-General, we would like to await his further views on this account.

The recommendations at paragraphs 3.18 and 3.52 (v), as well as the expert's report on Field Operations, point out an urgent need for the appointment of additional Project Officers and technical backstopping staff. We support these recommendations. We also fully support the Director-General's comments and recommendations at paragraph 62 and his views and comments on the training of national staff. We feel that the proposed programme needs to be further stepped up. We also recognize the importance of the project identification formulation facility proposed at paragraph 3.26 and we have no hesitation at supporting it.

I know I have occupied the floor for a long time but I hope you will allow me to continue for a few more minutes to complete my statement. I assure you that unless it is absolutely necessary I shall not take the floor again on this particular item.

We have read with great interest the views of the two Committees and of the Experts in coordination with other agencies. We note the conclusions and recommendations in paragraphs 4.13 and 4.14 in this respect. We agree that mutual understanding and coordination between Member Nations should be strengthened. While doing so, FAO should be recognized on the basis of its comparative expertise and experience as a lead agency and as a coordinator for sectoral reviews within its field of competence. We would also welcome the Director-General's Programme for an institutionalized high level coordination arrangement between the four UN Agencies in Rome.

Turning to the resource dimension, while appreciating the value of the recommendations for the Review, we consider there is no escape from finding additional resources to supplement the appropriations or implement the recommendations arising from the Review. The process of programme adjustments has already been carried too far and there can be no certainty about the availability of extra-budgetary funds. We likewise support the view of the Director-General as regards the prioritization of expenditure on the implementation of the recommendations. We consider that a serious attempt is called for to implement the items of high priority. On priority settings, we note that the Committees considered the complex question of priority setting

and have generally considered that FAO's normal practice is adequate. It allows for the Member Nations to be consulted in good time separately in each region and collectively in the Technical Committees and in the Governing Bodies. They have recognized that the process of priority setting involves a detailed series of discussions at many levels and that it is difficult to compare priorities one with another.

The Experts have concluded that the ranking of priorities will rest on arbitrary criteria. The Committees have concluded that any attempt at ranking of the priorities of the FAO membership would be unlikely to gain universal acceptance or to contribute significantly to decision-making.

In the light of the above, the Committees agree that necessary attention needs to be paid to the process of priority setting and that the criteria for priority setting in accordance with the guidelines given in paragraph 2.64 (viii) of the Report should be kept in mind by the Governing Bodies. We fully endorse the views of the Committee in this regard.

The Experts have also identified the need to strengthen the offices of FAO representatives to equip them more fully for the discharge of their duties. The Committees have recommended the decentralization of the administrative tasks to FAO Representatives, subject to the availability of means. These should be geared to improve the services rendered. We agree with these recommendations but feel that while doing so the need to abide by the Organization's rules for administrative and financial control must be borne in mind. We also note that the Committees have not endorsed any idea for the weakening of regional offices and the strengthening of FAO's representation. We feel that the strengthening of FAO's representation should not be done at the cost of weakening the development role of the regional set-up.

The Report on the Management Review has not revealed any major over-expenditure of resources where savings could be made. The Director-General has indicated that he would continue the implementation of the measures already under way, arising from Administrative Review, and will pursue the analysis of other recommendations as and when resources permit. We agree with this approach.

Finally, turning to budgeting we agree that the status quo be maintained with respect to the methodology for adoption of the budget rate. As regards the additional step in the budgetary process, we would have no difficulty in going along with the recommendations of the Committees, provided this change proves its usefulness in developing consensus during the current Conference for the approval of the budget. Finally, I should like to join in the appeal expressed earlier by the distinguished delegate of Senegal.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): I should, at the outset, like to congratulate Professor Mazoyer, the Chairman of the Programme Committee, for the valuable presentation he gave of the conclusions and recommendations. I should also like to congratulate the Director-General on his valuable remarks and observations and we agree with those observations.

After the statement made by our friend and colleague Mr Salim, which referred in detail to certain aspects of this Review, with which we agree, my statement will be general and concise.

At the outset, I should like to congratulate the Programme and Finance Committees on the results they have achieved during the Review process and we would like to express our satisfaction at the fact that this Review has confirmed FAO to be a dynamic organization which responds effectively to the expectations of the developing countries. The Review has also confirmed that the objectives contained in the constitution of the Organization are still relevant to the present situation and tendencies in food and agriculture fields, and relevant to world economic changes.

Throughout the years FAO has established ambitious international strategies with long-ranging dimensions, which have had an effect on the world situation regarding food and agriculture. For example, we have agrarian reform, the Food Security Compact, the Code of Conduct on the Use and Distribution of Pesticides, the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and other important strategies. These have demonstrated that the Organization is perfectly capable of confronting changes in the world situation.

My delegation feels that the review of certain aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations, its field programmes and administrative issues aim at achieving consensus among the Member States. That is what we also seek.

My country took part in the work of the Programme Committee and had the opportunity to look at the Review in depth. My delegation aired its views concerning all the issues related to FAO's Goals and Operations in accordance with Resolution 6/87. We should like to express our satisfaction at the results achieved by the two Groups of Experts and the two Committees. We feel responsible towards this Organization and are firmly attached to the principle that this Organization should remain solid and effective and that it should respond to the goals and interests of its Member States, for which the Organization was set up.

We would therefore emphasize the following points. First, we feel that the agreement of my country and other developing countries to the Review process had one aim and that was the achievement of consensus among all Member States. We hope this consensus will be achieved in the interests of member countries.

We would also like to emphasize that the existing assistance provided to Member States is one of the three main roles of the Organization. This role enables the Organization to programme its objectives and improvements and to turn them into concrete action to provide support to Member States in order to give an impetus to development efforts. We welcome the fact that the organization should be considered also as an international centre for the exchange and dissemination of information.

Secondly, FAO should carry out an effective role in supporting research for the interests of developing countries. FAO should also produce technologies adapted to local conditions.

Thirdly, FAO's participation in round tables held by UNDP and the Consultative Groups of the World Bank on issues falling within the competence of FAO is extremely important for the social and economic imbalances which were a result of structural adjustment due to the absence of FAO.

In general we fully agree with the conclusions of the two Committees by consensus. However, I should like to emphasize three main points. The first is that we are perfectly willing to negotiate in a constructive spirit, but we oppose the introduction of any new issues or any new proposals which have been rejected by the majority of Member States. We must all respect the provisions of Resolution 6/87. Our discussions should be limited to the scope of that Resolution, and we agree with what you said at the beginning of our Session this morning.

Secondly, it is not right to say that the implementation of the review's recommendation does not require additional resources. The implementation of such recommendations should not bring pressure to bear upon the resources and allocations in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91. We must make additional resources available and the countries which have requested this Review must bear the brunt, or at least some part, of the costs. We oppose the idea that the payment of contributions or the adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget should be a function of the results of the Review. We should all respect our constitutional obligations.

These are the general remarks that I wanted to make at this stage and I should like to reserve my right to take the floor again if the need arises.

Per Harald GRUE (Norway): On this Agenda item I speak on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Sweden, as well as my own country Norway.

The Nordic countries have for a long time closely followed FAO's activities. Since 1986 we have devoted substantial efforts of our own to address changes in FAO's activities as well as within its organization which we regard as necessary.

The purpose can be simply expressed. FAO should be well equipped to meet the challenges which in the next decade will confront it in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. To meet these challenges, especially in the field of development, an efficient international cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system is more important than ever. A vital task for all specialized agencies, in other words, is to examine their priorities, their planning process, and working methods in order to adopt to changing circumstances and growing needs: rather far-reaching changes in FAO are required.

No organization has unlimited resources and FAO will, as other UN agencies, be confronted with immense demands. In the Nordic view, the main thrust of the present review has not been to identify areas where additional resources are necessary. Such areas are not difficult to find. The purpose has rather been how best to use the resources which, within any budget level, Member States actually put to the Organization's disposal.

In commenting on one important aspect in the debate, the Nordic countries are not convinced that it is in the best interest of FAO, and ultimately to the Member States, to directly link a process of reform with request for additional funds. There is, of course, a broad interrelationship between a given financial and human resource level and the overall capacity of FAO.

At this Conference, however, it is important that a final vote on the Programme of Work and Budget take place after the decision of the Review.

We sincerely appreciate the important work which has been undertaken during the past two years. Valuable material has been provided in the review process so that Member States now have a much better basis for decisions. Great appreciation should, in this respect, be expressed for the work done by the two groups of experts as well as by the Finance and Programme Committees.

Allow me now to address a few aspects of this work which are of special importance to the Nordic countries. The first and fundamental point of departure is that Member Nations should determine a proper balance between FAO's three main tasks, namely - collection, analysis and dissemination of data on world food and agriculture, forestry and fisheries; formulation of food and agricultural policies and the provision of policy advice, particularly to developing countries; and technical assistance within the framework of coordinated United Nations activities in the field and, whenever possible, based on integrated sectoral or national development plans.

Secondly, when Member States set priorities within FAD, higher attention should be given to the integration of environmental needs into all aspects of the Organization's activities and work in order to ensure sustainable development; and the full involvement of women in the development process.

A third aspect is a fuller involvement of Member States in the work of the Organization. The Nordic countries are in due course prepared to consult with others on ways for strengthening the procedures for discussion and decision-making in the Conference, the Council and other important bodies of FAD.

Timely and well considered inputs by Member States are essential in any intergovernmental organization. Such input could be ascertained if Member States view the Organization's activities in a medium and long-term perspective. As everyone is aware, few changes can actually be made once the draft Programme of Work and Budget has been presented.

Hence, the Nordic countries agree with the proposal of the experts that medium-term planning should be introduced in FAO. With such planning, stricter priority setting can be ensured and more thorough and fruitful dialogue can ensue among Member States and clearer guidance could be given to the FAO Secretariat. In any organization, there are higher as well as lower priority areas - an indication of "high priorities" only gives limited practical guidance.

To this end, the Nordic countries propose that a rolling six-year medium-term plan is introduced in order to translate the priorities into the full spectrum of the Organization's activities. The plan would focus Member States' attention on the priority areas and the most urgent and the most fundamental problems within the Organization's field of competence and suggest practical proposals for necessary readjustment in the Regular and Field Programmes. It would also serve as base for the formulation of the Programme of Work and Budget and estimated budget outlines.

The Nordic countries agree with those who want the discussion on the present documentation to be concluded at the Conference. These conclusions, however, must be combined with an efficient follow-up mechanism. During the next biennium, therefore the Director-General should be requested to submit medium-term proposals taking into account the views of Member States as expressed in the regional conferences, to be discussed in the technical standing committees, the Programme and Finance Committees and transmitted by the Council to the Conference for approval.

Another important matter is FAO's representations in the field and their future management structures. Very relevant suggestions have been made by the Group of Experts on FAO's Field Operations. The Nordic countries would, therefore, welcome earlier proposals by the Director-General on the structures as well as the division of tasks and responsibilities between Headquarters, regional and national offices, respectively. A committee on operational activities should be envisaged to give member countries better possibilities to monitor these activities.

The present review will be concluded at this Conference. It has produced a wide range of suggestions and proposals. Implementation of the Conference decisions will be the main organizational task in the years to come. The Director-General, therefore, should report to Member States on the implementation, including priority setting and planning.

On behalf of Denmark, Finland, Sweden and my own country, allow me to underline the need for real and broad consensus on the present review and an effective follow-up. Only then can FAO receive unconditional support from all countries. Only then can FAO really foster change in vital areas of food, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. Only then can FAO build on public support that both FAO and the United Nations will need so much in the near future. These are the challenges for the Member States and for FAO's Secretariat. In no better way could we honour the spirit of FAO's founding fathers than by concerted efforts to face these challenges.

Fotis G. POULIDES (Cyprus): My delegation has carefully studied the report of the Programme and Finance Committees, the views and comments of the Director-General and the views of the Council as contained in its report.

First of all, we should like to congratulate the two Committees on the open-minded and constructive approach they took in carrying out their task. Their report is based on a wealth of material, much of which is appended, and provides a concise and complete distillation of the major findings of the study. The views and comments of the Director-General are an essential complement to the report, bringing the perspective of the Organization's Chief Executive on both the policy and operational issues involved, and the costs of implementation of the recommendations.

My delegation considers that the Review has been carried out in full respect both of the letter and the spirit of Resolution 6/87, and that the Conference is now in a position to discuss and adopt its conclusions on it. We should concentrate on this task, and resist any temptation to take up questions which fall outside the scope of the Resolution which launched the exercise.

Coming to our specific comments, we support the conclusion that FAO's major purposes remain as valid today as they were when the Organization was founded, and that the seven development objectives are consonant with these purposes. There is thus no need for any modification to the Preamble and Article I of the Constitution.

With regard to the three major roles of FAO, my delegation is convinced that they are all essential and interrelated. For our part, we are satisfied that a good balance has been struck, and that within its mandate and the resources available the Organization is responding to the felt needs of member countries, providing, as needed, information and data, a forum in which to

discuss problems and common action, and technical cooperation. We would not like to see any of these roles diminished, and we are confident that the Director-General will continue to ensure that a reasonable balance is maintained.

In the area of policy analysis and advice, for instance, we feel that FAO can play all its roles usefully, provided governments desire it to and resources are available. Obviously a strong information base is needed as well as the requisite technical and country expertise. But technical cooperation also comes into play, as governments often require assistance to build up their own capacity in this area. This is recognized by the Committees and we support the criteria outlined by them to ensure that FAO's involvement in such exercises leads to useful results.

We agree with the Committees' suggestions for strengthening in specific technical areas, such as research and transfer of technology, sustainable development, WCARRD, women and youth. Both the Committees, and the experts, have found that FAO's support for the New International Economic Order has been praiseworthy and should continue. The facilitation of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries is an important part of this effort.

Likewise, we support the recommendation that FAO should play as active a role as possible in the area of international trade, and welcome the Director-General's proposal arising from the current round of GATT negotiations to take on new responsibilities in connection with the International Plant Protection Convention and with the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The process of planning, programming and budgeting in FAO has been analysed and commented upon from the very beginning of the Review. We are satisfied that the recommendations made by the Committees are the fruit of much thought, and we can accept them in that spirit. Nevertheless, Mr Chairman, we should ensure that changes in the present arrangements lead to real improvements; my delegation, for instance, would consider the Medium-term Plan really useful if it included at least a provisional indication of resources. The third step in the budget process, introduced in this biennium, may certainly be continued to enable us to better judge its value.

At the same time, if these innovations are to become permanent, we should consider what changes might be made in the other elements of the process. The Committees consider that the Medium-term Plan could lead to streamlining the Programme of Work and Budget. The Director-General suggests that if the Outline is retained, the Summary Budget would become unnecessary. These are very important considerations: certainly it would not be cost-effective or useful to the Governing Bodies simply to keep on adding to the already considerable volume of documentation we receive, or to the number of occasions in which we discuss essentially the same questions.

Turning to field operations, my delegation finds the Committees' conclusions and the Director-General's comment of the utmost interest, in view of our commitment to keeping a strong technical cooperation component in the Organization's programmes.

We can support the recommendation to include special reviews of the field programmes on the agendas of the technical committees, the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council, and bearing in mind what I have already said earlier about documentation, we agree with the Director-General's comment that papers should be geared to the practical needs of participants in the meetings.

We fully endorse the recommendations made by the Committees in paragraphs 3.52 and 3.53 to strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of FAO's field operations, in particular those regarding the provision of additional Headquarters staff and the strengthening of the country offices. We also endorse the Committees' final recommendation, concerning FAO's lead agency status in its field of competence, as well as their recommendations in Chapter 4 covering FAO in the International System. In regard to the latter, we welcome the Director-General's positive and constructive proposals, first for the creation of an inter-secretariat mechanism among the Rome Food Agencies and then for specific measures to be taken with some of the other Agencies and Programmes in response to the recommendations.

My Government remains firmly committed to the strengthening of the Organization. We have always seen the Review process as a means to ensure that all possible means are found to enable FAO to face the challenges of the future. The Review has shown that these challenges are growing and multiplying, and has identified areas where strengthening should begin immediately. The Director-General draws our attention to the additional resources required for this, and suggests a logical and practical breakdown of these resources into categories.

In our view, additional funds should be provided to ensure implementation of the recommendations in Category I beginning in 1990-91, as they cannot be accommodated within the approved Programme of Work and Budget. Possibly, implementation of the recommendations placed in Category II could be deferred if resources are not available immediately. The recommendations in Category III are activities which logically should be covered by extra-budgetary funding, and therefore donor support should be sought to ensure their implementation.

Finally, I would like to reiterate our desire to see consensus emerge from this process. It has been long and sometimes difficult, but we have noted with great satisfaction how, at every stage, those involved - groups of experts, Committees, Council - have demonstrated the will to understand each other's viewpoint and make real efforts in moving forward constructively and harmoniously. We believe that this is yet another demonstration of the fundamental strength of the Organization, and of its value to the Member Nations which collectively make it up. We are confident that as the Review comes to a conclusion, all these Member Nations can, and will, unite to face the decade of the Nineties, giving in the process to the Organization adequate and long-sighted resources to better fulfil its mandate.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): A l'instar de ceux qui viennent de nous précéder, permettez-nous d'abord de remercier M. le Professeur Mazoyer, Président du Comité du Programme, et M. Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de la FAD, pour leurs exposés introductifs clairs et complémentaires. Nous vous remercions vous aussi, Monsieur le Président, pour vos précieuses indications sur la manière d'aborder le sujet à nous soumis.

Nous appuyons la déclaration que vient de faire notre collègue Salim en sa qualité de Représentant du Pakistan et de Président du Groupe des 77.

Ainsi que chacun s'en souvient sans doute, notre délégation est de celles qui n'ont pas applaudi lorsque fut formulée en 1985, lors de la 23ème session de la Conférence de la FAO, l'idée de procéder à une réforme d'envergure de la FAO par des experts indépendants.

A l'époque, notre opposition à cette idée reposait sur notre conviction selon laquelle la FAO était une organisation dynamique et bien gérée, certes susceptible de beaucoup d'améliorations, mais nous ne pensions pas que ces améliorations nécessitaient une réforme de l'Organisation sous toutes ses coutures. Tout au plus nous pensions qu'un examen de certains aspects des activités de la FAO pouvait être entrepris de l'intérieur par le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier, avec la collaboration des services de l'Organisation elle-même.

Aussi, c'est lorsque ces conditions ont été enfin pratiquement réunies, non sans peine, au cours de la 24ème session que nous avons enfin accepté d'adopter le 27 novembre 1987 la Résolution 6/87 dès lors qu'il était entendu que l'examen aurait pour but de renforcer la FAO afin qu'elle puisse continuer à jouer un rôle de chef de file dans l'Agriculture mondiale au cours des années à venir.

Aux termes du paragraphe 4 de la Résolution 6/87 sus-citée, mission a été donnée au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier de mener conjointement l'examen de certains aspects desdites opérations de la FAO, assistés par un groupe d'experts choisis à titre personnel pour leurs compétences, le tout en collaboration avec les services de l'Organisation. Quant au Directeur général de la FAO, il lui a été prescrit la tâche de présenter aux organes directeurs de l'Organisation les rapports intérimaires sur l'évolution du dossier et à la présente Conférence le rapport final des deux Comités, assorti de ses vues et observations.

Nous sommes heureux de constater aujourd'hui que sur toute la ligne la mission prescrite au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier a été scrupuleusement remplie et dans les délais impartis. En ce qui concerne le Directeur général, non seulement il a fait ce qui lui a été demandé, mieux il a permis l'élargissement du champ de l'examen à deux autres aspects, à savoir les opérations de terrain et les questions administratives et de gestion de l'Organisation, ce qui nous donne une vue plus complète de la situation réelle de la FAO.

Même si la somme de deux millions de dollars qu'a coûté cet examen n'est pas négligeable, nous n'y avons rien à redire dès lors qu'il s'agit d'un juste prix qu'il a fallu payer pour sortir enfin un matériel qui permet de prendre les meilleures mesures pour atteindre le but visé au départ, à savoir le renforcement de l'Organisation pour des victoires encore plus grandes à l'avenir.

Pour la rigueur et le respect des délais dont ils ont fait preuve dans la conduite de cet examen, ainsi que pour la haute qualité du travail accompli, nous tenons à remercier et à féliciter le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier et leurs groupes d'experts ainsi que le Secrétariat de la FAO, dont l'ouverture, la disponibilité et l'assistance ont été déterminantes pour le travail des deux Comités et de leurs groupes d'experts.

Ainsi que cela a déjà été dit lors de sa 96ème session aux travaux desquels nous avons eu l'honneur de participer, le Conseil de notre Organisation a longuement débattu de cet examen dont nous retrouvons la teneur dans deux volumes portant respectivement les cotes C 89/21 et C 89/21/Sup.I.

Dans le premier volume de cet examen, le C 89/21, la première partie nous donne les vues et observations du Directeur général de la FAO sur les conclusions et recommandations de l'examen, tandis que dans les Chapitres 2 à 5, les deux Comités nous servent leurs avis et recommandations successivement sur les objectifs, stratégies, rôles et priorités de l'Organisation; les opérations de terrain; la place de la FAO dans le Système international et les ressources nécessaires à la mise en oeuvre des résultats de l'examen,

A travers ce premier volume, nous avons noté au total 32 recommandations principales formulées par les deux Comités et quatre nouvelles propositions du Directeur général de la FAO. Quant au deuxième volume, le C 89/21/Sup.I, il constitue la documentation de base, dont l'essentiel est le rapport du travail des experts sur lequel nous ne nous appesantirons pas.

Etant déjà intervenus longuement sur ce sujet à la 96ème session du Conseil et constatant avec une certaine satisfaction qu'il y a une certaine identité de vues et même consensus, d'une part entre les experts et les Membres des deux Comités, et d'autre part entre le Secrétariat et eux sur bon nombre de recommandations qui ont été formulées, nous ne souhaitons pas jouer les trouble-fête. Nous souscrivons aux recommandations à propos desquelles le consensus a été obtenu. Nous sommes en particulier très satisfaits de la conclusion à laquelle sont parvenus les deux Comités et qui nous a réconfortés dans notre propre conviction selon laquelle la FAO est une Organisation dynamique et bien gérée qui a su s'adapter à son temps et dont la pertinence de son Acte constitutif n'a pas pris de rides. Etant donné que cette session de notre Conférence doit trancher sur cet examen en dernier ressort, nous souhaiterons à l'occasion nous prononcer.

Quelques mots à présent sur les questions suivantes qui n'ont pas fait l'unanimité à divers niveaux. Ces questions sont l'ordre d'importance des trois grands rôles de la FAO; les modalités de financement du PCT; la nouvelle procédure de préparation du Programme de travail et budget et les modalités de fixation des priorités; les modalités de financement de la mise en oeuvre des résultats de l'Examen; le sort de l'Examen; les propositions complémentaires du Directeur général de la FAO. Bien que notre penchant naturel nous pousse à privilégier le rôle d'assistance technique de la FAO en raison de ses effets d'entraînement, nous estimons tout de même que les trois grands rôles de l'Organisation sont complémentaires et doivent continuer à recevoir le même degré de priorité pour renforcer le lien qui doit continuer d'exister entre le programme ordinaire et le programme de terrain.

Nous sommes entièrement d'accord avec les vues exprimées dans le paragraphe 3.28 à 3.32 du Rapport des deux Comités préconisant l'augmentation des ressources du PCT au moyen des fonds additionnels sous forme de fonds fiduciaires.

Nous sommes pour la procédure actuelle de fixation des priorités du Programme de travail et budget qui se fonde sur les orientations des organes directeurs de l'Organisation et en particulier sur celles des conférences régionales.

A propos de la nouvelle procédure de préparation du Programme de travail et budget, nous avons déjà eu l'occasion de nous prononcer lors de l'examen du point 13 de l'Ordre du jour de la Conférence au sein de cette deuxième commission. Notre position sur ce point est la suivante:

Bien que n'étant pas encore convaincus de l'utilité de l'étape supplémentaire introduite dans la procédure d'élaboration du Programme de travail et budget, nous ne nous opposerons pas a priori à la poursuite de la mise à l'essai de celui-ci. Toutefois, nous subordonnons notre approbation pour la poursuite de cette nouvelle procédure à deux conditions: l'adoption du Programme de travail et budget par consensus à commencer par celui qui est soumis à cette session de la Conférence; et la preuve que cette nouvelle procédure aura garanti le règlement à temps des contributions des Etats Membres de l'Organisation, et en particulier des contributions des principaux bailleurs qui traînent le pas jusqu'ici.

Ce faisant, et étant donné que la preuve de la réunion de ces deux conditions ne pourra être fournie que dans deux ans, nous souscrivons à la proposition d'appliquer cette nouvelle procédure pour un autre exercice biennal.

Outre la quatrième recommandation sur laquelle nous venons de nous prononcer, nous appuyons les trois autres propositions du Directeur général qui complètent utilement les recommandations des deux Comités.

A propos du sort à donner aux résultats du présent Examen, nous aimerions expressément que l'on s'entende bien. En effet, vu à présent ce qu'un examen de la dimension de celui que nous venons d'avoir coûte à l'Organisation, nous nous refusons de discuter de toute nouvelle idée de réforme.

Nous demandons qu'il soit mis fin ici au présent Examen et que le temps soit donné pour la mise en oeuvre de ces recommandations. Nous estimons que tout examen sur quelque nouveau sujet que ce soit ne devrait avoir lieu qu'après évaluation de l'indice bénéfique de celui que nous venons d'avoir.

Nous ne pensons pas qu'il soit raisonnable de chercher à financer la mise en oeuvre des résultats du présent Examen qui exige des ressources supplémentaires par la méthode d'absorption interne des dépenses et par des réductions de programmes.

L'initiative de cet Examen n'est pas une vue de l'esprit. Cette initiative a ses promoteurs. Par souci d'équité, mais aussi pour que soit respecté l'esprit de suite dans les idées et dans les manières de faire, nous exhortons tous ceux qui peuvent le faire à s'efforcer d'apporter volontairement les ressources que requiert la mise en oeuvre des résultats dudit examen.

Pour notre part, en raison des pressions dont nous faisons l'objet pour la mise en oeuvre du programme d'ajustement structurel qui nous est soumis, il ne nous sera pas possible de participer, au cours du prochain biennium, au financement même symbolique de cet effort financier demandé par la mise en oeuvre des résultats de l'examen.

Nous rejetons l'idée de changer l'ordre d'examen de l'Ordre du jour que nous avons déjà adopté. Nous rejetons en particulier la tendance consistant à lier le vote du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 à la décision préalable relative à l'examen. Nous sommes en faveur du suivi de la mise en oeuvre des résultats de cet examen suivant la procédure habituelle, par le Secrétariat, sans que l'on ait recours à tout autre mécanisme extérieur.

Y.K. ATTA-KONADÜ (Ghana): I would like to join my colleagues to thank Professor Mazoyer and the Director-General for their comments. Ghana fully agrees with the views expressed by Pakistan and Libya and we also share the position taken by the Nordic countries as regards the support Which all member countries should give to FAO to strengthen it. We note in particular the assurance from the Nordic countries of their willingness to increase the flow of resources to FAO to strengthen it.

Ghana's concise statement at the Plenary has expressed her views on the controversial subject of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations. We believe that the experts on the Committees charged with the review task and representing all regions and diverse opinion within FAO have accomplished the herculean task of reaching a consensus on what was needed to improve the performance of the FAO. In our view the conclusions reached are sound and progressive and any call for further review should be put at the back-burner. Rather we urge that the recommendations be implemented expeditiously.

One might ask whether the so-called review was a cornucopia or a Pandora's Box. Indeed I believe that a solid case has been made for FAO to receive more funding to implement the recommendations. FAO's mandate, to which we all subscribe, enjoins it to deal with the interrelated issues of poverty, death, resource flows, trade, rural development, environmental degradation and population growth. Unfortunately, these compelling demands on FAO and their extension are being made at the time the financial resources of the Organization are flagging.

Indeed the Ghana delegation firmly believes that the old and new demand provide compelling reasons for increasing rather than cutting back on the resource flows for the Organization.

The table at the end of document SJS/4/2 gives a picture of the additional financial burden to be imposed by the expert recommendations.

Ghana believes that the recommendations do not go far enough to warrant any internal adjustment, cross-fertilization of project funding and privatising that will enable the new projects to be accommodated within the present budget. For instance, the recommendations do not include any idea of additional resources for strengthening a Joint Division with UNIDO, though some economies of scale might result from this unified action because of the removal of overlapping responsibilities, the FAO will be called upon to shoulder greater burdens in the area of project formulation and preparation.

For a long time FAO has been promoting environmentally conscious projects. The time has come, as intimated by my delegation at the Plenary, to coalesce these disparate concerns into an integrated one that will address the key agronomic issues. The amount of \$ 900 000 recommended by the experts for the promotion of sustainable agriculture is a peanut. To be effective it would require at least ten times that amount, to implement the programme in Sub-Sahara Africa.

The introduction of long-term and medium-term plans calls for a multidisciplinary action. The FAO will need a far enlarged group of experts in the various disciplines to be able to sharpen planning methodologies, not only within the FAO itself but also to render assistance to member countries such as Ghana to undertake medium-term planning. Thus, the amount recommended by the experts is just too tiny.

Also just to limit myself to a few instances, the amount recommended to cater for the additional responsibilities of the Investment Centre is insufficient. Scale or resource proportionality factor enjoins the FAO to provide more resources to train nationals in project identification, formulation and preparation.

I can go on and on. The point is that with the burgeoning agriculture related problems to be handled by the FAO in the 1990s and beyond, our delegation shares the views of other progressive delegates that FAO should rather receive greater infusion of financial resources from member countries, and all members who are in arrears in payment of their dues should see to it that their dues are paid promptly.

Among other things, FAO should be supported with additional funding to be able to enhance human resource capabilities in agricultural planning and management in addition to providing policy experts at the service of old and upcoming members in response to specific requests.

The Ghana delegation believes that FAO should continue to maintain the span of concern that extends beyond agriculture. For instance, income and employment-oriented agricultural development needs to be supplemented by assistance in processing, handicraft, manufacturing and service-sectors to create employment for the poor, including women and rural youth. Further to this, FAO is to extend attention to rural development more broadly than called for under the IDS and to a variety of agricultural and non-agricultural linkages.

There are a lot more activities to be undertaken by FAO that might attract extra-budgetary funding such as those articulated by the Director-General in his comments.

To conclude, Ghana wholeheartedly supports the realistic views and comments of the Director-General because of the pertinent issues affecting the smooth and effective running of the Organization. We deplore any attempt at witch hunting and urge distinguished delegates to do the same.

Ghana fully supports the idea of FAO making every effort to assist some member countries, especially the developing ones, to improve the quality of data assembling and endorses the establishment of World Agricultural Information Centre comprising a statistical data base and a reference data base whereby users can have direct access to a larger quantity of coherent information.

Ghana is also of the view that FAO's involvement in policy-oriented studies will lead to more productive results if: (1) the study is initiated at the request of the recipient government; (2) coordination is maintained with the World Bank, IFAD, IMF and ADB; (3) the participation of FAO is assured in all fora where the findings and recommendations of the study are discussed;

(4) there is internal monitoring by recipient countries and FAO of the follow-up actions taken; and (5), lastly, every effort is made to build up the institutional capacity of member countries in policy analysis, and that the FAO's involvement begins at the earliest possible stage of the process.

Finally, Ghana much appreciates the flexible and quick manner in which TCP funds are made available, and therefore supports the recommendation that TCP be maintained in its present form as a vital element of FAO's field operations, and funds allocated to TCP which are inadequate to meet overall requests be gradually increased.

Anwar Mohamed KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of) (original language Arabic): I wish first of all to say that I am speaking on behalf of North Yemen in addition to representing my own country.

I would like to express my gratitude to Mr Mazoyer, the Chairman of the Programme Committee, for his clear and expert presentation of this item. I would like to thank the Director-General for his important and constructive contribution concerning the outlook and orientation which he wished to provide regarding the discussion of this very important item on the Agenda.

I would also like to express my gratitude to all members of the Secretariat, as well as the expert groups, for their contribution to the preparation of this Review.

It is clear that the sovereignty of each member country of this Organization must be respected. Every member country must have an opportunity and the freedom to express the views and opinions of that country. However, we also have to ensure respect for the sovereignty of all member countries, as seen in the views and opinions expressed by those countries, which led to the adoption of Resolution 6/87, the provisions of which were then implemented by the relevant bodies.

I would like to express support for the recommendations of the two Committees as adopted by consensus. On behalf of the two Yemens, I would like to thank the experts for their support and for the conclusions, as expressed by my colleague from Pakistan, in respect of all the recommendations contained in these important documents. He, I believe, conveyed the views of the Group of 77, and that includes the representations of the two Yemens which I represent here.

I will not go into all the details regarding the conclusions and recommendations of the Review. Nonetheless, I would like to stress the fact that the Review has, in fact, resulted in a bill of good health being drawn up regarding the activities of the Organization. We have a set of recommendations and conclusions which will enable us to strengthen the Organization and expand the scope of its activities, in particular those which serve the needs of the member countries which are developing countries.

As to the application of the recommendations and the methods for their implementation, here again we endorse the opinions which have been set forth by the Director-General regarding the priorities. The delegations of both Yemens feel that it is necessary to secure the necessary resources for the implementation of the recommendations and conclusions, but as we are unlikely to have all the requisite resources we believe that the available resources should be focused on the priorities as indicated in the documents.

In this era of détente, I would like to appeal to all Member States to work in that spirit of détente and understanding. It would be difficult to understand if the powerful countries were to impede the inflow of necessary resources for the implementation of the recommendations and conclusions. As I said, I will not go into detail, and we hope that others will not divert into areas which do not fall fully within the scope of the resolution. These have been two difficult years for all which have required great participation by all involved in this exercise.

I thank you for your attention.

Gerard Phirinyane KHOJANE (Lesotho): The Lesotho Delegation fully shares the major consensus conclusions of the Programme and Finance Committees, as advised by experts, regarding the review of certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations. We agree that FAO Member Nations as a whole have seldom found occasion to question the validity and relevance of FAO's objectives, role, priorities and strategies. We hope that now that the results of the review exercise have testified that as a technical-cum-development agency FAO remains a dynamic institution, and that it has been successful in maintaining a clear perspective of its role and responsibilities in the development process covering food and agriculture, the fears of a few doubtful Member States will be put to rest. It is gratifying that even in the recent situation of restrictions on its scope and freedom of action, FAO has continued to be well managed. We congratulate the management staff of FAO for the compliment awarded in respect of the quality of their work and their dedication.

On the future evolution of food and agriculture, we endorse the observation that the certificate of good health should not preclude opportunities for making FAO more efficient and effective. In this regard we agree that it makes a lot of sense that due to limitations of agriculture to absorb any additional labour force, FAO should urgently step up a search for alternative employment opportunities in rural areas. The search can be made within the context of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. In our view, FAO is sufficiently equipped to identify areas of its competence and distinct comparative advantage over other multilateral organizations within the broad World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development's programme of action. It can do so without additional costs of engaging independent consultants.

In other developments, FAO has already taken a commendable step as a natural process to include in its priorities for future Programmes of Work and Budget the promotion of sustainable agriculture and the preservation of the environment. Our delegation's endorsement of this move was highlighted in our intervention during the discussions of the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1990-91 biennium. This justifies the analysis that the historical record of FAO, as well as its innovations have led to a conclusion, to which our delegation has always subscribed, that the original Mandate of the Organization is comprehensive and relevant, and retains enough flexibility to enable a swift response to new challenges.

Nevertheless, we welcome a word of caution that FAO's spectrum of responsibilities and activities has grown so large as to endanger the quality of its work over the longer term. Hence, the recommendations for improvement should be taken seriously. In particular, we wish to highlight the need for

FAO to adopt a set of guidelines for accepting the responsibility for the planning and/or execution of field projects funded by Extra-Budgetary Resources. We fully share the concern that the guidelines should meet the requirement that the accepted projects on behalf of member countries and donors are in conformity with the agreed areas of priority, and that a reasonable and manageable ratio of Extra-Budgetary to Regular Programmes is maintained. We do so, still recognizing that a straightforward ranking of priorities would be very difficult, given their very different nature and the wide range of issues and interests that are involved.

We are also in favour of strengthening EAO's capacity to support regional and multicountry actions but, in our view, regional offices can be organized in such a way that they fulfil their regional and multicountry responsibilities more efficiently and effectively. For example, we feel that the regional office for Africa can be strengthened so as effectively to serve regional organizations such as the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, the Economic Community of Western African States, and so on, without sacrificing country representative offices in the subregions. In short, we support the decentralization policy without reservation provided that appropriate steps are taken within the limits imposed by FAO rules. Improvement of the decentralization policy should start with the regional offices down to the country representative offices as required. The comparison between regional and country representative offices is misleading and should not be entertained.

Mr Chairman, it is encouraging that the Committees, as advised by experts, have reached the same conclusion as that held by the majority of the developing countries that the prevailing principle of the tripartite arrangement of governments, experts and the Secretariat of FAO does not seem to call for review. What is required is better preparatory work by delegations and genuine and serious consultations among equal partners. The tendency to politicize issues and to use financial power to impose one's will cannot lead to any tangible results. What is often seen as the excessive tendency for governments to rely on the Secretariat's preparatory work, and to offer somewhat passive reactions to the analysis, information, recommendations and suggestions is when the developing countries support the Secretariat against the big financial contributors who cannot resist the temptation to use their financial muscle to impose their will.

Although there is an absolutely valid point for the proposal that serious attention should be given to electing to committees outstanding candidates with knowledge and experience in the central areas of concern to FAO, this cannot be achieved as long as prominence is given to politically motivated considerations and self-interest at the expense of the majority feeling. Similarly, no stability will be achieved until all FAO Member Nations are patient enough to allow the Director-General, elected democratically by popular vote, to exercise his judgement in conducting the affairs of the Organization while he remains accountable to the Governing Bodies. We should respect the separation between the functions of policy guidance and the management of FAO for its success and effectiveness.

Mr Chairman, the most striking observation which the Committees, assisted by Experts, have made and which every delegation should pay attention to is that for FAO to be able to meet the challenges of the future and to provide effective services to its Member Nations nothing will be more important than a reliable and sufficient flow of resources. This remark was prompted by the depressing state of severe cash flow problems under which FAO has passed

since 1987 as a result of non-payment of contributions by some Member Nations, including the largest contributor. Although the Director-General tried to cope with the situation by switching resources from low to high priority tasks, the provision of additional resources remained the only viable answer to the problem.

Unfortunately, the latest reports on the situation are not encouraging, despite repeated pleas from the Director-General and the Governing Bodies of FAO. We hope the latest call, strengthened by unanimous support of Experts and Programme and Finance Committees for all Member Nations to resolve FAO's financial stringency by paying their respective shares of the approved budget on time and by finding a solution for the payment of arrears, will at last receive a positive response. Otherwise the whole Review exercise to strengthen FAO's capacity to face the challenges of the future with increasing efficiency and effectiveness will be meaningless.

While we feel very relieved and comfortable to learn that the Programme and Finance Committees, as advised by experts, have confirmed the importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) to the developing countries and the need to strengthen it in the present form, we continue to be concerned about the level of resources allocated to this Programme. We have consistently shared the view that resources allocated to TCP are inadequate and more funds are necessary to meet the requests of governments. We therefore endorse the recommendation that, in addition to the allocation from the Regular Programme funds, the possibility of attracting voluntary contributions for TCP should also be given to utilize the Bilateral Trust funds for Technical Cooperation Programmes.

It is regretted that there has been insufficient use of FAO's capacities and competence by some United Nations agencies in the execution of their projects. We therefore welcome the recommendation of the Programme and Finance Committees, as advised by experts, urging other organs of the United Nations system to utilize FAO in the execution of projects in agriculture and rural development. We also echo the remarks that FAO should be fully recognized as the lead agency for sectoral and subsectoral studies in its field of competence and be closely associated with the process of the preparation and holding of multilateral coordination meetings such as UNDP round tables and World Bank consultative groups, as well as with UNDP's sponsored National Technical Cooperation Assessment Programmes. Strengthening of mutual understanding and rapport among the United Nations agencies is also essential, particularly among those based in Rome. In this context we are looking forward to the establishment of a suitable mechanism to facilitate the so-desired coordination.

On Management Review, we wish to join the Committees in congratulating the Director-General of FAO for his initiative to institute a management review process which was not the subject of Conference Resolution 6/87. This initiative has demonstrated that the Director-General genuinely aspires to an efficient and effective FAO in the service of its Member Nations. In pursuing this objective he is ready to play open cards and facilitate a reasonable degree of transparency while still observing the required confidentiality in the management of an organization such as FAO. It must be a comfortable feeling to know that there is a general harmony between the consultants' report and the comments of the Director-General, except for the few cases in which there are some differences of form, timing and emphasis but not of the substance.

Starting with the review of printing systems within the FAO, we recognize that the Director-General agrees with the recommendation that printing in-house, using traditional methods, should be expanded to form a reproduction unit. While the consultants would wish the recommendation to be implemented immediately, we tend to favour the Director-General's cautious approach that it is essential before reaching final conclusions on such a complex matter to make a careful feasibility study. Although our view is that the cost of consultants should be kept to the minimum level possible, we would agree that in this case a feasibility study be carried out with the assistance of consultants.

With reference to the review of treasury operations, the intention of the consultants' focus is to bring FAO up to the level of banks and large multinational corporations in the management of currency risk. We agree with the consultants that we should aspire to excellence as long as costs are not prohibitive. Of the three options suggested for managing currency exposures, we agree that the already-tested approach of "forward purchase" is the most viable and attainable. But the cautious attitude of the Director-General to give it further study in the light of past experience, as well as of possible future trends, is also understandable. Another important determining factor will be the outcome of the ongoing consultations of the Director-General with the Investment Advisory Committee, comprising the representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the Bank for International Settlement, the World Bank and Banca d'Italia.

On the review of accounting policies and procedures, we understand the concern of the consultants about the different forecasts of the Financial Services Division (AFF) and the Office of Programme Budget and Evaluation (PBE) as management tools. Anybody not familiar with the system would have difficulties in reconciling different forecasts based on different approaches and covering different periods for different objectives. But since the management is satisfied with the system and since the consultants have not revealed any management errors in controls based on confused information, the proposed working group intended to be a meeting point to reconcile the forecasts of the Financial Services Division (AFF) and the office of the Programme Budget and Evaluation (PBE) may not serve a useful purpose. Similarly, any suggestions concerning the delegation of financial authority could wait until the impact of the newly-introduced financial systems (FINSYS) can be assessed. We have been told that live operations on both Phase I and Phase II of the introduced financial systems (FINSYS) should provide FAO with a greatly improved ability to process financial data and to exercise efficient and effective control over its financial resources. It should be given some time to prove itself.

Considering examination of personnel policies and practices, we fully support the concept of on-the-job-training and the system of performance appraisal of professional and general service staff to achieve greater efficiency and economy. While we strongly oppose the diverse and extensive external FAO staff training and prefer recruitment of qualified staff when filling new posts, we feel obliged to endorse the desirability of providing technical staff with opportunities to update their knowledge and skills. Subject to availability of funds a six months' sabbatical can be arranged for regular staff with career opportunities, to bring them up to date in their specialized fields from time to time.

We wish to endorse the view that additional resources will be required to implement the recommendations arising from the Review, particularly in the context of the anticipated increase in demands for FAO's services. While we fully share the view that supplementary appropriation would offer the certainty that all the recommendations could be implemented without serious and highly undesirable disruption of the Organization's programmes and activities, we at the same time, support the view that an alternative of seeking extra-budgetary resources for those activities which do not form part of the Regular Programme but which are likely to interest potential donors should be fully explored. We see no room for any further programme adjustment to obtain the required resources to implement the recommendations. If the major contributors are genuinely interested in the improvement of the running of FAO, they should be equally prepared to make voluntary contributions to meet the cost of such improvements. In this regard, we wish to register our appreciation for the promise of US\$ 16 million by the Government of Italy announced during the Ninety-sixth Council.

We finally endorse the recommendation that any further enquiry into FAO operations and mandate as may be deemed necessary after this Review should be left to the regular machinery of analysis and decision-making of FAO.

Ibrahim KABA (Guinée): La délégation guinéenne, avant tout, se réjouit de l'atmosphère de dialogue constructif qui règne au sein de notre importante Commission. Grâce à ce dialogue sous votre sage conduite une nouvelle ère de débats compréhensifs s'est instaurée entre les membres de notre Commission, et qui démontre le souci commun d'aboutir à un consensus.

Comme cela a été affirmé par le représentant du Pakistan, au départ nous n'étions pas convaincus de la nécessité d'un examen de la FAO, Organisation qui a toujours réalisé, en Guinée avec beaucoup d'efficacité, des activités satisfaisantes. Cependant, le respect de l'esprit de démocratie qui régit notre Organisation a conduit la délégation guinéenne à adopter la Résolution 6/87; aussi, faisons-nous nôtres les recommandations formulées par les mécanismes et organes mandatés par la 24ème Session de la Conférence, pour la mise en oeuvre de cette résolution.

En réalité, le Comité conjoint, partant des conclusions des groupes d'experts, a reconnu l'efficacité de l'Organisation ainsi que sa bonne gestion. L'étude n'a éliminé aucun aspect, aucun but ni aucune opération de la FAO; elle a plutôt recommandé le renforcement de certains aspects, de certains buts et de certaines opérations de la FAO. Aussi, nous adhérons totalement au souci de renforcement de notre Organisation, qui nécessite logiquement de nouveaux moyens. Pour ce faire, tous les Etats Membres devraient honorer leurs obligations statutaires.

Pour sa part, convaincue de la nécessité de nouveaux moyens financiers pour la mise en oeuvre des recommandations, la délégation guinéenne approuve les propositions de budget supplémentaires présentées par le Directeur général. Cependant, nous recommandons une mise en oeuvre étalée de ces recommandations selon un ordre de priorités bien établi.

Dans ce cadre, nous insistons sur le renforcement du rôle d'assistance de la FAO, de diffusion des renseignements, toute activité devant passer par les représentations dont le renforcement est recommandé. La Délégation guinéenne par ailleurs insiste en particulier sur l'inopportunité d'aborder au cours de la présente session de nouvelles idées d'examen de questions non abordées par

les comités conjoints. A notre avis, ce processus d'examen devra prendre fin. Le temps et les ressources si précieuses de nos contribuables doivent enfin être consacrés à la réalisation des besoins de nos millions de nécessiteux. Pour terminer, nous faisons nôtre le sage appel lancé par le Délégué du Sénégal pour que le consensus constructif qui est à la base de la Résolution C 87/7 continue à guider nos pas.

LI ZHENHUAN (China) (original language Chinese) : Two years ago in this very same room, Commission II of the 24th Session of the FAO Conference, after lengthy deliberations, adopted Resolution 6/87 on the Review of FAO and the Related Review Procedures. After two years the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees dealing with the Review of FAO and the views and the comments by the Director-General are now placed before us. If two years ago some of us still had certain doubts about FAO's objectives, role, priorities, strategies while facing challenges in world food and agriculture by the end of this century, then two years later many issues have been clarified. We are now approaching a common understanding on FAO's objectives, role, priorities and strategies.

As a member of the Programme Committee, China had the honour to participate in the Review which was rather complicated and it took two years to complete. To assist the Programme and Finance Committees, 30 international experts representing different regions were recruited. The result of the Review is contained in Conference document C 89/21 and C 89/21 Sup.I. It is our view that this is a document of seriousness and transparency which lays an extensive basis for deliberations in Commission II. We sincerely hope that all the participating delegates will exchange viewpoints on a basis of this document and under the spirit of mutual understanding and mutual trust so as to reach consensus and adopt the Report by the whole Commission through consultation.

Now please allow me to make the following comments on the Report of the Review. First of all, FAO's objectives; the Review has found out that the mandate and the related provisions spelt out in the Constitution 44 years ago are still valid and effective today. As it is said in paragraph 2.3 of this document division of FAO's founding fathers is still applauded. We are of the opinion that the Committee's conclusions on this point is the base for our deliberations on various matters.

Secondly, FAO's roles; we believe that FAO is a multi-function body specialized in food and agriculture within the United Nations system, not a mono-functioning body. The Experts Groups and Committees have put FAO's activities evolved in the past 44 years into three major categories which are mainly, information collection and dissemination, and international forum and technical assistance. This is what people usually say are the three major roles. The Chinese delegation is in full agreement with this identification and concept of FAO's roles. The three roles form an inseparable entity. They reflect the whole range of FAO activities wherein lies FAO's strength. As it is stated in paragraph 4.2 of the Report, FAO maintains its sphere, unique advantages. The close involvement of the Regular Programme in the field of programmes and their mutual reinforcement is one of FAO's characteristics. FAO Member States are in different economic and social development stages. It is therefore only natural that they have diverse emphasis and interests in FAO's three roles. We should and must achieve the balance, the needs of developing countries, particularly the needs of the low income food deficit countries should be taken into account. We cannot support the view of

strengthening other roles at the expense of the technical assistance. Certainly strengthening of FAO's three roles to implement the recommendation of the Programme and Finance Committees, the Secretariat provides the financial cost of 21 relevant activities in Chapter 5 of the document. These activities are necessary in order to strengthen the FAO's three roles and enable it to be in a better position to carry out its aims later in the Preamble of its Constitution.

The China delegation renders its support to most of the activities, particularly the following ones; participation in the relevant GATT's negotiations and undertaking new cooperation with GATT; sustainable development, environmental protection, biotechnology support to ECDC and TCDC; increasing the authority and work of FAO country representatives; training of national projects directors; improvement of FAO staff competence.

Regarding the cost of implementing the recommendations, the Programme and Finance Committees have proposed the three options which include through special supplementary appropriation programme adjustments and seeking extra budgetary resources. The Chinese delegation is open to the three proposed options. It is our view that the three financial sources complement rather than necessarily exclude one another. They should all be exploited to facilitate the solution of the funding problem. However, in view of FAO's drastic programme cuts due to financial constraints in recent years, the emphasis should be placed on supplementary appropriation and seeking extra budgetary resources. If the Secretariat's assessment of US\$ 26.75 million is not financed readily it may be advisable to implement the activities recommended by the two Committees by stages, namely, to implement the recommended activities in two or more biennium. This would help the Conference to adopt the two Committees' Reports by consensus.

The Chinese delegation supports any rational and feasible recommendations that strengthen FAO's activities and improve its efficiency.

Jorge Allerto DE OLIVEIRA (Guinée-Bissau) : Nous voudrions féliciter le Comité du Programme, le Comité financier et les groupes d'experts pour le travail accompli et la clarté du document. Nous voudrions aussi remercier le Directeur général pour son résumé et les éclaircissements sur la façon dont on devrait poursuivre le débat sur ce thème. En ce qui concerne le sujet en discussion qui fait l'objet de la Résolution 6/87, nous sommes d'accord avec le renforcement de la FAO pour qu'elle puisse continuer à jouer un rôle de chef de file dans l'agriculture mondiale dans les années à venir.

En conséquence, nous appuyons toutes les suggestions du document notamment en ce qui concerne le rôle de la FAO en matière politique et aussi le renforcement de certaines activités, comme par exemple la stratégie, le développement équilibré et les techniques appropriées aux conditions régionales; la poursuite des efforts en faveur du rôle de la femme dans le développement rural; l'appui aux jeunes agriculteurs; et surtout le renforcement du Programme de coopération technique qui joue un rôle fondamental dans les opérations de terrain de la FAO dans nos pays, comme catalyseur des actions de développement.

Quant au problème des ressources pour mettre en application les recommandations de l'étude, nous pensons que les pays qui ont demandé la réalisation de cette étude doivent faire un effort de contribution supplémentaire pour faire face à la réalisation des recommandations. Comme les délégations qui m'ont précédé, en particulier la Délégation du Pakistan et la Délégation du Congo, nous appelons à l'approbation de ces recommandations par un consensus réel.

Sami AL-SUNAA (Jordan) (original language Arabic): I would like to submit the views of my country as to the conclusions and recommendations issued by the Finance and Programme Committees.

Concerning the in-depth Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations and the Field Programmes, I shall try to be brief and focus on four points at this stage. The results obtained were a positive response to Resolution 6/87 adopted in the 24th Session of FAO's General Conference. The Resolution instructed the Committees to find ways and means to strengthen FAO's capacity to face the future challenges.

We would like to join previous delegations in expressing our thanks to the Programme and Finance Committees for the constructive support. We would also like to thank the Director-General for his valuable remarks.

It is a pleasure for us to see that the results of this Review have only confirmed the strength of this Organization on which we can base our activities. This strong basis will enable the Organization to fulfil its responsibilities.

My delegation would like to support the content of the Report and would like to emphasize the three main roles of the Organization: the collection and dissemination of information in the field agriculture, food and forestry, FAO as an international forum for agricultural and food policies for both developed and developing countries, and FAO as an international centre for the provision of technical assistance to developing countries.

In this context we feel that high priority within the present circumstances should be given to strengthening and developing FAO's capacities in providing technical assistance to developing countries, especially in an important field - that is, training and institution-building.

If FAO succeeds in this field we will be able to rearrange priorities. However, for the time being a specific focus should be given to the needs of developing countries - that is, access to appropriate technologies as a means to alleviate hunger and poverty.

In order to enable FAO to work in a clear manner a medium-term plan should be established as a general framework determining priorities and estimated costs, provided that an initial commitment be made as to making available the necessary financial resources in order to enable FAO to carry out these tasks as part of the general programme of FAO.

My country supports decentralization in FAO by strengthening regional representations. However, we feel that the role of regional officers should be particularly expanded and strengthened to enable them to carry out their tasks in an appropriate manner. We feel that the Director-General should take the appropriate measures to this effect.

Finally, Sir, the main issue which should be treated here and should be solved concerns the provision of additional resources to implement the recommendations and the determination of a specific timetable.

We feel, as the delegate of Norway said, that the main aim is to strengthen FAO's effectiveness within a specific budget. No person, including the Director-General, with all due respect, can conciliate the task of strengthening FAO and respecting a limited budget. We feel that the Director-General's observations on priorities are objective and can form a basis on which our Commission can agree upon to provide them with the necessary financial resources.

LE PRESIDENT: Avec cette intervention prend fin la séance de ce matin. Si je regarde la liste des orateurs pour cet après-midi, je constate qu'il n'y a pas beaucoup de délégués qui souhaitent intervenir. Je pense donc que nous pourrions achever l'examen de ce point de l'Ordre du jour cet après-midi.

Je signale que le premier orateur de cet après-midi sera le représentant du Kenya. J'espère qu'il sera là à 14 h 45 lorsque nous reprendrons le débat.

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/II/PV/10

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

TENTH MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE
DECIMA SESION
(20 November 1989)

The Tenth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La dixième séance est ouverte à 15 heures
sous la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la décima sesión a las 15.00 horas
bajo la presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II

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

- 15. Conclusions of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations
- 15. Conclusions de l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO
- 15. Conclusiones del examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAO

LE PRESIDENT: Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, nous allons poursuivre notre débat sur le point 15 comme je l'ai dit avant que l'on ne se quitte.

Benjamin K. KISILU (Kenya): A new process which began with Resolution 6/87 has since then became the major issue for discussion among individual representative groups and of course by the Committees, expert groups and consultants mandated to review certain aspects of FAO's Objectives and Activities. My delegation is happy that at last this matter can at least be discussed amicably and that there is goodwill towards reaching consensus and accepting the recommendations tabled by the Joint Programme and Finance Committees. We appreciate the effort and the thought put into the Report by the experts' group and the management consultants, which have facilitated the Report which is before this Conference.

My delegation wishes to thank the Joint Committee for their report and also Professor Mazoyer, Chairman of the Programme Committee, and the Director-General, for the presentation on the appeal for consensus and harmony.

In the mid-1960s our then Minister for Agriculture, the late Bruce McKenzie, called on the FAO to review its activities and priorities in order to address more effectively the needs of the developing countries, and in particular the emerging independent nations which were in the process of nation building. That suggestion took time to crystallize, perhaps not for the same underlying reasons that led to Resolution 6/87, but all the same a number of the findings and recommendations before us today cover the concerns of the Kenya delegation that were raised at that time. We are anxious to see action on the findings and feel strongly that, with the recommendations of the Joint Committee, the FAO should be given the opportunity to carry out implementation, which should lead to a stronger agency in the service of the Member States. We do not subscribe to perpetuated studies and reviews. In our opinion, these would result in wasted resources and in the invaluable time of the Organization being diverted from its noble course.

The FAO major objectives and role emanate from the Organization's preamble and constitution which give direction to the three basic functions of FAD. The review process has established that there is no divergency from the established objectives and functions of the Organization. The review nevertheless notes that the determination of sustained action at national and international level for the protection of the environment and the achievement

of sustainable development is worthy of inclusion among the functions of FAD. We believe that this need is already emphasized under the second function of the FAO, as laid down in the basic text. Indeed the FAO has carried out commendable work in support of conservation activities.

Among the present three functions of FAO, technical cooperation has remained dear to many developing countries. The Review Group notes that greater involvement of Member States would deepen the spirit of cooperation and partnership and provide a good opportunity for training nations and building up their competence and confidence. These views were registered by the Head of my delegation during the Twenty-fourth FAO Conference. A more emphatic appeal was made by a speaker in the Plenary Meeting, seeking for definitive allocations of resources and development assistance to the recipient countries, thereby facilitating the incorporation of TCP funds into their national development programmes.

The Review deals extensively with the relationship between FAO and UNDP, the World Bank and other UN agencies. In regard to the World Bank, my delegation would like to encourage FAO to work more closely with the Bank and the IMF in order to assist in the identification of and the means to ameliorate social effects arising from structural adjustment programmes currently being implemented by many developing countries.

As regards UNDP, we agree that the resources under the country programmes are very important in the Field Programmes of FAD. We also agree with the observation made by the representative of UNDP under the Field Programme Agenda, that the responsibility of deciding in which sector the funds should be and who should execute the programme remains primarily with the recipient countries. It is therefore worth noting the recommendation to accelerate the process of enabling Member Governments to execute their own programmes for self-reliance.

In this regard, we reiterate the call to accelerate training and also the use of national experts, in line with the UN General Assembly Resolution 3405 XXX of 1975. We are concerned that among the 2 600 FAO projects there were only 130 national experts. I am informed that the figure has since improved to about 300. This pathetic situation must be changed in favour of developing countries. We recognize the comparative advantage of FAO in this field and would encourage its continued technical support to developing countries.

The Review points out that the valuable contribution of agricultural research in the early 1960s and 1970s made a major breakthrough in agricultural productivity, but no such advance has been achieved in the 1980s. It also notes that in many countries there is scope for propagating existing technologies which have not been exploited in the past. We agree with this observation but we also believe that FAO should maintain the momentum for international agricultural research and in particular for accelerating and strengthening research linkages, translating existing technologies, particularly those that rely on less costly inputs, and ensuring the transfer of these for the benefit of developing countries. We see this as important, especially since new technologies have long gestation periods of 12-15 years before they are fully adopted. Also related is the focus on biotechnology as a priority activity. While my delegation supports this priority, we have nevertheless urged that such biotechnology advancement should not lead to the detriment of developing countries. We would thus wish to call attention to

the caution registered on the Review regarding biotechnology in developing countries in the medium-term. We call for greater emphasis on genetic resource conservation and support for training institutions for the protection of genetic resources.

We also call for action on animal genetics over the whole spectrum of genetic research.

The Review discusses the financial crisis confronting the FAO. It decries the declining quality of advisors and consultants primarily due to the long freeze in salaries and fees. Without doubt the strength of FAO is its personnel. FAO must be facilitated to attract and maintain dedicated and high-calibre personnel. Member States large or small, rich or poor, developed or developing, should honor their obligations in order to restore the technical publications that had to be suspended because of financial constraints.

The Review raises concern over slow backstopping and it notes occasionally that only routine comments are made. Other weaknesses are also identified, despite the very well-established structure and capabilities of FAO. We hope that these will be addressed by the management to ensure that the integrity of the Organization is maintained.

The need to strengthen and reorient the country and regional offices is also addressed. We agree with the need to increase the responsibilities, particularly at the country offices level, to enhance decision-making and also the technical and managerial capacity of these offices so that they can provide more guidance and support to field projects officials and also to the host countries. It would also enhance FAO's important role in TCDC and ECDC as well as in the training needs of the developing countries. We also support the important role of the Investment Centre. As far as the management review is concerned, my delegation believes that the Director-General should be given the opportunity to carry out the recommendations and other adjustments to austerity measures to ensure efficiency and maximization of the Organization's resources. The computer facilities are a case at hand that requires a review of the system for better integration and efficiency.

As far as budgeting and programming of work is concerned, we believe the experimental steps in the PWB could prove useful if given a chance so that exchange of views of substance can take place to enrich the quality of the Programme of Work and Budget.

Concerning the lapse factor in the present budget proposal, while my delegation has given unreserved approval of the Programme of Work and Budget, we would appeal that in future such revision should be clearly outlined giving implications to Member States especially in assessments if any. This would be more pertinent if such information is not in the main document. This, of course, is part of the transparency that was quite evident in the recently concluded Programme of Work and Budget discussion.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to restate that we have every faith that FAO has the capacity and capability to carry out its mandate effectively. In our extensive reference to areas, which need to be improved, our interests are that this Organization should respond even better to the needs of its Member States. It is also for this reason that we have maintained reviews as a part of the normal management process. We would nevertheless pray that given the present financial crisis, this Conference will not encourage further reviews and studies until the present recommendations are first

implemented. We call upon the FAO to institute austerity measures to ensure even savings for the implementation of these recommendations. We also call upon the developed countries to help in making resources available to FAO for the purpose of accelerating implementation of the same,

CHONG YUN HYONG (Korea, Democratic People's Republic of): Almost two years have passed since the Review was launched by the Resolution 6/87 adopted at the Twenty-fourth Conference and during this period of the Review process about US\$ 2 million has been spent as its cost. We are now at the last stage of the conclusion of the Review.

At this juncture, I think that the Review exercise should not be prolonged and that the time has come to act on the recommendations in so far as they are endorsed by this Conference. In this connection, I am going to make clear the position of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Item 15 under discussion. Firstly, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea agrees the report of the Programme and Finance Committees on FAO's objectives, its role, priorities and strategies and FAO's field operations. Taking this opportunity, I should like to express my thanks to the two Chairmen of the Committees and everybody involved in the Review process for their excellent work.

Secondly, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gives its full support: to the views and comments of the Director-General. I trust that his views and comments will ensure the strengthening of FAO to future challenges and to play the leading role in agriculture, at present and in the future. In this connection, these should be acceptable to everybody by consensus.

I should also like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General who has done everything possible to reach consensus and in this spirit has been supporting the findings and recommendations of the Committees.

Thirdly, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea cannot accept the cancellation of some activities and adjustments in the budget for the costs implementing the recommendations. I recognize that there is no room for flexibility in the Programme of Work and Budget. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea asserts that the costs of implementing the recommendations should be dependent on additional funds.

Fourthly, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea objects strongly to any attempt to weaken the FAO, which we trust. We are pleased to note that the Experts and the Committees concluded their Review by finding that FAO "remains a solid and dynamic institution". On the other hand, we witnessed attempts to weaken FAO under the pretext of reform.

With regard to these attempts, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea adds to the voices of the developing countries that the importance and essential elements of FAO's technical assistance role should be safeguarded and FAO's technical activities should be extended in order to make FAO more efficient and effective. In particular, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea asserts that TCP and TCDC, which are of crucial importance to the interests of developing countries, ought to be strengthened and more funds should be allocated to those branches of its Programme of Work and Budget.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will participate actively in TCDC activities and will provide its experience and technical assistance to the developing countries with TCDC and in the spirit of south-south cooperation.

I will now mention one point concerning the financial obligations of the member countries. The difficult financial situation of FAO has been stressed by many delegates. I think that any action to use their financial obligations as a means of political pressure should be stopped to overcome the hard financial state created in FAO.

In conclusion, I express my hope that the Review process should be concluded and the recommendations should be adopted by consensus at this Conference.

Taghi SHIRVANI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): In the name of the Most High. As you know, the item under consideration has got the majority's agreement and we think it is a waste of time to discuss the issues which have not gained enough interest previously.

My delegation thanks Mr Mazoyer and his colleagues for the precise and serious Review of the subject and its conclusions. We also admire His Excellency, the Director-General, for his faithful introduction and his proposals. My Government is satisfied with the work done by the Finance Committee and emphasizes that FAO is a dynamic body which has had a dramatic effect on developing countries and their economies and for sure she can respond to the expectations of Member Nations better because of so many efforts and experience gained over the past years. There is no need to say that FAO is really a democratic organization and its management has done its best to fulfil the Member Nations' needs as much as possible. However, in spite of so many good works achieved, which will have fruitful effects on the coming activities, efforts should be made to eliminate weak points in the Programme. They should finalize it without any misgivings.

Finally, we are satisfied with Resolution 6/87 and congratulate the respected colleagues in the Committees. We believe that FAO is the only reference body which the developing countries can use to solve their food and agricultural problems. To help FAO means to help developing countries and the developing world to reach their goals and objectives in seeking to be self-sufficient and prosperous.

We recommend FAO to extend its TCP programmes as we feel it can have a fantastic impact on the promotion of the countries concerned. We emphasize that the forests play a crucial role in economic, environmental and agricultural development in the different countries but so far in the coming biennium this has not been given its proper priorities within FAO's Programme of Work and Budget. In this connection, FAO can play a valuable role by analysing the problems and providing technical assistance to the needy countries.

Antonio Rodrigues PIRES (Cap-Vert): A notre tour, nous voulons remercier sincèrement le Président du Comité de son excellente intervention et des explications exhaustives qu'il a données de tout ce qui a été fait au cours de l'examen. Nous abordons, certes, le sujet le plus important de la Conférence. Je serai bref, mais la délégation du Cap-Vert tient à prendre une position très claire sur tous les sujets de première importance.

La délégation cap-verdienne participe activement aux débats de notre commission, étant résolue à faire respecter les conclusions positives et opérationnelles des rapports d'experts. Nous félicitons le Comité pour le travail accompli dans un esprit d'harmonie constructif et très positif. Nous remercions l'Organisation et son Directeur général pour la collaboration et l'appui inconditionnel fournis au comité, qui ont permis aux experts d'accomplir fidèlement leur mission.

Le Comité a respecté le mandat de la Conférence générale dans le cadre et l'esprit de la Résolution 6/87. Les documents qui nous ont été soumis constituent, certes, une bonne synthèse du travail accompli par les experts. La conclusion évidente qui s'impose, c'est que la FAO travaille bien mais que, si elle veut travailler mieux encore, il faut qu'elle dispose de moyens additionnels importants.

Ma délégation participera activement aux débats de cette Commission de façon à ce que des résultats positifs et opérationnels soient obtenus conformément aux rapports d'experts.

Nous félicitons le Comité du travail accompli et nous nous réjouissons de ce que les conclusions ne modifient en rien le processus de décision au sein de l'Organisation, qui doit rester l'apanage de tous les pays, même les plus pauvres et les plus démunis. Nous faisons confiance à tous ceux qui connaissent véritablement les problèmes de sous-développement pour que la FAO soit renforcée par le processus d'examen et qu'elle puisse dès demain se consacrer à sa tâche sans continuer à accumuler rapport sur rapport, qui ne feront jamais que gonfler des services de documentation déjà suffisamment surchargés.

Les autorités du Cap-Vert connaissent l'importance des opérations de terrain et apprécient le Programme de coopération technique (PCT), en particulier pour les pays en développement. Nous appuyons la déclaration des représentants du Pakistan, du Congo et autres, selon laquelle il faut renforcer ce programme pour arriver au niveau de 7 pour cent.

Nous ne voulons pas d'un supercomité qui ne ferait qu'alourdir les procédures existantes. Le service d'inspection des projets de terrain doit rester d'une grande souplesse. Nous savons ce qui est bon pour le développement de notre pays et nous savons gré à la FAO d'y contribuer, avec l'appui de donateurs généreux, mais dégagés de préoccupations relevant du passé et non de l'avenir.

Nous soutenons les recommandations du Chapitre quatre concernant la participation de la FAO aux négociations du GATT et le renforcement de la coopération technique et économique entre les pays en développement, tel que l'a dit le représentant de la Chine ce matin, de même que la participation active de l'Organisation aux tables rondes du PNUD. La FAO a toujours joué un rôle important de chef de file dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation.

Nous soutenons les recommandations pertinentes figurant au Chapitre trois, aux paragraphes 3.1 à 3.7, concernant les stratégies régionales et mondiales de l'Organisation, en particulier les questions de décentralisation et de régionalisation, qui nous paraissent d'une importance particulière.

En ce qui concerne le renforcement des bureaux dans les pays, mon gouvernement se félicite de la création de bureaux de représentation de la FAO dans les pays. Les ayant vus à l'oeuvre et en ayant bénéficié, ma délégation ne peut que souhaiter leur renforcement, en particulier dans leur rôle de conseil en politiques agricoles, mais aussi dans leur rôle de soutien aux programmes de terrain. Pour cela, il leur faudra obtenir une expertise accrue en politiques de développement.

Le rôle de la FAO dans le système international, qui figure au Chapitre six, constitue un aspect important de l'Organisation pour l'avenir de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation et du développement rural dans le monde. Nous nous félicitons des excellentes relations entre la FAO - en tant que première agence d'exécution des programmes du PNUD - et le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD). Nous regrettons, d'un autre côté, la chute des programmes techniques FAO/PNUD au cours des années 80. Nous encourageons l'Organisation à poursuivre ses excellentes relations avec les organismes de prêts, et en particulier avec les banques régionales de développement et les autres institutions du système des Nations Unies (le FIDA, l'ONUDI, l'OIT, entre autres).

Nous appuyons la déclaration de la Chine en ce qui concerne les propositions faites pour trouver des ressources extrabudgétaires.

Notre Conférence doit adopter par consensus le rapport de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO, qui constitue le point 15 de notre Ordre du jour.

Jacques WARIN (France): En abordant ce point très important de notre Ordre du jour - et je partage, à ce propos, l'opinion émise par mon prédécesseur, l'Ambassadeur du Cap-Vert - qui va nous occuper pendant deux ou trois journées pleines, je voudrais rendre hommage tout d'abord à tous ceux qui, tant dans le groupe d'experts qu'au sein des comités, aussi bien au Secrétariat que parmi les délégués, ont fourni un travail énorme pour mieux délimiter les activités de la FAO dans le seul but d'en renforcer l'efficacité. Ce travail, qui présente à la fois un caractère collectif par la manière dont il a été accompli et un aspect consensuel par les recommandations sur lesquelles il débouche, n'est certes pas unique en son genre dans le système des Nations Unies; mais il a le mérite de venir à son heure, de mettre à plat toutes les activités de l'Organisation, de nous autoriser à porter sur elle un jugement et de nous permettre de tracer quelques nouvelles pistes pour l'avenir.

Je voudrais ensuite remercier le Secrétariat de la documentation préliminaire dont il a alimenté les comités au début de l'exercice, pour l'assistance technique qu'il a fournie aux nombreux voyages et réunions du Groupe d'experts, pour l'organisation des trois sessions conjointes spéciales et pour la présentation finale parfaitement claire et cohérente des résultats de cet exercice.

Cela dit, je voudrais définir tout de suite le fil conducteur qui va sous-tendre tout mon exposé. La plupart des recommandations proposées par les comités sont à la fois pertinentes et réalisables dans la pratique, mais elles ne devraient pas, à mon sens - et je reprends là une idée exprimée la semaine dernière par le Ministre français de l'agriculture - entraîner des besoins supplémentaires de financement. Ce sont là les deux parties de mon exposé.

Tout en expliquant pourquoi ma délégation souscrit dans l'ensemble aux recommandations du rapport conjoint des deux comités, je vais essayer de montrer au passage qu'elles ne sont pas nécessairement aussi coûteuses que l'on croit.

Adoptons donc le plan suivi par les comités et regroupons ces recommandations en trois catégories: celles qui concernent les objectifs et les rôles de la FAO, celles qui concernent les opérations de terrain, celles enfin qui traitent de la place de l'Organisation dans le système international.

En ce qui concerne les objectifs et les rôles de la FAO, on trouve, d'une part, la réaffirmation de ses rôles traditionnels et la définition de fonctions nouvelles ou tout au moins à renforcer.

Les rôles traditionnels sont les trois grands rôles assignés à la FAO dans son Acte constitutif: rôle d'information et de collecte de données, rôle de chef de file des activités agricoles dans les pays membres de l'Organisation, rôle de stimulation (rôle catalytique, pour employer le jargon à la mode) de l'assistance technique dans les pays en développement. Je n'y reviens pas: la complémentarité de ces trois rôles a été souvent soulignée.

Je m'arrêterai en revanche plus particulièrement sur quatre objectifs nouveaux auxquels mon gouvernement souscrit et qui ne me paraissent pas a priori devoir entraîner tant de dépenses supplémentaires.

Le premier est le rôle de conseil en matière de politiques agricoles et alimentaires. De l'avis général, la FAO devrait jouer à l'avenir un rôle plus important en conseillant aux Etats Membres des politiques et des stratégies; les pays qui en ont le plus besoin sont les pays les moins avancés, qui partagent le double handicap de compter avant tout sur leur agriculture pour leur développement et d'avoir des structures administratives plus faibles que celles de leurs partenaires.

Mais, ce dont il s'agit, dans notre esprit, c'est de conseils donnés, sur place, par les bureaux locaux de la FAO aux gouvernements auprès desquels ils sont accrédités, à condition, bien sûr, qu'ils en fassent la demande.

Le rapport nous parle d'études de politique générale à 400 000 dollars l'unité et chiffre le coût de dix études de ce genre à la somme de 4 millions de dollars E.-U. Croyez-vous que les gouvernements aient tellement besoin de ces études macro-économiques? La FAO en fait sur son budget régulier, nous dit-on, 4 ou 5 par an. Mais ce n'est pas cela que j'avais en vue quand j'ai parlé à plusieurs reprises, dans différentes enceintes, d'avis politiques. Il s'agit, de l'avis de ma délégation, de conseil apporté par les représentations locales de la FAO, à des gouvernements qui ont à faire face à de grandes difficultés et sont, notamment, confrontés à des problèmes d'ajustements structurels.

Le second rôle, qui est souligné dans les rapports, est celui que joue la FAO en matière de recherche et de technologie. Les Comités ont relevé l'importance de la recherche pour le développement agricole. On connaît les succès remportés par la "Révolution verte" dans le sous-continent indien par exemple; on fonde beaucoup d'espoir sur la dissémination de l'information dans le domaine des biotechnologies, grâce notamment au Groupe consultatif de recherche agronomique internationale.

On connaît moins, et cependant le rapport conjoint en parle aussi, le rôle joué par la Coopération technique entre pays en développement (CTPD) dans la diffusion de technologies locales appropriées. Il s'agit là, purement et simplement, d'échange d'informations sur des technologies peu coûteuses, et je ne vois pas pourquoi il faudrait prévoir dans les dépenses de l'Organisation, un budget supplémentaire pour ce genre d'échange d'informations.

Le troisième rôle est celui du renforcement de la FAO dans le domaine de l'assistance technique, A cet égard, deux principes doivent nous guider:

- Tout d'abord un équilibre doit être respecté entre le programme ordinaire et le programme de terrain qui poursuivent des objectifs différents et complémentaires. Je me suis déjà expliqué là-dessus dans cette enceinte.
- En second lieu, les organes directeurs devraient jouer un rôle plus important dans les orientations des opérations de terrain, et il y a deux moyens pour ce faire.

On peut soit créer un super-comité des programmes de terrain comme certains l'ont déjà proposé; soit étendre les attributions du Comité de programme. Et c'est à cette seconde solution que je me rallierai car, dans ce dernier cas je ne vois pas pourquoi cela devrait entraîner des dépenses supplémentaires.

Le quatrième objectif que j'ai relevé consiste à renforcer le rôle de la FAO à travers toute une série de domaines où notre Organisation ait un rôle à jouer; je les cite de manière non exhaustive: l'engagement international sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, les accords internationaux de produits et les fonds communs des matières premières, le Code international de conduite des pesticides, l'engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques, les négociations commerciales multilatérales dites "Uruguay Round".

Je ne prétends pas, bien sûr, que toutes ces activités dont certaines sont nouvelles, peuvent être accomplies sans frais.

Je prendrai un exemple: la participation plus directe de la FAO aux négociations commerciales multilatérales, requiert sans doute un crédit supplémentaire que le Directeur général a chiffré à 900 000 dollars E.-U. J'y reviendrai. Mais, pour la plupart de ces activités il s'agit soit d'opérations en cours - le programme d'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire -soit de connexions à établir ou à élaborer avec des organisations existantes, la CNUCED par exemple pour les accords de produits.

Mêmes réflexions pour le nouvel objectif du développement durable. Il s'agit d'intégrer davantage les préoccupations d'environnement aux opérations de développement. C'est un grand et vaste objectif. Il s'agit d'introduire dans l'ensemble de nos projets une nouvelle logique, la logique de l'environnement.

Je ne vois pas en quoi cela devrait entraîner nécessairement des coûts supplémentaires.

S'agissant des opérations de terrain je voudrais faire, sur la base du rapport conjoint, deux observations préliminaires: elles concernent l'importance, pour la FAO, des opérations de terrain. La FAO, en particulier, et les institutions spécialisées en général, ont de plus en plus de

difficultés à jouer le rôle de chef de file qui leur est conféré par la Charte constitutive, car nous savons que le PNUD et la Banque mondiale ont trop souvent tendance à les ignorer et à les considérer comme de simples agences d'exécution.

Ma seconde observation concerne la complexité croissante des opérations de terrain, qui justifient la mise en place d'un programme global informatisé de surveillance et de suivi du programme de terrain. C'est PROSYS à laquelle mon pays est disposé à contribuer et je l'ai déjà dit.

Cela dit, pour en rester aux opérations de terrain, l'analyse qui a été faite par les experts pose deux catégories de problèmes d'effectifs.

La double tendance à la baisse des effectifs au Siège, avec la surcharge de travail qui en résulte, et l'exécution croissante des projets par les gouvernements, explique sans doute la suggestion, qu'on trouve dans le rapport, qui consiste à offrir au personnel de la FAO la faculté de se recycler. Nous n'y sommes pas défavorables, en principe, mais quand on chiffre le coût de ce recyclage à 70 000 dollars par personne, nous trouvons la note un peu "salée": 4 200 000 dollars pour offrir des congés sabbatiques de six mois à 60 fonctionnaires de la FAO! Ce n'est pas là une mesure que nous pouvons approuver.

Seconde catégorie de problèmes, des problèmes administratifs.

Le soutien aux opérations de terrain requiert le renforcement des bureaux locaux, oui; mais cela peut être obtenu par un redéploiement d'effectifs; l'approfondissement de l'examen par les organes directeurs oui; mais cela implique surtout un changement dans les procédures; le renforcement de l'inspection des opérations de terrain, oui, bien sûr; mais sans aller jusqu'à la création d'une unité d'inspection car cela peut être obtenu en étendant les attributions actuelles du service d'évaluation.

J'en arrive maintenant à la troisième fonction nouvelle définie qui concerne les rapports entre la FAO et le système international. Un troisième chapitre du rapport est en effet consacré à la FAO dans le système international des Nations Unies, et je ne retiendrai que trois de ces institutions avec lesquelles existe déjà une étroite coopération.

- La Banque mondiale, avec laquelle existe depuis 1964 un Programme de coopération, mais sans doute pas assez de participation à des "tables rondes" de donateurs (cela reste à mettre au point);
- Le PNUD, qui a tendance à évoluer vers une institution de développement fournissant une gamme complète de services, ce qui implique la nécessité accrue d'une coopération institutionnelle avec la FAO;
- Le PAM, enfin, à propos duquel les experts se sont bornés à recommander qu'il fasse davantage appel à la FAO, notamment dans le domaine de l'analyse des politiques alimentaires, et qu'il fasse appel au système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Donc, guère de dépenses supplémentaires à prévoir pour mettre en oeuvre ces différentes suggestions. Le seul gros morceau concerne la participation de la FAO à "l'Uruguay round": on a vu que la somme à trouver reste quand même assez modeste; elle est inférieure à un million de dollars; étant donné l'importance de ce cycle de négociations, ce chiffre paraît acceptable.

J'en arrive à la seconde partie de mon exposé qui sera beaucoup plus brève et concerne les besoins de financement de cette réforme. Je crois avoir montré tout le long de mon exposé que la plupart des réformes à accomplir n'impliquent pas nécessairement de très grands moyens financiers. J'espère que c'était peut-être une erreur que d'avoir voulu chiffrer, en marge du budget, le programme des réformes. On aurait pu commencer par une idée simple: l'ensemble de ces réaménagements, de ces redéploiements, peut se faire sans dépenses supplémentaires puisqu'il s'agit, dans la plupart des cas, d'éviter des doubles-emplois, de normaliser des procédures, de renforcer des bureaux en en supprimant d'autres, d'assurer une meilleure coordination, etc. Les cas où il s'agit de mettre en place des structures nouvelles (PROSYS) ou de créer des postes qui n'existent pas (cellules d'appui aux Négociations Commerciales Multilatérales) restent l'exception. Et quant aux dépenses de personnel, s'il s'agit d'augmenter les salaires pour avoir un meilleur recrutement, cela ne dépend pas de la FAO, mais de décisions prises à New York sur la recommandation du CCQAB (Comité Consultatif des Questions Administratives et Budgétaires); mais s'il s'agit de donner aux fonctionnaires des congés sabbatiques de six mois pour se recycler, alors là ce sont peut-être des largesses auxquelles nous ne salirions consentir, dans la période de vaches maigres où se trouve l'Organisation.

Il ne saurait donc être question de l'avis de ma délégation, d'augmenter le budget pour tenir compte des réformes, mais force est de reconnaître qu'un certain nombre d'entre elles auront quand même un coût.

De deux choses l'une, alors: ou bien ces suggestions pourront être prises en compte dans le budget, tel qu'il est prévu, en spéculant sur la marge de manoeuvre que cherche à se donner le Secrétariat (je pense, notamment, au taux retenu pour les abattements pour vacances d'emplois); ou bien ces réformes devront être financées par des fonds extrabudgétaires, et il faudra compter alors sur la générosité des donateurs traditionnels qui pourront être attirés par tel ou tel "plat" du menu à la carte qui leur est proposé.

En conclusion, je voudrais rappeler que nous sommes très attachés à des résultats positifs de l'examen et nous en attendons une efficacité accrue de l'Organisation.

Cet examen a le mérite d'avoir eu lieu. Je pense, comme plusieurs des orateurs qui m'ont précédé, que nous n'avons pas intérêt à le prolonger. Il a permis de faire une véritable radiographie de l'Organisation à un moment où elle avait beaucoup étendu son champ d'action depuis 40 ans, et accru ses moyens par rapport à la structure et au mandat initial qui étaient les siens. Le coût de cet examen me paraît, dans cette perspective, assez faible, puisqu'il nous a donné l'occasion de rassembler et d'engranger une masse d'informations qui ne seront pas perdues.

J'entends parfois des voix, dans les rangs de nos amis très proches, qui regrettent que l'examen n'ait pas touché à certains aspects qui leur paraissaient importants, comme la structure de la direction ou le pouvoir de décision dans l'Organisation. A ceux-là, je dis: il est d'autres voies pour obtenir les changements que vous souhaitez. L'un de ces changements pourrait être de donner plus de poids aux Etats Membres en leur permettant de discuter de l'orientation de la FAO à travers un plus grand nombre de projets de résolutions.

Mais je sors déjà là du cadre de la Résolution 6/87, Il y a là une réforme dans les méthodes de l'Organisation que je propose à votre réflexion. Elle consisterait à prendre moins de temps à polir des phrases dans le Comité de rédaction et plus de temps à discuter concrètement du contenu de certains des projets de résolution. Il s'agit là d'une réforme dans les méthodes de fonctionnement de l'Organisation - Conseil et Conférence - que nous pouvons parfaitement discuter entre nous dans l'année à venir, afin qu'elle puisse entrer en vigueur à la faveur du prochain Conseil (novembre 1990) ou même de la prochaine Conférence (novembre 1991).

Pour terminer, je me rallie à ce que beaucoup d'autres délégations ont dit avant moi. Le moment est venu d'agir, de prendre en compte les recommandations de l'examen, de mettre en oeuvre les réformes, et de faire en sorte que nous nous en tirions avec le minimum de coûts.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: J'ai écouté l'exposé lumineux, intéressant et complet de Monsieur l'ambassadeur de France. J'aurais aimé avoir eu l'occasion d'en discuter avec lui avant qu'il ne dise de façon péremptoire que tout peut se faire à bas prix. J'aurais pu lui montrer le détail des coûts de la mise en oeuvre de ces différentes recommandations.

Je lui aurais montré qu'au moins 52 postes de fonctionnaires du cadre organique sont nécessaires, 14 postes de fonctionnaires de la catégorie des services généraux; j'aurais pu lui montrer le coût de certaines études supplémentaires relatives à l'environnement, etc.

Evidemment, on peut faire tout cela au rabais; on peut le faire à 50 ou à 10 millions de dollars E.-U. J'ai choisi la voie moyenne la plus raisonnable.

Il a dit de façon très affirmative que l'on pouvait tout faire avec beaucoup moins de moyens; mais ce n'est pas l'expérience que nous en avons, et je suis disposé, sur n'importe lequel de ces coûts, à lui donner tous les renseignements nécessaires. Il a semblé regretter qu'on ait parlé de cela, mais comment ne pas discuter des implications financières? C'est dans les textes fondamentaux: chaque fois qu'il y a une demande d'activité nouvelle, il faut d'abord que le Directeur général fasse un rapport sur les implications financières.

Je ne peux pas répondre maintenant en bloc. Nous sommes prêts à donner toutes les précisions qu'un travail assidu nous a permis de rassembler.

Le représentant de la France dit qu'il s'en tient à la Résolution 6/87; toutes les résolutions de la Conférence doivent être respectées, même si les délégués sont libres de s'exprimer comme ils le veulent dans toutes les enceintes des Nations Unies. Il a évoqué certains sujets tout en se défendant de le faire. Mais les Etats Membres peuvent à n'importe quel moment demander que l'on discute n'importe quel sujet. Cependant, nous avons l'obligation de préparer les documents pour des questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour.

Je ne suis pas d'accord avec les explications données au sujet d'un coût inférieur à celui que j'ai indiqué. S'il y a des questions précises, M. Shah ou moi-même sommes à votre disposition. On a parlé d'une étude sur la politique agricole pour un pays donné que nous avons estimée à 400 000 dollars. Pour le Bangladesh, cela a coûté un million et demi de dollars au PNUD et nous n'avions prévu que 400 000 dollars. Si l'étude est

moins compliquée, plus serrée, elle coûtera moins chère. Elle pourrait aussi être payée par le PNUD ou par le Programme de coopération technique. Mais si la Conférence décide que tous les deux ans il faut faire 10 études pour 10 pays, il faudra que ce soit compris dans le budget lui-même.

Je trouve néanmoins que l'exposé du représentant de la France a été intéressant et provoquant. Je vais certainement regarder de nouveau ces chiffres. Je ne dis pas qu'il n'y ait pas une autre façon de faire, mais il ne faut pas que nous nous laissions bercer d'illusions. Il y aurait beaucoup à dire.

Konan Daniel YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire): Je voudrais tout d'abord, au nom de la délégation ivoirienne, féliciter le Professeur Mazoyer ainsi que le Directeur général pour leur présentation claire du point inscrit à notre Ordre du jour. Je me joins aussi aux propos du Président du Groupe des 77 exposés ce matin.

Comme nous le déclarions au cours de notre précédente intervention au sein de cette Commission, pour nous le point le plus important de notre Conférence est celui du Programme de travail et budget et non celui de l'Examen.

Vous le savez, c'est un examen qui a été fortement voulu par un nombre limité de délégations et auquel nous avons dû souscrire à notre corps défendant, en vertu de l'approbation de la Résolution 6/87 en novembre 1987.

Donc, avant de poursuivre, la délégation ivoirienne voudrait qu'ici nous n'instaurions pas un dialogue de sourds.

En effet, s'il n'y avait pas eu la Résolution 6/87, nous ne serions pas ici en train de parler d'Examen. La 6/87 doit donc constituer la base de nos réflexions et toute tentative de s'en écarter ou de chercher à l'édulcorer par des subterfuges de fond ou de forme devrait rencontrer un écho défavorable, à commencer par votre vigilance, Monsieur le Président, que nous avons appréciée ce matin.

Ce long Examen, très fouillé, n'a fait que réaffirmer ce que notre Délégation savait depuis longtemps: la FAO est dynamique et solide, bien gérée. Aucune activité de l'Organisation - je dis bien aucune - n'a été jugée superflue par nos experts.

Seulement voilà, ces deux années ont coûté du temps et beaucoup d'argent, 2 millions de dollars, qui auraient pu renforcer le PCT. Certes les experts, parmi lesquels un de nos anciens Ministres de l'agriculture, ont fait du bon travail. Il appartient maintenant à la Conférence de donner non seulement le feu vert, mais également les moyens adéquats au Secrétariat pour la mise en oeuvre des conclusions auxquelles les deux Comités réunis ont abouti, en tenant compte aussi des vues exprimées par le Directeur général dans son document C 89/21 complété par quatre nouvelles propositions, auxquelles la délégation ivoirienne souscrit pleinement.

Les 28 millions de dollars que doit coûter la mise en oeuvre de cet Examen à notre avis, sont à rechercher par la voie extrabudgétaire et il serait tout à fait logique que parmi les Etats Membres donateurs ceux qui ont voulu fortement cet examen soient d'abord les premiers à financer ses conclusions. Cela me paraît respecter leurs vœux.

L'Examen n'a pas recueilli l'unanimité, nous dit-on, tant au niveau des experts qu'au niveau des deux comités. Il me paraît donc indiqué de nous efforcer ici d'analyser exclusivement les points de désaccord.

Ces points de désaccord sont repris de façon succincte dans le document C 89/LIM/20 Rev.I et ont trait à la question des avantages comparatifs, de l'établissement des priorités, et du problème si important des ressources liées à la mise en oeuvre de l'examen. Je crois donc qu'il faut sensiblement réduire la portée de notre débat actuel en demandant aux intervenants de donner leur position sur ces trois grandes questions. Si nécessaire, aux termes de nos discussions de demain matin, nous pourrions convenir, comme l'a suggéré le Conseil, de la mise sur pied d'un groupe de contacts officieux ou officiel chargé d'arriver à un consensus. Voilà ce que pense profondément ma délégation.

Pour ce qui est de l'ordre des priorités, il n'y a pas de raison de s'écarter de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO qui lui-même ne détermine pas un ordre strict de préférences. Toutes les trois fonctions de la FAO sont très importantes et même très liées: il ne sert à rien, par exemple, de donner uniquement des conseils à un gouvernement si vous n'êtes pas en prise directe avec les réalités concrètes du terrain. Un expert n'est efficace que s'il part des données concrètes du terrain, c'est-à-dire de l'assistance technique. Quant au rôle de forum international de la FAD, notre seule présence ici, Européens, Asiatiques, Africains, Américains, suffirait à le justifier.

La délégation ivoirienne vous recommande aussi vigilance et souvenir. En effet, je vous demande d'être vigilants car souvenez-vous que le document que j'ai cité tantôt, à savoir le C 89/LIM/20/Rev.I, au paragraphe 3, rapportant le résumé du Conseil d'il y a quelques jours seulement, conclut que l'Examen ne doit pas être prolongé et que le moment de passer à l'action est arrivé, dans la mesure où les recommandations seraient approuvées ici. Evitons le mal de l'„Examenite". Même si nous ne devons retenir qu'une seule des 32 recommandations des experts, il faudrait s'en tenir là et la mettre en oeuvre tout de suite.

Quant à la gamme des nouvelles idées dont veulent parler un certain nombre de grandes délégations, cette idée n'a pas retenu l'attention de la majorité du Conseil. Nous sommes ouverts au dialogue. Il suffirait peut-être d'inscrire ces nouvelles idées au programme de travail futur du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier qui en débattraient en vue de leur soumission aux prochaines sessions du Conseil et de la Conférence en 1991. Je crois que cela serait la voie la plus normale.

Je vous ai dit que notre réunion ne devrait pas aborder toutes les questions sans limites. C'est pourquoi, en les sériant, je vous présente quelques suggestions de la délégation ivoirienne:

- annulation du Sommaire de Programme de travail et budget;
- mise en place d'un mécanisme interne aux organes de la FAO pour le suivi des recommandations liées à l'examen, si elles sont acceptées par la Conférence;
- maintien du cadre et des structures de fonctionnement du PCT;
- recrutement plus poussé d'experts des pays en développement, notamment en Afrique;
- décentralisation des activités du Secrétariat vers les représentations régionales et nationales.

A notre avis, sur ce point, les bureaux régionaux devraient être davantage en contact avec les groupements économiques régionaux, par exemple le Bureau régional de l'Afrique à Accra travaillerait pratiquement avec les groupements comme la CEDEAO, le CILSS, la CEAO, la SADCC; tandis que les bureaux nationaux se chargeraient des questions purement bilatérales FAO/Etats Membres.

La mise en place d'un plan à moyen terme ne retient pas particulièrement l'attention de notre Délégation. C'est une idée fort séduisante, mais nous avons déjà beaucoup de problèmes à financer un biennium, comment programmer le financement de 6 années, comme le veulent certains, sans indication budgétaire effective même minimum.

Le mode de prise de décisions des organes de la FAO ne doit pas évoluer; c'est encore là une idée que nous n'approuvons pas, car nous ne voyons pas le but que l'on voudrait poursuivre. Les organes de la FAO sont élus démocratiquement et ont toujours donné la preuve de leur capacité en s'acquittant honorablement des tâches qui leur sont confiées. La théorie des avantages comparatifs elle aussi est très bonne, mais là également il faudrait poser le problème à l'AG à New York si l'on veut changer l'Acte constitutif de la FAO et donner plus de responsabilités à d'autres organisations du Système des Nations Unies.

Nous pensons en effet que la FAO dispose d'un mandat clair dont elle doit toujours tenir compte, et non pas se dérober à ses propres responsabilités. Si on ne veut pas que la FAO s'occupe d'environnement par exemple, parce que le PNUE le ferait mieux, selon la théorie des avantages comparatifs, ce problème est à poser dans d'autres enceintes, d'autres organes de décision, et non pas à notre Conférence actuelle.

Je voudrais maintenant conclure. Notre Organisation est un malade en très bonne santé. C'est un malade, parce que la FAO est endettée et ne sait même pas si dans six mois elle pourra fonctionner correctement. Elle est en bonne santé, car ses structures tiennent le coup, elle a du répondant dans nos pays, elle est dynamique et bien gérée. A la place du Directeur général, nous aurions peut-être contracté un emprunt bancaire, comme la Conférence de 1987 l'y a autorisé. Ceci afin de faire face à la grave crise financière de l'Organisation. C'est cela qui est le plus important et le plus urgent à nos yeux.

Il ne faudrait donc pas lier le vote du budget à l'Examen actuel. Ce lien est perçu par notre Délégation comme une pression à caractère politique, ce qui est inacceptable.

Faisons tous en sorte que le malade, ayant reçu son remède principal, c'est-à-dire l'argent que nous lui devons, recouvre une parfaite santé.

Srta. Maria Susana LANDAVERI PORTURAS (Perú): La delegación del Perú desea ante todo reconocer la excelente labor realizada por los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, así como de los dos grupos de expertos, que en aproximadamente dos años han logrado finalizar el examen de los objetivos, funciones, prioridades y estrategias de la FAO por un lado, y el de las operaciones de campo de la FAO por el otro. Sabemos que el costo del mismo ha superado los dos millones de dólares, por lo que mi delegación reitera lo ya manifestado en la Plenaria, en cuanto a nuestra opinión que "es un hecho sumamente positivo el resultado a que se ha llegado en el Examen sobre la FAO,

sosteniendo que sigue siendo una institución sólida y dinámica que viene cumpliendo con sus fines, objetivos, funciones y mandatos". Asimismo dijimos y repetimos que "con ésta y otras conclusiones firmes y consistentes, creemos que el Examen fue un proceso necesario pero que ya terminó".

Como expresaron los dos Comités en su informe final, las conclusiones del estudio hecho por ellos fueron adoptadas, en su mayoría, por unanimidad, especificándose que en los casos de divergencia de opiniones y puntos de vista diferentes, se recogieron los mismos en forma breve y equilibrada. Debemos tener en cuenta esta situación para que en esta 25a Conferencia se pueda llegar a un consenso, una posición única que permita que las recomendaciones de los Comités puedan ser puestas en ejecución en un futuro cercano, si deseamos que la FAO sea un organismo que verdaderamente haga honor a sus objetivos y funciones. Toda organización debe adaptarse a los nuevos tiempos y poder mantenerse a la par con las necesidades que surgen con las nuevas coyunturas, especialmente las grandes necesidades que ahora se manifiestan más abiertamente para los países en desarrollo.

Asimismo, mi delegación desea hacer hincapié en los siguientes puntos: Si bien reconocemos la importancia de las tres funciones básicas de la FAO reconocidas en sus textos fundamentales, destacamos el rol primordial que tiene la asistencia técnica a los países en desarrollo, con especial énfasis en los Programas de Cooperación Técnica. En tal sentido compartimos lo expresado en el informe de los Comités en los párrafos 2.25 al 2.28. En relación con el papel de la FAO en la formulación de políticas apoyamos su plena participación en la determinación de los ajustes estructurales en los países en desarrollo. Asimismo la relación permanente y activa que mantiene y debe mantener con otros organismos internacionales como el PNUD y el Banco Mundial.

Dentro de las otras medidas para fortalecer el papel de la Organización, concordamos plenamente con el fomento de las actividades tendientes al desarrollo sostenible en la esfera de su competencia. Apoyamos la recomendación de dar una mayor prioridad a la asistencia a los programas de desarrollo rural integrado, orientados a valorizar el papel que desempeña la mujer, al igual que los jóvenes. Es por tanto necesario hacer lo posible por poner en ejecución el plan de acción de la FAO para la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo.

Finalizando, deseo referirme a los recursos que serán necesarios para llevar a la práctica las recomendaciones finales de los Comités. No creemos que sea posible obtenerlos efectuando reajustes en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto ni que los países en desarrollo puedan efectuar nuevas contribuciones. Estimamos que es absolutamente necesario buscar recursos adicionales mediante consignaciones complementarias destinadas a dicho fin.

M.A. SYED (Bangladesh): We have before us several very stimulating reports. These are very thoughtful, throw a flood of light on the work of FAO and seek to put it in perspective. The introductory comments by the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Professor Mazoyer, and the Director-General are very helpful and lucid. These are highly appreciated.

My delegation feels that the reports have done a lot of good for FAD. Two important findings and conclusions are striking. The overall assessment is of good health. Secondly, FAO has not strayed from its Mandate. It is a sign of vitality. It is good and refreshing news for a 40-year-old Organization, the Membership of which embraces 158 nations.

A short while ago the French delegate mentioned that the report had provided a good X-ray photograph, a beautiful image indeed. There are, however, some strong criticisms and some strong arguments for adjustment of future activities. One of the recommendations is that FAO be more selective in choosing activities according to priorities, that it pare down some of its many interests. Maybe FAO has added far too many projects or programmes on too many topics which might have impaired its ability to focus efforts. This conclusion is gently stated in Appendix 2, paragraph 2.15. I quote:

"We sense that ... the spectrum of responsibilities and activities has grown so large as to endanger the quality of the Organization's work:"

No organization can or should, Narcissus-like, admire itself; it should continually subject itself not only to self-scrutiny but also periodically to external review. Two basic questions before any organization should be: is the direction right and clear? Is the agenda appropriate? This is now a world phenomenon nationally and internationally. By submitting itself to a review, FAO has shown remarkable courage and good sense. My delegation commends the Director-General's gesture.

The report covers a vast canvas. It has several dozen recommendations. My delegation will only touch on some of them. The recommendation of the experts for a more active policy role for FAO, for policy advice to member countries, is a particularly important one. In this role, FAO might be well advised to work, whenever appropriate, in concert with other donor agencies, particularly the World Bank. The Director-General's thoughtful response on the Committee's findings and recommendations on the policy role of FAO is worthy of very serious consideration. I refer to his report, paragraph 20, page vi, when he says:

"... the overall number which FAO can successfully handle in a year is rather limited."

In this context, I wish to refer to the massive Agriculture Sector Review funded by UNDP and sponsored by the Government of Bangladesh jointly with all the donors, multilateral and bilateral. A few moments ago the Director-General referred to this report. The study was completed early this year. It took a core team of twelve national and international experts and thirty-three consultants. It took about fifteen months to complete. The Director-General has already quoted the cost figure, US\$ 1.2 million or US\$ 1.4 million. Incidentally, Dr Faaland was the Director of the review. It was a competent study and assisted in effecting some crucial reforms in the agricultural sector in Bangladesh. My delegation is pleased to mention that the Government of Bangladesh has already accepted most of the major recommendations and implemented them already.

Whilst on this subject, my delegation is also pleased to place on record that soon after the sector review FAO came up with proposals for a series of projects as a follow-up action. I recommend FAO's prompt and imaginative initiative.

The Bangladesh delegation agrees with the Director-General that placing more emphasis on functions like FAO being a global assembler, processor and disseminator of agricultural examination, of promoting national and international action, including agricultural policy issues, should not be at the expense of technical assistance to developing countries. Technical assistance is very important and will continue to be so for a long time.

The Bangladesh delegation concurs with the Director-General's views and comments that generally speaking high-income nations will tend to emphasize the information and forum functions of FAO while developing nations - particularly the least developed countries - will be more concerned about the provision of technical assistance. My country falls into the latter category. I refer to the Director-General's comments, paragraph 16, page v.

A most sensible recommendation is the strengthening of the country offices of FAO. FAO is a huge organization. Its local country offices are very lively instruments for implementation and feedback. The country offices surely need to be strengthened further, and more administrative and financial authority needs to be entrusted to them. Prompt decisions by FAO's officials on the spot can help a lot in achieving and furthering project and programme objectives.

I wish the number of cases referred to headquarters in Rome could be reduced. This year FAO headquarters delegated to FAO representatives the authority to enter into contracts with national consultants for up to three months. This has proved very useful in expediting the hiring of local consultants for project activities, as the previous system of having all local consultants hired by FAO headquarters had to be sent to Rome and was time consuming. If this delegation of authority, for example, is extended to contracts for up to one year, it would permit better field operation. It will be more responsive to local programme needs.

Another important recommendation is that my delegation feels that FAO should be fully utilized by UNDP in the execution of projects in agriculture and rural development for which UNDP provides resources.

Another important area is the Investment Centre's performance. It has been highly creditable, and FAO can be proud of it. My delegation concurs with the Director-General's view that the Investment Centre and the Cooperative Programme are among the most valuable assets of FAO in terms of staff skill and ability to generate funding for agricultural development.

We noted in the Review of the Field Programme of FAO, which was discussed last week, that on average the Investment Centre works on more than one hundred projects a year, and that during each of the last years 40 investment projects, identified or prepared with FAO's help, have been approved for financing. I refer here to page 80, paragraph 7.59 to paragraph 7.61. This is very disturbing in the report, that the level of CP budget might be reduced in the light of changes in the structure of the World Bank. It will be a pity if the resources and the skill built over many decades of effort are not used or are frittered away. My delegation strongly recommends that FAO should immediately enter into serious dialogue with the World Bank and enter into a long-term arrangement.

Ms Fatima H.J. HAYAT (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): My country's delegation would like to start by thanking very warmly both Committees and the Secretariat for the excellent results of this Review of certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations. It is comforting for us to see that this Review has confirmed that FAO is a dynamic Organization which responds effectively to the needs of developing countries and my country's delegation believes that this Review of certain aspects of the operations of FAO, as well as the Field Operations and Management Review, have been really working toward a consensus in all countries.

My country would like to stress here that we feel very committed to this Organization and feel very responsible to ensure that it can meet the needs and aspirations of the countries for whose benefit it was established. We also attach great importance on the assistance to be given to developing countries as one of the fundamental roles of the Organization. We also attach importance to the particular assistance given for sustainable development programmes and we feel also the roles of the Organization's international forum for exchange of information and so on is of great importance too. We stress too the importance of the Organization as a centre for global information on food, agriculture and nutrition.

Finally, to be brief, I would say that we agree with the conclusions formulated by the two Committees and agreed on by consensus on all of these various issues in the Review. My delegation would like to categorically state that we reject any idea of commencing a new study reviewing any other aspect outside the framework of Resolution 6/87 because we must stay within that framework. I am sorry sometimes to hear delegations say that they are in favour of implementing some of the recommendations from this Review but that they should be funded by cutting into the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91. This is particularly difficult to accept at a time when the Organization is in financial difficulties because of unpaid contributions and we really feel there is no more flexibility left within this Programme of Work and Budget to absorb any additional cost whatever.

As a member of the Group of 77, my country would like to tell you and everyone that we entirely agree with the statement made by the Chairman of the Group of 77 on this item without the need to repeat everything that he said since I do not want to take up too much time at this stage.

Gamal Mohamed AHMED M. (Sudan) (original language Arabic): Like the preceding delegates, allow me to express my thanks to Prof. Mazoyer for his introduction to this agenda item. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Finance and Programme Committees as well as to the Director-General for his comments and remarks regarding this Review, and this with the best interest of the Organization in mind.

Two years ago we agreed by consensus to carry out this Review of certain aspects of FAO's goals and aspirations because some had certain misgivings about FAO's actions and activities. We are pleased to see the positive conclusion of this Review which took two years to be carried out and involved the work of many experts as well as the members of the two Committees. We are pleased to see that all have concluded that FAO is a solid and dynamic Organization which meets the aspirations of the Member States with great efficiency and effectiveness. The Review also calls for further strengthening of FAO's activities via supplementary resources.

By and large, allow me to express support for what has been said by the delegate of Pakistan, who is the Chairman of the Group of 77, regarding this Review but I would like to take this opportunity to express very briefly but clearly that we support any enhancement of the TCP and TCDC as well as research and technology transfer programmes. We call upon the Organization to step up its involvement in programmes dealing with biotechnologies and the activities relating to the Investment Centre which we greatly favour but we lack resources for the carrying out of the different projects relating thereto.

We also favour decentralization activities within the Organization and we would like to see a strengthening of all the regional and national bureaux. This is in accordance with the regulations of FAD.

The three key roles of FAD, which were endorsed by the Council, that is to say its role as a global information centre, its role on food, agriculture and nutrition, and its role as a forum for policy formulation and action, as well as its third role as promotor and provider of technical assistance, should provide the key axes for the work of the Organization hence these should be given top priority. We are confident the three roles are interdependent and interlocking.

After hearing all the speakers since this morning we feel we should confine our discussion to the scope of Resolution 6/87, which we accepted very much against our will by the way, but to go beyond the scope of that resolution could lead to the discussion of problems and issues which were rejected by the majority as well as by the different Committees. We believe we should avail ourselves of this opportunity to consider the Review with a view to strengthening the Organization and its activities in order to serve the Member States.

The aim of my country within FAO has always been to take part in the consensus and to bolster the activities carried out by FAO and we felt that this Review had to be carried out on the basis of a consensus decision. Therefore, we wish to stress that this Review should also be accepted by consensus and outside of the Programme of Work and Budget. This Review would prove neither useful nor valuable if the conclusions and recommendations coming out of it are not implemented but such implementation requires supplementary financial resources because it is simply not possible to carry out these recommendations at the expense of or to the detriment of the Regular Programme. Here I should like to pay tribute to the Government of Italy which has contributed to the strengthening of the Programme in the services of mankind.

Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): On behalf and in the name of God, the most merciful and compassionate, I would like to thank Prof. Mazoyer for his presentation of the Review. I would also like to thank the Director-General for his presentation of his opinion regarding the Review. I would like also to thank the experts for their contribution as well as the members of the two Expert Groups. I also extend a vote of thanks to all the members of the Secretariat involved in this mammoth undertaking.

My delegation wishes to stress what you yourself have said regarding this Review. We believe that the content corresponds to our view that FAO should be a strong international organization, deserving the support of all its members, and that FAO should work toward a future in which it should be fully

empowered to carry out its three primary roles, namely the role of centre for information, an organization which provides technical assistance and an organization which will be of assistance in agricultural research and technological dissemination.

I would now like to make some specific comments regarding certain aspects of the Review. First of all, with regard to technical assistance, the Organization should continue its efforts and play its proper role in this field by providing technical assistance to the developing countries. It should also provide the requisite resources in order to carry out this role as indicated in paragraph 12.11 of document C 89/21. We also concur with the recommendation of document C 89/21. Regarding the full involvement of the Organization in the preparation and organization of multilateral meetings and round tables organized by the UNDP or in connection with the consultative groups of the World Bank or any evaluation of national programmes, my delegation is satisfied regarding the news conveyed in relation to cooperation with IFAD and the World Bank in this connection and we welcome this news.

Turning now to research and technological development, my delegation feels that every effort should be made to promote research and technology which would enable the developing countries to avail themselves of technological transfer which can be beneficial to them.

We consider it of the utmost importance for the Organization to be very attentive to events and developments in the realm of biotechnologies in order to strengthen the agricultural research centres in the developing countries, which will enable them to take proper advantage of these new technologies and biotechnologies which can be instrumental in the development of our countries. My delegation fully supports the idea of the preparation of a medium-term plan which will cover three biennia, including provisional prospects or provisional costing for the various programmes and we also believe that there should be some possibility of funding some of the new ideas. This, we hope, will come from donor institutions. We also think it is important to recruit more experts from the developing countries and ensure there is equitable geographic distribution.

We would also like to see training opportunities accorded to experts from the developing countries so that they can be capable of discharging the tasks assigned to them. We also support the development of appraisal and evaluation expertise in the countries where field activities are underway. We hope that training opportunities will be also afforded to those involved in project formulation, definition and evaluation.

My country is also satisfied with cooperation between FAO and 25 different agencies within the United Nations family and beyond. We also support the Director-General's proposal regarding the organization of the meetings between the various bodies working in the field of agriculture and based in Rome. We are cognizant of the financial straits which the Organization finds itself in at present and therefore we support paragraph 3.5 of document C 89/21 and the contents therein. But my country does not favour the adoption of measures whereby more resources would be allocated from the Regular Programme. We believe that more time should be accorded to the new way of preparing the draft Programme of Work and Budget, the outline and summary. We think that more time is required to see whether this methodology should be continued.

We are in favour of stepping up all regional and local offices, provided that this does not come out of the funding of the regular budget.

Finally, we are fully satisfied with the findings of this Review to which have been added the views and comments of the Director-General which we deeply appreciate. We hope that the Director-General will be able to implement the recommendations and conclusions provided that he is given the necessary resources to carry them out.

Zbigniew KARNICKI (Poland) : First we wish to thank all the persons involved in the preparation of the documents under discussion. We also thank Mr Mazoyer and the Director-General for their excellent introduction and comments on this subject.

This Organization, the FAO, the Food and Agricultural Organization operates an extremely important economic sector to which the Government of Poland attaches an enormous weight and significance, the sector of food production to feed the people. It is a sector of primary importance in any geographic area. Hence, as you may be aware, Poland has always been very much and constructively engaged in the activities of this Organization. We realize, and the developments in our country in the last years have proved it in a dramatic manner, that universal organization in the sector of food and organization, the Organization strong with powers of its own members, efficient in its own day-to-day activities, is needed by people all over the world, by all its Member Nations.

Coming to the process of the Review of the FAO objectives, roles, strategies and priorities as well as field operations, we wish to emphasize with force that the concept of FAO as phrased in the Report of the Review that such has been a vision of FAO's founding fathers and that this conception of FAO is still valid today.

My delegation is taking the results of the Review as a certificate that FAO is fit to work and travel, to use Organizational jargon. FAO is a body which lives through day-to-day activities, and every day of its working life brings thousands of smaller and bigger problems and of course, we are not saying that the FAO is a perfect Organization because nobody is perfect. Can it work better? Yes, it can. This is why we voted two years ago in favour of the Resolution 6/87 and we see the document on the Review and we are discussing now in this agenda item as a fulfilment of this resolution.

We welcome with satisfaction the Director-General's words, on his openness and readiness for improving the work of this Organization. In fact, we appreciate his reasonable and responsible, pragmatic and I would say human approach to the Review, as I see demonstrated in the document C 89/21 and in his very recent statement.

The Polish delegation has commented on FAO's priorities, work and budget and the field programme before, and it is not our intention to repeat it again. Therefore in this intervention we would like to concentrate ourselves on the main recommendations made by the Programme and Finance Committees which we feel important to underline. We welcome reassurance that FAO's role and objectives, as written in the FAO Constitution, is still valid and new ones are emerging. We fully agree with the three major roles given to FAO to play.

The provision of information and technical assistance seems to us to be the most important. The provision of information is the role of which all Member Nations, regardless of their state of development, are making use of, when technical assistance is directed mainly to the developing countries.

My delegation welcomes with satisfaction the FAO's assistance to the developing countries in their negotiations in GATT and FAO's voice against protectionist measures and other practices which hinder trade of products and diversely affect developing countries.

The Polish delegation welcomes with satisfaction the re-introduction of medium-term plans and objectives, as this should give us a clear picture of the way the Organization is heading and also help in preparing the programmes for shorter periods, particularly bienniums.

Discussing the Programme of Work and Budget, Poland supported the recommendation that the programme budget process, introduced on an experimental basis, should be continued and we are giving our support to this recommendation again as the value of such procedures can be judged only in the longer period of time.

Regarding the field operation, we already expressed our satisfaction, and my delegation is in general agreement with the recommendations made by the Committee. However, we have no firm view whether a field inspection unit should be established or not. Generally we are against bureaucratic structures. The internal organization of FAO must ensure a proper backstopping of the projects but also ensure a proper feedback as well. This kind of activity is a two-way street and the traffic in both directions must be smooth in both lines.

We are seeing the TCP as an important tool in FAO activities, especially in responding to the urgent needs of member countries and it is also the vital element in the FAO Field Programme and we would be pleased to see this Programme strengthened.

My delegation fully agrees with the recommendations to strengthen FAO's cooperation with other United Nations sister organizations and in this regard we have noticed with pleasure the statement of the UNDP Representative and personally I profited also from the statement because I have learned what follows after the honeymoon!

It would sound rather strange if Poland, which with such speed is departing from central activities, would not support decentralization. Yes, we do support decentralization but based on our own experience we see this as a gradual process which requires a careful and clear description of the delegated responsibilities and authorities and also careful adjustment of the Organization rules regarding administration and financial control.

Finally we agree with the Committee's recommendation on the FAO's role in the sectoral reviews as written in paragraph 3.54 on page 36 of the English version.

These are the min recommendations on which we want to focus. We have one idea to share as far as the Review is concerned: in this difficult discussion we need consensus. That is why we pronounce ourselves for the detailed profound comprehensive discussion and negotiation if necessary to achieve the consensus on this vital issue.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): El proceso de revisión de la Organización impuesto formalmente en 1987 a través de la Recomendación 6/87 ha llegado a su conclusión. Durante estos dos últimos años, se han dedicado tiempo y valiosos recursos a su realización. Contamos ahora con el documento C 89/21 y su suplemento que contiene los resultados de ese examen. Ya otros delegados han resaltado el hecho de que esta Organización ha salido muy sana de ese examen. Tanto los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas como los expertos, han llegado a la conclusión de que la FAO sigue siendo una institución válida y dinámica. Sin embargo, como bien se dice en el párrafo 7 del documento 89/21, esto no impide que tratemos de hacer de la FAO una organización más eficiente y eficaz. Por ello, los expertos, los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, así como el Director General, han planteado una serie de recomendaciones en las cuales no se propone ninguna eliminación de actividades de la FAO. Se propone, por el contrario, reforzar algunas áreas ya existentes e iniciar otras nuevas.

Los objetivos de desarrollo de la Organización se consideran pertinentes y válidos, y son apoyados. Las principales funciones de la FAO, o sea, compilación y difusión de información, actuación como foro internacional y prestación de asistencia técnica a los Estados Miembros, también han sido ratificadas y destacado su carácter mutuo-complementario.

La delegación de El Salvador considera que estas tres funciones son esenciales para el buen funcionamiento de la Organización, y que las mismas deben de mantenerse al mismo nivel; sin ningún tipo de preferencias, al máximo, podríamos pensar en reforzar la función de asistencia técnica, que es la que más sirve a los países en desarrollo. No obstante, estamos convencidos que las tres funciones son interdependientes y deben ser reforzadas al mismo nivel para garantizar una FAO eficiente y eficaz.

Con relación a la función de la FAO en la formulación de políticas, apoyamos los párrafos 21 y 24 del documento 89/21. La FAO debe participar activamente, en el ámbito de su competencia, en las mesas redondas y grupos consultivos organizados por el PNUD y el Banco Mundial. Por otra parte, consideramos que, a nivel de campo, los organismos internacionales deben de trabajar en forma coordinada respetando los mandatos para los que fueron creados, ocupándose cada uno -reitero- de los esfuerzos en pro del desarrollo en los campos de acción claramente marcados para ello.

Estamos convencidos, señor Presidente, que la determinación de los ajustes estructurales debe contar con la plena participación de la FAO. Apoyamos las recomendaciones a este respecto. Compartimos la opinión de que la FAO debe ocuparse también de reforzar algunas actividades de la CEPD, apoyando la integración económica, regional o subregional.

En cuanto a la definición de prioridades, la delegación de El Salvador estima que el sistema actual, basado en criterios bien establecidos, es adecuado. No repetiremos lo que, al respecto, dice el párrafo 2.54 del Informe de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas. Recalcaremos sólo el hecho de que en todo ese proceso los Estados Miembros pueden expresar sus opiniones. Esto es fundamental. No pueden unos pocos Estados Miembros definir cuáles serán las prioridades que regirán las actividades de la Organización. En este orden de ideas apoyamos las directrices planteadas en el párrafo 2.64 del Informe de los dos Comités. Compartimos la opinión expresada por los expertos en el párrafo 3.31 relativa a que los recursos asignados al PCT son claramente insuficientes para atender las solicitudes de los gobiernos. Compartimos

especialmente la idea de utilizar fondos fiduciarios para incrementar la disponibilidad de fondos para este programa. Aprovecho para unir la voz de El Salvador a la de los delegados que han agradecido al Gobierno de Italia su digna actitud a este respecto.

Como ya lo dijo mi delegación al examinar el Program de Labores y Presupuesto, El Salvador considera el PCT un instrumento sumamente eficaz, un instrumento ágil que permite a la FAO una respuesta rápida a problemas urgentes, problemas que quizás sólo pueden comprenderse cuando se viven en carne propia.

Con relación al proceso de presupuestación por programas, aplicado en forma experimental para la elaboración del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto del próximo bienio, la delegación de El Salvador estima que la validez de este experimento sólo se demostrará si aprobamos el nivel del presupuesto y el Programa de Labores por consenso. De lo contrario, sólo demostrará que ha sido una pérdida de tiempo y de valiosos recursos.

Nuestra delegación, al igual que otras, podría estar de acuerdo en continuar con este experimento por un bienio más, pero sólo si logramos una aprobación por consenso del presupuesto. Con respecto a las propuestas adicionales que nos ha presentado el Director General, compartimos las contenidas en los párrafos 62, 71 y 80. Recalcamos el párrafo 71. Es fundamental reforzar el entendimiento y las relaciones entre los Organismos de las Naciones Unidas.

Sobre las opciones para la financiación de los gastos en 1991 contenidas en el párrafo 82, la delegación de El Salvador considera que debería pensarse sólo en la opción de la consignación suplementaria. El examen de la FAO fue requerido por ciertos países, y estimamos que los que los solicitaron deben financiar el costo de la aplicación de las recomendaciones. No podemos, señor Presidente, sangrar aún más a la Organización. Rechazamos rotundamente la idea de nuevos reajustes en los programas. Si algo ha demostrado el examen realizado, es que el verdadero mal que afecta a la FAO, y que no le permite asistir mejor a sus países miembros, es la falta de recursos suficientes. Por ello insistimos ante este Comisión, y nos unimos al llamado expresado por el Presidente de esta Conferencia, el Ministro de Agricultura de Australia, en que es imperativo que todos paguemos nuestras cuotas a la FAO. Sólo esto le devolverá a la Organización su plena capacidad de ayudar a los países en desarrollo. Hagamos esto y demos por concluido este ejercicio del examen de la FAO.

Amor Ben ROMDHANE (Tunisie): La délégation tunisienne a pris connaissance avec beaucoup d'intérêt des documents très importants dont nous avons été saisis et nous remercions le Secrétariat qui nous les a présentés.

Tout en remerciant le Professeur Mazoyer et le Directeur général de leurs exposés clairs, complets, la Délégation tunisienne voudrait exprimer sa satisfaction face aux résultats positifs auxquels ont abouti les études des experts et des deux Comités, le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier. Pour gagner du temps, la Délégation tunisienne voudrait souscrire à tout ce qu'ont dit différents délégués, et particulièrement le Représentant du Pakistan, concernant la constatation d'une concordance parfaite entre la position du Directeur général d'une part et les recommandations des experts du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier. La Délégation tunisienne met l'accent sur l'importance des trois rôles de l'Organisation et l'interdépendance entre ces rôles, ce qui permet de faire de l'Organisation

l'unique forum dans le cadre de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation. Pour que l'Examen ait les résultats escomptés, il faudrait promouvoir et renforcer l'Organisation au siège et dans ses bureaux régionaux. De même, les pays membres devraient s'acquitter de leurs engagements pour que l'on puisse mettre immédiatement en application les recommandations, dans une atmosphère d'entente et d'harmonie pour le bien et l'intérêt de tous.

Abukar Osman ABIKAR (Sonalia): First of all, I would like to thank you very much for giving me the floor to give this short intervention. I would also like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and the rest of the Secretariat for the excellent and smooth way that you have been leading the activities of this very important Commission.

My delegation strongly supports the focus given to Africa and the priority which has been given to the Continent where about 48 percent of the current field programme expenditure was directed.

My delegation appreciates the fact that FAO field programmes have given, in the past, priority directed to the crop production.

My delegation raises concern with respect to the budget constraints which led to the backstopping of agricultural development projects and we are hoping that in the future something will be done in this respect. My delegation also agrees with the points just raised by the delegate of El Salvador with respect to the technical cooperation programme. This programme has been vital for the developing nations in general and for my country in particular. The fact that budget allocation for this programme has been reduced raises concern for my country in particular and we would therefore like to indicate that budget proposals under this item be increased during the following biennium if possible.

With respect to FAO information systems, my delegation understands that for many countries the FAO information system has been, and still is, the only source of information for the development of their agricultural sector. FAO provides updated information on various aspects of agricultural development which would not have been otherwise available for those countries. My delegation therefore supports FAO continuation in supplying global information on agriculture.

Finally, my delegation would like to support strongly FAD's goals and objectives as well as its field and regular programmes. My government also extends full support to the FAO proposed budget for the following term.

My country is also extremely thankful for the FAO Director-General, Mr Saouma, and his staff in the novel role that they have played in the past for the development of agriculture in my country. We in the developing countries expect FAO to be doing more for the advancement of world agriculture and the protection of the environment.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada): My delegation wishes to thank the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the Director-General for their introduction to this item.

As envisaged in Resolution 6/87, the Conference has before it the conclusions and recommendations of the Programme and Finance Committees on the Review of FAO together with the comments of the Director-General and the views of the Council.

It may be recalled that Canada was one of several countries which had reservations about the process initiated by Resolution 6/87. At the time we had expressed preference for an external review mechanism rather than the special joint sessions of the two committees. We would however, at this point like to express our general satisfaction with the progress to date with the review exercise. A thorough and detailed discussion took place in the SJS which led to a consensus within the Group on a large number of important issues falling within the purview of Resolution 6/87. Whatever the final outcome, there has been much merit in the debate itself among Member Nations, perhaps the most extensive which the Organization has undertaken since its creation. The experts have done a highly commendable task in bringing to light the strengths of the FAD; in identifying areas where the Organization can be strengthened and in helping to set the framework for our discussion. We welcome the inclusion of the expert reports with the SJS report so that all member countries have the opportunity to examine the experts' conclusions and recommendations in making their own assessment of the SJS report.

The scope of the review is broad and the issues often highly complex. Having participated fully in the review exercise to date, we recognize that views may differ on some issues. The committees nevertheless were able to reach a broad degree of consensus in their deliberations. It can be expected however that in the course of the discussion in the Conference other views may emerge. The Conference will wish to take these into account, along with the recommendations of the SJS, in reaching a final decision on the outcome of this exercise and in setting a course of action on implementing and monitoring the measures to be adopted. We join with others in expressing the hope that the Conference will reach a consensus on the outcome of the Review.

As with others, I am sure there are a number of areas where in the final analysis we would have liked the experts and the SJS to take a bolder stance.

The Conference, however, will need to gauge the comprehensiveness of the proposals before it in the light of Resolution 6/87 and how thoroughly it has been acted upon.

I would like to make a brief comment on each of the operative paragraphs of the resolution. Resolution 6/87's operative paragraph 2(a) has specifically called on the Committees to examine how the FAO might assist members in efforts to eliminate hunger, malnutrition and poverty "taking into account the resources available to the Organization."

On the difficult question of resources, the SJS and the Council were not able to reach a consensus. My delegation was amongst those which would have strongly preferred that the reallocation of priorities be considered, and that additional costs not be added to the budget resulting in considerable additional assessment on Member States. Without engaging in a debate on the cost implications of each of the particular measures, as outlined by the Director-General, we would continue to urge that efforts be made to absorb costs resulting from the outcome of the Review within the proposed level of the Programme of Work and Budget. As mentioned by the distinguished delegate of Norway this morning, we agree with the view expressed that a vote on the Programme of Work and Budget be not taken until after a decision has been taken on the Review.

Operative paragraph 2(b) of Resolution 6/87 requested that the SJS examine the strengthening of FAO's advisory role and its function as a catalyst for the purveyor of assistance. The Committees have, in our view, done this. We support the recognition given in the SJS report of the need for greater involvement of the governing bodies in field operations. Our preference would have been to see the establishment of operational activities or a field operation committee. Other specialized UN development agencies undertaking development activities have such a body. However, as a first step we were willing to try the solution of a special agenda item in the Technical Committees. Furthermore, we continue to attach high importance to monitoring and evaluation, and believe that the proposal to establish an inspection unit as part of the evaluation service is a modest but useful step in the right direction. Monitoring and evaluation should be fully integrated in FAO project cycles, and the results available to Member States. The key recommendation of the section is, in our view, that FAO's role in policy advice and analysis be enhanced. My delegation supports the view of the SJS on the strengthening of certain FAO roles as set out in the report, including its role as a global information centre, its policy role, as well as the need for FAO to take a more active role in promoting sustainable development and the stress that needs to be placed on women in development.

Resolution 6/87 in paragraph (c) also asks that the process of priority-setting be reviewed. The SJS has suggested some general guidelines by which these can be set and the use of a medium-term plan. We support the recommendations but believe that further effort to identify low priority areas and a clearer mechanism for ensuring that priorities are brought out and made clear in the Programme of Work and Budget description would be highly useful. The recommendations on the drawing up of guidelines to ensure the sustainability of field programmes and the harmonization and selectivity in the choice of new Trust Fund projects are a welcome response to this paragraph.

In operative paragraph (d), dealing with inter-agency relations, we believe that the review exercise has helped to improve communication and to understand better the concerns on all sides. We believe that there is some clear direction provided in the SJS report to help resolve some of the problems identified. We note the proposal put forward by the Director-General on an inter-Secretariat mechanism for coordination between the four Rome-based food and agriculture agencies. This would appear to be a step in the right direction, but we would urge that the Mandate and Terms of Reference for such a mechanism be developed jointly by all parties involved and subsequently endorsed by the Council and the other concerned governing bodies.

The final operative paragraph of Resolution 6/87 concerns budgeting, accounting and planning. We support the new steps in the Programme of Work and Budget approval process. We continue to believe that further improvements can be considered with a view to increasing transparency and accountability. For example, we would welcome the provision of up-to-date information during the biennium on how much has been spent by programme and sub-programme. We would also welcome an increase in transparency with respect to the Technical Cooperation Programme, although we acknowledge that positive changes have been made. We are not, a priori, opposed to the Director-General's suggestion that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget be eliminated, but, before reaching a decision, the Conference should receive clarification on when it

is envisaged that the full Programme of Work and Budget document might be considered in the Programme and Finance Committees and in Council. Our primary concern is that the input of Member States and an opportunity for them to contribute should not be diminished.

One area which did not receive much attention in the Review and where we would support the views expressed by Norway, concerns inter-governmental decision-making. We were encouraged by the remarks made by the Director-General in his opening comments this morning, that improvements in the Organization will be possible and desirable and may even result in savings. We too believe that efforts to strengthen the Organization and improve efficiency should not end at the conclusion of this Conference. On follow-up action relating to this Review, we believe that there should be a report from the Director-General to Council and the next Conference on the progress made in implementing the various recommendations as adopted by this Conference.

In conclusion, let us accept and build upon what the SJS has already accomplished. Let us hear other views and continue our efforts to narrow our remaining differences. Failure to reach an overall agreement on a consensus package would send an unfortunate signal and one which would be inconsistent with the spirit which prevailed in the SJS. We would be well advised to avail ourselves of this historic opportunity to renew the broad agreement which prevailed among the framers of the Basic Texts.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): L'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO, le Directeur général l'a indiqué dans son intervention à la Conférence, a constitué l'une des principales activités ayant mobilisé les énergies du Secrétariat pendant le biennium 1988-89. Il a aussi largement occupé le Comité financier et le Comité du Programme pendant leurs sessions; et, tout récemment, le Conseil, à sa quatre-vingt-seizième session, y a consacré le temps requis par un sujet aussi important. Au moins deux millions de dollars y ont été consacrés alors que l'Organisation est en grave crise financière. Fort heureusement, le consensus a été atteint sur pratiquement toutes les recommandations. Seuls quelques problèmes persistent et devraient, à notre sens, trouver une solution au sein de cette Commission car la volonté d'y parvenir anime et doit animer toutes les délégations.

Ma délégation ne ménagera aucun effort pour favoriser ce consensus, comme elle s'y est déjà d'ailleurs employée lors de la session du Conseil, car elle est convaincue que cette étude, qui a coûté très cher aux Etats, mérite d'être exploitée. Ceux des Etats qui sont en mesure de contribuer à la constitution d'un fonds supplémentaire de 26 millions de dollars pour sa mise en oeuvre devraient manifester leur bonne volonté au cours de cette Conférence. D'ores et déjà, nous leur manifestons notre reconnaissance. Sur ce point, notre délégation se félicite de la conclusion du Conseil tendant à exclure toute possibilité de faire supporter les dépenses de mise en oeuvre de ces recommandations par le budget. Le Conseil a déclaré avec fermeté qu'aucun programme ni sous-programme voté par la Conférence ne pourra être supprimé ou voir son exécution différée. Nous ne pouvons qu'appuyer cette position pour le moins pertinente.

Tous les Etats Membres sans exception ont partagé la conclusion des comités et du groupe d'experts quant au fait très encourageant que la FAO est et demeure une organisation solide et dynamique, capable par conséquent d'exécuter convenablement son mandat si l'on met à sa disposition les

ressources nécessaires. Dans ces conditions, il est tout à fait inconcevable de lier l'approbation du Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 à celle de l'examen de l'Organisation. Le Conseil a pris une décision plus que pertinente en s'opposant à toute intention de lier ces deux sujets indépendants. La Conférence fera certainement sienne cette décision tout à fait raisonnable du Conseil.

La délégation malgache n'éprouve aucune difficulté à convenir avec le Conseil que les trois rôles principaux de la FAO sont aussi importants les uns que les autres et sont interdépendants. Il faudrait par conséquent se garder de négliger un quelconque de ces rôles au bénéfice des autres.

Nous voudrions simplement insister sur les besoins d'assistance et d'aide considérables des populations des pays en développement en général et de la région Afrique en particulier. La priorité accordée à cette région demeure et mérite même d'être accentuée en raison de la situation dramatique dans laquelle elle se débat. Plus que jamais, la mise en oeuvre du Programme des Nations Unies pour le redressement et le développement de l'Afrique requiert un engagement effectif et intensif de la communauté internationale; et la FAO devrait pouvoir jouer son rôle de catalyseur efficace dans la mise en oeuvre du Programme "l'Agriculture africaine, les 25 prochaines années".

Lors de son intervention en séance plénière de la Conférence, le chef de la délégation malgache a déclaré que le document C 89/21 est un outil de travail d'excellente qualité et il en a félicité les auteurs, à savoir les membres du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme, le Secrétariat de la FAO et, bien entendu, le groupe d'experts. "La délégation malgache" - a-t-il ajouté - "appuie les recommandations figurant aux paragraphes 3.48 et 3.54 et celles figurant au paragraphe 4.14". Quant aux recommandations du paragraphe 2.64, à l'instar des délégations qui nous ont précédées, notamment celles d'El Salvador, de la Tunisie, de l'Egypte et d'autres pays encore, ma délégation fait part de sa réserve quant au maintien de la session spéciale de janvier dans la préparation du projet de Programme de travail et budget si une telle réunion, de surcroît très coûteuse, ne permet pas d'atteindre effectivement le consensus pour l'approbation du projet.

Nous avons déjà fait connaître en détail, aussi bien au Conseil qu'en séance plénière de la Conférence, notre position à l'endroit du renforcement du programme et des sous-programmes proposé par l'étude et nous ne voulons pas prolonger le débat en la répétant. Par ailleurs, nous faisons nôtres les déclarations du Président du groupe des 77 sur ce point.

Voilà quelques mots qui constituent notre modeste contribution à l'examen de ce point de l'Ordre du jour.

Kahtan M.N. AL-MTTWALLI (Iraq) (original language Arabie): We should like to thank the Chairman of the Programme and Finance Committees for the efforts and achievements they have arrived at, as well as the conclusions and recommendations. We should like to thank the Director-General for his clear and serious remarks on the Reports of the Programme and Finance Committees. The documents submitted, and the conclusions, are unanimous in saying that the objectives of FAO still respond to the agricultural and food needs. This is a confirmation of how solid and strong FAO remains. The Review has led to positive results Which will only strengthen the role and effectiveness of FAD. This is why the delegation of Iraq would like to support the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Review document. We would also like to

support the proposals of the Director-General, who is working most earnestly to improve the efficiency of FAO. We hope that the proposals will be adopted by consensus. We also hope that they will be financed by extra-budgetary resources.

As to the three main vital roles of FAO, we would like to emphasize the role of technical assistance and its positive effect on development in developing countries.

I. Ihebom EGEDO (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation has followed with interest the discussions of FAO's Goals and Operations. We hereby offer our congratulations to the Chairman of the Programme Committee for an excellent job. We also associate ourselves with the view so eloquently expressed by the Chairman of the Group of 77.

We hereby reaffirm our support for the laudable efforts of the FAO in its vigorous and relentless effort to ensure food self-sufficiency for the generality of mankind. In that connection and, as has already been stated by the leader of the Nigerian delegation, in response to the appeal of the Director-General of the FAO, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has just, a few days ago, paid its total arrears of contributions to the FAO, including its assessed contributions for 1989.

Indeed the Nigerian Government sees the FAO as a virile institution for the promotion of world peace and solidarity, for discussions on world peace and solidarity can only be meaningful in conditions of food self-sufficiency, which is the main concern of the FAO. While sane problems of developing countries appear common, each country has its own peculiar problems. In Nigeria, for instance, we have three clearly marked-out ecological zones, namely, the Sahel, the Savannah and the tropical rain forest. We require simple, modern farm tools which are suitable for each ecological zone, to replace the machetes and hoes used by Nigeria's rural farmers who are responsible for over 70 percent of the country's agricultural production. Furthermore, we require assistance in the war against drought and desertification, pests and post-harvest losses.

In the light of the above circumstances, it becomes evident that the FAO country offices have to be strengthened. The staff of country offices serve in effect as extension workers and they work directly with the farmers.

More importantly, we need training in manpower development and institutional development arrangements to enable us to take full advantage of the technical assistance and cooperation flowing from the FAO, other United Nations agencies and international organizations. Trained personnel must be sufficiently knowledgeable to search for reliable and adequate data on which to base agricultural planning. We appreciate in this regard the willingness of the FAO and UNDP, together with the World Bank, in assisting Nigeria to establish an agricultural databank and Remote Sensing and Early Warning System.

We in Nigeria look forward with much expectation to positive results from the

TCP and TCDC operations. We hope that the TCDC operations will take

cognizance of Nigeria's basic national peculiarities. Indeed in our view, the FAO is not a microcosm of the United Nations but a replication of the United Nations in areas of its compétence. Consequently, it is the desire of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to take an active interest, and participate fully, in all FAO's activities.

Akrur Narashingh RANA (Nepal): The Nepalese delegation wishes to join with others to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and your Vice-Chairmen on your election. Our comments on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 are as

follows. My delegation endorses positively the structure and the Programme of Work and Budget and hopes that it will be approved by consensus.

My delegation supports the priorities outlined in the document because they reflect most of the needs of developing countries. We are particularly concerned over the almost zero growth budget of the FAO which will certainly affect adversely the assistance given to needy countries. My delegation feels concern over the reduction of the budget of the Technical Cooperation Programme. This will directly negate the FAO's capability to respond to the needs of developing countries.

My delegation is also happy to note the focus being given to biotechnology in FAO's activities for the improvement of crops and animal science. Most of the developed countries have already taken advantage of the use of this technology. We strongly feel that the benefits of it as regards agriculture should be brought within the reach of developing countries. The outcomes of biotechnologies should not be patented by giant companies of the developed countries, so that the adoption of this technology will not be costly affairs for the poor farmers of developing countries. Last, but not least, my delegation fully supports the recommendations of the two Committees and the views of the Director-General regarding the focus and priorities of the Organization. We strongly urge a general consensus on this Agenda item.

Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italie): Je me devais de prendre la parole sur ce point très important de l'Ordre du jour qui nous occupera à la Commission II pendant plusieurs journées.

Je voudrais tout d'abord m'associer aux nombreux orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour remercier M. Mazoyer et M. le Directeur général de leurs exposés très clairs; je remercie également le Secrétariat pour les nombreux documents fournis et, qu'en tant que membre du Comité financier, je considère comme particulièrement utiles voire indispensables.

J'examinerai maintenant rapidement les trois volets du sujet que nous traitons.

Pour ce qui est des objectifs et rôles de la FAD, mon gouvernement souscrit en général aux résultats de l'examen et se félicite de ce que la FAO a été considérée comme dynamique et en bonne santé. Nous souscrivons également aux différents rôles qu'elle doit continuer à jouer dans l'intérêt de tous, rôle

de conseil, rôle de recherche et de technologie, rôle dans l'assistance technique, rôle enfin dans différents domaines tout aussi importants, tels, entre autres, que la sécurité alimentaire, les pesticides, l'Uruguay Round et les ressources phytogénétiques.

Pour ce qui est des opérations de terrain la FAO, à notre avis, doit confirmer et affiner son rôle de chef de file; d'après les analyses qui viennent d'être faites et que nous avons à juger, on signale entre autres la possibilité de recyclage d'un certain nombre de fonctionnaires du Centre. L'idée nous semble intéressante et mérite attention.

Pour ce qui est enfin du troisième volet, les rapports de la FAO dans le système international, trois relations bilatérales paraissent avoir été mises en exergue: celles avec la Banque mondiale, avec le PNUD et avec le Programme alimentaire mondial, qui est à Rome et demande une plus grande attention.

Du fait de l'heure tardive, je ne voudrais pas prolonger outre mesure mon intervention; je rappellerai simplement l'intérêt du Gouvernement italien pour le PCT que nous avons particulièrement aidé au cours du biennium qui se termine.

Je conclurai en soulignant qu'une étude a été voulue d'abord par quelques uns, qu'elle a ensuite été approuvée par tout le monde, et qu'il serait maintenant regrettable de ne pas être en mesure d'en tirer les conséquences et d'en utiliser les conseils.

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/II/PV/11

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

ELEVENTH MEETING ONZIEME SEANCE UNDECIMA SESION (21 November 1989)

The Eleventh Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La onzième séance est ouverte à 10 heures
sous la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la undécima sesión a las 10.00 horas
bajo la presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II

- II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)
- 15. Conclusions of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations (continued)
- 15. Conclusions de l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO (suite)
- 15. Conclusiones del examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAO (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons reprendre le débat sur le point 15 de l'Ordre du jour. Came vous le savez, nous avons des problèmes de temps. Un appel a été lancé à la direction pour que nous puissions faire avancer les travaux et que nous ayons les conclusions sur ce point 15 d'ici demain soir. Cela est d'autant plus nécessaire que le Bureau va proposer à la plénière de la Conférence que nous adoptions le budget en séance plénière jeudi après-midi. Comme vous pouvez le constater, l'approbation du budget, prévue à l'origine pour demain matin, a été reportée. Les aspects financiers qui pourraient résulter de ces conclusions seraient inclus dans le projet de résolution relatif au budget.

Voilà pourquoi le Bureau a cru utile de reporter l'approbation du budget. C'est dire aussi que nous devons travailler rapidement pour aboutir bientôt au consensus que tout le monde recherche. En tout cas, nous devons faire en sorte de tirer les conclusions de notre débat ce soir, étant entendu que, ce soir également, nous devons adopter notre rapport relatif au point 13. Nous ne lèverons la séance, ce soir, que lorsque le débat sur le point 15 aura pris fin, bienentendu, après avoir également adopté le rapport relatif au point 13.

Tout le monde est donc mis devant ses responsabilités. Il vous appartient maintenant d'agir.

Sra. Concha Marina RAMIREZ DE LOPEZ (Honduras): La delegación de Honduras desea felicitar al grupo de expertos que realizó el Examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAD. Consideramos este Examen un ejercicio valioso, haciendo la salvedad de su coste.

Habría que recordar que cuando el Examen se gestó existían opiniones y apreciaciones diversas entre los Estados Miembros. Algunos fueron de la opinión de que no era necesario realizar el ejercicio, por no considerarlo de mayor urgencia que las labores de la Organización y sobre todo que las necesidades de los países. Otros mantenían que era necesario realizarlo, como un medio para reforzar la Organización y para que fuese más eficaz y eficiente en el desempeño de sus actividades. Algunos eran de la opinión de su necesidad, por considerar que la FAO se había apartado de su mandato y que el Examen podría detectar deficiencias, cuya eliminación resultaría en una disponibilidad de recursos para fortalecer la Organización.

Los resultados del Examen, para nuestra satisfacción, han comprobado la solidez, eficiencia y el dinamismo de la Organización en el cumplimiento de sus funciones, tanto de las funciones contenidas en su Carta Constitutiva, así como de los mandatos recibidos por los distintos foros y órganos rectores, principalmente la Declaración de Principios y el Programa de Acción adoptado por la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, celebrada en 1979, y de otras conferencias subsiguientes, como la Conferencia Mundial de la FAO sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros y el Congreso Forestal Mundial, de donde surgió una nueva estrategia, contenida en el Programa de Acción Forestal en los Trópicos.

Antes de continuar, quisiera reflexionar sobre la salvedad del costo que hiciera anteriormente. Según la información que se nos ha suministrado, el examen ha temado un periodo de dos años y ha sido realizado por un grupo de expertos altamente cualificados a un costo de dos millones de dólares para la Organización. Además, la puesta en marcha de la mayoría de las recomendaciones contenidas en el examen costaría a la Organización o a los países interesados en ponerlas en marcha, en caso de que ellas decidan sufragarlas, fuertes cantidades de dinero, cantidades que, en nuestra opinión, podrían posiblemente ser mejor aprovechadas en la ejecución de programas y proyectos orientados a combatir la pobreza en los países en vías de desarrollo.

Dado que Honduras es un país eminentemente agrícola y que sus problemas más agudos y de difícil solución están en las áreas rurales, mis comentarios se refieren al campo de desarrollo rural que está ampliamente cubierto en el estudio de los expertos. Los expertos categóricamente expresan que la FAO no ha descuidado su mandato en lo que se refiere a ocuparse de desarrollo rural en un sentido más amplio, más allá de la agricultura y que esta tarea ha resultado, de hecho, sumamente difícil de realizar.

La FAO ha apoyado a los países en sus esfuerzos en distintas actividades relacionadas con el desarrollo agrícola y, específicamente, ha diseñado una serie de mecanismos en apoyo a la ejecución del Programa de Acción adoptado por la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Recientemente mi país participó en la quinta consulta gubernamental sobre reforma agraria y desarrollo rural que se celebró en la ciudad de Antigua, Guatemala. En esta consulta se hizo un análisis detallado de las políticas y estrategias en materia de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural y, al mismo tiempo, se produjo un fructífero intercambio de ideas y experiencias entre los distintos países y se aprobó un documento que contiene conclusiones y recomendaciones para acciones futuras, tanto por parte de la FAO, como de los países mismos.

Todos los participantes fueron de la opinión de que éste es un mecanismo adecuado para apoyar a los países en un examen y análisis periódico de sus actividades en ambos campos, y consideran que la FAO debe continuar organizando este tipo de consultas. Además, en esta oportunidad, los países presentaron a la FAO documentos sobre el impacto de ciertas políticas en las áreas rurales, documentos que se nos solicitaron con anticipación y que serán utilizados en la preparación del tercer informe sobre progresos en materia de reforma agraria que se presentarán en la Conferencia de la FAO en 1991 y el informe a presentarse al ECOSOC en su sesión de 1992.

Es justo reconocer que el examen y análisis demuestran que los logros hasta ahora alcanzados en la mayoría de los casos, por lo menos en lo que se refiere a América Latina, son modestos pero esto se debe no a falta de apoyo de la FAO o de cumplimiento de parte de los países a sus compromisos y obligaciones, sino que en cierta medida se debe a que la ejecución del Programa de Acción, prácticamente desde su inicio, coincidió con la crisis económica mundial. Los problemas derivados de la deuda externa y del comercio exterior y de otros factores que ya expusimos al tratar el tema sobre el plan de la nueva estrategia internacional del desarrollo para el Cuarto Decenio de las Naciones Unidas, en la Comisión I.

Entendemos que consultas gubernamentales similares se realizaron en las otras cuatro regiones como eventos conmemorativos del décimo aniversario de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Sobre este punto nos ha sorprendido que en esta Conferencia no se haya incluido ninguna actividad o acción para conmemorar el décimo aniversario de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, Conferencia que marcó un hito no sólo en la historia de la FAO sino en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Además la FAO apoya a los países mediante el sistema de misiones inter-agenciales para realizar exámenes y análisis de políticas y estrategias y recibir orientaciones para acciones futuras. Honduras aún no ha recibido este tipo de misiones pero el próximo Gobierno, a inaugurarse el próximo mes de enero, estamos seguros tarará las medidas pertinentes para solicitar el envío de una misión inter-agencial.

En conclusión, mi delegación es de la opinión de que el costo de la aplicación de las recomendaciones contenidas en el examen sea sufragado en recursos extra-presupuestarios.

Hartmut STALB (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): I

think all Member States of the FAO would agree that in the years to come our Organization will have to do more and more things with limited resources. The review process therefore is intended to make sure that the FAO will achieve maximum effect by using the greatest amount of efficiency in the fields in which it is called upon to act and for which it has responsibility.

The aims and objectives of FAO as described in the Basic Texts are still valid and the Federal Government supports them fully. In order to be as efficient as possible it is vital that the FAO should concentrate its work on those fields where it does have a comparative advantage over others, and that is where we want to see a much stronger FAD. That means first of all that it must do things which cannot be done or can only be done less well by other UN organizations.

In the wake of technical, economic and social development it is obvious that the pattern of FAO activities will change. For example, the FAO has new tasks to complete in the field of research, most particularly in the service of developing countries, whereas it has in fact already withdrawn from certain other fields and has given the work there to other organizations. There, close cooperation, especially within the UN system as such, is vital. Therefore the present responsibilities in individual fields of action cannot always continue in the future.

In order better to make more systematic the tasks of FAO we would certainly give support to the proposal of a medium-term plan covering three two-year periods. In this plan new priorities should be described and also reports given on programmes which are drawing to an end.

As the delegates of the Sudan and other countries have said, we are also convinced that the three basic activities of the FAO should be: the collection and analysis of agricultural data; secondly, on the basis of regional and country studies it should step up agricultural programmes and implement them; thirdly, it should carry out technical aid in developing countries. These three fields of responsibility we believe to be on the same level and closely related to each other. Therefore they must be seen in relation to each other and be further developed in close cooperation.

In formulating a Food and Agriculture policy and in implementing it a considerable amount of knowledge about national conditions is necessary from a socio-economic and agricultural point of view. For both parties concerned - that is, the FAO and each individual government - we believe that the best way to proceed is to draft a comprehensive country programme which will serve as a guideline and framework for the proper and cost efficient setting up of field programmes and projects. This kind of programme should be rooted in the more comprehensive national development planning. It is also of course absolutely necessary that there should be proper coordination with other national and international bodies. Technical help has been discussed very often in different bodies over recent years. Therefore I would like only to go into a few other more important points here.

In agreement with the experts, we propose that the responsible authorities of the FAO should draft guidelines for the field programmes, which basically must be determined by the priorities of the FAO. Projects which clearly do not fit in with these guidelines - and here I am sure we agree with the experts - should not be implemented by the FAO.

In order to bring about greater participation of member countries' governments in all the areas of FAO field work, we would suggest that a field programme committee should be set up.

A way of improving FAO field work would be the decentralization of the decision-making processes. This would mean that the individual country offices should become more efficient, from the point of view of their technical programmes and also the amount of staff allotted to them. This could be done through a shift of resources from regional offices.

The best kind of project conception, however, will not work if the staff is not sufficiently trained in order to fulfill its duties. The delegate of India has already pointed out this problem.

Moreover the FAO should make sure that through increased training work developing countries are put in a position to be able to carry out technical projects with their own national staff and to implement them with the greater participation of local industry.

The FAO in doing this should use more fully the instrument of special action programmes. The Tropical Forestry Action Plan, for example, is a very good example that we could duplicate in the future.

Yesterday in your introduction, Mr Chairman, you did encourage us to look at the question of resources most specifically when dealing with this point on our agenda. At the moment we have two cost estimations, that of the SJS, and the rather higher estimation made by the Director-General. Yesterday the delegate of France added some quite interesting questions to those proposals made by the Director-General. The different methods of calculation, however, are not very clear as far as we are concerned and we would be very grateful if the Secretariat could give us more complete information, especially in the light of what the delegate of France said yesterday.

As my delegation has said already, when talking about the Programme of Work and Budget, we believe that real budgetary growth should be mainly the implementation of important reform issues in the Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91. Furthermore, the proposals and their possibilities for improvement should be reflected particularly in future draft budgets and most particularly for the two-year period 1992-1993.

Marcos NIETO LAEA (Cuba): Muchas gracias, Señor Presidente. Sr. Presidente, deseo en nombre de la delegación cubana agradecer la clara y concisa presentación de este tema por el Sr. Mazoyer, Presidente del Comité del Programa. Al mismo tiempo agradecemos al Director General su introducción a este tema, quien nos brindó un marco de referencia muy apropiado para orientar nuestras deliberaciones. Sr. Presidente, correspondiendo fielmente a su solicitud, la delegación cubana se ajustará en sus opiniones estrictamente al marco establecido por la Resolución 6/87, considerando que cualquier disgresión sobre el tema nos apartaría de cuestiones medulares que esta Comisión y la Conferencia se proponen examinar en un espíritu realista y constructivo.

La delegación cubana desea expresar su agradecimiento a los Comités del Program y de Finanzas y al grupo de expertos que realizaron una labor encomiástica y un esfuerzo denodado para presentarnos unas conclusiones que no ofrecen la más mínima duda sobre su objetividad y realismo.

De igual forma reconocemos la labor rendida por la Secretaría y, en especial, deseamos resaltar las opiniones y comentarios del Director General sobre el examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAD, introduciendo iniciativas para ampliar la demanda del examen más allá de lo indicado por la Conferencia y de las recomendaciones de los Comités y los expertos.

Los documentos que han sido puestos a nuestra consideración son, a nuestra opinión, los más claros y concretos que hayamos tenido ocasión de examinar en éste y en otros períodos precedentes de la Conferencia. Ellos son reflejo de la voluntad de arribar a un consenso en su aprobación teniendo en cuenta los diferentes criterios divergentes, pero anteponiendo, como cuestión esencial, la razón misma de la existencia de la FAO: luchar sin descanso contra el hambre y la pobreza.

Este principio, Sr. Presidente, animó a los ricos y a los pobres, a unos y a otros, con independencia de sus niveles de desarrollo relativo, hace más de cuatro décadas, a constituir esta prestigiosa Organización, y pretender limitar su papel, capacidad de acción y ejecutoria sería una traición a los que nos precedieron en tan noble empeño; a los que hoy mueren de hambre por razones que todos conocemos, y a las generaciones futuras que nos considerarían comisoires de un delito de lesa humanidad.

Cuando hacemos esta reflexión no podemos menos que remitirnos al Preámbulo y al Capítulo 1 de la Constitución de la FAO para constatar que mantienen absoluta vigencia. Esta es, a nuestro juicio, la primera conclusión válida del examen en debate. Los tiempos cambian, la vida evoluciona y el mundo, aunque de manera desigual, se desarrolla. Ello supone que todos estemos sometidos a una evaluación y examen cotidianos, pero a veces soslayamos el autoanálisis por entender que no se justifica cuando las acciones son consecuentes con los objetivos propuestos. Esto explica que la mayoría de las delegaciones en el pasado 24º período de sesiones aceptáramos con cierta reserva y para contribuir al equilibrio y a la unidad, la realización de este examen, no sólo porque lo consideráramos como un ejercicio de confirmación de las estrategias ya existentes y claramente definidas, sino porque existían otras cuestiones urgentes que requerían nuestra atención y nuestro esfuerzo.

Hoy, sin embargo, debemos sentirnos complacidos, todos sin excepción, porque se cumplió con eficacia el mandato de la Resolución 6/87 y porque los resultados del examen arrojan conclusiones muy alentadoras. La FAO sigue siendo una institución sólida y dinámica, a juicio de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas y del Grupo de Expertos. El Consejo, por su parte, temó nota con satisfacción de que se había confirmado que la FAO era una Organización válida, sana, sólida y dinámica.

Otra conclusión de fondo es la comprobación y reiteración, refrendada por el Consejo, de las tres funciones principales de la FAD: como Organización encargada de promover y suministrar asistencia técnica a los Estados Miembros; como actuación como foro internacional para la formulación de políticas, conseguir acuerdos y promover medidas, y como centro de compilación y difusión mundial de información sobre alimentación, agricultura y nutrición.

Sería pertinente que la Organización continuara prestando mucha atención, tal como lo hizo en el curso del examen, para que el equilibrio de estas tres funciones se corresponda con las necesidades de los más necesitados, incluyendo la concatenación y coherencia entre sí para el reforzamiento mutuo en busca de una mayor eficacia.

Señor Presidente, la delegación cubana, al igual que lo hizo en su declaración el Embajador Nuiry Sánchez ante el 96º período de sesiones del Consejo, apoya plenamente las recomendaciones hechas por los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas y por el Grupo de Expertos, así como las opiniones y comentarios del Director General, y entiende que el tema -examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAO- queda definitivamente concluido en el presente período de sesiones. Nos sumamos también a la mayoría de las delegaciones que nos han precedido en sus declaraciones apoyando las recomendaciones y comentarios ya mencionados.

No obstante, con su permiso Señor Presidente, deseáramos hacer algunos comentarios particulares. Como resultado del examen, se ha puesto de manifiesto claramente que, lejos de disminuirse el papel de la FAD, éste debe ampliarse. Así, por ejemplo, la necesidad urgente de que la FAO asista a los Estados Miembros en materia de política y planificación, ya sea individualmente o en el ámbito regional, es en extremo evidente. En estos mementos en que la crisis económica por la que atraviesan los países en desarrollo por efecto de la carga de la deuda, el proteccionismo y el intercambio desigual, y sometidos a presiones para un reajuste estructural, nuestros países, cuya economía depende esencialmente de la agricultura,

demandan que de inmediato la FAO les tienda su mano generosa ¿A quién si no recurrir cuando nuestra Organización ha dado muestras de capacidad y eficacia en esta labor? Y ahí está el Plan de Acción para América Latina y el Caribe que lo corrobora.

En el establecimiento del nuevo orden económico internacional la FAO puede y debe jugar un papel de mayor amplitud y dinamismo prestando su valiosa cooperación en materia de cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo. Para ello dispone de información, prestigio y autoridad que le confiere la confianza depositada en ella por los Estados Miembros.

Con respecto a las actividades de campo, la delegación cubana suscribe la importancia de éstas para los Estados Miembros, según fuera subrayado por los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas. Deplora, sin embargo, la tendencia decreciente dentro del presupuesto del Programa de Cooperación Técnica que es -y subrayo- un elemento vital de las operaciones de campo, a la vez que es incuestionablemente el programa más dinámico por su papel catalítico y movilizador de recursos tanto al interior como al exterior de los países, actuando ya sea en casos de emergencia, como en la puesta en marcha y en la consecución de programas de investigación y desarrollo de primera primera.

Consideramos que las actividades de campo se verían favorecidas con el reforzamiento de las representaciones en los países para que puedan actuar como interlocutores de los gobiernos, y de otras instituciones en asuntos relacionados con la política agraria y los programas de desarrollo agrícola y rural. A este respecto, la acción combinada y coordinada de la FAO con el resto de las agencias de las Naciones Unidas, como el PNUD, UNICEF, PMA, PNUMA y otras, sería muy deseable y productiva.

La comprobación de este criterio me permite anunciar que próximamente la alta dirección de nuestro Gobierno sostendrá conversaciones conjuntas con los representantes de las diferentes agencias, con oficinas radicadas en el país para emprender un plan de acción conjunta, reconociendo la validez del viejo proverbio "en la unión está la fuerza". Este mismo concepto es válido para que se aplique a todos los niveles y en todos los ámbitos de acción de la gran familia de las Naciones Unidas, uniendo voluntades en el noble empeño de alcanzar el bienestar de la humanidad toda.

En este contexto, apoyamos la Recomendación del párrafo 64, que indica la actuación de FAO como organismo principal y coordinador para los exámenes sectoriales y subsectoriales relativos a su esfera de competencia, para lo cual debe participar plenamente en el proceso y celebración de reuniones de coordinación multilaterales.

Para concluir, nuestra delegación coincide en sus opiniones con lo expresado por el Director General en cuanto a que la implementación de las recomendaciones implica un gasto adicional que no puede satisfacerse con cargo al presupuesto, que de por sí es ya insuficiente, y que aceptable en tanto que es voluntad de todos aprobarlo por consenso. Tendremos necesariamente que recurrir a la comprensión y buena voluntad de los que pueden aportar estos fondos adicionales. Pero ¿qué significan 27 millones de dólares ante los nuevos desafíos que debe enfrentar nuestra Organización? Y más aún ¿qué significan 27 millones de dólares en un bienio ante los 180 millones de bocas más que hay que alimentar y cuya perspectiva de encontrar un pedazo de pan es sombría?

Omer ZEYTINOGLÜ (Turquie): Je voudrais commencer par dire que, quelles que soient les discussions qui ont précédé l'adoption de la Résolution 6/87, avec le recul du temps, nous constatais aujourd'hui qu'il était juste et opportun d'entreprendre cet examen de la FAD. Maintenant nous avons le coeur net parce que les informations contenues dans le document mis à notre disposition nous permettent de voir clairement, à notre satisfaction, les divers aspects du fonctionnement de l'Organisation.

Le deuxième point que je voudrais mentionner, c'est l'atmosphère de compréhension et de bonne entente qui a prévalu au sein de la session conjointe spéciale du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, étant donné que la plus grande partie des conclusions et des recommandations a pu être adoptée à l'unanimité. Cela démontre que les membres des deux Comités, malgré les divergences de vues que nous connaissons, ont pu conjuguer leurs efforts avec une approche constructive pour mettre sur pied ces recommandations, dans le seul but de renforcer davantage l'Organisation. Ma délégation estime que cela est une autre manière de manifester le dynamisme de la FAO. Un autre point qu'il faut souligner, c'est que l'Organisation a pu réaliser un examen de cette envergure par ses propres moyens. Je tiens à rendre hommage ici à tous ceux qui ont travaillé à l'élaboration du document C 89/21, que nous avons devant nous, notamment les présidents et les membres des deux Comités, sans oublier les experts.

Nos remerciements vont aussi au Directeur général et au Secrétariat qui ont assuré le bon déroulement des travaux et les ont enrichis par leurs commentaires.

Dans leur ensemble, nous approuvons les recommandations contenues dans ce document, mais je voudrais quand même faire quelques remarques.

Ma délégation se joint aux autres délégations qui ont affirmé que les trois rôles de la FAD: centre d'information, tribune internationale et assistance technique, sont complémentaires. Il est normal que le degré d'importance donné par les pays membres à ces trois rôles varie en fonction du niveau du développement économique de ces pays. Mais actuellement, il est difficile de considérer que la FAO joue un rôle mineur dans le domaine de l'assistance technique. Pour que la FAO puisse répondre aux demandes de tous ses membres, il faut que les trois rôles soient simultanément renforcés.

La recommandation concernant le développement durable et la protection de l'environnement reçoit le soutien sans réserve de ma délégation. Ma délégation souscrit aux recommandations ayant trait à la recherche agricole, aux technologies, à la dissémination des ressources en s'appuyant sur le CTPD. Le renforcement des relations de la FAO avec le GATT retient notre attention. Au moment où les négociations de l'Uruguay Round sont en cours, nous sommes d'avis que la première Organisation mondiale dans le domaine de l'agriculture, la FAO, doit avoir son mot à dire sur les sujets qui intéressent l'agriculture. Nous appuyons donc cette recommandation.

A l'heure actuelle, nous ne voyons pas avec clarté quel serait le résultat de l'établissement d'un plan à moyen terme pour trois exercices consécutifs, comportant si possible un chiffrage provisoire, mais nous ne sommes pas contre cette idée. Ma délégation est d'avis que l'on peut retenir cette proposition à titre expérimental.

Dans une Organisation qui compte 158 membres, l'établissement des priorités est difficile. Les lignes directrices proposées par les Comités sont bien formulées et l'on comprend qu'elles sont les fruits d'une longue réflexion. Nous considérons qu'elles seront utiles pour nos travaux futurs.

Ma délégation est pour le maintien du processus de budget-programme, que nous appelons le schéma, pour une autre période biennale. Nous pensons que ce processus, dans une période de turbulence financière, a facilité l'installation d'un dialogue entre les pays membres et le Secrétariat. Je trouve par contre un peu poussée à l'extrême l'idée de lier l'utilité de ce processus à l'adoption par consensus du PTB. Pour les programmes d'action spéciaux, nous sommes favorables à l'établissement d'un petit nombre de ces programmes. Nous accueillons avec intérêt l'idée lancée par le Directeur général selon laquelle l'un de ces programmes pourrait être consacré au développement durable. Un point important doit être pris en considération: comme on le sait, le développement durable est un vaste concept. Pour cette raison, nous pensons qu'il faut d'abord déterminer les composants ou les différents domaines de ce concept et orienter les programmes d'action spéciaux vers ces composants ou domaines.

En ce qui concerne les programmes de terrain, voici les idées retenues par ma délégation:

D'abord, nous appuyons les mesures proposées afin de permettre aux organes directeurs de suivre de plus près les opérations de terrain et de renforcer les liens entre celles-ci et le Programme ordinaire (par. 3.51 du rapport). Nous appuyons aussi, dans ce contexte, le développement des systèmes de gestion informatisés pour le suivi de ces programmes.

Nous appuyons la recommandation ayant trait au PCT pour que ce programme soit maintenu dans sa forme actuelle en tant qu'élément essentiel des opérations de la FAO.

Par ailleurs, en ce qui concerne la décentralisation, nous sommes pour le renforcement des représentations par pays.

Quant aux quatre propositions avancées par le Directeur général, nous souscrivons à celles qui prévoient un rôle technique pour la FAO dans le système de règlement des différends du GATT et la création entre les quatre organismes de Rome qui s'occupent des questions alimentaires d'un mécanisme intersecrétariat qui réunirait de hauts responsables.

Pour ce qui est de la suppression du sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, au cas où le schéma deviendrait une pratique permanente, nous ne nous prononcerons pas sur ce point car il nous est impossible de nous faire une idée claire; pour le moment, nous sommes plutôt enclins à garder le sommaire.

En ce qui concerne le recyclage du personnel de la FAO, nous préférierions que la FAO emploie des experts et des consultants techniques. Nous comprenons les difficultés qui sont décrites aux paragraphes 66 et 67 du document C 89/21 rencontrées pour le recrutement des experts; irais nous pensons qu'à long terme, cette solution serait plus rentable pour l'Organisation.

En dernier lieu, je voudrais aborder la question du financement des recommandations. Généralement, deux tendances se manifestent dans ce débat. L'idée qui revient le plus souvent, c'est que les pays qui ont demandé l'Examen doivent aussi en payer les frais, tandis que d'autres pays membres demandent que la solution soit trouvée dans le budget de 1990-91 par des ajustements.

Je voudrais me référer ici à l'intervention de Monsieur l'ambassadeur Valenza. Dans la dernière phrase de son intervention d'hier, si j'ai bien compris, il a dit qu'un certain nombre de pays membres ont demandé qu'on entreprenne cet examen et que d'autres pays membres se sont ralliés au consensus qui s'est constitué autour de la Résolution 6/87. Je crois que, par là, il a voulu mettre l'accent, à l'heure qu'il est, sur la responsabilité de tous les pays membres quant au financement de ces recommandations. Pendant la dernière Conférence, mon pays n'était pas tellement favorable à l'idée d'un examen mais il ne l'a pas refusé non plus. Aujourd'hui, par tous les moyens, nous sommes obligés de trouver les sources de financement permettant la mise en oeuvre des recommandations. Ma délégation est pour l'exploration de toutes les possibilités, indépendamment ou d'une façon combinée, qui figure au paragraphe 5.3 du document C 89/21, accompagnées de l'établissement de priorités dans ces recommandations.

Julius Marius OGOUEBANJA (Gabon): La délégation gabonaise voudrait tout d'abord remercier et féliciter le Directeur général pour la présentation de ses vues et observations sur l'Examen de certains des buts et opérations de la FAD. Nous tenons également à féliciter les deux comités - le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier - de l'excellent rapport qu'ils ont élaboré. Nos félicitations s'adressent, par la même occasion, au Professeur Mazoyer pour son introduction très claire du document.

La délégation gabonaise s'est déjà exprimée sur ce point lors de la quatre-vingt-seizième session du Conseil. Nous voudrions réaffirmer ici notre position.

Tout d'abord, nous accueillons avec plaisir les conclusions des experts quant à la solidité et la bonne marche de l'Organisation. Nous souscrivons avec eux aux trois grands rôles de la FAO, à ses objectifs de développement et à la plupart de leurs recommandations. Nous sommes d'avis que les grands rôles de la FAD, à savoir mobiliser les informations agricoles et alimentaires, servir le forum international et fournir l'assistance technique, sont d'une égale importance et interdépendants. Nous voudrions toutefois souligner notre attachement à l'assistance technique, et dans ce cadre, à la formation du personnel national.

Nous appuyons plus particulièrement certaines recommandations, à savoir le renforcement du Programme de coopération technique (PCT), le renforcement des bureaux nationaux et le maintien des bureaux régionaux dans une perspective de coopération tel que préconisé par le délégué de la Côte d'Ivoire, le transfert des technologies et biotechnologies dans les pays en développement, y compris dans le cadre du CTPD, la promotion du développement rural dans les projets de développement, les efforts en faveur du rôle de la femme dans le développement rural et les programmes d'action spéciaux.

En ce qui concerne le rôle de la FAO dans le système international, nous appuyons, d'une part, le renforcement de la participation de la FAO aux tables rondes des institutions telles que le GATT, la Banque mondiale, le Fonds monétaire international (FMI) et, d'autre part, les recommandations visant à améliorer la collaboration entre la FAO et les autres organisations internationales poursuivant les mêmes objectifs, notamment la suggestion du Directeur général de créer un mécanisme intersecrétariat qui réunirait de hauts responsables des quatre organisations installées à Rome. A ce propos, mon pays appuie la proposition faite par certains chefs de délégation en plénière, à savoir que les organisations devraient parrainer ensemble la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Ma délégation a la ferme conviction que ces institutions pourront affirmer leur volonté de coopérer de la meilleure façon possible en parrainant ensemble cette journée et en fondant une tradition nouvelle selon laquelle chaque agence prononcerait un discours devant les membres des organes directeurs des autres agences, le jour de l'inauguration.

Enfin, nous appuyons l'application de la nouvelle formule dans l'établissement du Programme de travail et budget et nous nous opposons à l'idée de réintroduire un plan à moyen terme portant sur trois exercices budgétaires.

En ce qui concerne la mise en oeuvre des recommandations et les ressources nécessaires, mon pays, qui est frappé par une grave crise économique et confronté à des mesures d'ajustement structurelles contraignantes et douloureuses, réaffirme sa position énoncée lors de la quatre-vingt-seizième session du Conseil, à savoir qu'il ne lui sera pas possible de faire face à de nouvelles augmentations de contributions.

Nous préconisons que ces recommandations soient mises en oeuvre par étape, en fonction d'une liste de priorités et des disponibilités financières de la FAD. En effet, certaines priorités traditionnelles, comme l'ont souligné d'autres délégations, pourraient être prises en compte dans les; orientations du Programme de travail et budget actuel et, parmi les autres recommandations, certaines pourraient être programmées dans le cadre des prochains bienniums tandis que d'autres pourraient être financées par des fonds extra-budgétaires.

Pour terminer, mon pays émet le voeu ardent qu'au terme de la discussion sur cet examen, nous aboutissions à un consensus qui nous permettra de récolter les fruits de ce travail si précieux et laborieux pour le renforcement de notre Organisation.

Soumaïla ISSAKA (Niger): En liminaire, ma délégation tient à préciser que les débats qui avaient précédé et sous-tendu la Résolution 6/87 sont derrière nous. Les positions qui s'étaient fait jour à cette occasion, aussi attachantes et chères furent-elles aux délégations respectives, ne devraient pas nous servir d'oeillères ni de prisme unique pour aborder les conclusions de l'Examen.

Nous soulignons que la négociation, qui est le propre d'une organisation comme la nôtre, ne peut s'accommoder d'aucune attitude extrémiste. Notre responsabilité d'Etat Membre ne consiste pas à défendre des chapelles. Dans l'exercice qui nous unit en ce moment, il n'est point question de dogmatisme stérile mais il s'agit de faire preuve d'objectivité. La démarche en tout

point scientifique qui a permis d'aboutir au Rapport C 89/21 et à ses annexes est une invitation supplémentaire à un débat empreint de réalisme. Il ne s'agit pas de sacrer le triomphe d'une délégation particulière mais uniquement - nous répétons: uniquement - de perpétuer le succès de la FAD.

Venons-en à présent à l'étude. Tout d'abord, ma délégation exprime son entière satisfaction de la mise en oeuvre de la Résolution 6/87. En l'adoptant, la vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence a eu l'intelligence et surtout la volonté de fixer le cadre, les thèmes et la procédure de cette étude. Le mandat a été remarquablement rempli et le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier ainsi que tous ceux qui y ont contribué méritent nos sincères félicitations.

Ma délégation appuie, sans entrer dans les détails, toutes les propositions de l'Etude ayant emporté l'adhésion de la session conjointe. A leur sujet, nous prenons à notre compte les commentaires faits par le représentant du Pakistan, Président du Groupe des 77. Nous y ajoutons toutefois un avis spécifique. Cet avis consiste à dire qu'en matière de coordination interinstitution, la FAO devrait également s'attacher à tirer profit au maximum de l'effet de synergie qu'offrent les organisations sous-régionales mises en place par les Etats Membres dans les domaines de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. L'efficacité qu'engendrerait une forme accrue de leur apport serait en outre apte à favoriser un meilleur impact de l'action de ces organisations.

Nous venons de souscrire globalement aux recommandations sur lesquelles le rapport s'accorde afin de mieux nous concentrer sur celles qui font l'objet de vues divergentes. La délégation du Congo a eu le mérite de les rappeler avec clarté. Nous nous bornerons à les classer en trois groupes: la question des priorités, les aspects de procédure et les solutions de mise en oeuvre des recommandations.

D'abord, les priorités: le premier aspect de celles-ci conduit aux trois grands rôles fondamentaux de la FAD; nous considérons qu'ils sont complémentaires et interdépendants. La FAO doit veiller à un renforcement adéquat, équilibré et permanent de ses fonctions. Nous saluons au passage la sagesse et la clairvoyance des fondateurs de la FAO pour avoir classé ses grandes missions sur un pied d'égalité.

Ensuite, l'aspect des priorités: ma délégation n'éprouve aucune difficulté quant au principe de l'établissement des priorités de programmes. En effet, la FAO ne peut échapper à l'impératif de performances en mettant en avant une recherche constante en vue de l'adéquation optimale entre ses activités et ses ressources. Cependant, la hiérarchisation des opérations ne peut se concevoir comme une donnée figée et pré-établie pour tout l'avenir. Le pragmatisme et les vertus d'une démarche itérative doivent prévaloir dans le contexte de la FAO. Nous maintenons que, seules, les orientations adaptables dans le cadre du Programme de travail, voire à travers un plan à moyen terme, pourraient être acceptables pour la délégation.

Nous discutons à présent des points de procédure soulevés dans l'Etude. Pour ce qui est de la procédure d'élaboration du Programme de travail et budget, ma délégation, en son temps, a retenu avec intérêt les promesses de consensus qui sous-tendaient la proposition de l'étape supplémentaire. Cependant, la première expérience opérée dans le cadre du Programme de travail et budget

1990-91 semble accoucher d'une souris. Ma délégation continue à lier la poursuite de cette procédure à la facilitation effective d'un consensus sur le Programme de travail et budget. Elle n'en accepterait le renouvellement que pour vérifier si cette phase permettrait de répondre à cette attente.

Nous évoquons également, au titre des procédures, la question du terme de l'Examen. Ma délégation ne partage aucune des intentions tendant à contribuer l'Etude, à plus forte raison d'en élargir le champ, et cela d'autant plus que le rapport des consultants sur la gestion de la FAO tend à prouver que l'Organisation maîtrise assez bien sa structure organisationnelle. Bien sûr, le fonctionnement de l'Organisation peut et doit être perfectible par une systématisation souhaitable de la fonction de contrôle et d'évaluation interne au niveau de toutes les dimensions de son système. Au demeurant, ma délégation trouve salutaire qu'un tel processus implique davantage les organes statutaires compétents de la FAO.

L'on aura compris de mes propos que la proposition d'une unité d'inspection indépendante n'emporte pas notre adhésion. Bien sûr, la nécessité d'une plus grande transparence est légitime et la FAO doit pouvoir lui répondre à travers son obligation de compte-rendu aux organes directeurs. Nul n'est besoin de rappeler que l'Administration de la FAO est absolument responsable devant les instances de décision et d'orientation formelles.

Pour terminer, le problème de la mise en oeuvre des recommandations : à cet égard, la seule exclusive que nous posons concerne toute solution qui engendrerait une réduction des programmes. Nous aurions également préféré écarter les voies qui feraient appel à un supplément des contributions des Etats Membres.

Roger PASQUIER (Suisse): Les propositions de réforme que notre Commission examine maintenant doivent être considérées dans la perspective de l'évolution des 20 prochaines années. Il n'empêche qu'elles comportent des mesures dont quelques-unes sont applicables à bref délai et, d'autres graduellement, et l'un ou l'autre peuvent l'être à titre expérimental.

Par ailleurs, ces propositions doivent toujours être examinées en ayant à l'esprit la relation coût/bénéfice, c'est-à-dire le plus grand service à l'ensemble des Pays membres par million de dollars dépensés. Le rapport des comités s'appuyant sur le rapport des experts - ainsi que les avis et propositions additionnelles du Directeur général, sont des contributions de grande valeur qui méritent nos remerciements.

J'en viens aux propositions concrètes que les instances compétentes de mon pays jugent les plus importantes, en commençant par la concentration accrue des priorités.

Laissez-moi vous dire tout d'abord que ma délégation se réjouit du consensus, déjà pratiquement atteint, sur le renforcement du rôle de la FAO en ce qui concerne l'analyse et les conseils en matière de politique agricole. Je tiens à appuyer tout particulièrement ce que disent les deux comités, au sujet du rôle de la FAO, dans leurs conclusions figurant au paragraphe 2.20 de leur rapport. Nous approuvons l'ensemble de ce paragraphe; toutefois, je citerai ci-après les éléments qui nous semblent cruciaux: la FAO agira principalement

sur demande, mais il est également approprié qu'elle fasse connaître ses avis lorsqu'elle perçoit des possibilités d'amélioration de politique portant sur des objectifs gouvernementaux, qui sont appuyés par des programmes de développement.

La FAO doit se concentrer sur deux autres grandes priorités qui sont les suivantes: d'une part, la collecte et la diffusion des données; d'autre part, l'assistance technique dans le cadre de programmes de développement nationaux ou sectoriels. Rappelons dans ce contexte que des données sûres sont indispensables pour l'analyse des politiques qui, à leur tour, serviront notamment à orienter l'assistance technique.

Par ailleurs, dans toute activité de développement, la FAO devrait accorder une attention accentuée à la conservation de l'environnement et au rôle de la femme. Mais, pour augmenter la place relative de ces activités prioritaires dans le champ d'action de la FAO, il faudra diminuer la place relative d'autres activités. Il faudra même avoir la hardiesse d'éliminer certaines activités, notamment des activités techniques qui pourraient être confiées à d'autres institutions avec lesquelles la FAO a déjà des liens, ou à d'autres institutions avec lesquelles la FAO pourrait établir des relations.

S'agissant de ce dernier point, ma délégation a déjà proposé des modalités pratiques dans cette même Commission lors de la discussion du point 13 de l'Ordre du jour. Je confirme ici cette proposition qui fait appel principalement au Comité du Programme; je ne la répéterai pas, mais je voudrais élaborer un de ses éléments: si nous demandons que les programmes d'action sectoriels, conçus selon le modèle du Plan forestier tropical, occupent graduellement une place majeure à la fois dans le programme ordinaire et dans le programme de terrain, c'est que, comme beaucoup d'autres, nous y voyons des avantages importants. Afin de dissiper certains malentendus, permettez-moi de présenter brièvement les avantages des programmes d'action spéciaux.

Premier avantage, la coordination entre le gouvernement et les diverses agences intéressées; en effet, dans le pays qui s'y intéresse, un programme sectoriel sur cinq à dix ans est mis au point par le gouvernement en consultation avec les donateurs multilatéraux et bilatéraux y compris les institutions financières internationales, et avec l'assistance spécialisée de la FAD; il en résulte un programme" sectoriel réaliste, en ce sens que le financement par le gouvernement et les donateurs est prévu dès le début.

Second avantage, la FAO peut y jouer au mieux son rôle d'organisation spécialisée et son rôle catalyseur.

Troisième avantage, la rationalisation de la gestion de la coopération; chacun a pu entendre des gouvernements des pays en développement déplorer, à juste titre, de devoir recevoir chaque année des centaines de missions qui viennent discuter de projets, ponctuels pour la plupart, et qui accaparent démesurément leur temps. La discussion regroupée est plus rationnelle; pour les agences s'occupant de financement et d'assistance technique, l'approche par programme d'action sectoriel est également plus rationnelle.

Quatrième avantage, la planification à moyen terme devient plus aisée et plus réaliste.

Cinquième avantage, la concentration sur des priorités de terrain est plus marquée.

Ces avantages sont tels qu'ils valent largement l'effort intellectuel à déployer pour les obtenir.

Pour ce qui est de renforcer le rôle des pays membres dans l'orientation du programme de terrain, tout comme les deux Comités, et pour les mêmes raisons, nous y sommes favorables. Comme eux, nous pensons que cette orientation devrait porter surtout sur les politiques applicables aux programmes de terrain et sur les relations avec les autres agences des Nations Unies et les donateurs.

Entre les deux solutions institutionnelles, évoquées à cette fin, ma délégation donne la préférence à un Comité des activités opérationnelles. Les jours de réunion de ce Comité pourraient être compensés par une rationalisation des réunions existantes: on peut envisager dans ce but, et en temps opportun, d'adopter un processus de décision simplifié comme l'ont fait d'autres institutions multilatérales à la satisfaction des pays membres.

Concernant les mesures additionnelles proposées par le Directeur général dans le cadre de l'examen de la FAD, ma délégation est favorable à ces propositions visant à renforcer la collaboration avec le GATT. S'agissant de la proposition relative au recyclage progressif d'une partie du personnel permanent, nous sommes d'avis qu'il faudrait l'entreprendre en tenant compte des ressources; nous pensons surtout que le recyclage devrait être sélectif et faciliter la mise en oeuvre des mesures liées aux réformes. Pour ce qui est du sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, nous serions favorables à la proposition du Directeur général de le supprimer, à condition de conserver le nouveau processus de budgétisation que nous appuyons.

J'en viens maintenant aux aspects financiers touchant à l'examen de la FAO. Notre opinion est assez proche de celle de la délégation française. Tout d'abord ma délégation voudrait faire remarquer qu'en décidant de procéder à cet examen les pays membres ne cherchaient pas à recevoir des propositions sur des ressources supplémentaires en faveur de certaines priorités anciennes et nouvelles, mais désiraient, dans le cadre des ressources dont dispose l'Organisation, examiner comment la FAO pourrait fournir une contribution plus efficace. Soit dit en passant, ceci appelle un vote du budget qui tienne compte des conclusions de l'examen. Voilà pour l'approche globale de la question; et j'en arrive aux aspects particuliers. Une discussion rationnelle exige que l'on distingue entre les mesures qui affectent le Programme ordinaire, celles qui affectent le programme de terrain, et celles qui affectent les deux programmes à la fois.

Pour ce qui est du Programme ordinaire, les suppléments de coûts découlant de certaines mesures devraient être compensés au sein du programme lui-même. Pour ce qui est du programme de terrain, des mesures ayant un impact favorable sur sa qualité ne manqueraient pas de lui attirer une part plus large de ressources de la coopération internationale au développement.

Afin d'arriver à un consensus sur la dimension financière de l'examen et afin également de discuter de quelques autres points de divergence nous désirons que soit mise à profit la discussion informelle.

H. RWEHUMBIZA (Tanzania): My delegation shares the view that carrying out a review of the operations of an organization is a normal way to ensure the organization is kept on course and in the case of an organization like FAD, it is one way of assuring the member countries that all is well in their

Organization. Therefore my delegation believes that whatever were the reasons in the minds of individual member countries about the need for, and the way to carry out the review of FAD, the exercise has been done and we have a report. We all agreed to have the review and therefore we should take a decision on the report submitted by the Group of Experts, taking into account the recommendation of both the Joint Committees and the Council on the Report and the comments of the Director-General of FAO.

My delegation also endorses the view that a decision should be made and we start implementation of whatever is decided. We do not support continued debates, for we know there will continue to be areas that need improvement, which improvement will have to be effected in the course of time as the Organization continues to operate.

My delegation is happy that the Review has reassured us of the following: that FAO's purpose and objectives are still valid now and in the future; that the strategies, action plans and activities so far done have been within the scope and mandate of FAO; and that despite the problems external to FAD, the Organization is dynamic, healthy and sound, a tribute to the international civil servants led by the Director-General and the governing bodies of FAD.

Despite the clean certificate of health, the Group of Experts, the Joint Committees and the Council have identified areas that need improvement in order to make our Organization even more prepared and able to address the important issues of world food and agriculture in the next two decades or so. It is to these areas that my delegation would like to make brief comments.

My delegation endorses the three major roles of FAO as identified in paragraph 2.9 of Chapter 2 of the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees contained in document C 89/21, as was indicated in the statement of the head of my delegation in the Plenary on the 16th November 1989. My delegation supports the views of the Joint Committees that it is difficult and indeed it is not useful, to arrange the roles in the order of priority as the priorities differ in different member countries and regions. My delegation, for example, places technical assistance higher than the other two, although we are also aware of the importance of the other two to the development of our agriculture.

In the areas of policy analysis and advice, my delegation endorses the recommendation that FAO should focus its analysis and advice on the issues that affect the agricultural sector at the country, regional and global levels. FAO should certainly be allowed, and be prepared, to participate in the structural adjustment policy studies and advice.

On strategies and plans, my delegation supports the views of the majority in the Joint Committees. My delegation endorses the recommendation that for the medium plan to be useful, the member countries should at least provide indicated resource commitments.

On priority setting, my delegation supports the observation that the present mechanism is adequate given the varied needs of different member countries.

We support the continuation of the summary outline for at least one biennium.

My delegation supports the recommendation to strengthen monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects but does not support the appointment of a Special Inspection Unit. We believe monitoring is a normal management function which should be done by the project management in the field. There

is need to improve the management system at the country level at which the host country and FAO can participate. If that is done with improved information flow from the field to FAO Headquarters, we believe the monitoring objectives could be realized without too much additional costs. My delegation does not believe a unit of three to five people at the Headquarters would improve much in the monitoring of over 1 400 projects.

On the evaluation, my delegation endorses the proposal to have each major project to be evaluated by an independent team to be appointed by the major financiers, the host country and FAO. Indeed, this is what is done in many projects financed by UNDP and the other bodies. The evaluation reports from such evaluation should be summarized for the FAO governing bodies.

My delegation supports the recommendation on strengthening of FAO country offices and regional offices. This will enable major responsibility for monitoring and support of field programmes and projects to be shouldered by FAO country representatives, as well as enabling the country representative offices to play a more effective role on policy analysis and advice.

Finally, on resources to implement the recommendations, my delegation would support the suggestion that all avenues for getting resources should be pursued including provision of additional resources.

My delegation pleads for a consensus to approve these recommendations.

Sumiji NAKAZAWA (Japan) : We are now at the stage of finalizing the FAO Review and deciding on the FAO reform based on it. The principle aim of the FAO Review was to strengthen FAO's capacity to face the challenges of the future with increasing efficiency and effectiveness, as is properly formulated in the Conference Resolution 6/87. For this purpose, the Review before us has been carried out by involving so many people and the governing bodies, as well as resources, during this biennium. In this process and thanks to the efforts of the member countries and the concerned people, we think that the basis for the broad consensus among the member countries has been established, except for some areas which we think, however, are not impossible to be solved by the spirit of cooperation which is prevailing among the members.

At the last Council, at its Ninety-sixth Session, the members unanimously expressed the importance and need of reaching consensus on this urgent item at this Conference. My delegation welcomes the increasing understanding on this matter amongst the members and hopes that the consensus will be reached finally.

My delegation has carefully studied the Report of the SJS based on FAO Experts Reports and has found in these Reports there are many conclusions and recommendations which are very useful to strengthen the FAO capacity in an effective and efficient manner. As far as the SJS Report is concerned, my delegation is not completely satisfied with some parts of it but taking into account the fact that this Report is the result of long discussions and compromise my delegation thinks that the FAO Review should be finalized on the basis of this Report.

My delegation has no intention of going into details of individual issues and wishes only to make some comments on the SJS Report and the Director-General's comments. Firstly, as regards the role of FAD, we share the same views of the SJS Report in which the equal weight to be given for the three major roles of FAD, namely, functions as a global information centre on agriculture, forum for exchanging views and promoting activities, and technical assistance to developing countries. For us the first two roles are very important but we fully understand that the third role, namely the technical assistance, is essential for developing countries.

In this respect we think that these three roles are equally important and interdependent. Therefore these roles should be closer combined and further strengthened.

Secondly, as to policy function, my delegation strongly supports the idea that a function of such kind should be strengthened. We think that this is also justified with a view to promoting self-reliant development of developing countries in the field of agricultural policy.

Thirdly, concerning agricultural research, my delegation would like only to point out the importance of cooperation with other organizations such as CGIAR.

With respect to technology development, we would like to stress the importance of harmonization of agricultural production and environmental protection Which would lead to the sustainable development in agriculture.

Fourthly, as regards small farmers, since they are playing their fundamental role in agricultural production and sustaining their rural communities in most countries, my delegation strongly supports the idea that their role in agriculture and rural development should be fully recognized and their activities should be promoted.

Fifthly, as to the medium and long-term working plan, while recognizing the benefit of such a plan, my delegation is not in a position to agree with making financial commitments for future years beyond the biennium.

Sixthly, as far as decentralization of the Organization is concerned, although in the SJS reports the role of FAO country representatives is highlighted, my delegation would like to draw the attention of members to the Regional Offices of FAO.

RAPA, for example, performs excellent work as a regional focal point for information exchange and a forum for an exchange of views. Such activities should be strengthened.

Last but not least, my delegation would like to touch upon the programme of additional resources for implementing the recommendations as a result of the FAO Review. My delegation would like to stress the importance and need to carry out such recommendations with available resources of FAO. In this respect we would like to remind the members that the starting point of the FAO Review was financial restraint and that the financial situation of FAO is rather worsened. Under these circumstances, further increase in effectiveness and efficiency of FAO activities is essential for the incrementation of FAO reform without any additional resources which inpose further burden on the

Member States. In this connection my delegation is very interested in the statement made by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany concerning financing the implementation of the recommendation as a very practical way.

In concluding my statement, I would like once again to stress the importance of reaching a consensus in finalizing the FAO Review and deciding on the FAO reform.

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand): First, I would like to thank the Director-General and the Chairman of the Programme Committee for their clear and comprehensive introduction to this item.

My delegation has carefully studied documents C 89/21 and C 89/21- Sup.1 and would like to offer our comments as follows.

First, the Thai delegation welcomes the conclusion of the Programme and Finance Committees which was endorsed by the FAO Council that the aims and objectives pursued by our Organization were consonant with the Preamble to its Constitution and relevant to Article I. They agreed that the Constitution of FAO was valid. We fully agree with this conclusion.

Secondly, we are happy to note that the Council endorsed the significance of the three major roles of FAO. They are (i) centre for global information on food, agriculture and nutrition, (ii) forum for policy formulation and action and, (iii) the promoter and provider of technical assistance. All these three roles are of vital importance to Member Nations. At this juncture my delegation would like to stress that they are equally important and should deserve high priority.

Thirdly, regarding "FAO in the International System" my delegation believes that we are all aware that there have been four UN bodies in Rome dealing with food questions. They are FAO, IFAD, World Food Programme and World Food Council. Needless to say, they have to cooperate with each other. But unfortunately the relations between these four bodies inevitably vary over time and there is still a need for more systematic consultation than has generally taken place in the past. At this occasion, Mr Chairman, I would like to draw your attention to the concrete proposal of the Director-General as contained in paragraph 71 on page XV of the document C 89/21. In order to foster consultation with other agencies, the Director-General suggested the creation of an inter-secretariat mechanism among the Rome food agencies to function at senior working level. My delegation is of the opinion that this suggestion is a reasonable one and would like to appeal that this Conference should accept the Director-General's proposal.

Fourthly, regarding the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations in GATT, it is clear that FAO has an essential role to play. In order to help FAO to take this role my delegation fully supports the proposal of establishing two small units within FAO, one in the Food Policy and Nutrition Division and the other in the Plant Production and Protection Division. This would cost only \$ 900 000 each biennium, but would be a measure of crucial importance for trade involving thousands of millions of dollars. We are also of the view that this activity should be started during the coming biennium and we support the category 1 as mentioned in paragraph 83 of document C 89/1 for financing expenditure in 1990-91.

Fifthly, my delegation is happy to note that the Finance and Programme Committees have not endorsed any idea for weakening the regional offices and we also agreed that the strengthening of FAO's representatives must not be at the cost of weakening the valuable role of the regional set-up.

To save our time, I do not want to discuss other matters but would like to say that I fully support the views of the delegate of Pakistan, the current Chairman of the Group of 77, especially the need to reinforce the TCP in order to reach a level of at least 17 percent of the Regular Budget Resources. Thank you for your attention.

Ephraim D. MULELE (Zambia): Let me start by expressing my delegation's appreciation of the manner in which the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the Director-General introduced this very important subject which has occupied our Organization for the past two years. I would also like to compliment the Programme and Finance Committees and the Group of Experts for the excellent work they did in reviewing certain aspects of goals and operations of FAO. My delegation has found the Review and the comments made by the Director-General most useful. We are happy to note that the Review was thorough and comprehensive and that FAO has been operating according to the mandate given to it by its Constitution.

Many delegations have already made comments on the various recommendations made by the Review which we feel are very important and should be taken into consideration in order for us to reach a consensus.

My delegation Would, however, like to reiterate its full support of the objectives of FAO. We feel that FAO should continue to play a major role in information gathering and dissemination. Indeed it is only through FAO that a good number of developing countries are able to have access to information and the development from developed and other developing countries. We are very perturbed to note that the budget on publications is not increasing. My delegation is of the view that this vital role of FAO should be strengthened rather than weakened.

My delegation feels that the role of FAO in providing technical assistance is very important and needs to be strengthened. While we are aware that some delegations have been calling for transparency on TCP programmes, we are of the view that it is very difficult to make TCP projects any more transparent than they are at present because most of them are planned at short notice in response to situations which require immediate action.

We support the recommendation that there should be more coordination between FAO and other international agencies. This would avoid duplication of effort and ensure proper utilization of the available resources.

We also support the recommendation that FAO country offices should be strengthened so that they are able to coordinate and supervise FAO-executed projects in the countries of their representation.

Finally, as a result of the positive results of the Review, it is my delegation's sincere hope that Member States will give full support to the Organization and ensure that more financial resources are channeled into it.

Andras SZABO (Hungary): At the very outset, let me congratulate the Programme and Finance Committees, the experts and the Secretariat on the successful completion of their joint work on the in-depth review of certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations. The report before us and the recommendations contained in it meet the Mandate assigned to these Committees by Conference Resolution 6/87. In other words, two years of concentrated work which cost over US\$ 2 million are not lost. The outcome is a document which is not aiming at building a new house or even changing its basic pillars, but is rather going to strengthen some of its elements which may not be sufficiently resistant to the pressure of new challenges. The need for increased efficiency for a more effective utilization of scarce or even decreasing resources, compared to growing demand, is not a problem confined to FAO or other UN bodies. The search for improvement in this field is a general problem for all of our nations. Concepts and ways and means on how to achieve this goal might, of course, be different. Having said that, we are especially pleased that the Committees have come to a consensus on a great number of basic questions endorsed by the recent Council, for example that the Constitution should remain intact; that the three major roles of FAO deserve the highest priority, etc.

Our remarks on the recommendations included in the Review are as follows. On paragraph 2.64, in our view the desirability of a closer interrelationship among the three major roles of FAO should be emphasized. At this juncture, we want to repeat once again that FAO's role in the area of policy advice and analysis, especially on agricultural issues, with due regard to the adjustment process in the developing countries, should be strengthened. This activity should also include assistance for the training of appropriate national planners as well.

Secondly, the priority of the integration of environmental aspects in all related FAO activities and the integration of women in development should be underlined. Under (iv), we would suggest that FAO should not restrict its assistance to developing countries only in their trade negotiations in GATT, but to all countries which are adversely affected by protectionist measures.

Like other delegations, we also support the reintroduction of a medium-term plan. In this context, we can go along with the proposal of the Nordic countries concerning the introduction of a rolling six-year plan which would be flexible enough to allow making adjustments, if necessary, in FAO programmes according to new requirements, but at the same time such a planning method would help Member Nations to concentrate their attention and efforts on priority areas.

In connection with field operations, in the same way as other delegations at this stage of the discussions, we question the necessity of establishing a field inspection unit. We would be pleased to get some more information from those delegations who want to set up such a unit on their explanations and reasons for the creation of such a unit. At the same time we would prefer a kind of decentralization of activities associated simultaneously with the strengthening of the field offices and their competence and staff, and a better flow of information between headquarters and the field offices.

In our view, decentralization would also accelerate the utilization of national capacities and the selection for FAO assistance of the most appropriate programmes commensurate with the priority development goals of the developing countries. By doing this, the country-specific features of FAO's assistance could also be strengthened.

We would also like to see in this part of the recommendations that FAO's operational field activities are aimed at helping developing countries to complete a certain transition period to national execution as an ultimate goal.

As to the role of FAO within the UN system, we advocate closer and more coordinated inter-agency relations, a harmonization of their work programme, and the elimination of overlapping of activities especially among the Rom-based organizations.

In conclusion, let me stress that the exercise performed by the Committees was an historic milestone in FAO's practice. We cannot allow the main findings or recommendation, amended or modified by our recent deliberations or considerations, to be lost. May I express my sincere hope that we will be able to accept them by consensus and start their implementation as soon as possible. If this is to be the case, we would deem it necessary to see the results that we shall gain, and to this end we would join those delegations which request the Director-General to prepare a follow-up report.

Gerald MONROE (United States of America) : My delegation, and I personally, have had an opportunity to discuss the review process for some time now. We participated in the Special Joint Session. I made reference to this in my remarks during the Council. We gave a very full statement during the Council. We have, I think, very profitably consulted with a broad range of the members throughout this process, throughout this Conference, throughout Council meetings before and throughout the last year.

What I want to underscore is the importance which my government attaches both to the work of FAO and to this review process. I think our efforts give ample testimony to that fact.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General and the Secretariat for the support they have given the process and for the introductory remarks and explanations they have given to this Commission.

We would also like to pay special tribute to the Chairman of the SJS for the efforts that he has put into this very worthwhile exercise.

In view of this background, I do not propose to speak in great detail this morning. I think that the process is proceeding and it would not be necessary to do so. We feel that the experts' report was an excellent foundation on which to build. We took the work of the experts very, very seriously. We thought that the SJS advanced that work very effectively. We thought that both activities underscored areas where the FAO could better serve the Membership. Throughout this exercise, we have identified certain areas of very specific interest both to us and, in our judgement, to the Membership as a whole. One of those was the budget outline exercise which we thought as a policy document at the very beginning of the budget formulation process made a valuable contribution to that process. We joined the SJS consensus in recommending its continuation. Quite frankly, we were somewhat disappointed that that was a qualified recommendation. I would like to register today our very strong sense that this additional step in the budget process can be made a permanent feature. We do not agree, however, that there need be any elimination of other steps in the process. We think that each phase makes a genuine contribution to the budget formulation. Whether or not that budget

formulation ends with any particular outcome, we nonetheless think that the opportunity for full participation for as many members as possible, as early as possible, is very, very, valuable particularly for those of us who sometimes must deal with very sceptical legislative branches.

In that same context, we think that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget should be retained as well because it has a very real programme contribution to make for the specialized commissions and committees that meet during the budget year.

I would like to respond to the concern of a number of delegations that we have heard, that changes here at the FAO not be undertaken at the expense of the FAO's Technical Assistance activity. This is a question of role, something that the SJS looked at very carefully, and, in my judgement, one of the important areas where there was, if not disagreement, at least some unease amongst the SJS membership.

I want to stress that as the United States sees the review process the purpose of that process is to reinforce all of the FAO's major roles by strengthening the linkages between those roles. I will give an example. An improved country analysis capacity - which is something my delegation feels very strongly about - will strengthen the Organization's ability to provide policy advice to those countries which require it, but also will strengthen the Organization's ability to adopt a programmed approach to technical assistance.

Further, moving, I suppose, to the nub of much of our debate, we do not think that reform is a luxury, that change is a luxury, in today's environment. We think it is an absolute necessity not only for the FAO but for the UN system as a whole. We have made quite clear for the past several years that, in our judgement, we live in a world of shrinking budgetary resources as well as increased needs. The availability of public monies for the future is indeed uncertain. We have discussed this at great length in other fora.

The conclusion we draw in my government is that it is essential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the overall system, as well as the FAD, by ensuring that each component organization performs the task for which it is best suited. For lack of a better term, we have called that comparative advantage. We do not feel that the concept of comparative advantage, as applied to the UN system, means that FAO should abandon any part of its Mandate.

That is not the burden of our argument and I want to make that perfectly clear. What we mean is that within its mandate it should focus on those functions which it is best suited to perform. I think that in the environment I have just described there is no question that we would not, as members of SJS, of the Finance Committee, of the Council, as participants in this Commission and as participants in the Plenary of the Conference, be meeting our obligation to the world community that needs the services of the FAO if we did not take this notion of comparative management fully into account as we proceed to plan the activities of the FAO and other United Nations agencies. For example, the FAO should collect and disseminate the results of research. We have said also in the SJS, that we believe other organizations who are better structured to conduct the research should be given the obligation of conducting that research. I cite that as an example. To us, comparative advantage is a key element of the reform process.

Regarding the delivery of technical assistance - a function on which we have laid great stress during the SJS deliberations - this concept of comparative advantage is reflected, for example, in the terms of reference of the Experts Group on the Agency Support Cost which call for a re-examination of the division of labour between UNDP and the sectoral agencies within a tripartite system of the United Nations development programmes, specialized agencies and governments.

The United States has been a firm supporter of a revitalized tripartite system, and this has been expressed in numerous fora. What I am saying is that changes are occurring within the system as a whole. We want the FAO to be fully prepared to deal with those changes, particularly - I stress the next point - as it deals with development assistance. We feel that the future lies in assessing cost-effective delivery in all the institution's mandated functions.

In looking at those mandated functions, of course, we have said in other fora - and I mention now the words of our Secretary of Agriculture when he addressed the Plenary - that we feel the FAO has a very important role to play in the dispute settlement aspect of the current Uruguay Round of trade negotiations. We have mentioned specifically in that context the Codex Alimentarius and the plant protection activity. We feel that trade, the setting of trade standards and the settlement of trade disputes are not only of interest to the developed countries - again I want to stress this point - but also to the international community at large. We feel very strongly that trade is one of the major vehicles for development. Therefore we think that in undertaking to enhance these trade support activities, if that is what they will ultimately become, the FAO is serving the entire international community, both developed and developing countries.

In general terms, we think that the entire range of activities across the three roles identified in the SJS report serve the entire community. I do not intend to repeat them once again or to go into that in detail this morning.

Lastly, I want to return to the question of resources and, in doing so, to look at some of the areas which we in SJS, the Experts and others, have looked at as things that would enhance FAO's activity in delivering its services: the strengthening of institutional relationships, for example, the sharing of country economic data knowledge, the strengthening of the role of the field offices and the strengthening of the capacity of the Organization for individual country studies so that the Organization can provide policy analysis and advice.

I cite these as examples of policy and advice. We have already discussed technical assistance and the need to strengthen the links and maintain the consistency between the Regular Programme and the Technical Cooperation Programme. Let me also stress the need to exercise greater selectivity in its acceptance of field projects, or any other projects for that matter. Prioritization is a difficult word and a difficult concept to deal with in the setting within which the FAO operates, but that is the challenge that all governments face and that is the challenge which the entire UN system is facing today, for the reasons I have already outlined.

In our judgement, prioritization is the key. How one approaches that, I think reasonable men can differ on, but there is no doubt in my Government's mind that prioritization is an essential outcome of this Review process. I believe that these are all elements where there should and could be a considerable consensus. I think the SJS exercise itself proved that there could be

consensus on these very same issues. I look forward to continuing to work in these last few days when we have a great opportunity - I hope that we do not miss that opportunity - to contribute to preparing the FAO for a difficult but, I hope, very rewarding future. I must say we would like to see this Review concluded in a spirit of consensus and unanimity. However, I feel I must point out, as I did during the SJS exercise, that the United States at least takes a very firm view that the Review process change - not only in the FAO but across the entire UN system - must take place without a budgetary cost. "That is a consistent policy of my Government. That is the purpose of the Review: cost-effective delivery of what each UN institution does best. We know this is possible and we have seen it occur in other agencies. The process continues and we want to be a constructive part of it.

Joao LUSEVIKUENO (Angola): L'examen du document C 89/21 donne à ma délégation l'occasion d'adresser ses vives félicitations au professeur Mazoyer pour sa présentation combien éloquente de ce document, ainsi qu'au Directeur général à qui nous rendons hommage pour les détails qu'il nous a fournis.

Ma délégation se joint également aux précédents orateurs pour exprimer sa reconnaissance pour les propos en faveur de la FAO et qui rencontrent son entière satisfaction; elle profite à nouveau de cette occasion pour féliciter le représentant du Pakistan, Président du Groupe des 77 à Rome, pour les opinions favorables qu'il a bien voulu formuler.

Mon intervention se limitera à la Résolution 6/87 que nous avons adoptée à l'unanimité.

Toutefois, ma délégation n'est nullement surprise d'entendre des termes aussi importants que "croissance zéro" ... projet de budget trop élevé ... examen ou réforme de la FAO ... absorption des coûts ... avantage comparatif, etc.

La proposition sur la réforme de la FAO que nous avons rejetée au départ date de longtemps; ma délégation ne partage pas le point de vue de ceux qui l'avaient proposée parce que ces derniers estimaient que la FAO s'écarterait du mandat qui lui avait été donné à sa création, et que l'examen révélerait des carences dont l'élimination permettrait de dégager des ressources supplémentaires considérables pour le renforcement de l'Organisation. La somme de 2 millions de dollars E.-U. consentie pour l'examen aurait pu être utilisée par la FAO qui a des problèmes financiers du fait du manque de contributions de certains bailleurs de fonds.

De 1985 à 1989, période pendant laquelle l'idée de la réforme a été lancée jusqu'à la date d'aujourd'hui, date de l'adoption des recommandations du Comité financier et du Comité du programme, il a fallu quatre ans pour parvenir au terme de ce débat, alors que l'on aurait pu consacrer ce temps à des choses plus sérieuses, ainsi qu'on peut le constater dans les textes fondamentaux.

Il y a 14 ans, l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies avait adopté les Résolutions 3201 (S-VI) et 3202 (S-VI) qui contenaient la Déclaration et le Programme d'action sur l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique international ainsi que sur les négociations économiques globales, etc.

Combien de fois, M. le Président, ces résolutions n'ont-elles pas été réduites à leur plus simple expression et piétinées?... Cela est dû à l'esprit d'égoïsme qui caractérise certains pays qui ne veulent pas modifier la structure des systèmes actuels, créés et cimentés au détriment des pays en développement.

De ce fait, les pressions exercées aujourd'hui pour une réforme de la FAO ne devraient pas nous surprendre car c'est quelque chose que nous avons vécu ailleurs, plus particulièrement dans les organisations spécialisées des Nations Unies, à telle enseigne que l'ONU s'était vue menacée d'avoir à évacuer ses installations à New York, bien qu'un accord de siège l'y ait installée de façon permanente.

Entre-temps, ici, on fait des pressions, on exige la réforme; ailleurs, des systèmes de désordre et de déséquilibre ne cessent de nous pénaliser. La misère, la dette, le déséquilibre financier, la malnutrition, le protectionnisme, les subventions, l'exploitation sont de véritables faits saillants qu'il faudrait réformer.

Heureusement, comme je l'avais dit en Commission I, le système des Nations Unies a survécu à toutes les épreuves de notre temps; et ceux-là mêmes qui voulaient ignorer les Nations Unies comme étant une tribune pour l'action collective des Etats, ceux-là mêmes réalisent de plus en plus que l'Organisation mondiale est un instrument irremplaçable de régulation des relations internationales et de solution des problèmes internationaux qui nous concernent tous.

Sans les Nations Unies, il ne serait pas possible de parvenir à la démocratisation la plus profonde et la plus vaste possible des relations internationales. Cela me pousse à me poser la question de savoir quel serait l'avenir de l'humanité d'ici l'an 2000 si la FAO n'existait pas, et ce surtout pour les pays les plus démunis.

Ma délégation pense que priorité devrait être donnée à la solution des questions d'ordre structurel au niveau mondial. En effet, une interrelation existe entre les questions financières, monétaires, scientifiques, technologiques et agricoles; la réforme de la FAO dont il est question ici n'a qu'un aspect conjoncturel et ne peut être considérée comme prioritaire par ma délégation; nous pensons au contraire qu'elle a tendance à miner la FAO qui, pourtant, fonctionne bien en dépit de contraintes financières.

Comme mes prédécesseurs et au risque de se répéter, ma délégation estime qu'à ce stade il n'est plus possible de discuter des résultats de l'Examen; il faut plutôt faire adopter à l'unanimité les recommandations et conclusions proposées par le Comité du programme et le Comité financier.

Cephas GOODING (Barbados): The Barbados delegation wishes to express its deep appreciation for the very comprehensive introduction of this agenda item. We also wish to record our appreciation for the very useful and frank comments given by the Director-General.

The Review exercise was clearly a major undertaking. That is why we are particularly grateful to the Programme and Finance Committees, as well as to the two Expert Groups, for the very able manner in which they have executed the task assigned to them.

Over the years many developing countries have become increasingly dependent on the FAO for support and guidance in improving their capacity to feed themselves as well as to develop their agriculture generally. As a consequence, the demands on the resources of the Organization, both financial and manpower, have been increasing from year to year. Considerable pressure has, therefore, been placed on the Organization to stretch its resources further and further. It is, therefore, of deep concern to us to note that in real terms since 1975 there has been a decline in the level of financial resources available to the Organization to execute its development programme. That there should have been need to have some 5 percent of professional staff positions frozen presents cause for further concern.

Our delegation notes with deep satisfaction the initiatives of the Director-General to improve the operational efficiency of the FAO as well as his untiring efforts to respond in a constructive manner to the concerns of member countries. How can we but commend the management of the FAO for the restraint shown in the level of the Programme of Work and Budget in recent years? Since 1984-85 the level of the annual increase has not exceeded 1.17 percent. Let us also not forget the ever increasing transparency being introduced into the budget. We trust that this will permit a strengthening of member countries' confidence in the Organization generally and in the budgetary process in particular.

Our delegation is happy that the Review has found the FAO to be "a solid and dynamic institution". This, we feel, is a reflection of the ability of the Organization to respond positively to the needs of its members.

The FAO must continue to exercise prudence in the manner in which it spends the financial resources placed at its disposal. We have no problem with the fact that some US\$ 2 million of scarce financial resources has been spent on the Review, once the findings are utilized for the purposes of strengthening the Institution. We feel that every effort should be made to reach a consensus on the recommendations of the Review. In seeking to implement the recommendations of the Review, however, we feel that great care should be taken to ensure there is no reduction in the level of resources available for supporting agricultural developments in the developing countries.

We wish to urge that great care be taken in implemented measures which call for additional studies. We believe that as far as possible the institution's management machinery should be utilized in implementing the recommendations of the Review, provided of course that this does not place an undue burden on the existing resources.

For many developing countries, FAO's TCP is of particular significance in view of its flexibility and timeliness of delivery. Our delegation sees the need for an increase in the level of resources to the need available in this area. Further, we feel that FAO's effectiveness can be considerably enhanced through a strengthening of the capability of the Representatives' Office. We are in total support of the recommendations of the Review on this matter.

Mr Chairman, in your opening remarks, you suggested that delegates be concise in their interventions. I have sought to follow your guidelines in this regard. My final point related to the suggestion that there should be a linkage between the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget and the implementation of the recommendations of the Review. The Barbados delegation can see no advantage in this suggestion at this time. We, therefore, wish to stress that it is our view that the Programme of Work and Budget should be approved independently of the recommendations of the Review.

In general, of course, we wish to identify with the findings of the Review and lend our support to the recommendations.

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España) : Vamos a repetir aquí una vez más la expresión de nuestra satisfacción por los resultados obtenidos por el examen, así como por el modo que han trabajado los expertos y los Comités de Programas y Finanzas.

Estamos convencidos, de que la aplicación de estas conclusiones reforzará la capacidad de la FAO para hacer frente a los retos que plantea la evolución de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo para las décadas inmediatas.

Se mantiene pues la presencia de la FAO como necesaria; es más, como imprescindible en el panorama mundial y ninguna de sus actividades resulta innecesaria. Nosotros estamos de acuerdo con ella porque restringir, debilitar o suprimir cualquiera de las actividades que desempeña actualmente la Organización, provocaría indeseables desequilibrios en la asistencia a los países necesitados.

Tampoco creemos que deban suprimirse los ámbitos dentro de los que se desarrollan estas actividades, ámbitos que fueron acogidos favorablemente por la inmensa mayoría de los Estados Miembros en los distintos foros que hemos tenido hasta ahora, sin establecer ningún orden prioritario entre ellos.

Estamos también de acuerdo, en que se mantengan los tres tipos de funciones que actualmente desempeña la FAO. Creemos que se necesita mejorar su coordinación y se necesita reforzar las interpelaciones que existen entre las tres funciones. Para ello, los comités que existen ya en la FAO dentro del sector en que cada uno de ellos trabaja, pueden establecer un seguimiento de la asistencia técnica, por ejemplo, con lo cual se reforzaría el proceso de información complementaria, estudios y análisis, es decir, se reforzarían las otras funciones.

En los campos en que la FAO coincide con las actividades de otras organizaciones mundiales estamos de acuerdo en que se deben intensificar los contactos con esas otras organizaciones para lograr la necesaria coordinación y establecer los puntos prioritarios de colaboración mutua. Y en este sentido, señalamos el importante papel que tiene la FAO en el fomento de la expansión progresiva del libre comercio, asesorando al GATT y colaborando con la UNCTAD.

La FAD, debe también representar un papel de intenso refuerzo de la importancia y de la conciencia de la cooperación multilateral en sus relaciones con el Banco Mundial y con el PNUD. No vamos a continuar con más detalles sobre el papel y las actividades de la FAO señalados dentro del examen y en los cuales ya hemos señalado en anteriores ocasiones nuestros apoyos y nuestras referencias. Pero sí nos gustaría centrarnos en el proceso de puesta en práctica y financiación de las medidas que ha propuesto el examen y que ha propuesto el Director General. Creemos que es necesario estudiar con cuidado, una vez aprobadas estas medidas con las cuales estamos totalmente de acuerdo, su puesta en funcionamiento.

¿Cuándo? ¿cómo? y ¿con qué prioridad? Cada Comité del Consejo de la FAD, en su respectivo ámbito, debe estudiar las relaciones con estas propuestas y los Comités de Finanzas y de Programas establecerían las consecuencias de este trabajo y de este estudio, incorporándolas al programa y al presupuesto.

En cuanto a la financiación de las medidas que entendamos, seguramente será necesaria para la mayor parte de las que se han propuesto como financiables, habría que tener también en cuenta la eficacia y la preferencia para ponerlas en práctica, pero entendemos que la incorporación al presupuesto actual de esta financiación sería, dadas las condiciones de penuria económica, imposible.

Parece aconsejable que una posible financiación para el próximo bienio debería proceder de un fondo constituido al efecto, el cual se nutriría de las aportaciones de los países que más directamente están relacionados o que están interesados en las medidas que se proponen y en su puesta en práctica.

Para los bienios posteriores, los gastos recurrentes y aquellos que no hayan podido efectuarse por falta de recursos, deberían estar incluidos en la formulación del presupuesto y del Programa de Labores. En cualquier caso, señor Presidente, la delegación española entiende que la fórmula de consenso para la aprobación de las recomendaciones y su financiación es la más apropiada y estamos dispuestos a colaborar con los demás Estados Miembros y con la Secretaría para llegar a una fórmula de acuerdo.

Hermann REDL (Austria) (original language German): First of all I would like to thank Professor Mazoyer and also the Director-General, Mr Saoura, for their words of introduction. I believe that there is no doubt here that we all want and need a strong and efficient FAO and that we have therefore to meet the needs in the future of the developing countries. This is all the more necessary since the world population in a very few years will be more than six billion.

Austria approves the FAO contribution but that means that we also will fulfil our financial obligations in due time. At the beginning of this year we already transferred our contribution and this we will also do in the future.

I have already said that we want an FAO which is as efficient as possible and the present objectives of FAD, we believe, should be properly strengthened and where necessary should be adjusted to the new situation. We therefore give support to what was said earlier by the French delegate concerning the strengthening of the Programme Committee and we give full support to the main roles of the FAD, the global information centre, international forum for information and technical assistance. We cannot see the point in isolation since often they are complementary, or in fact form an overall and single unit. We want a dynamic FAO which can fully meet its obligations and mandate. This is why we are in favour of decentralization wherever this is purposeful and useful.

We can give support to the future work of FAO in connection with the Uruguay Round, also its work in the field of environmental protection, including its work in cooperation with other international organizations and also its work in the important fields of biotechnology, the role and participation of women and rural families in the framework of rural development and last, but not least, we support actions in tropical forestry planning.

Any kind of restructuring or reform at the FAO must obviously go hand in hand and be seen together with the present financial situation. Reforms for us means restructuring or adjustment of individual departments to new situations. The making available of further resources seems to us to be unrealistic at the moment and this is why we have to try with present

resources to optimize the results. All available resources must be used in the most useful and purposeful manner. Therefore, we believe that the recommendations before us should be given order of priority and a medium-term plan be made as far as their implementation is concerned, even to cover different implementation periods.

The international community does expect that we should very soon decide on activities and the Austrian delegation does hope that after difficult negotiations it will be possible to find a consensus in this very difficult field.

Petr ZIZKA (Czechoslovakia): Considering the changes in the structures, programme orientation and style and forms of FAO's activities, it is highly important, as the Czechoslovak delegation sees it, to take into account the need for finding a most effective and prompt solution to the critical food problem, in order to put an end to the situation in which millions of people on this planet still suffer from starvation. This will require, first of all, in all parts of the world to build adequate agrarian structures that would become pillars of international food security and that would create possibilities for development of agriculture and food production, both at the national and regional or global levels. It would be wrong not to see that the way to making this target a reality is not going to be easy. This adds to the importance of thorough consideration of every step in carrying out reforms within the FAD: the fruitful exchange of views and proposals representing the standpoints, requirements and interests of all countries should lead to real progress in the rationalization of the international community's efforts to solve the problems of agriculture and food production.

For this reason we consider it necessary to stress again our clear and firm support to the universal and democratic nature of the FAO as the basic political prerequisite for solving other questions. In negotiations concerning the problems of the reform it is, and will remain, our primary principle that the basic problems concerning the objectives and activities of the FAO are exclusively the matter of the governments of FAO member countries and of FAO's supreme authorities. On the other hand, it is impossible not to see that the present needs of the world's agricultural and food production and the problems associated with the efforts to meet them, call for some rational adjustments of the structures, methods and orientation of activities of the FAO as one of the most important international authorities in its field. Changes should be made in some sections of the FAO Secretariat in order to improve the quality and effectiveness of their work.

The Czechoslovak delegation subscribes to the ever-increasing interest to the fundamental principle, that of adjustment and balanced geographical representation in all FAO organs and bodies as well as of the equitable geographic distribution of FAO's professional staff, both at Headquarters and in the field.

The proposals to change the process of decision-making within FAO bodies is considered by the Czechoslovak delegation from the point of view of securing flexible and optimum management of FAO activities, but we are of the opinion that any decision concerning an important mechanism of FAO's decision-making process should be taken in full conformity with the present FAO Constitution and should not involve extensive financial implication.

What we consider a serious feature of the discussion on reforms in the FAO is the need for improving the mechanism of coordination of the activity of the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system with that of the bodies and sections of the FAO, those in Rome as well as those in the field.

As to the orientation of FAO's activity, Czechoslovakia considers it important to further develop the Organization's technical aid programmes, its advisory, analytic and coordinating work. Due attention should also be paid, at any rate, to FAO's tasks in the field of statistics and in the evaluation of the agrarian and food policies. Provision of wide and high-quality training and education of national experts is, in our view, among the top priorities of FAO's activity. All the activities of the Organization should strictly respect the principles of environment, conservation and sustainable development in order to avoid errors made by many countries during the development of their economies, including agriculture and food production. FAO should continue to give consideration to sustainable agriculture and that there is a need for a more concrete definition of the very concept of sustainable development to be included in the Basic Texts.

Yesterday I attentively followed the speech of the delegate from Pakistan. The Czechoslovak delegation strongly supports the position of the Group of 77 that FAO should strengthen its field programme and thus improve its efficiency and effectiveness. As a matter of fact, Czechoslovakia has always supported the just interests of developing countries in safeguarding the importance and essentiality of FAO's technical assistance role and FAO providing a variety of roving technical assistance to them and we will continue to do so in future.

Czechoslovakia considers it to be desirable that FAO activities be further oriented towards the objectives of the New Economic Order in FAO's field of competence. As a result of the Review exercise, FAO can and should play an enhanced role in this respect.

Before concluding, let me say that this morning I have received necessary information and I can state that my delegation would like to support the adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget by consensus.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que nous allons arrêter là notre travail de ce matin. Je voudrais porter à votre connaissance que le document C 89/II/REP.I, c'est-à-dire le rapport de notre Commission sur le Programme de travail et budget, est actuellement disponible, et nous l'adopterons cet après-midi. Cet après-midi donc, nous serons obligés peut-être, après quelques interventions, d'interrompre momentanément nos débats pour adopter ce rapport. Nous poursuivrons ensuite nos débats jusqu'à épuisement. J'espère que vous mettrez à profit l'heure du déjeuner pour vous imprégner de ce rapport.

Je vous signale que la première délégation qui interviendra cet après-midi est l'Ethiopie.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 89/II/PV/11

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

TWELFTH MEETING OUZIEME SEANCE 12ª SESION (21 November 1989)

The Twelfth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairnan of Commission II, presiding

La douzième séance est ouverte à 15 heures
sous la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 12 a sesión a las 15.00 horas
bajo la presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II

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

- 15. Conclusions of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations (continued)
- 15. Conclusions de l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO (suite)
- 15. Conclusiones del examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAO (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Comme je l'ai dit avant que nous ne nous quittons, c'est l'Ethiopie qui va lancer les hostilités cet après-midi. Je donne la parole au représentant de l'Ethiopie.

Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): The delegation of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia had the honour of offering its services in the Joint Committees and had examined the document which is presented for consideration of the Conference. As the introduction made by Mr Mazoyer and the Director-General yesterday reflected the views and concerns expressed during the four sessions of the Joint Committees, the Ethiopian delegation has no intention of intervening on this item. After the deliberation of the discussions that we had yesterday and today, however, our delegation felt that it should reaffirm its position and clear its views even though these were expressed during discussions of the various sessions. I will, therefore, make some observations in relation to this Review being considered without going into greater detail.

The guiding principles upon which this Review was based are expressed in Resolution 6/87 and reports of the discussion during the adoption of the resolution. We, therefore, have no intention of repeating this resolution and its contents.

As was indicated in the documents before us, the teams of experts and the Joint Committees have clearly voiced that the FAO has demonstrated innovations and has been responsive to changing global needs. However, the scope for strengthening the Organization was not refuted and, therefore, the 32 recommendations presented in the document that we have before us have emerged.

In the report that follows, I will try to summarize the views of the Ethiopian delegation on some of these recommendations. To begin with, firstly, the roles; we strongly feel that the three roles spelled out in the Constitution of the Organization are complementary to each other and inseparable, whose priority setting is extremely difficult. All the three roles being of a reinforcing nature to each other, the absence of any one could negatively affect the implementation of the remaining two. It is, therefore, of utmost importance to consider all the three roles on equal terms in relation to each other and the need for emphasizing their complementarity. We, therefore, feel that resource allocations to all these areas should be seen in the light of the above relationships rather than priority of one over the other.

Secondly, with regard to medium-term objectives, the Committee's consideration of the detailed analysis of FAO's mandate and its medium-term objectives under the seven main headings and the multitude of lesser objectives and ongoing sub-programmes under these seven objectives are in line with practically acceptable recommendations, to which we subscribe our support.

FAO's role as a global information centre on agriculture, FAO's policy role, its role in research and transfer of technology, its role in technical assistance, its role in the New International Economic Order, to mention just a few, are all areas for strengthening and we would like to voice our agreement with the objective of strengthening them.

As fulfilment of resources required for the areas of agriculture and food is still at a very low and rudimentary stage, the need for mobilizing more resources rather than worrying about overlapping and shared responsibility is a more appealing and logical process because of our collective responsibility, to which we attach importance. Thus, the area of agriculture, agricultural development and production of adequate food for the global growing population is important.

The reintroduction of medium-term plans covering the three biennia and the confirmation of the programme budget process for another biennium were considered in the light of their contribution toward accommodating the wishes of Member Nations even though their additional past implications could be questioned at this stage. We have accepted this recommendation too.

Thirdly, the recommendations : the Joint Committees have explored the 32 recommendations which are incorporated in the document and which were also considered by the Team of Experts for strengthening the Organization. Bearing in mind the situation toward financing these recommendations, only 20 are considered to be implemented.

Four alternatives for sources of financing proposed by the Committees under paragraph 5.3 were considered acceptable even though we do have serious concern on the second alternative which required the Director-General to make programme adjustments. As we were dealing with matters within the Organization, whose programme implementations have been constrained to the extent of programme cuts amounting to US\$ 45 million in the last four years, we have a fear that programme adjustments over and above those might endanger some of the remaining services and there will be a danger of further reductions.

Among the 20 recommendations having a cost implication of US\$ 26.7 million only US\$ 8.4 million is proposed for extra-budgetary funding whereas the remaining US\$ 18.3 million are to be on a Regular Programme funding basis. In the past the discussion has always been finding acceptable projects and funding has always been considered as no problem. Now it is being proposed to us that it will have to be funded on a Regular Programme resource. We, therefore, would like to express our preference in seeing that all recommendations be considered for additional funding of an extra-budgetary nature and gradually incorporated into the Regular Programme in some future biennia. In considering this funding the priority indicated by the Director-General could pose no problem for our delegation, though we could have preferred to see all of them implemented at the same time.

Recommendations that are contained in this document and emerge as a result of the Review are new lines that are to be considered for implementation based on a number of criteria. Consideration of these recommendations for implementation will take time. The budgeting and planning of the Regular Programme is a continuous process whose interruption could have far-reaching implications. We, therefore, feel that relating the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget to the Review is unacceptable to our delegation.

Finally, but not least, we would like to reaffirm our support for the recommendations contained in document C 89/21 with an appeal that those recommendations be considered as grounds for consensus and we express our support for the spot rate of exchange with a backup support of the Special Reserve Account.

Gantcho GANTCHEV (Bulgaria): I would like, as with other delegates, to congratulate the Chairman and all members of the Programme and Finance Committees on the results they have achieved in reviewing FAO Goals and Operations in accordance with Resolution 6/87.

Our delegation welcomes the conclusions and recommendations included in the report of the Joint Session. We also support the proposals made by the Director-General as presented in his views and comments in this regard.

The intention of my intervention is not only to mention explicitly some of the proposals and recommendations which our delegation strongly supports but rather to present some comments which we consider could be important at this stage of the discussion.

Firstly, I would like once again to underline that the main results of the Review exercise are positive and that their implementation, in our view, will definitely contribute to the improvement in efficiency and effectiveness of FAO's activities. In this connection we strongly support the view that FAO should continue to have a leading role in the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

As far as our delegation is concerned, we are particularly interested in the strengthening of cooperation in the environmental aspects of agricultural development, provision of information and technical assistance, science and technology, TCP activities, not enumerating all of them.

We also support the proposals for the establishment of more closer cooperation and interaction between FAO and the other international organizations in the United Nations system and share the views already expressed during the discussion that this could contribute to the achievement of more complex and result-oriented solutions of the problems of development facing developing countries. Of special importance we consider the development of a close relationship with GATT and other organizations stationed in Rome that deal with food problems.

Our delegation also has some hesitation about the necessity to set up a New Inspection Unit and we share the comments made by the Director-General that it may be premature to take such a decision. I would like to state that we prefer to consider the possibilities of strengthening the Evaluation Service as it is proposed by the Director-General rather than to establish a separate unit dealing with field inspection.

We listened with great interest to the statement made yesterday by the distinguished Ambassador of France. I would not say that we share all his views but it seems to us there is room for some recalculation or re-estimation, if you like, of the financial implications of some of the conclusions and recommendations proposed. I am far from asserting that it will be possible to implement all of them without allocation of financial resources, but nevertheless it may be helpful to look once again at this matter and, with the efficient aid of the Secretariat, to try to find more reasonable solutions. Perhaps this could help to bring us to a consensus solution which we suppose all delegations are interested in.

One more observation which in our view may contribute to the solution of the most critical question: I have in mind the proposal made yesterday and supported by some delegations today, the substance of which was to consider the possibilities for some prioritization in the implementation of the recommendations and proposals contained in the Report of the Joint Session and the views and comments presented by the Director-General. We support the proposal to explore once again more precisely this idea and all possibilities in this regard.

Finally I would like to bring to the attention of the delegates our understanding about the future use of some of the recommendations and conclusions which we are discussing now. We will propose, after the adoption hopefully by consensus, these conclusions and recommendations be presented to the principal subsidiary bodies of this Organization with clear instructions to take fully into account the relevant recommendations and conclusions in their work and especially the process of formulation and implementation of their own activities.

In conclusion let me once again recommend the adoption of the proposals and the recommendations made by the SJS and the Director-General by consensus.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Mi gobierno da la mayor importancia al multilateralismo por ser la única instancia para tratar, sobre una base de igualdad con miras a un mutuo beneficio, la solución de problemas que superan el ámbito nacional.

Bajo ese principio, mi delegación se ha empeñado siempre con la mayor voluntad de diálogo en la trascendental tarea de reforzar a la FAO que es la Organización encargada, dentro de nuestro sistema de Naciones Unidas, de dar asistencia en el sector del desarrollo agrícola y alimentario con el objeto de que esté a la altura de las demandas crecientes de sus Estados Miembros.

Como habíamos siempre sostenido, la gran mayoría de los países hemos siempre considerado a la FAO como una Organización sana y eficaz que ha ido adaptándose a las necesidades de los países y al cambio del entorno en que actúa su ámbito de acción. Esa tendencia, fue coyunturalmente afectada por presiones de vario tipo pero fundamentalmente económicas, que actuaron directa o indirectamente para introducir un proceso de revisión extraordinario que el Grupo de los 77 aceptó como una forma de compromiso y diálogo para fortalecer a nuestra Organización y a fin de que pudiera recuperar su plena capacidad técnica y financiera. Durante la Conferencia pasada y en base a un proceso previo donde todos tuvimos la oportunidad de expresar nuestras posiciones e intereses, documentándolos con suficiente antelación, se convino y aprobó la Resolución 6/87 que determinó el marco y el mecanismo para que los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, apoyados por un

grupo de expertos con una representación regional y universal, realizara el examen convenido. Ese proceso llega hoy a su fin con resultados muy constructivos y con un muy amplio consenso, salvo en pequeñas divergencias muy identificadas. El estudio ha respondido a los intereses de todos los Estados Miembros y sus conclusiones y sus recomendaciones merecen todo nuestro apoyo porque responden al interés de reforzar nuestra Organización en beneficio de todos nuestros países.

Durante todo este tiempo hemos estado abiertos a la discusión y al diálogo y creemos que podemos continuarlo y obtener así un consenso. Si a esto se añade la voluntad de que los buenos resultados logrados por el examen convenido se cristalicen, tenemos una amplia franja de elementos que nos unen en cuanto a objetivos, prioridades comunes, uso eficiente de los recursos y muchos otros más.

Evidentemente, en términos prácticos, la ejecución de las recomendaciones tiene un costo adicional y los países en desarrollo, si bien las apoyamos, no estamos en posibilidad de financiarlas. Por eso hacemos un llamamiento muy atento a los países que están en posibilidad de hacerlo, de hacer las contribuciones adicionales para instrumentarlos. Esto permitiría que los resultados del examen fructificasen lo más pronto posible pues aquí se trata de una aplicación en fases y en la medida que existen recursos, éstos pueden acelerarse.

Mi declaración, señor Presidente, se detendrá en este punto porque coincidimos en los aspectos ya puntualizados con la declaración que el honorable delegado de Pakistán, Presidente del Grupo de los 77, ha hecho al inicio del debate.

En estos mementos, señor Presidente, yo quiero anunciar que un grupo importante de países en vías de desarrollo, presentamos una resolución en relación con el examen de los efectivos, estrategias y metas de nuestra Organización, conforme a lo convenido dentro del marco de la resolución 6/87. Este proyecto de resolución incorpora ya elementos que provienen de las negociaciones informales que hemos tenido con varios grupos. Esta resolución parte de la base que la Organización somos todos, que la Organización nos debe servir a todos y que pasando de los constructivos resultados obtenidos a través del mecanismo que se estableció para ello, abre un campo para que en su implementación, que nosotros consideramos debe ser por fases, como lo dije antes, estas fases podrán acelerarse en la medida en que existan los recursos para ello y la anunciamos a fin de que puedan tener la marcha que se establece de acuerdo con los Textos Básicos y, señor Presidente, esperamos que esta resolución, que presentamos con el mayor espíritu de diálogo y voluntad, pueda servir de base para que trabajemos en búsqueda de un resultado consensual que permita cerrar este ejercicio de revisión con el propósito con que lo iniciamos. El propósito de reforzar nuestro Organismo para que sea más útil y más fuerte para todos los que nos interesamos y creo que es un patrimonio común en los aspectos de la alimentación y de la agricultura de nuestros pueblos.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi, Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): The

work we are undertaking and the topic we have been discussing during the two or three days is actually the outcome of the efforts, great efforts indeed, which were undertaken by the Finance and Programme Committees. These efforts were made throughout the two years so this outcome or these results require

full respect and full appreciation from us all and we wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the members of these Committees, the Programme and Finance Committees. Our special thanks should go to the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Professor Mazoyer.

In this connection I would like to point out that most of these recommendations have been accepted by consensus but nevertheless we should not lose sight of an important matter: how this consensus was reached. This consensus did not take place easily or simply, as it were, but it was reached after lengthy discussion. It was reached after sound dialogue which was far away from tension or conflict among the various members. Of course, a number of concessions were made by the different members of the two Committees and after that we were able to reach consensus about the great part of these documents, so I wish to say that the consensus was reached not easily, not in a simple fashion, but it was the outcome of lengthy work which took two years and in our view this means, if we are genuinely seeking in this Conference to promote and enhance the capabilities of our Organization, consensus should not be something that is impossible and therefore we should not be quick, and we should reap the fruits of the work of the two Committees which took two years to achieve.

During our last session of the Council we pointed out that my delegation supports these texts, or the majority of the parts of these texts. We believe in that dialogue within the spirit of democracy, which prevailed during our meetings, this spirit urges us to support these causes and these issues which were the object of consensus from the various members of the two Committees. As we have already stated during the Council session, and we reiterate our position in this connection, we are quite ready to cooperate but this should take place within the framework of the mandate of the Review process itself. I repeat that we should have prior notification of these elements and this mandate. As you know, these two Committees did not work secretly or behind the scenes but rather all the members of the two Committees were well aware of the mandate of the two Committees and the Resolutions 6, 7 and 8.

Within the framework of the Council sessions we dealt with the problems of transfer of technology and cooperation between developed and developing countries, the Technological Cooperation Programme and the staff questions and the identification of priorities and activities; we dealt with all these matters and we endorsed the recommendations thereon. We also dealt with the topic of decentralization and we have stated that we are not against the reactivation of the strengthening of the offices but we know that the regional offices are the core or the heart of the activities of collecting important and vital data and information.

As far as prioritization is concerned, we have stated and recalled that these priorities should be subjected to the resolutions from the Regional Conferences and we think that these priorities should not only emanate from the governing bodies.

We have pointed out and we are still referring to the medium-term plan and we have stated that it should take into account the priorities and the activities proposed during the various regional conferences and we fully believe that this is an experience which could be made by our Organization. This is a useful experience, it might be successful, it might not be successful, but there is no harm in making this experience.

As for the resources, we think that we ought to have a sort of indication as far as resources are concerned.

We have also dealt with sustainable development and we are still dealing with this matter at present. We feel that there is a strong need to reactivate cooperation between the different agencies and organizations. We should prenote cooperation and coordination between the various specialized agencies and organizations and we do know that the Organization can play a pioneering role in this connection, especially as far as the environment is concerned, because we know that soil should be conserved and we should pay great attention to the environment and environmental considerations.

Undoubtedly, there are some simple and few issues which might be pending and which could not be the object of consensus, but the delegate of Saudi Arabia believes that through fruitful and reasonable dialogue, through farsightedness and wisdom, we can always settle the pending issues.

I have listened with great attention to the various presentations of Member Nations, especially those who gave me the impression that they are afraid or fearful about the future of our Organization, but I do say that if we are quite honest and sincere we cannot but reach success.

I have listened to some delegations questioning the value of this Review and also questioning the results and outcome of this Review. But I wish to state in this connection that the Programme and Finance Committees are responsible for and capable of assuming this responsibility. The members of these two Committees are members in the Council, members of this Organization, and therefore they are the long-serving members in this Organization and they are well aware of the problems of this Organization. We have no doubt about the competence of the members of these two Committees and we are quite sure about their anxiety and desire to serve this Organization, and on their desire and on our common responsibility rests the future of our Organization.

Furthermore, we should not lose sight of another matter. These two Committees were in accordance with the well-defined and clear-cut instructions and hence these two Committees cannot trespass or violate these definite recommendations and instructions. Therefore, they received these instructions from the Council and they are bound to respect and observe these instructions. Therefore, Mir Chairman, your own proposals and your own observations are very useful to the members of these two Committees. I wish to say this, basing myself on my experience, which is about twelve years old, and I could say that this has been a useful experience.

Some voices have called for the contribution or participation of all Member States in the activities of the Organization - I mean all the members of the Organization - and here is the question, how can this be possible? We are here representing our respective countries, we are following the activities undertaken by the Organization, we work within the different bodies and Committees, and we do not think that we should be reporting to our respective countries about the activities of the Organization on a weekly basis; this is quite impossible.

Some also referred to the high priority of a number of activities and to other activities which are of lower priority. Of course this is sound logic. There are some high-priority areas and some others of lower priority. But in Saudi Arabia, for instance, we have a number of activities to which we give very high priority and this is not automatically in conformity with the priority of our Organization, this is a national choice. Hence I would like to say that these priorities might differ from one department to another within the same Organization. Some activities in a given department have a

high priority, while the same activity is given a lower priority in another department. Hence the core issue is the cost of the implementation of these recommendations. These costs are an important and delicate matter and I wish to make an appeal to all Member States to deal with the topic in sincerity and in good faith, because without good faith we cannot act in a positive manner.

We fully acknowledge that the Organization is competent enough to identify its own priorities. This Organization has been working for forty-five years. Some competent people are working in this Organization and they are able enough to take the appropriate decisions. I say we - and I do not mean Saudi Arabia but I mean we, the group of Member Nations - we are requesting absorption of this cost from the budget. Some are requesting the absorption of the cost of the recommendations, because we know that the Director-General can do this. Twenty-five million dollars or more, this sum can be absorbed from within the budget, but how could this happen, how can the Director-General do it? This would mean a cut in a number of technical activities and technical programmes. So if we request the Director-General to do this it would mean that a number of technical activities would be cut and if this is done we should not blame the Director-General for having had recourse to this choice. Are we ready to accept such a choice? Anyway, we should not forget that we have some frozen assets of the Organization, around US\$ 190 million in arrears and unpaid contributions. These are frozen sums. In addition there are some debts of the Organization, some invoices and bills have not been paid by the Organization, and we do not know what would be the result of these things. Furthermore, there is an increase in the requests from developing countries. A number of cuts made by the Director-General during 1988/89 amounted to around US\$ 45 million.

In addition to that there are some requests and calls to apply a zero growth principle and we support the zero growth principle. As for the other calls, we see that there are a great number of calls and requests. If we make all these calls and then ask the Director-General to apply the recommendations how can we request such a thing? Hence, we call upon all Member States to reflect fully on this problem. All of us, we are not present here to challenge the Director-General, we are not here to challenge the Organization's developing countries or other developed countries. We are all present here to give our support to the Organization, to give at least our moral support to the Organization in order to assist the Organization and the Secretariat. We have come here to exchange views concerning the number of problems faced by developing countries, these countries that are suffering a great deal. The problems of these countries are much more dangerous than the Review itself, hence these countries are in dire need of our support and the support of the Organization.

I remember that I have referred to the budget of 1990-91. I have said that this budget is a psychological budget.

I believe that it is true. Everything is acceptable provided it is logical and reasonable; we are ready to accept anything. At the same time, however, these proposals should be reasonable and understandable. We should stress the importance of assuming our responsibilities.

Finally, I wish to make an appeal so that our decision and resolution about this recommendation is taken by consensus.

Dragoljub DIMITRIJEVIC (Yugoslavia) : Since we fully adhere to the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77, at this stage of debate we shall be very brief.

Let me first express our appreciation for the introductory comments made by the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the Director-General. The two Committees have indeed done a marvellous job and have proved that the confidence placed in them by the Conference in 1987 was fully justified.

The picture of FAO which emerged from the review process, i.e. of a solid and dynamic international organization which compares favourably with similar organizations of the UN family, was very much like the one we had in mind in 1987. That is why Yugoslavia opposed the need for the review and then, with enormous reluctance, agreed to go along with it.

Mr Chairman, we have been through a long and costly process, one which drained quite an amount of our resources in the midst of an unprecedented financial crisis in FAD. Whether it was worth spending essentially depends on the outcome of our debate. If, as we very much hope, the outcome renews a sense of unity of the FAO membership on the strategy, priorities and working methods of the Organization, then the money spent should not be considered as wasted.

As far as Yugoslavia is concerned, by far the most important outcome of the Review is that the Constitution and General Rules of the Organization will continue to serve the membership in the future as efficiently as they have done over the last 40 years. In our view, this point has to feature very prominently in the outcome of the debate.

I have hardly anything to add on the strategy and priorities. The two Committees have reached almost full consensus on these issues and, as we see, the Director-General is also in agreement with the recommendations of the two Committees. It is our hope that the few issues which still appear to be somewhat controversial will be resolved during debate. Like so many other delegations, we also feel strongly that this Conference should mark the end of the review process as far as concepts and ideas are concerned. Indeed, we do not see why and how the review mandate should be extended by bringing in some aspects that were discussed at length and rejected two years ago.

On the resources needed to cover a set of long-term priorities highlighted by the experts and the two Committees, obviously there should be no illusion that all these could be accommodated within existing resources. It could be done only in part so that the real issue before us is to discuss the timeframe within which the long list of priorities could be gradually implemented in the next few biennia if there is no possibility of measurably increasing the Regular Programme funds.

Finally, on the mechanism to negotiate the outcome of our debate, we have an open mind. It may suffice to say at this stage that we agree with the stance of the Group of 77 on this issue.

Geoffrey Lee MILLER (Australia): Mr Chairman, may I begin by complimenting you on the very good work you are doing in steering the work of this Commission. As you know, John Kerin and I had to spend some 28 hours on an aeroplane to get to this Conference. If you spend 28 hours on an aeroplane you are a captive of that environment and there is nothing else to do but

eat, sleep and read FAO documents! Having read those documents very carefully for 28 hours, I must say that I strongly compliment all of those associated with this Review - the Chairman, the expert groups, the SJS, the Council, Members of the Rome delegations and home-based representatives - who flew backwards and forwards many times in the course of this exercise to get it done and to get it done well. I was talking to one delegate who told me he had personally put in more than one hundred hours in working on that Review. Of course, the Director-General and his staff have put so much hard work into this exercise to make it as successful as it has been. If we remember the conflict of 1987, I was not here in 1987, I was back in Australia, but even in Australia the earth moved in 1987 during the course of the FAO Conference. Some of us, of course, still harbour some grievances about the events of 1987. Some regret that the Review was undertaken at all. I do not agree with either, that is with those who say we have wasted \$ 2 million on getting a clean bill of health, they have not read the Reports or at least they have not read them with an open mind; or those who wish formally to reopen the review process by adding more formal reviews to this exercise. Our task is to build on all this good work and to reinforce the common purpose of this Organization.

Australia is in broad agreement with the SJS Report. You all know that because we were there. We agree with the redefinition of roles of the Organization as far they have been able to be taken, with the better targeting, with the priority setting and the review of the Field Programmes. The guidelines are all there in the SJS Report.

We agree with using the principle of comparative advantage as a basis for determining the unique roles of this specialized agency, as a basis for defining its interfaces with WHO, with UNDP and with other food agencies. There are many other very useful recommendations to be found in those reports.

We also agree with what the Director-General has had to say about cooperation with the GATT, although I would add "when appropriate". We must remember that the disputes settlement machinery of the GATT will not kick into gear until after the negotiations are completed at the end of 1990.

If we look at the report of the Committees, it is a very good report. It is an adequate reflection of the views of all of the participants in this exercise. There are many words in there, words like "most", "all", "a few", "a majority", "some". We could dispute those Words here in this session until the cows come home, but nothing would change. There are very few major differences, and the major differences are indeed covered by the statement of views reflected in that document, Many of us might want to rewrite, but let us remember that due process has been followed.

Let us now come to the issue of budget and funding. If we talk about building a consensus, it is really this issue that we must focus our attention on. If we want a consensus, each of us must state our own position clearly, but we must then listen to others - and listen to others with some reasonable sensitivity and respect. I have tried very hard to do that. I have been listening to others very carefully during this debate, and I have been talking to them in the corridors. Let me say that desire for consensus is overwhelmingly strong amongst the individual delegates here at this Conference. I sometimes think that we are a bit like gladiators, that none of us wants to get into a fight but once we get put into the forum, once we get put into the den, we seem to get impelled to exercise our differences rather than the things that we share in common. If we were gladiators, we would have

the sure knowledge that if we entered the Colosseum and we won then we must eventually die. So it is with FAD. If the majority within FAO persists in winning, I believe that FAO will progressively wither and die. We have no monk who is prepared to cast himself before the masses and be stoned to death to save us. Therefore we really have the job ahead of us of saving ourselves.

Australia's position on this is quite clear from what we have said in Plenary. When I addressed the Plenary I heartily endorsed what the Director-General had to say in his opening comments on the FAO Review:

"The World is going to need a stronger FAO, and FAO is going to need stronger support from the world."

I added another paragraph and I will quote that:

"... 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 to consolidate and replenish itself ... ", to refill its coffers.

I can understand that there might be many here who will regard those comments from me with some cynicism and perhaps consider that I am like St. Augustine who, when he was having a very good time, was reported to have prayed "Oh Lord, please make me virtuous - but not now!" That is not the case here. We are committed here to work to build a stronger FAO, and that is what this exercise these past two years has been about.

To state Australia's position quite clearly, we do not support the priority categorization suggested by the Director-General in his comments on the Review. We do not endorse the funding estimates contained on page 18. We merely note them. More importantly, we have not been asked explicitly to endorse these priorities or these numbers. We note them, we respect them, but this is now a management problem. We must let the managers manage.

The Review is now over for implementation under the guidance of the Programme and Finance Committees, but implementation is important. That Review must, with all that good work, now be implemented with sensitivity for minority views. I believe that we can leave the Director-General and the Committees very confidently at the end of this Conference knowing that they will get on and do just that.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom) : The United Kingdom has asked for the floor rather late in this very interesting discussion. The delegate from Guinea rightly called for a continuation of the attitude of constructive dialogue that had prevailed so far in our discussions of the draft Programme of Work and Budget and the reviews of the Regular and Field Programmes. Mr Chairman, I must say that after your own reference to returning to the battle and the gladiatorial metaphors of my Australian colleague, I feel a little more worried about that. But perhaps these are only metaphors, not to be taken too seriously, though the lessons behind them might be quite serious.

We have listened very carefully to the interventions made by other countries because we wanted to take on board fully what they are saying. We want to have a real debate and not just a succession of previously prepared statements. Like others, we thank the distinguished individuals who formed the membership of the two Committees and who made up the two Expert Groups.

Now it is for the Member States to make up their minds on the validity of the recommendations and to follow the logic of where they point us on the next stage on the ladder of implementation. I hope we can do so in the spirit of searching for what is right rather than who is right, That is surely the way to reach an agreement on possible decisions by the Conference, for which the delegate of Côte d'Ivoire called.

I begin then by commenting on the three major roles of the Organization. The delegate for Bangladesh feared that richer countries would put more emphasis on FAO's information role, while the poorer members would wish rather to emphasize its function as a provider of technical assistance and a catalyst for providing other resources. Let me reassure him that my country at least, like the delegate of Cuba, gives priority to most needy countries and therefore we have an over-riding interest in the effective delivery of assistance.

The question is, how to achieve that since, as the experts, the SJS, the Director-General and others such as the Ambassador for Lesotho have said, we need to seize the opportunities for making FAO more efficient and effective.

What then are the deficiencies that we need to cure? The Ambassador of Lesotho referred to the finding that FAO's spectrum of responsibilities and activities has grown so large as to endanger the quality of its work over the longer term, and he called in particular for a set of guidelines accepting the responsibility for planning and executing the field programmes. The delegate of Bangladesh also mentioned this specific finding. We support that proposal.

One clear step that should be taken emerged from the Review of the Field Programme. In passing, I must say I think we should all be ashamed of ourselves for confining our examination of the Review to less than one day. The Field Programme, after all, is far larger than Regular Budget Activities and it is of far more importance to developing country members. Nothing could prove more clearly the need to change the arrangements for Member States' supervision of all FAO's operational activities.

The lesson brought out by the Field Programme Review is that, as many field representatives have said, operational activities in the weakest and poorest countries which form the majority of FAO's activities, should be refocused and concentrated on agreed longer-term programmes of institutional developments. This is the way to achieve the institutional and human resource development called for by the delegate of Nigeria. Several delegates, including the delegate of Bangladesh, praised the Investment Centre which we too regard highly.

What dismays us, however, is that over the last decade the Field Programme has generated only 10 percent of the investments actually needed for financing. Something clearly needs improving here. We want a greater impact from operational activities - real money invested in real projects, like those financed by IFAD.

Here perhaps is where we should consider the widely expressed view that the TCP should have a larger share of resources. Apart from its emergency use, the TCP is increasingly being used for project formulation and separation. Here it has a special value as a catalyst of development action, which are the words used by the delegate from Guinea-Bissau and I think it is the sentiment that was expressed by the delegate of Cuba. In an earlier debate we also supported the views of Brazil on this subject. But, to work properly,

all these operational activities need to be based on the specific needs of individual countries, which was a point made by several delegates and most recently by the delegate of Saudi Arabia. They have also stressed the importance of working closely with other bodies such as the Regional Development Bank, the World Bank and the UNDP.

As we talk, a simultaneous *débate* is going on in New York about how to improve the operational activities of the UN system as a whole, including of course FAO. The idea is gaining ground there that each country should make a specific statement of its own plan for using UN assistance from whatever agency. The delegate of Cuba gave us an interesting example from his own country, and he recommended it as a general policy. Such a statement by each country seems to us sensible and likely to enhance the impact of all UN assistance. The Trust Funds and TCP should also take this direction, as recommended by the Expert Group.

The proposals now being discussed in New York also recommend that each agency should create a supervisory committee on all its operational activities. I think this justifies our taking another look at this idea, but obviously the Governing Bodies should only take a decision upon it later in 1990 after the Director-General has worked out proposals when the full scope of the UN recommendations are clear.

The delegate of Egypt stressed the importance of evaluation and feedback, which is also put right in the forefront of the Director-General's comments on the Regular Programme Review. To make this work properly we need a routine analysis of sector and country evaluation findings and the other steps recommended in C 89/5, including an analysis of cost effectiveness.

Overall, however, we believe that the Organization needs a clear understanding of the national and local circumstances in each recipient Member State, both at Headquarters and in the field, if it is to design and carry out effective multi-disciplinary operational activities and to act as a really good catalyst for investments paid for by others. I note that evaluation of the ARPA programme for Africa showed a dissipation of the benefits from the country-focused identification of projects, because responsibility for their implementation and monitoring was then scattered throughout the Organization. I will come back to this in a minute.

First, however, let us look at policy analysis and the role of FAO. We are really talking here about the increased demand for advice to individual developing countries, including advice on the make-up of programmes to support structural adjustment. Several delegates have spoken about this, but I was particularly impressed by what was said by the delegates of Ghana and Bangladesh. Both countries are deeply involved in difficult but successful efforts of this kind. The delegate of Ghana especially stressed the need for close contacts with the World Bank and other international institutions. So did the delegate of Kenya. This echoes the clear call by the experts that "FAO should make increasing use of the country macro-economic data and knowledge accumulated by the World Bank, the IMF and other regional financing institutions", which we too support.

There is a faint echo of this thought only in paragraph 4.6 of the SJS Report. What is completely missing, however, is any response to the clear recommendations of the experts that "country policy studies and advice should be made an integral part of FAO's Regular Programme" - and I repeat, Regular Programme.

We find this disappointing, because without a clear view in Headquarters of the full range of a country's agricultural problems and the full range of FAO's operational activities in that country it makes no sense to call, as so many delegates have done, for FAO to play a lead role in Consultative Groups and Round Tables. I do not know how many other delegates have ever been to one of these meetings. I have been to many, and I can tell you that unless FAO can field a senior country specialist from Headquarters, able to speak with authority, it will be a complete waste of time and money for the Organization to attend them. In fact, under present arrangements, UNIDO would have a far better claim to attend and to speak on its sphere of competence than FAD, because it has a geographical division of managers alongside the separate technical divisions.

This is not to say, of course, that FAO should finance sector-wide studies on the lines of the one in Bangladesh from Regular Programme resources. These are rightly Field Programme Activities and, as we have heard, the World Bank and UNDP largely financed the Bangladesh Review. But there need to be people in Headquarters who are able to keep permanently abreast of such issues in all the relevant countries. After all, they will have to judge the adequacy of any study output and its relevance for the full spectrum of FAO activities in the country concerned. The delegate for Ghana specifically mentioned FAO's internal management of follow up in this context. In any case, like many other delegates, we support the proposal to attach a field inspection unit to the Evaluation Service so that it can report on project management and organization to the Director-General and through him to the Governing Bodies. But we do not see this as a substitute for a somewhat revised managerial structure. It is in this context that I come next to decentralization. We should recognize that in speaking of these issues we are speaking of matters within the Director-General's responsibilities. But many other delegates have sought to give him guidance in this area - for instance the delegates of Lesotho, Jordan and Côte d'Ivoire, among others. These are squarely-put recommendations by both the experts and the SJS; so I have less hesitation in adding my voice to the debate.

While we share the general consensus on strengthening the Country Offices, and providing them with proper technical and managerial backstopping, we note that there are divergent views about the Regional Offices. The experts clearly thought they should have much lower priority. Some delegates have taken the opposite view. There have been calls for the Regional Offices to have closer links with regional organizations like SADCC. We support that. We also support using Regional Offices for field activities which have to cover more than one country. But the SJS in general support the experts' views, in paragraph 3.33 - a point which some delegates do not seem to have taken on board very clearly. It seems to us that there are specific follow-up issues here which cannot just be left in the air. I think, on reflection, that the delegate of Poland has pointed us in the right direction; that decentralization should be carried out gradually after a careful and clear definition of the respective responsibilities of the field representatives and their supporting management structures, dividing tasks and responsibilities between Headquarters, regional and national offices respectively. It would deviously be right to expect management to look again at the Regional Offices and also to consider in this process all the different suggestions put forward by Member States here, as well as the conclusions of the experts.

I will turn now to the vexed question of priorities and the Medium-term Plan, and hence by a natural progression to the issue of resources. I think that on both I can be briefer, though I must spend some time on the analysis made by the delegate of France.

We support the idea of trying to give a better strategic steer to FAO's activities through a Plan, as recommended by the experts and the SJS. In this connection, we agree with the delegate of Czechoslovakia that the concern with environmental aspects should run "like a green thread", if I may paraphrase the phrase of France, through all FAO's activities. In fact, anything else is inconceivable. How could FAO approach any fisheries, forestry or agricultural activities nowadays and deliberately ignore the issue of sustainability? If it did this, it would most certainly forfeit our confidence. But, as for the specific activities suggested, there is no sense in duplicating work done by others. FAO should, therefore, cooperate on environmental impact assessment with the World Bank, whose sixty-six professional staff will be working very hard in this area to help many developing countries devise their own action plans in the next few years.

Now some delegates have said that a medium-term plan has no value unless provisional resource indications are attached. I have some sympathy with this but no such indications could be very precise. One major reason is the intimate link between the Field Programme and the Regular Programme which many delegates have said should be strengthened. In fact, the Expert Group says that FAO's activities "can only arbitrarily be divided" into these two Programmes. Now the financial arrangements for backstopping and administering Field Programme activities are described elsewhere by the Organization as unsatisfactory. As the United States delegate reminded us, there is a major examination now going on of agency support costs throughout the UN system. We ourselves are not very happy with the present arrangement. But none of us will be able to take a view on what else should be done until decisions are reached on the still uncompleted report of the team which is looking at the costs issue. So, quite apart from other problems, it would be fruitless at present to calculate costs. However, FAO's management could usefully give us the more detailed breakdown which they presumably already have showing relative Field Programme and Regular Programme backup costs under each head of activity, it is not impossible to disentangle these from the presentation of the PWB or from the Regular Programme Review.

Now for resources: I hear different voices in the debate so far, some insisting that the present draft PWB should make no provision for any changes stemming from decisions that the Conference might take and indeed disclaiming any link on the draft budget and the Review. There are other voices - including the Director-General's - proposing instead specific allocations for such costs. The Director-General, however, when he commented on the views of the delegate of France, indicated to us that his calculations might have been too hastily put together - no doubt to meet exigency of our timetable. There were other ways of doing things, he said; the cost might not be \$ 25 million but \$ 10 or \$ 15 million; and so on. I think the Director-General was right to cast some doubt on the first figures.

First of all, in the table on page xviii of his comments, about \$ 8.4 million is assigned to the Field Programme, as the delegate for Ethiopia pointed out. Secondly, there is logic in a certain sequence about the actions which might be taken. The Director-General himself proposes, in paragraph 59, to implement the most expensive "over several biennia" and several of us have already suggested that he would first want to take a thorough look at how to do it. The delegates of Gabon and Tanzania recommended this approach. I have

already commented on the lack of any need at present for the first two iteras which are said to be of the highest priority for the Regular Programme. On the whole then I believe the delegate of France was right in his analysis. Others who take a different view will have noted the proposal of the delegate of China, which was supported by the delegate of Turkey, that the so-called options in paragraph 5.3 are not mutually exclusive and they will have noted the call by the delegate of Kenya for "adjustments and other austerity methods". The delegate of Saudi Arabia asked how this could be done.

I can myself make certain suggestions here. For instance, we note from C 89/5 that 63 percent of the Regular Programme is in manpower costs - which thus incidentally constrains the share of the TCP - but that there is no systematic independent review of posts or of divisional structures. In fact only 12 percent of the posts were reviewed in any way during the crisis years of 1986-87. Such a review could surely indicate scope for redeployment and maybe even savings. Again the same document showed that the vacancy rate, especially for the more expensive professional group, has consistently for many years been way above the 5.5 percent hitherto used as the budget assumption. Moreover, the system of parallel posts yields additional scope for savings.

In our view, therefore, the right course is to look first to sources of this kind and also to the contributions which will flow into the Organization from a more effective and efficient Field Programme.

However, I cannot possibly leave the resource issue without warmly welcoming the action announced by the delegate of Nigeria in settling all its arrears to FAO. Britain is contributing heavily to supporting Nigeria's structural adjustment programme and we welcome the decision taken to give priority to this matter following Nigeria's generous pledge to IFAD. We hope this will serve as an example to the many other countries which are also in arrears.

Lastly, on the details, I support the view of other delegates that the proposal for a Rome coordinating mechanism should be discussed with the other agencies involved. We have noted President Jazairy's very careful and constructive initial response to this idea.

That brings me to the end of my survey of the issues raised by this item. I make no apology for its length. I have tried to place the SJS recommendations in context. I have indicated where we disagree with them, or more often where they need to be complemented and followed up by specific implementation measures, and why. I believe that I have succeeded as well as others in following your injunction to stay within the wide-ranging terms of Resolution 6/87.

There is one matter that is entirely separate which others have mentioned. I will, therefore, indicate that we would be ready to look again at the mechanisms we all use for decision-making, and I think the Ambassador of Lesotho pointed clearly to one reason why we should do so.

Finally, we believe that many of the points I have mentioned could usefully be included as specific elements within a resolution embodying the conclusions of the Conference. Like the delegate of Mexico, my country would be ready to present such a resolution. Nevertheless, we think it would be preferable for any resolution put to the Commission to carry the names not only of a large number of developing countries but of other countries too, and especially those who called for this Review. Some informal discussions

are taking place about what those common conclusions might be but they require further time to reach a harmonious end. I therefore, propose that at the end of our debate this item of our agenda shall not be concluded but left open and that instead we should adjourn the discussion.

Antoine SAINTRAIN (Belgique): Vous me voyez pour la première fois quelque peu perplexe. En effet, il entre dans mes habitudes de tenter de tracer un schéma de mes interventions pour savoir où l'on va.

Nous sommes saisis de deux importants documents qui constituent une vue panoramique complète de l'ensemble des activités de la FAO et qui reflètent un certain nombre de points de vue, dont parfois des points de vue divergents.

Je vous avouerai que je suis perplexe, parce que je ne sais pas par quoi commencer, parce que je ne vois pas très bien comment, dans une courte intervention dans le cadre de la Résolution 6/87, je pourrais être suffisamment complet pour dire ce que j'estime devoir dire. J'ai eu l'occasion - c'est une chance - de suivre les travaux de la précédente Conférence et de suivre le long cheminement du processus qui a abouti un jour à nous fournir ces deux documents. Ces deux documents, j'ai consacré le dernier dimanche à les relire de manière exhaustive. Je dois dire qu'après plusieurs heures, en terminant cette lecture allant du problème du camion-dépanneur à des problèmes plus fondamentaux, j'étais content d'avoir, ou d'essayer d'avoir, une vue d'ensemble de ce qu'on a appelé avec beaucoup de prétention "la réforme". Quelle réforme? Mais qu'est-ce qu'un réformateur? Qu'est-ce que la contre-réforme? Qu'est-ce que certains voudraient dans le cadre d'une réforme de la réforme?

J'essaye de le savoir, de l'examiner, et j'ai voulu, dans une première phase de mon intervention mais très modestement, tenter de rencontrer un certain nombre d'objections qui ont été faites à ces deux documents.

Je crois qu'il est important de savoir, et de manière très claire et très précise, ce que certains - et je les respecte totalement - reprochent à la FAD, reprochent à son action, reprochent à sa stratégie, reprochent à ses orientations fondamentales qui sont quand même - et cela nous l'oublions trop souvent - fonction des moyens dont on dispose, car il n'y a pas de politique sans moyen d'exécuter celle-ci. Un des premiers reproches qui ont été adressés à la FAD, et on l'a souligné dans le cadre de cette revue de l'Examen, serait une certaine faiblesse dans l'exécution des projets, dans les conseils politiques aux pays en voie de développement et dans les relations avec les autres agences des Nations Unies.

La réponse se trouve de manière très claire dans le rapport. J'ai d'ailleurs lu avec une grande attention le curriculum vitae d'un certain nombre d'experts, que je salue, et je crois que la collaboration avec les experts qui ne sont ni contestés ni contestables a permis d'en arriver à ce débat dont je me félicite; car ce débat se déroule dans un climat de confiance et d'ouverture que nous n'avons pas connu en 1987 et c'est en grande partie grâce à vous, Monsieur le Président, grâce à la manière dont vous le conduisez depuis le début. Je tiens très sincèrement à vous en remercier.

Je crois que nous allons devoir examiner ces différents points. En ce qui concerne l'exécution des projets, je n'ai pas la prétention - et j'ai eu l'occasion de le dire à propos des opérations de terrain - de me porter en juge. Mais je répète ce qui a déjà été dit et ce que j'ai déjà dit moi-même, à savoir que les pays bénéficiaires sont parfaitement capables de savoir ce qui leur convient et ce qui ne leur convient pas, de savoir quels sont les projets qui fonctionnent et quels sont ceux qui ne fonctionnent pas.

Or je lis quand même dans le document C 89/21, au paragraphe 3.49, ce qui suit: "De ce fait, la qualité du soutien aux projets, même si elle reste encore aussi bonne que celle des autres institutions des Nations Unies, s'en trouve affectée par les contraintes budgétaires, et cela est d'autant plus grave que les besoins et les demandes d'assistance ne cessent d'augmenter". Là, je crois, se trouve le fond du problème et, si faiblesse il y a, elle est malgré tout fonction de la situation quasi impossible dans laquelle se trouve depuis trop longtemps l'Organisation.

En ce qui concerne les conseils dont on a déjà beaucoup parlé, à savoir les conseils politiques aux pays en développement, je répète ce que j'ai déjà souvent dit car je crois que c'est important. Si les pays en développement peuvent et doivent recevoir certains conseils, les pays développés ont aussi besoin de conseils parce qu'il n'y a pas de développement possible sans une interaction et sans une vision globale. En effet, la politique des pays développés doit être fonction, dans une interrelation permanente, du développement des pays les plus pauvres et les plus démunis. Donner des conseils, c'est bien, mais il faut les donner de manière globale de façon à arriver progressivement à une politique beaucoup plus large. Nous vivons dans un monde d'interdépendance et nous devons en tenir compte.

A propos de ces conseils, je lis au paragraphe 2.15 du document: "les comités rappellent que la FAO a fait" - c'est le passé - "et continue de faire" -c'est maintenant - "un grand nombre d'études sur les politiques agricoles au niveau mondial, régional, sous-régional et national, en mobilisant des équipes pluridisciplinaires, la participation d'autres agences et institutions des Nations Unies et des Etats Membres. Ils encouragent l'Organisation à continuer dans ce sens". Cela me paraît quand même très positif.

Je pourrais continuer cette énumération. On a parlé des relations avec les autres agences des Nations Unies. Là, je citerai également le paragraphe 4.3 du document. En ce qui concerne les relations avec les institutions de la famille des Nations Unies, les experts ont analysé l'ensemble de toutes les organisations opérationnelles et ils ont trouvé que, dans l'ensemble, cette coopération est bonne mais que, dans quelques cas, elle pourrait être améliorée. Or elle peut être améliorée du côté de la FAO mais elle peut également être améliorée du côté des autres organisations. Pourquoi est-ce nécessairement la FAO qui se trouve toujours en dehors, face aux autres organisations? J'ai toujours dit que, dans les différentes enceintes, nous devons défendre les mêmes points de vue de façon à ce que chacun sache quelles sont ses responsabilités et dans quel cadre il se situe. Il est très important de savoir qui fait quoi, qui s'occupe de quoi et qui est responsable de quoi.

On a parlé du fait que les ressources seraient trop dispersées et qu'il n'y en aurait pas suffisamment - de ce qu'on appelle le "medium term planning". Là, il me semble que le rapport souligne de manière extrêmement positive la situation telle qu'elle se présente. Les comités recommandent la

réintroduction d'un plan à moyen terme couvrant trois exercices mais comportant des montants provisoires par programme. La stratégie à long terme nécessite quand même que l'on sache quels sont les moyens financiers dont on dispose.

On a aussi proposé de remplacer - on peut toujours rêver! - la structure actuelle de la FAO, qui est une structure sectorielle, par une structure géographique. J'ai beaucoup réfléchi à ce sujet. En tant que chef d'administration, j'ai eu l'occasion de me pencher sur ce type d'option et je crois que la FAO a une tradition mondiale et que son organigramme actuel, qui se trouve en annexe au Programme de travail et budget, reflète les fonctions qui lui sont assignées par l'Article premier de l'Acte constitutif, qui est quand même l'acte de base de l'Organisation, et le caractère transnational de ces fonctions; mais les grands fléaux agricoles contemporains, les invasions acridiennes, la désertification, la pollution des sols et de l'atmosphère rendent l'approche incontournable. L'Annexe 2 au Rapport du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier est très claire sur ce point. A la page 60, on peut lire ce qui suit: "Le moment n'est pas venu pour la FAO de procéder à une réorganisation majeure et de passer d'une structure disciplinaire à une structure géographique semblable à celle de la Banque mondiale ou du PNUD".

Je crois que l'existence des bureaux régionaux et la présence de représentants de la FAO sur le terrain ont déjà pour but de mieux tenir compte des aspects régionaux et locaux. A cet égard, incontestablement, les comités n'ont pas manqué de souligner que le fonctionnement de ces organes est affecté par l'insuffisance des moyens. Je crois donc que l'organigramme tel qu'il existe - et on l'a démontré - est un organigramme qui a le mérite de fonctionner. Sur ce plan, les conclusions des experts me paraissent absolument claires.

En ce qui concerne le nombre de projets, à savoir les 2 500 projets dont on a parlé, j'ai déjà eu l'occasion d'exprimer mon point de vue à ce sujet et je n'y reviens pas.

On pourrait continuer avec les grands reproches adressés à la FAO en ce qui concerne les priorités à établir. J'ai entendu tout ce qui a été dit à ce sujet et, en particulier, j'ai entendu certains dire que la FAO s'était retirée de certains domaines, sans les citer. J'ai entendu dire qu'il fallait établir des priorités et diminuer, réduire, supprimer un certain nombre d'activités. De quoi s'agit-il? Quelles sont ces activités? Je crois qu'il faut être précis, concret, et qu'il faut citer ce qu'il faut réduire ou supprimer. Je suis ici depuis pratiquement trois ans et, chaque fois que l'on me parle de priorités, je voudrais que l'on me dise ce qui est prioritaire et ce qui ne l'est pas, ce qu'il faut supprimer et ce qu'il ne faut pas supprimer, comment il faut le supprimer et pourquoi.

Maintenant, je constate une certaine évolution et cette évolution se traduit par un renforcement de la charge de la preuve. En effet, un certain nombre de responsables disent qu'il faut éliminer des postes mais on retourne la charge de la preuve en disant, après avoir discuté au cours d'un long processus - et Dieu sait qu'il a été long! - du budget présenté par le Directeur général, qu'il appartient à celui-ci de supprimer des postes et d'éliminer tout ce qui n'est pas prioritaire.

Or il y a eu la note de cinq pages de janvier, le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, l'Examen du Comité Financier, une série de réunions de groupes formelles et informelles qui ont abouti à la présentation de l'excellent document dont a discuté. Avons-nous donc le droit, tout ce travail accompli, de dire: "Laissons à la FAO le soin de décider elle-même ce qu'il faut supprimer dans ce document" parce que nous ne pouvons pas le décider nous-mêmes? Si nous voulons supprimer un certain nombre de choses, il faut le dire.

On a souligné l'intérêt présenté par un certain nombre de programmes, dont le Programme d'action forestier tropical. J'ai entendu certains dire notamment, en séance plénière de la Conférence, qu'ils étaient prêts à apporter une aide ou un complément d'aide, toutefois non pas sur le plan multilatéral mais sur le plan bilatéral. Je crois que ce n'est pas le but poursuivi et, si nous voulons renforcer un certain nombre de programmes qui fonctionnent, il faut pouvoir le faire avec une programmation budgétaire qui permette à la FAO d'avoir une vision à moyen et à long terme.

Je pourrais continuer à parler de l'amélioration de la communication et de la coordination entre les divisions. Je pourrais parler beaucoup plus longuement du plan à moyen terme. Je pourrais parler de la transparence, cette fameuse transparence. Eh bien, moi, j'essaie que les choses soient transparentes pour moi. Seulement, j'ai mes limites, je ne connais pas tout, je ne suis ni un macro-économiste, ni un micro-économiste. Je ne suis pas, comme le professeur Mazoyer, Président du Comité du programme, un spécialiste en développement rural. J'ai une certaine expérience de terrain, que j'ai vue, que j'ai sentie, que j'ai vécue, non pas seulement avec ma tête, non pas seulement avec mes yeux, mais également avec mon cœur. Quand on parle de comité d'examen, croit-on vraiment à la possibilité d'émettre un jugement de valeur sur un projet visant telle ou telle partie de la Chine, sur un projet visant la Tanzanie, sur un projet visant la Bolivie, sur un projet visant le Bénin ou tout autre pays ami? Avons-nous en main les éléments nécessaires, alors que l'on peut établir des contacts sur place? Les autorités et la population du pays sont parfaitement capables, je le répète une fois de plus, d'apprécier ce qui se fait. Il est possible qu'un certain nombre de projets échouent, et là, je voudrais dire - parce que l'on parle beaucoup du recyclage du personnel et d'amélioration - qu'il est indispensable d'arriver à une procédure permettant de mieux élaborer et structurer les projets. J'ai quand même une certaine expérience en la matière et il m'est arrivé d'entreprendre des études, à la demande d'un pays, sur les possibilités d'une vallée dans les hautes Andes, où l'on estimait pouvoir cultiver du soja et où l'on a abouti à un projet tout à fait différent. Je crois en effet que les projets sont un peu comme la vie des hommes: on naît bébé, on grandit petit à petit, on devient adulte, on évolue. Dans les projets, il est indispensable aussi d'avoir cette faculté de souplesse et d'adaptation. Au départ, on ne sait pas nécessairement déterminer de façon absolue ce que veut la population, ce qu'elle souhaite, ce qu'elle désire faire; on ne sait pas où l'on va. C'est pour cela qu'il faut faire confiance et que ce que nous devons demander instamment à la FAO, c'est de recruter dans les pays en voie de développement et dans les pays développés du personnel de qualité qui ait les qualités humaines voulues. C'est là une chose très importante. Il ne faut pas uniquement des consultants qui passent comme des météores, comme mon collègue de la Colombie l'a si bien dit l'autre jour.

Il y a également l'aspect du transfert des technologies. Celui-ci ne se fait pas uniquement sur le plan cérébral mais aussi par une série de contacts avec la formation, qui nécessite un dialogue et une prise de connaissance avec les différents experts.

Je pourrais continuer à l'infini. J'avoue que j'ai ici toute une documentation qui me permettrait de parler pendant plusieurs heures mais je ne vais pas le faire parce que je sais que vous souhaitez que l'on conclut. Mais je voudrais quand même parler de ce que l'on a appelé les avantages comparatifs. Je suis très frustré: les avantages comparatifs, d'abord, ne se comparent pas parce qu'ils ne sont pas sur un pied d'égalité. Il y a des avantages et des inconvénients. Il faudrait quand même savoir quels sont les points forts de la FAO et quels sont les points de faiblesse. S'il y a un certain nombre de points forts, il faudrait quand même les citer explicitement, de même - et c'est là notre responsabilité - que les grands points de faiblesse. Or, jusqu'à présent, je n'ai pas entendu grand-chose, on ne m'a pas dit que, dans l'organigramme, il fallait supprimer un secteur des forêts, un secteur des pêches, la météorologie, la télédétection. Je prends l'organigramme qui se trouve en annexe au Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget. Je n'ai entendu aucune proposition sur la sécurité alimentaire, sur le service mondial d'information, sur la vulgarisation agricole, sur la promotion féminine, sur le CTR. Je crois que cet organigramme est le fruit d'une longue réflexion et que, si l'on parle d'avantages comparatifs, la FAO doit se concentrer sur des avantages comparatifs; il faudrait donc pouvoir les déterminer.

Il y a des aspects extrêmement vastes du développement. Dieu sait que c'est un domaine vaste et complexe. Jusqu'à présent, on a quand même connu beaucoup d'échecs dont on devrait pouvoir tirer un certain nombre de leçons. Nous devons également faire une radioscopie des raisons pour lesquelles nous connaissons certains échecs. Sont-ils dus à un manque de connaissance des réalités du pays, à un manque de contact avec les autorités de ce pays, à un manque d'inter-relations? Nous sommes tous responsables des inter-relations et, à ce sujet, je répète ce qui a été dit: il est grand temps que nous nous concertions pour adopter la même politique et la même conduite dans les différentes enceintes internationales.

Je me rallie donc entièrement à la proposition de mon collègue suisse relative à certains assouplissements. Il a parlé de supprimer le Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget. A mon avis, c'est une bonne chose. Il faut, bien sûr, étoffer la note de cinq pages à présenter tous les deux ans en janvier. Que la note ait 5, 10, 15, 20 ou 25 pages, cela n'a pas tellement d'importance; elle constituera une base qui permettra un acheminement et qui aboutira à la présentation du Programme du travail et budget pour le prochain biennium. Personnellement - et le Royaume de Belgique a exactement le même point de vue - j'ai toujours estimé qu'une programmation des actions sans une programmation financière concordante était un non-sens. Or, en toute hypothèse, compte tenu des interpellations qui nous sont adressées, des problèmes lancinants qui se poseront au cours de la prochaine décennie, de 1990 à l'an 2000, les moyens dont dispose et dont disposera la FAO sont notoirement insuffisants. Et là, on arrivera peut-être - nous pouvons toujours rêver d'une certaine utopie - à un autre type de système.

Le délégué de l'Australie a cité Saint Augustin. Je pourrais citer d'autres Pères de l'Eglise qui ont dit: "T'arrogas-tu le droit de donner? Ne donne pas, partage".

Nous sommes dans un monde où la solidarité internationale doit être conçue de manière différente. J'ai été très frappé par un certain nombre de réflexions et de réactions qui se sont fait jour lors du dernier Conseil qui a précédé cette Conférence. J'y étais en tant qu'observateur et je me suis tu et je me suis dit: pourquoi, lorsque l'on donne, il faut savoir oublier ce que l'on a donné? Or, la dimension des problèmes est telle que nous avons instauré dans

tous nos pays un système de sécurité sociale de façon à ce que, par le biais des impôts, il y ait redistribution des riches vers les pauvres. Est-ce véritablement une utopie que d'imaginer que ce système de distribution puisse être envisagé à une échelle incomparablement plus large et vaste, à l'échelle du monde? Nous sommes tous solidaires, par conséquent nous devons en tirer les conclusions et avoir le courage d'affirmer très haut et très clair cette solidarité.

Je voudrais pour terminer dire deux choses. On peut discuter à l'infini du financement, de savoir si c'est 25..26..27..28,9..30 millions..., mais à l'échelle du monde et dans une transformation très rapide de ce monde et qui évolue à toute vitesse, qu'est-ce que cela représente réellement? Qu'est-ce que vraiment 25 millions quand certaines organisations disposent d'une trésorerie d'une centaine de millions? Est-ce une somme exagérée? On a demandé cette réforme et elle me semble bonne; ces documents nous permettent de faire clairement le point sur la situation, mais, de grâce, ayons le courage d'en tirer les conclusions et n'essayons pas de dire que cet examen et les propositions additionnelles faites doivent être résorbées par le budget sans propositions concrètes sur ce qu'il faut supprimer.

Je crois avoir été suffisamment clair et net sur ce point: si l'on estime que cela doit être absorbé, oui, mais par quoi? Comment? Que faut-il supprimer dans l'Organisation? J'ai déjà eu l'occasion de dire le très grand danger que représente le fait que des services de la FAO étaient alimentés par des Fonds fiduciaires. Il n'est pas bon que certains services essentiels ne soient pas imprégnés de cet esprit multilatéral, que certains pays donateurs que je respecte se constituent de véritables fiefs dans les domaines qui normalement devraient faire partie du "core budget". Ne nous engageons pas trop dans cette voie. Essayons de trouver de véritables formules de solidarité; c'est un véritable challenge qui me paraît facile à gagner.

L'ambassadeur de Turquie a été très clair sur ce point; nous sommes arrivés en 1987 à une formule de compromis très longue à mettre au point, qui a nécessité la bonne volonté de tous.

Est-ce que, maintenant que le résultat de l'examen entrepris est positif, qu'il démontre clairement que la FAO est un organisme sain, nous allons présenter une fois de plus cet organisme sain au bombardement des rayons X afin de voir s'il n'a pas une nouvelle maladie? Je vous le dis: si on continue à lui envoyer des rayons X pour la radiographier une fois de plus, la FAO finira par être malade, car à force de recevoir des rayons X on finit toujours par s'affaiblir.

Un haut fonctionnaire de l'institution me disait récemment: nous avons consacré pendant deux ans des heures et des heures à examiner la FAO, à examiner la qualité des services, à voir ce qui va, ce qui ne va pas, nous avons abouti à un bon rapport des experts, de grâce, mettons nous d'accord pour travailler tous ensemble et pour que demain, sur la base de ce document, on puisse construire sans vouloir faire la réforme de la réforme.

Laissez parler maintenant mon cœur. Il y aura demain un mois qu'un de nos excellents collègues M. Modonald Ben Jamin décédait. Le jour de son enterrement, sa veuve ici présente me disait: "Monsieur Saintraint, think of the poor". Nous avons à penser aux pauvres, aux plus démunis de ce monde. Ce

ne sont pas des unités, ce ne sont pas des centaines de milliers, ce ne sont pas des millions, ce ne sont pas des dizaines de millions, ce sont maintenant des centaines de millions qui nous interpellent, et à cette interpellation nous avons le devoir de répondre.

E. Patrick ALLEINE (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation adds its voice in appreciation with respect to the total effort involved in the preparation and presentation of this most important documentation and the explanation and the views which are relevant to this Agenda item.

Permit me, however, a special word of congratulations to the Programme and Finance Committees, and especially the Chairmen, who have had the onerous responsibility for guiding their Committees separately and jointly through the Review process.

In large measure almost everyone has been loud in praise in indicating appreciation of the tremendous accomplishments of this heroic effort all of which is related to implementation of Resolution 6/87, which authorized the Review process.

For various reasons, this delegation will focus its remarks on the problem or problems of how we move on from where we are - that is, following completion of the Review exercise by the joint action of the Programme and Finance Committees, assisted by the Groups of Experts.

The year 1987 is behind us, but we inevitably recall the atmosphere in which Resolution 6/87 was given life. It was a compromise between no review and a fully external review. We all have some fears and concerns as to where this Conference will end. I will confess, however, that yesterday afternoon when I listened to the delegate of Canada, and I would even say again this morning as I listened to the delegate of the United States of America, I think I began to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and this was assisted by the comments of many other delegations. I recall that yesterday the delegate of Canada said that in spite of the reservations on Resolution 6/87 which his country had, they were now satisfied so far with the Review process. He said, "the experts did a highly commendable task" and the Review has provided "a framework for discussion".

In the Plenary the Deputy Minister for Canada acknowledged that in the Review process the fundamental issues cited in Resolution 6/87 had been subject to painstaking review.

My delegation wishes to underscore this basic premise in the debate. I am of the opinion that in large measure there is virtual consensus with these views - that is, that the Review process has been very satisfactory, there is content to the Review process. I say virtual consensus because I discern perhaps one, or a little more than that, particularly dissenting voice and my delegation is willing to be advised if we are wrong. I recall in the Plenary the United Kingdom's Minister for Overseas Development said - and I quote bits and pieces - "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 1990s and will not achieve all the excellent things it could do for the developing countries. "We need a thorough reorientation of FAO's own structure and policies." "FAO needs to be reshaped internally."

I have identified the latter comments at length since they seem to be the most sweeping in that direction. Elsewhere a few other delegations have emphasized their view that priority focusing, priority setting, are serious concerns. But I do not really recall any other delegations indicating, shall we say, that level of inadequacy suggested by the United Kingdom with the Review process.

We have been reminded of the importance of sovereign rights and we must be careful with the linkages, especially in a body such as this. Otherwise I see no room for doom and gloom on this matter. I will again bring to the fore the thoughts of Australia earlier in this Conference, that is, "It is difficult to understand what some wanted out of the Review. " The joint review of the Programme and Finance Committees and the report of the experts are in conformity with the views of, and related information given by, the Director-General.

This delegation is in agreement with the vast majority of delegations who have spoken. In essence, we want to emphasize that the time has come to act. We must now take note of the recommendations of the Review process and determine what we can implement and how we can implement it. What shall we do with the 32 recommendations? This delegation is already on record as supporting the major recommendations emerging from the Review. We wish to stress, as we have done before, that there must be absolutely no diminution in the significance and resource allocation for technical assistance and TCP. The Director-General must be allowed to administer the latter to the satisfaction of the recipient countries.

On the matter of technical assistance, we have heard of tripartite arrangements. We are prepared to say "yes" but on the clear understanding that there is no weakening, overtly and covertly, of the trusted neutral hand of FAD.

After two years, US\$ 2 million of expenditure and general agreement - except for the odd voice - on the quality of the Review, we cannot talk now about logic if we do not make definitive decisions on the implementation of the valuable recommendations. To do otherwise would be like setting out on a Utopian safari with no end in sight.

I am forced to divert a bit here, very briefly. From the Council to the Conference we are faced with what I may call "shadow bargaining", that is the linking of the outcome of the debates on the Review with a final discussion on the budget. FAO is in financial straits because many nations are in arrears, and every dollar due from every country is important. However, the biggest problem lies with our major contributor. May I say here that all Member Nations need to understand each other's problems, be it Congressional delay, the collapse of oil prices, the collapse of cocoa, coffee or grain prices. Much of this is by itself and, in certain circumstances, in combination with the pain of structural adjustment. However, I have been wondering whether this Conference could not do anything - positive, legal and proper - that will help to bring rapid financial relief to FAO. The question in my mind - and I shall be bold enough to voice it - is whether the United States Congress, that powerful governmental body known the world over, is fully aware of how different and how special FAO is as compared with the other UN bodies, all of which are waiting for some allocation from the basket of funds to be approved at some time, apparently under the general direction of zero growth budgets.

Perhaps it has never been done, perhaps it cannot be done, but can this Conference - not the Organization or the Director-General - perhaps through the Chairman of the Conference, make a special plea by telegram, or otherwise to the Congressional leaders or as may be otherwise appropriate? I do not genuinely believe that if they know and understand clearly, in the course of history for the needy of this world, what the results will be if this Organization remains in this condition, that they will consciously allow the FAD, and through it millions of hungry, malnourished people, urgently in need of assistance, to suffer unduly, if properly appraised of the facts.

I hasten to add that I am not suggesting for a moment that the distinguished delegation of the United States and other officials at the highest level have not done their homework. I am simply voicing a point of view. Is there a way in which we can expedite the payment of contributions? Perhaps we need to apply it to all countries in arrears.

May I now return to my main focus. The Review has taken place. Numerous useful recommendations have emerged. We must act. That is being logical. Nevertheless, we are not of the view that we must abandon the search for consensus because one or a few delegations say or fear that, for example, there is scope for fine-tuning our prioritization activity.

Let us face it, cutting US\$ 65 million over three years meant exactly that. The Director-General had consistently to practice prioritization. What we will insist on, and what other delegations have said, is that you cannot hamstring the Director-General; he must be allowed flexibility.

We are not unduly disturbed, as some delegations wish to emphasize, that perhaps in the future there may be some further scope for review of the efficiency of the Organization. Those who insist on further reviews will do so, of course, and will be prepared to pay for it. We feel that inevitably there has to be a mechanism put in place, and quickly, in order to deal with moving towards consensus in this Conference.

The Director-General said yesterday: "I will be the first to come forward with new proposals." Understandably, however, he emphasized that the source of funding must be indicated.

We heard this morning about the importance of cost-effectiveness. There must be a focus; there must be a concentration in this direction. This delegation does not believe that anyone will argue against effort towards achieving cost-effectiveness, but the Review has not suggested that there will be less demands on the FAO. In fact, all the indications are that there will be more demands on the Organization. There is much more to be done, regardless of how FAO reorganizes and prioritizes. Why does cost-effectiveness necessarily mean no more resources regardless of the circumstances? For example, as we heard a few days ago, and I think again today, one government of a developing country is convinced of the significance of the usefulness, of the relevance of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan and has committed US\$ 100 million over three years, but via bilateral programmes. Why can we not move? I agree fully with the words of the Secretary for Agriculture of the United States in Plenary. He was referring to the Director-General and he said: "I am convinced that he" - the Director-General - "is dedicated to making FAO a stronger, more effective and more efficient Organization. I am convinced that the Director-General will provide the leadership. "

We must reflect on those words and move on with a certain degree of confidence, with sensitivity on all sides, with some give and take. My delegation is of the opinion that a final resolution can emerge such that we can facilitate a stronger FAD, a more efficient FAD, with adequate resources, taking off towards the year 2000 and beyond. Let us together take those decisions which will build upon the original foundations laid by the founding fathers of this Organization. Let us not lay to waste the good work and the efforts of all who toiled to make Resolution 6/87 a reality.

I am tempted to end with a modified prayer of St. Augustine: "Help us on the road to unanimity, but now."

Anatolio NDONG MBA (Guinea Ecuatorial): Realmente, señor Presidente, el tema que estamos debatiendo nos invita a todos a reflexionar con suma atención, objetivismo y realismo tanto a los países industriales como a los países en vías de desarrollo, pues se trata ni más ni menos que del fortalecimiento o desmembramiento de nuestra institución, la FAO.

No podemos evitar llegar a la conclusión evidente, por los hechos mismos, de que la FAO ha venido jugando un papel muy importante para construir un mundo más equilibrado en fidelidad a la idea de los propulsores de esta Organización, cuyos objetivos fundamentales siguen siendo 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, productos alimenticios y agrícolas, mejorar las condiciones de vida de la población rural y contribuir a la expansión de la economía mundial y liberar del hambre a la humanidad.

Estos objetivos, que están bien recogidos en la página 11 del informe, punto 2, ponen el dedo sobre los puntos que obstaculizan la construcción de una sociedad más justa para todos, pues los descensos constantes de los precios mundiales de aquellos productos que sostienen nuestras economías, así como los aumentos constantes de los insumos, ahogan cada vez más a unos, aproximándolos cada vez más hacia el caos económico y social, dificultando la materialización de los dos objetivos citados en último lugar que son el mejoramiento de las condiciones de la población rural y la contribución a la expansión de la economía mundial, liberando a ambas de continuidad.

Además de apoyar las intervenciones precedentes de diferentes delegaciones en pro del reconocimiento del positivo papel que ha venido y está desempeñando la FAO en el logro de los objetivos que le fueron marcados el momento de su creación y de sus funciones de compilar y difundir informaciones, actuar como foro internacional para conseguir acuerdos y promover medidas y prestar asistencia técnica a los Estados Miembros, acciones que para nosotros están interrelacionadas y tienen por lo tanto igual prioridad; pensamos por lo tanto que una reestructuración de la Organización supondría una merma en su eficaz actuación. Esta cuestión ha sido además vista en ocasiones anteriores y estimada no prioritaria. Por el contrario, mi delegación apoya global y resueltamente el Programa y el Proyecto de Presupuesto presentados por el Director General. A este respecto, mi Gobierno, pese a los efectos negativos en su economía en la actual coyuntura de los precios de nuestros productos de exportación y del constante aumento de los medios de producción, está temando las disposiciones necesarias para hacer frente a sus obligaciones con la Organización en cuanto a sus contribuciones se refiere.

Pensamos que en el futuro inmediato los programas de campo, la capacitación, la asistencia técnica, el apoyo a las políticas agrarias nacionales, la investigación, intercambios más fluidos de informaciones, así como el apoyo al afianzamiento y reforzamiento de las estadísticas agrícolas de los países en vías de desarrollo, deberán tener la mayor consideración y apoyo y, para ello, se hace necesario - y permítame señor Presidente enfatizar cambiando la palabra necesario por muy necesario - el establecimiento y apoyo mayor a las oficinas nacionales de la FAD, ya que éstas infunden mayor corriente de intercambio y diálogo al reducir las distancias existentes entre Roma y las capitales de nuestros países y vivir de cerca los problemas cotidianos y puntuales del agro de los respectivos países.

Nos parecen muy oportunos los comentarios del Director General sobre el informe presentado.

En lo que respecta al capítulo presupuestario, la eliminación del capítulo para apoyo de actividades presupuestarias sería una dura amputación a la Organización, que la dejaría maniatada para poder entrar en acción y resolver casos puntuales que, como en toda labor humana, siempre existen.

Finalmente, una mayor coordinación entre las cuatro organizaciones basadas en Roma, redundaría en una mayor efectividad de las acciones e inversiones de todos.

Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia): Thank you for giving me the floor. At the outset, allow me to associate myself with the previous speakers in expressing our appreciation to the Director-General for his lucid introduction of this important Agenda item. My delegation also wishes to express its appreciation to the Chairman and all members of the Programme and Finance Committees, to the Experts and to all FAO staff for their efforts in making this exercise successful and for the excellent preparation of the Report on the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations. We wish also to express our appreciation to the Chairman of the Conference, who in his opening statement presented his valuable views on this Review.

The Report on the Review of FAO's Goals and Operations, as prepared by the Finance and Programme Committees, has the objective of considering ways and means of strengthening FAO so that it can continue to play a leading role in the future. My delegation wishes to consider the Report based on the above objectives and within the framework of the Resolution 6/87. It is the wish of my delegation that the Conference's consideration of this Review of FAO's Goals and Operations be aimed at reaching a more solid, more dynamic, more unified and further strengthened organization. My delegation wholeheartedly agrees with the view of the Committees that the concept of FAD, as stated in the Preamble of its Constitution, is still valid and therefore there is no need for any modification in the major purposes assigned to it in the Preamble of its Constitution.

Indonesia, as a member of the Programme Committee, was associated with the Review exercise. Our views and opinions are reflected in the Report of the Joint Special Session. Therefore we welcome the recommendations of the Joint Special Session of the Programme and Finance Committees. Nevertheless, we wish to express our views with regard to certain points mentioned in the Report.

On the FAO's roles and functions, my delegation wishes to underline that the Committees support the seven development objectives of the Organization, as well as endorsing the Organization's three major roles, which we believe fully complement each other. With regard to the relative emphasis to be placed on these respective roles, we are highly appreciative of the views of the Director-General when he says that probably there will always be a measure of disagreement on the matter, since different points tend to be of different value to countries at different stages of development.

We are of the view that technical assistance, involving the TCP, must be stepped up. However, we underline the view stated that emphasis should be given to quality and full account should be taken of FAO's comparative advantage relative to other agencies. In this regard, we strongly support the need to implement the criteria of FAO for "undertaking policy studies enunciated by the Programme and Finance Committees, as this could ensure that the policy studies are really very fruitful for all of us.

Furthermore, we fully support the Director-General's view that he will continue to take necessary precautions to ensure the maintenance of a reasonable balance between the three roles, in the light of the overall capacity of the Organization.

The winds of change are blowing across the international economic landscape, where trends of far-reaching implications have gained prominence. These changes and trends contain the seeds of new opportunities as well as challenges to our collective interest and purposes. It is in the light of the above that we favourably considered proposals for strengthening FAO's roles as a global information centre giving policy advice and formulation, promoting research and the extension of work in technical assistance, in the promotion of the New International Economic Order together with work in a number of other important areas such as sustainable development and environment, women and youth and international trade.

We wish also to express our comments on the view of the Committees regarding the Special Action Programmes. They are a means of coordinating the content and orientation of the Regular Programme and Field Activities. We agree with the Committee's view that the Special Action Programmes play an essential role in drawing attention to the interdependence of the different parts of the world's agricultural systems and the need for concerted action. We agree with the Committee's view that, to be useful, FAO's strategies must lead to action plans and activities which have an important catalytic effect.

We therefore support the conclusions of the Committee that the Tropical Forestry Action Plan is a good action plan model giving practical effect to a well-prepared strategy which deserves large-scale support.

Turning to the Asia priority programme, my delegation agrees with the Committee's view that the establishment of priorities is the result of a long process of discussions in the sectoral and technical committees and all other important bodies of the FAD, including the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council. We therefore feel that FAO's normal practice of priority setting is adequate.

My delegation endorses the Committee's recommendations that all necessary attention be paid to the process of, and criteria for, priority setting. We fully support the proposed guidelines of the Committees as mentioned in paragraph 2.64 (viii) of C 89/21.

On the Medium-Term Plan, ray delegation welcome the Committee's recommendations for the reintroduction of a medium-term plan covering three biennia, including if possible provisional indication of resources by programme. We are of the view that conceptually the idea is very positive. Therefore ray delegation goes along with the consensus to give it a fair try. In saying this, it is the wish of ray delegation to underline the view that an indication of resources by programme, providing for reasonable growth in the light of the increasing responsibilities of the FAO in its field of competence, is basically important for establishing a realistic and useful Medium-Terra Plan and for taking into account the strategies adopted and the recommendations made by the special world Conference of the FAO.

The attention of ray delegation also goes to the area of international trade. We fully endorse the Committee's recommendation that the FAO could provide on a continuous basis positive assistance to the developing countries in their negotiations in GATT, and should speak out against protectionist measures and other practices which hinder trade, especially as regards the products of developing countries and which discourage the producers in those countries.

As to the relationship, involvement and active participation of FAO in the international system, I wish to welcome the strengthening of FAO's cooperation with UNDP. We consider seriously the Experts' Report on the FAO's relationship with the World Bank. We underline the importance and usefulness of increased interaction between FAO and the World Bank. We support the provisions of the TCP in project preparation of programmes which have great potential to get project money from lending agencies such as the World Bank, IFAD, etc.

As we have stated during previous sittings of the Council and the Conference, we appreciate the flexible and speedy manner in which TCP funds are made available to member countries. We therefore agree that the TCP be maintained in its present form as vital element in FAO's overall resources, and that all possible efforts, including the recommendations of the Committees as stated in paragraph 3.32 of the Report, be seriously explored.

With regard to the resources dimension, we note with concern the Committee's report that the Organization faces severe cash-flow problems, with debilitating effects on the size and quality of its programmes. We support the Committee's recommendations on this matter as stated in paragraph 5.2.

As clearly reflected in the Report the review has shown that the strengthening of the Organization's activities is desirable in several areas and that there will be more and more requests for FAO's assistance in the future. As regards the costs of implementing the recommendations, my delegation is open to all possible and reasonable considerations and options conveyed to the Conference. We have in front of us the views of the Committees. We welcome and support the views that alternatives, as stated in paragraph 5.3, will need to be fully explored in mobilizing FAO's requirements for further funds. We fully agree with most members of the Committees that there is a need for additional resources, particularly in the context of the anticipated increase in demands for the services of FAO.

We welcome the Director-General's proposals on the three possible categories of priority expenditures. We therefore wish to express our hope that serious consideration be given to exploring possible ways and means to implement it, especially the items of high priority.

Finally, we wish to underline the Committee's conclusion that the FAO should continue to be a solid and dynamic institution which merits the confidence of its Member Nations. The Review process will be completed in this Twenty-fifth Conference. My delegation feels that the recommendations are constructive and we wish to support the consensus recommendation which is reached in the Report. We also support the views and general recommendations of most members of the two Committees as reflected in their report. We express our hope that the Conference will reach a consensus to support them. These recommendations are of great importance for the future of FAO.

Srta. María Concepción VIANA DEL BARRIO (Venezuela) : La delegación de Venezuela acoge con agrado el resultado del Examen efectuado sobre los objetivos y las operaciones de la FAO, el cual confirma que la Organización está en plena validez, es sana, sólida y dinámica. Este resultado no nos sorprende pues viene a confirmar la opinión que teníamos y tenemos de la FAO, ya que a pesar de encontrarse en una situación crítica por falta de recursos continúa brindando respuestas a los problemas de los Estados Miembros, en la medida en que su disponibilidad le ha permitido actuar.

Con este Examen también se confirmó que las metas y los objetivos de la Organización están en consonancia con lo establecido en la Constitución, con lo cual se confirmó que este instrumento legal continúa siendo válido. Esto tampoco es una sorpresa.

Junto con otros miembros, que nos han precedido en el derecho de palabra, comportimos la opinión de que las tres funciones principales de la FAO se encuentran vinculadas entre sí, pero que además, para nosotros los países en vías de desarrollo, la tercera, según la cual la Organización debe promover y suministrar asistencia técnica, posee una especial importancia pues de nada sirve tener un maravilloso centro de información mundial sobre alimentación, agricultura y nutrición, ni ser un foro para la formulación de políticas y la acción, si no se puede ejercer una labor concreta en favor de aquéllos que así lo requieran. Por eso resulta necesario reforzarla equilibradamente.

En los temas que hemos tratado en los últimos días se ha discutido el problema financiero de la FAO, además de la formulación de un presupuesto, que si bien apoyamos, somos conscientes que no responde a todas nuestras expectativas, pues se ha tratado de ajustarlo a dos criterios que rechazamos, a saber: el crecimiento cero y la absorción de gastos. Es por ello que no podemos compartir la opinión de que la implementación de las recomendaciones formuladas se haga a expensas del Presupuesto Ordinario, reorientando las prioridades. Mucho menos compartimos la tesis de que se condicione o se relacione la aprobación del presupuesto a la aplicación de las recomendaciones, tal como lo hemos expresado en anteriores ocasiones.

Estamos de acuerdo en que las recomendaciones deben ponerse en práctica, pero esto sin comprometer el Presupuesto Ordinario. En este sentido han surgido múltiples soluciones en esta misma sala, en base a fondos extrapresupuestarios. Cualquiera de ellas recibiría nuestro apoyo.

Para nosotros, y siguiendo lo establecido en la Resolución 6/87, este Examen no debe prolongarse, es más, debe terminar con esto. Ya se han gastado 2 millones de dólares para comprobar la salud de la FAO dentro de una situación financiera difícil. El futuro financiero no es más halagüeño. Con un presupuesto que de por sí ya es estrecho, no podemos distraer más fondos en nuevos exámenes de la Organización, mucho menos cuando dicho Examen se sale del marco fijado por la Resolución 6/87.

No compartimos la recomendación sobre la creación de una unidad de inspección. Pensamos que esto tan sólo aumentaría los gastos de la Organización y generaría burocracia.

Por último, queremos imirnos al resto de los miembros en el agradecimiento al Gobierno italiano por el anuncio que efectuó la semana pasada. Ojalá este ejemplo fuese seguido por otros Estados Miembros.

Mauricio CUADRA (Nicaragua): Deseamos en primer lugar agradecer el trabajo de los Comités, de los Expertos, de la Secretaría, los comentarios del Director General, en fin el trabajo de tantas y tantas personas que durante dos años han llevado a cabo este Examen tan riguroso y que ha concluido con un gran consenso y, estamos seguros, con gran beneficio para todas las partes.

Como miembros del Consejo, nuestra delegación tuvo oportunidad hace apenas unos pocos días, de expresar sus criterios y opiniones sobre las conclusiones de este Examen, opinión que hoy reiteramos. Adem podríamos limitarnos a endosar, como así lo hacemos, las declaraciones que hiciera el día de ayer el distinguido representante de Pakistán, Presidente del Grupo de los 77.

Reiteramos que endosamos estas declaraciones. Sin embargo, queremos hacer algunos breves comentarios.

El resultado del Examen refleja, como lo ha dicho la mayoría de los miembros que me han precedido, lo que ya sabíamos: que la FAO continúa siendo una institución sólida, dinámica y merecedora de la confianza de los Países Miembros y, aún más, que debe fortalecerse para hacer frente a los retos que le plantea el futuro inmediato y de mediano plazo de la humanidad. Los datos y cifras que documentan estos retos han sido objeto de estudio de varias de nuestras Comisiones. Por lo tanto, no es necesario reflejar aquí cuál es el estado del hambre, el futuro de la alimentación y la agricultura en el mundo. Estos datos son de todos conocidos y todos conocen la necesidad que se planteará y el incremento que se planteará la Organización en el futuro por requerimiento de los Estados Miembros, de tal manera que nos complace que se haya comprobado que las funciones de la Organización siguen siendo válidas después de 40 años de que estas funciones han combatido y continúan combatiendo el hambre en el mundo. No sólo creemos que siguen siendo válidas, sino que sentimos que se han ido renovando, revalidando y adaptando a las diferentes condiciones y a las condiciones específicas de los tiempos y los diferentes lugares donde les ha tocado ponerse en función. Nuestra delegación considera que las tres funciones principales de la Organización tienen una estrecha interpelación, tienen igual prioridad y son complementarias.

Nosotros damos gran valor, por supuesto, a la investigación, a la información y al foro de concertación, pero, al igual que muchas delegaciones que nos han precedido, consideramos que la labor de asistencia técnica tiene un impacto inmediato sobre nuestras necesidades más concretas y urgentes. Así pues, creemos que hay que dar a cada función el valor que le corresponde dependiendo de quiénes sean los beneficiarios.

Insistimos en que para nosotros el fortalecimiento de los Programas de Asistencia Técnica tiene una gran prioridad.

Es conocido que la crisis económica internacional afecta gravemente a todos nuestros países, muchos de los cuales hemos tenido que aplicar serias medidas de ajuste estructural. Hemos apoyado el papel de la FAO en la formulación de políticas y creemos que siendo el sector agropecuario uno de los que sufre más fuertemente el impacto de la crisis económica y el efecto de los programas de ajuste, y siendo la FAO el organismo más idóneo por su conocimiento del sector y su capacidad técnica, debe jugar un papel importante en el apoyo a los países en esta área.

Estamos de acuerdo, obviamente, con lo expresado por los Comités en el párrafo 2.20 del Informe, en el sentido de que se deben cumplir ciertos requisitos para una correcta participación de la Organización en programas de este tipo.

Apoyamos la coordinación de la FAO con otras instituciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas y no sólo, sino también con organismos regionales, para no duplicar funciones, ya que aquí se ha manifestado preocupación en ese sentido. Sin embargo, observamos que los Comités han encontrado satisfactoria la coordinación de la FAO con otras organizaciones. Si es cierto que algunas veces los organismos duplican funciones, a nosotros nos preocupa más cuando no hacen nada. Ante situaciones graves, como las que se están viviendo en la humanidad, hay organismos que no hacen nada. Nosotros en este campo estamos de acuerdo en que lo que abunda no daña, siempre que no haya, por supuesto, desperdicio de recursos.

Consideramos además que la FAO debe jugar en general un papel fundamental y no escatimar esfuerzos en la búsqueda de un nuevo orden económico internacional. En consecuencia hemos dado nuestro apoyo a la participación de la FAO en la Mesas Redondas del PNUD y en las reuniones de grupos consultivos del Banco Mundial. Creemos que la colaboración de la FAO en el GATT, así como la asistencia a los países en las negociaciones, es fundamental.

Nuestra delegación considera que la FAO debe continuar jugando, de acuerdo con su mandato, un papel de liderazgo en la conservación de los recursos naturales y en la transferencia de tecnologías, especialmente en lo referente a las nuevas biotecnologías, hacia los países en desarrollo.

Llegamos a la parte más seria. ¿Cómo poner en práctica un plan de fortalecimiento de una institución sin asignarle recursos para llevar a cabo sus nuevos programas o fortalecer los que ya tiene en curso? Hay que encontrar aquí una forma lógica por la vía más sana, que es la del consenso.

Creemos que los primeros recursos que hay que asignar a la FAO son aquéllos a los que ya tiene derecho, es decir, las cuotas normales y los adeudos de los Países Miembros. Sería ya de por sí una gran ayuda que nos pusieramos al día.

Por otro lado, creemos que eliminar programas para financiar otros, no es lo que se desprende del estudio de los expertos y no lo consideramos justo ni saludable. No hay un solo programa de la FAO que haya sido considerado superfluo o bien obsoleto. Creemos que son necesarios todos los programas que hoy está llevando a cabo la Organización. No se puede fortalecer una organización o un organismo comiéndose a sí mismo. Entonces, vemos que es necesario que se encuentren nuevos fondos adicionales que no afecten al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, y estamos de acuerdo en que se haga una priorización de actividades nuevas que se deseen poner en práctica y ver la forma de cómo llevar a cabo la implementación por fases de estas mismas actividades. Obviamente, si hay países u organizaciones con gran interés en

la puesta en práctica de los programas recomendados, que están en capacidad de hacer aportes extras, no creamos que alguien se vaya a oponer. Al contrario, consideramos que es bienvenida toda financiación extrapresupuestaria para programas específicos.

Este ejercicio de Examen que hoy concluimos debe dejarnos a todos elementos positivos. Creemos que las labores han sido arduas y que se han llevado a cabo las discusiones con franqueza y respeto, habiéndose logrado un gran consenso entre los miembros de la Comisión. Ese consenso debe de prevalecer entre los miembros de esta Conferencia. Creemos que se debe aprobar por consenso el Informe y dar por cerrado este Capítulo, y dedicarnos a fortalecer la institución para que desempeñe cabalmente su labor de llegar con los Países Miembros al año 2000 en un mundo sin hambre.

Marcelo L.A.S. VASCONCELOS (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation participated in the preparation of the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees. The Special Joint Session agreed on this report by consensus after a lengthy and detailed analysis of the issue. During the Ninety-sixth Session of the Council, we had another opportunity to express our views about the main questions involved. We expressed then our hope that the SJS Report be adopted and its recommendations endorsed by consensus. We still hope that this will be the final decision of this Conference.

In order to be brief, I would just like to mention three aspects of the issue to which we attach great importance.

The first one is the question of "priority setting". We consider that special attention should be given to the process and criteria for priority setting. The scheme by which the Programme and Finance Committees presently indicate the fields of priority while preparing the Programme of Work and Budget seems adequate to us. These criteria therefore should not be interpreted as an excuse to reduce the scarce resources available to the development activities of the Organization.

Secondly, we should like to stress the importance we attach to TCP, the activity considered by most developing countries as FAO's essential task. In a previous statement in this Commission, my delegation emphasized two aspects we would like to see enhanced in the implementation of FAO's technical cooperation programmes. One is the coordination of FAO with the recipient countries' authorities and with other UN agencies, and the other in the establishment of a national planning process for the implementation of these activities. We are aware of the difficulties, we could even say of the impossibility, of planning on a global level in this field. We believe however that, in national terms, the adoption of a planning process which takes into consideration the recipient Government's priorities would lead to a better utilization of the scarce resources to this end. We think therefore that the Organization, when reorganizing its activities in the light of recommendations of the SJS Report, should pay special attention to strengthening TCP in a way that it becomes a more effective support to the needs of the developing countries.

Finally, my delegation would like to mention the questions concerning the costs of implementing the recommendations of the Committees. We all know that, due to its present financial situation, the Organization is not in a condition to implement these recommendations without a supplementary appropriation. We think this question should be addressed in the light of the

proposal made by the Director-General in paragraph 83 of his Report. In case sane programme adjustments have to be introduced to accomodate now activities, we strongly support that this process be implemented without affecting the activities of high priority, for the developing countries.

Horacio MALTEZ R. (Panamá): Al iniciar nuestra intervención en este tema 15, la delegación de Panamá desea manifestar su agradecimiento al Sr. Mazoyer, Presidente del Comité del Programa, por la clara exposición que sobre el mismo hiciese durante el día de ayer. Hacemos propicia la ocasión, para expresar asimismo al Director General, nuestro aprecio y satisfacción por la forma sincera y concisa con la que nos resumió sus apreciaciones sobre tan delicado Examen. En este orden de cosas y por considerarlo pertinente, la delegación de Panamá estima un deber ineludible reconocer la forma paciente, comprensiva, atinada, capaz y valiente con que el Sr. Edouard Saouma ha sabido enfrentar todo el proceso del Examen.

La intervención efectuada durante el día de ayer por el distinguido y apreciado Sr. Muhammad Saleem Khan, delegado de Pakistán, y para nuestra satisfacción, Presidente del Grupo de los 77, ha facilitado mucho las cosas para la delegación de Panamá. En efecto, nos asociamos plenamente a sus declaraciones, razón por la cual concentraremos nuestra participación en referencias de tipo conceptual. En este contexto, la delegación panameña reitera 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 eficacia de la distribución de todos los alimentos y productos alimenticios y agrícolas (...) y contribuir así a la expansión de la economía mundial y a 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 reafirmado, tanto por los Comités del Prograna y de Finanzas, como por los Grupos de Expertos que examinaron algunos de los aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAD, en cumplimiento de la Resolución 6/87 de la anterior Conferencia.

En este orden de ideas, nuestra delegación, aunque como la mayoría de los países aquí representados nunca tuvo dudas al respecto, considera de primordial importancia y como un hecho alentador que los expertos y los Comités hayan comprobado la solidez y el dinamismo de nuestra Organización y certificado su buen estado. Esto, estillemos, debe hacer comprender tanto a quienes estaban convencidos de que la FAO se había apartado de su mandato original, cuanto a aquellos sectores que han intentado utilizar como pretexto y marco, la coyuntura financiera por ellos provocada para efectuar reformas a la Organización, que se ha llegado al fin de una etapa.

A este propósito consideramos oportuno resaltar que estamos y estaremos siempre dispuestos a establecer todo diálogo constructivo que tenga como finalidad reforzar la eficacia y la eficiencia de la Organización.

Nos sorprende, sin embargo, que a estas alturas del proceso del Examen existan quienes persisten en proponer esquemas o metodologías, que la mayoría de los países no consideramos en consonancia con el espíritu de esta Organización.

Estas consideraciones nos llevan a reafirmar nuestra plena indentificación con los objetivos, funciones y estrategias de la FAO, así como de sus operaciones de campo, en el convencimiento que ésta, nuestra Organización, principal órgano de la ayuda multilateral en el campo de la agricultura y de 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 el 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 la asistencia técnica es, a nuestro juicio, y a la luz de la realidad del estado actual de la situación mundial de la agricultura, el eslabón fundamental que posee la FAO para ayudar a los países en desarrollo, jugando un papel determinante en el logro de sus 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 magna Asamblea.

A este respecto, estimamos importante incrementar el PCT, del cual conocemos y garantizamos su función catalizadora. Consideramos que un nivel de apenas el 11,8 por ciento es insuficiente y debe ser sustancialmente aumentado.

Asimismo, la delegación de Panamá manifiesta su complacencia por las positivas opiniones y conclusiones del Director General, incluyendo su clasificación de los gastos que podrían estar involucrados en la puesta en práctica de los programas y actividades adicionales recomendadas en el Examen, lo mismo que sus conclusiones en relación con los informes de los consultores sobre la gestión.

Para terminar señor Presidente, dadas las múltiples reuniones, las concesiones efectuadas y lo poco que falta por alcanzar, instamos a todos los Estados Miembros para que hagamos ese último pequeño esfuerzo para lograr tan esperado consenso.

Sang-Kil LEE (Korea, Republic of): To begin with the Korean delegation would like to express their deep appreciation for the expert group, the members of the Programme and Finance Committees, as well as for the Director-General, who spared no efforts to complete the review works and to produce the valuable Report which is before us.

We understand that the main objectives of Conference Resolution 6/87 is to strengthen FAO in every possible manner so that it can continue to play a leading role in world agricultural development in the years to come. In this regard my delegation is happy to note that the objective of the Resolution is sufficiently reflected in the Report. We, therefore, approve the conclusions and the recommendations of the SJS Report in general. However, my delegation would like to emphasize some particular points in the Report. First of all, with regard to the FAO's Medium-Term Objectives as mentioned in paragraph 2.6, we are of the opinion that human resources development should be more emphasized to cope with the increasing demand for agricultural technology in the future.

Secondly, while fully endorsing the three major roles of the FAO, that is the dissemination of agricultural information, providing an international forum for promoting actions, and technical assistance to developing countries, we attach particular importance to the role of FAO as the centre for global information on food and agriculture. In this context we would like to urge that sufficient budget resources be allocated in order to secure the implementation of this vital role.

Thirdly, my delegation would like to stress the importance of research and transfer of agricultural technology. As the need for technological development increases in various areas, such as genetic resources, biotechnology, farming systems, it is necessary to strengthen the mechanism of TCDC to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the cooperating activities. We therefore hope that the FAO and the donor countries increase their assistance to the activities.

Fourthly, we believe that the flexibility and efficiency of TCP projects have greatly contributed to the agricultural development in most developing countries. Therefore we strongly urge that TCP should be maintained in its present form as a vital element of FAO's field of operations and that additional financial support should be provided for this Programme.

Finally, we would like to join the other many delegates who have made strong appeals to conclude the FAO Review during this Session. The Review may not be completed yet and also further deliberations might be needed in the process of implementing the recommendations of the Review, which is likely to require an inevitable increase of the financial obligations of Member Nations. However, when we take into account the time constraints of this Session and the Secretariat's continuous efforts to rake better management of the Organization, we believe that it is the right time to give our full support to FAO, so that it could meet the challenging need for combating hunger and malnutrition from every corner of the developing world in the 1990s and beyond. In this regard the Korean delegation reiterates that the Review Report of FAO's Goals and Operations should be adopted by consensus at this Conference.

LE PRESIDENT: Il est presque 18 heures; j'ai l'intention de terminer les interventions ce soir, toutes les interventions sur cette question. Il se peut qu'il y ait quelques réponses du Secrétariat, dans un premier temps, ce soir.

Mais il me semble qu'il faut ajourner cette réunion après avoir entendu tout le monde. Je vais essayer, dans mes contacts personnels avec certains d'entre vous, de faire en sorte de pouvoir proposer demain, certainement demain après-midi, un texte qui puisse refléter le consensus que tout le monde souhaite. Je prendrai personnellement contact avec certains d'entre vous pour que nous arrivions à ce consensus. Nous utiliserons cette nuit et demain matin pour atteindre cet objectif. Ensuite nous pourrons nous retrouver demain après-midi sur cette question et vous présenter alors ce que nous croyons être le consensus.

Il reste encore six ou sept délégués qui souhaitent prendre la parole. Nous allons les écouter.

S'agissant de l'adoption du point 13, compte tenu de la liste des orateurs en fin de matinée nous pensions pouvoir régler la question ce soir, mais il est préférable de repousser cette adoption à demain soir, lorsque nous aurons épuisé ce débat. Ensuite, nous irons en plénière jeudi après-midi.

Tel est donc l'acheminement que je vous propose; j'espère que vous me suivrez afin que nous puissions avancer.

Ernest BENJAMIN (Antigua and Barbuda): At our last Conference we agreed on the need to strengthen FAO in every possible way so that it can play a leading role in world agriculture. My delegation feels that there is still a consensus on the need for strengthening FAD. It is for this reason that we are very pleased at the conclusion of the Group of Experts and the Committee to the effect that FAO is a solid and dynamic institution.

It should be recalled that the Conference mandated the Review to be conducted in the light of the evolutionary trend in World food and agriculture. On the basis of examination of trends the significant conclusion is that agriculture must remain high on the international agenda for the foreseeable future. In this context FAO will have a pivotal role in responding to the needs for developed and developing countries and in particular developing countries in the modernization and revitalization of the agriculture sector. This points to the need for international support, cooperation and solidarity for FAO.

Antigua and Barbuda supports the conclusions and recommendations that FAO's objectives are still relevant. It applauds the views of the founding fathers.

We also support the conclusion that the three major roles for FAO are valid. In this regard we argue that these roles are interrelated and interlocked. However, and most obviously for developing countries, as my own, we place great attention and significance on the role of technical assistance.

As regards the role of research, technology generation and transfer, we are in agreement with the conclusions, especially insofar as this role can assist all the developed countries and farmers in the production of food for mankind.

Perhaps the most useful role with which we are concerned is that of technical assistance and technical cooperation amongst developed countries. As a country which has benefited from the Technical Cooperation Programme - that is, in concrete terms during periods of drought and other emergencies, we are fully supportive of that programme which responds to the needs of emergencies and is very flexible in its character. We do not subscribe to the view that that programme should operate on the basis of pre-planning. By its very nature it should have the flexibility that it deserves. We are also opposed to the view that has emerged that such a programme should be managed and operated by some committee, whatever you might call it. We feel that the organs and the Director-General should have the competence in discharging this responsibility.

We now wish to share some views on the financial duplications of implementing the Review. In the first instance, we find if we say and conclude that the Review and the conclusions are useful, then it is most logical and obvious that there should be the resources with which to implement them. We would

oppose any idea to further reduce the budget for the upcoming biennium or apply any principle of absorption of costs. We feel in this regard that funds should be provided for the implementation and all nations should honour their obligations in providing the resources for the implementation of the budget.

In conclusion, we are satisfied with the recommendations which if taken on a basis of a holistic approach will strengthen the institutional capability of FAO and at the same time enhance its delivery service and in a real sense provide the transparency for which some Member Nations are yearning.

Finally, we feel that in the interests of solidarity we should all approve the conclusions of the Review and join in a consensus to that end.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): The Netherlands has been an active supporter of FAO since its inception and it intends to continue this support in the future. Over the years, our involvement with the Organization has grown to the extent that it is now a major partner for us in the programming and implementation of development activities, particularly in the area of rural development, forestry and food security.

FAO is, in this respect, the most important specialized agency for us. It is, however, not only as a channel for development cooperation that we participate in FAO's activities with keen interest. FAO, as the only specialized body where agricultural issues can be debated on a global level, has, in our view, a lead role with regard to all agricultural issues of a global nature.

Many countries, including developed ones, look to FAO for information and guidance in the field of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food security. We are strongly convinced of the continuing need for a global organization in these areas and we look to FAO to fulfil this essential function.

It is precisely for this reason that we, along with many other Member States, came to the conclusion that the time had come to have a thorough look at all aspects of the Organization's structure and operations to make sure that it was ready for the challenges of the next decade and beyond.

This was all the more necessary in view of the fact that heavy demands will be made on the Organization in the context of the International Development Strategy for the next decade, now being discussed in the United Nations, timely also in view of the rapid and fundamental changes that have taken place over the last ten years in the developing world, but also in the industrialized world.

I only mention here the tremendous burden of the accumulated international debts in many countries, the alarming population growth and the growing awareness that we cannot go on indefinitely depleting the earth's natural resources and in the process damaging the environment almost beyond repair.

Mr Chairman, the research and studies undertaken for this Review are now before us and it is for the Member States to draw the necessary conclusions.

Essentially, we believe, the outcome is threefold:

One that FAO is basically a sound Organization. Two, that there are areas where changes and adaptations are needed in order to better face present and further challenges, and three, that substantial additional resources are needed to effect these changes.

We agree with the first two conclusions and we disagree with the third one. Let there be no misunderstanding about this, Mr Chairman.

To solve the urgent development needs that face developing countries, now and in the near future, massive additional resources are definitely needed.

The Netherlands Government, supported by a nation-wide consensus, has contributed, and will contribute for the foreseeable future, its share in this global effort, and it will do so to the extent that is equalled by only very few countries indeed. The additional resources proposed for the reorganization and restructuring of this Organization fall into a different category, however. They do not directly benefit developing countries. It is the improvement in the Organization resulting from the Review that could have a substantial impact on the resources that would become available to the Organization.

The objective of a review of an organization is usually to improve the operations of that organization, not necessarily to add to its resources. A hard look is from time needed on what has become less effective or perhaps even redundant, and what structures and activities need to be strengthened. That is what in our view has been the purpose of the important undertaking we are now about to start. The conclusion, that virtually nothing can be done if no additional resources become available, is in our view simply not justified.

Many of the recommendations do in our opinion not involve additional costs, as was also stressed by France; others are perhaps less necessary or urgent and others again could be funded by rearranging priorities.

Priority-setting does not involve the identification of new activities or structures and simply adding the necessary funds to the total bill. That is easy enough, as the Nordics said. Even if there would be plenty of money available, this would still not be a recommendable thing to do, and not at all helpful, in particular not for developing countries since these additional funds can then not be used for other developing purposes. What needs to be done, Mr Chairman, is to go a little bit slower on activities that are less vital, and to economize wherever possible without affecting essential programme delivery.

Of course, what is equally needed is the payment in full and on time of assessed contributions.

But there are two sides to this coin. There is a limit to the possibility to enforce obligations that are based on contentious decisions.

In the end, such obligations will no longer be accepted or can no longer be fulfilled. Already now, problems with the payment of contributions are apparent. This is in our view a clear signal that the limit has been reached and that further pushing can only be counter-productive. It is therefore vital that the resources needed for the Review are decided upon by consensus,

without hesitation and based on a clear and complete picture of the financial obligations for the next biennium. We therefore entirely agree with the Nordic countries that decisions on funding the Review should be taken before the budget is voted upon.

As was stated earlier by my delegation, we will be able to vote in favour of the budget as presented to us, including its real growth, if the costs involved in the Review, which we believe could stay considerably below the level now estimated, are absorbed within this level.

We realize however, that if rearrangement of priorities or a delay in the implementation of some activities would be needed, it may be difficult at this stage to determine where and when this should be effected, taking also into account the uncertainties with regard to the payment of contributions. This is a suggestion. It could perhaps be helpful if this Conference sets aside a certain percentage of the budget for the Review, say 3-5 percent or whatever turns out to be needed, so that at a later stage decisions can be made where and to what extent adjustments are needed.

I can be brief with regard to the Netherlands' ideas on the substance of the Review since we have outlined them on various occasions in the past. In fact, many of our ideas are covered in the recommendations in the SJS report, but we believe that some SJS recommendations are more important than others. What is most important, however, for this Conference is to adopt a comprehensive resolution in which it provides specific guidelines to the Secretariat on the implementation and follow-up mechanism of the Review.

As far as the procedures are concerned, the establishment of an adequate medium-term planning system and a substantial decentralization of authority and resources to the field are, we believe, essential. A logical and desirable consequence of decentralization would be the strengthening of the country offices, first and foremost in terms of quality, through reallocation of staff and other resources. Perhaps the introduction of a rotational staff system could be beneficial in this respect, taking into account that there are many capable officers who could very well serve in the field from time to time, thus applying their knowledge and capabilities directly at the level it is most needed.

With regard to the intergovernmental machinery in the Organization to supervise and monitor FAO's field activities, what are commonly called operational activities for development, we believe the establishment of a single committee to deal with all these activities, irrespective of the funding source, is called for. It would provide Member States with the opportunity to regard FAO's operations in an interdisciplinary and integrated manner, more focused on the development policy aspects than on purely technical issues, as would probably be the case when these activities would be discussed in the standing technical committees.

With regard to the more substantial issues, we believe - along with the experts - that there is a need for greater emphasis on the FAO's policy analysis and advice functions, in particular at the country level since it is in this area that developing countries will need all the help they can get. Furthermore, it is extremely important, in our view, that FAO's field activities are concentrated in those areas where they can be most effective, where needs are perceived to be paramount and where they fit into larger development programmes that clearly reflect the country's own development plans and priorities. Only then, we believe, can FAO's field activities effectively contribute to the country's overall development.

Moreover, FAO is not an organization in its own right. It is a part and parcel of the UN family and its work touches on the work of many of its sister organizations. It is through their collective efforts that the impact of the UN organizations will be most beneficial, in particular at a country level.

Also, at headquarters level, intense cooperation and a proper division of labour are needed. To set up some cooperative arrangement in Rome between the organizations present here, for instance, seems to us to be a good idea and we support it.

There are many other issues I could mention here, such as the need to shift progressively to national execution of projects and the concentration of assistance on management training instead of technical advice, but I believe that I have mentioned the major subjects that are of concern to us and indeed to the experts.

Before concluding, Mr Chairman, permit me to mention one further subject not directly related to the Review but which is important to us and indeed to many other Member States. It concerns the decision-making procedure in this Organization. We believe that improvements can be made, and we have certain ideas on how this can be achieved. Let me add straightaway that we believe that this is an issue on which we should all reflect thoroughly and which should only be decided upon the basis of a consensus. If the Conference is not ready to take decisions on this issue, we would like to come back to it at a later stage - for instance at the Council Session in November 1990 - and see what can be done.

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): La delegación argentina se une a todas las delegaciones que han expresado su agradecimiento, tanto al Director General cuanto a los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, al personal de la Secretaría y a los expertos que han trabajado en este proceso de examen de las actividades de la FAO.

Nosotros quisiéramos referirnos, muy brevemente, más que nada a la mecánica de este proceso, no al fondo del mismo, y quisiéramos señalar nuestro convencimiento de que el resultado de este examen, no sólo el resultado, sino la manera en que fue llevado a cabo este examen, constituyen un compromiso. Esto ha sido un compromiso permanente. Cuando se adoptó la Resolución 6/87, en la Conferencia, hace dos años, eso fue un compromiso. Cuando los Comités comenzaron a sesionar, fue un compromiso, no sólo determinar cuáles eran las tareas que iban a llevarse a cabo, sino también cuáles eran los expertos que los iban a asistir. Cuando los expertos formularon sus informes se comprometieron entre sí mismos porque, si no, no hubieran podido llegar a un texto que todos pudieran suscribir. Cuando los Comités, a su vez, consideraron los informes de los expertos, extrajeron de esos informes lo que podían aceptar, lo que podían refrendar y lo que podían recomendar a la Conferencia, a través del Consejo. Y eso también fue un compromiso. Entonces, señor Presidente, es claro que todo este proceso que se inició de esta manera y siguió de esta manera, tiene que terminar con un compromiso, tiene que terminar con un acuerdo, y que este compromiso tiene que tomar como base lo que ya ha sido hecho. Nosotros, no podemos darnos el lujo ahora de dar por tierra con todo este consenso, que es una palabra que parece que está muy en boga, con todo este consenso tan trabajosamente obtenido. Es evidente que hay algunas cuestiones que pueden haber recibido más atención que otras y que hay

alguna sugerencia o alguna propuesta que ha quedado en el camino. Pero si ha quedado en el camino o no ha recibido tanta atención es porque no podía ser objeto de un compromiso, en el estado en el que estaban desarrollándose las cosas.

Entonces, nosotros quisiéramos señalar esto a la atención de la Conferencia para que se tome en cuenta que tenemos que trabajar sobre lo que se ha logrado y que una vez que tengamos esto en marcha es cuando se van a poder avanzar otras propuestas u otras ideas que no han podido ser consideradas hasta el momento. Lo importante, a juicio de la delegación argentina, es que se trabaje sobre lo que se tiene en este momento.

Señor Presidente, la delegación argentina se siente parte de este compromiso pues ha sido representada en el Comité del Programa, y puede prácticamente endosar en su totalidad el informe de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas.

En cuanto a algunas actividades que nos interesan particularmente, y sobre las que nos referimos cuando hablamos en el Consejo hace dos semanas, no vamos a repetirlas aquí; vamos a pedir a la Presidencia que nos permita incluir la parte pertinente del acta en las actas de esta Conferencia.

En cuanto a la financiación, señor, es claro que prácticamente todas las delegaciones que se han expresado, han manifestado su deseo de que ya no se aumenten las consignaciones presupuestarias. Muchos países tienen problemas de tipo financiero, muchos países tienen atrasos para con la Organización, y muchas delegaciones tienen instrucciones precisas de no votar más consignaciones de las que ya figuran en el Programa de labores y Presupuesto como ha sido formulado. Entonces es claro que esto nos deja con pocas opciones para la financiación de estas recomendaciones que seguramente serán aprobadas. Nosotros creemos, señor, que entonces deberíamos, continuando el compromiso, comprometernos todos a pagar puntualmente las cuotas que correspondan al bienio 1990-91, de manera de no exigir a la Organización un esfuerzo desmedido. Y creemos que con las cuotas atrasadas que vayan llegando, por ejemplo, una vez salvados los gastos en que ha incurrido la Organización, con algunos reajustes que no afecten el cumplimiento sustantivo del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio próximo, y con los recursos extrapresupuestarios que puedan avanzarse para temas determinados de interés de algunos países, se puede comenzar a poner en práctica lo más importante de este resultado del examen.

Algunas actividades no requerirán gastos, otras sí. Respecto de la prioridad a otorgar a las que sí los exigen, la delegación argentina puede hacer suya la enunciación presentada por el Director General en la categoría 1 de la página XVIII del Informe, con la salvedad de que la dependencia de inspección para las actividades de campo no nos parece tan relevante. En su lugar, ubicaríamos las actividades de CTPD y de biotecnología que figuran en la categoría siguiente.

Creemos que se ha completado un trabajo de gran aliento, que nos han presentado recomendaciones muy valiosas con efectos sobre el largo plazo, y que ellas deben ser analizadas cuidadosamente por los Miembros del Consejo y de la Conferencia para ver cuál es la mejor manera de ponerlas en práctica a los efectos de fortalecer la eficiencia de la Organización.

Nuestro primer comentario se refiere a las conclusiones del Examen en lo que hace a lo que se llama el rol o a lo que se llaman las funciones de la FAO. En ocasión de la aprobación de la Resolución 6/87 en la Conferencia, la delegación argentina había hecho una observación con relación a la necesidad

de proceder al Examen de las funciones de la FAO. En aquel momento, nosotros dijimos que creíamos que la función de la FAO estaba claramente definida en su Constitución y que no había que tocarla. El Examen que se ha llevado a cabo nos ha dado razón en aquella apreciación.

En lo que se refiere a las funciones específicas, esas tres funciones principales que están enumeradas en los Textos Básicos, la delegación argentina estima que es fundamental poner de relieve el carácter complementario de las mismas, y que ello implica que debe haber un equilibrio entre los recursos que se les destinan, porque ellos se alimentan mutuamente. La primera, o sea la que se refiere a la colección y difusión de información, implica necesariamente que se debe ayudar a los países para ser capaces de obtener y transmitir sus propios datos económicos. La segunda hace uso de la información para poder formular políticas y recomendaciones pertinentes, eficaces y conducentes a los altos objetivos de la Organización. Y la tercera, la de asistencia técnica, también es fundamental por cuanto sin ella los países en desarrollo no podrían superar sus actuales limitaciones y no podrían contribuir nunca útilmente a las funciones anteriores de la Organización.

En cuanto a las nuevas tareas, apoyamos especialmente la actividad en materia de política de la FAO en lo que se refiere a los programas de ajuste estructural, coincidiendo en un todo con el párrafo 2.20 del Capítulo 2 del informe de los Comités.

También damos especial énfasis a la actividad de la Organización en el fomento de la investigación y de la transferencia de tecnologías. En este sentido, manifestamos nuestro especial acuerdo con los párrafos 2.23 y 2.24 del mismo capítulo, sobre todo en lo que hace a la CTPD y al fomento de la investigación en los propios países en desarrollo. En asistencia técnica estamos de acuerdo con lo que reza el párrafo 2.27 y quisiéramos llamar la atención sobre la necesidad de que ella se adecúe sobre todo a la capacidad de absorción del país receptor, circunstancia que no vemos mencionada en los informes. Con relación a la actividad que propone el Director General en materia de consejo científico y técnico en las cuestiones de regulaciones sanitarias y fitosanitarias para el comercio internacional de alimentos y otros productos agrícolas, mi delegación está muy contenta de poder apoyar esta iniciativa y esperamos que ella cuente con la aprobación del resto de las delegaciones asistentes a la Conferencia.

En lo que se refiere a las operaciones de campo, favorecemos el examen técnico de las mismas por parte de los Comités principales competentes. Estimamos que ello permitirá detectar los problemas que se presentan y buscarles soluciones adecuadas. Estimamos también que ello implicará la necesidad de participación técnica, de participación a nivel de expertos que provengan de las capitales, mucho más de lo que ha exigido hasta el presente. Recordamos aquí la referencia que hicimos en el Consejo pasado acerca de la necesidad de que se provea en el futuro de alguna forma de asistencia a los países en desarrollo que no pueden hacer llegar a sus expertos de las capitales a Roma, en ocasión de las reuniones de los Comités principales. En la última reunión del COAG una delegación expresó su sorpresa por ver que el nivel de las delegaciones que asistían a los Comités principales de la FAO había ido decayendo a lo largo del tiempo. Nosotros dijimos en aquel momento que creíamos que ello se debía a las graves restricciones financieras que afrontan los países en desarrollo y que el Consejo debía pensar en alguna

solución para asegurar que la participación de los países se pudiera hacer en un pie de igualdad y en un nivel técnico adecuado. Estamos planteando esta cuestión aquí para ver cuál es la reacción de los Miembros del Consejo, para ver si podemos formular un diálogo en este sentido.

En cuanto a las prioridades en la selección de los proyectos y programas, estamos de acuerdo con que ello es un ejercicio necesario y estamos convencidos también de que la FAO lo ha hecho siempre. Cuando en muchas partes de los informes se dice que la Organización recibe muchas más solicitudes de asistencia que las que efectivamente puede dar, se está implicando que la Organización está diciendo que no a muchas de esas solicitudes de asistencia. Esto se hace, evidentemente con base en un criterio que tiene en cuenta el mandato de la FAO y las prioridades fijadas por los Países Miembros. Si bien la actual situación financiera es especialmente crítica, nosotros no podemos suponer que a la FAO siempre le sobró dinero, y que tenía más plata que la que necesitaba para ayudar a los países. El dinero siempre fue limitado en esta Organización, como en cualquier otra y como en cualquiera de los Países Miembros. De manera que la selección de prioridades y la selección de proyectos se ha efectuado siempre. Si lo que se está pidiendo es que esta tarea se refine de alguna manera o que en ella puedan tener los Países Miembros una mayor participación o que éstos encuentren la manera de ponerse de acuerdo sobre algunas prioridades, digamos, más prioritarias que otras, nosotros no tenemos ningún inconveniente en entrar en diálogo con el resto de la membrecía del Consejo, de la Conferencia, de la Organización, para ver refinar el proceso. Pero quisiéramos dejar en claro que creemos que una selección de actividades se ha hecho siempre y que estamos seguros de que lo que hay que hacer es, tal vez, perfeccionar el proceso, pero no se puede decir que esto no se ha hecho en el pasado. Por consiguiente, no vemos contradicción mayor en los puntos de vista expresados en los párrafos 2.27, 2.29 y 3.23 del informe. Pese a que en el informe de las reuniones conjuntas de los Comités se hace aparecer como que hay puntos de vista divergentes, nosotros, que partimos de esta base que acabamos de comentar, no vemos que haya realmente puntos de vista divergentes, y nos asombra que éste sea uno de los temas de los cuales se dice que hay divergencia entre los miembros.

Salim SARRAF (Liban) (langue originale Arabe): La délégation du Liban souhaite d'abord souligner qu'elle n'était pas de celles qui ont demandé que soit mené cet Examen sur les activités de l'Organisation. Toutefois nous n'avons pas fait d'objections à cette demande ni aux objectifs des réformes. L'Examen a été effectivement réalisé et il comprend des points précis dans cette optique même de réformes. Ces points ont fait l'objet d'un accord entre les différents Etats Membres et nous en sommes satisfaits. Nous nous félicitons également de voir se confirmer dans cet Examen le caractère sain de la structure de l'Organisation, de son dynamisme et de l'efficacité de ses activités.

Il est clairement apparu, à travers le document, que l'Organisation ne s'est pas détournée de sa voie initiale comme l'ont imaginé certains pays et que ses trois rôles fondamentaux, tels que prévus par son Acte constitutif, demeurent valables, actuels et constituent un tout.

Ainsi donc, nous appuyons l'application de toutes les réformes convenues et qui ont été suffisamment étudiées et analysées par les différents comités et organes.

Cependant nous les appuyons à condition que l'on puisse les mettre effectivement en application, car leur exécution est, bien entendu, tributaire de ressources supplémentaires susceptibles de renforcer le budget et de nous permettre d'oeuvrer pour le meilleur sans pour autant épuiser notre Organisation, sans la mettre dans l'embarras face à des choix impossibles .

Il existe peut-être une possibilité, quoique limitée, de mettre quelques réformes en application par le biais d'économies pouvant être réalisées au titre de certains chapitres du budget et par une utilisation plus efficace de ces économies. Cependant, qu'elle qu'en soit leur ampleur, ces économies ne sauraient couvrir toutes les réformes prévues dans l'Examen et convenues de tous.

Nous considérons que c'est un choix impossible que de demander une réalisation parfaite des améliorations, des progrès et réformes.

Il serait même naïf de croire que tout ceci pourrait se faire gratuitement ou qu'il n'entraînerait pas, pour l'Organisation, des frais supplémentaires en l'absence de ressources supplémentaires. Il nous apparaît donc que cette tâche est en soi difficile. Qu'en serait-il alors si nous entrons aujourd'hui dans de nouvelles considérations complexes, si nous soulevons de nouveaux points qui n'ont pas fait l'objet de discussions au sein des comités ni du groupe d'experts, qui n'ont pas été l'objet de cet Examen et dont les différents organes n'ont pas été saisis.

Aussi est-il difficile d'appliquer ces réformes toutes à la fois. Commençons donc par ce qui a été convenu et mettons de côté les nouvelles opinions qui ne se sont pas encore concrétisées ni étudiées en profondeur pour que l'on puisse s'entendre à leur sujet.

La raison et la sagesse consistent à accepter ce que nous sommes en mesure de faire et ce qui satisfait les Etats Membres au lieu de tenter d'atteindre ce qui est hors de notre portée, de peur que nous placions trop haut la barre de nos aspirations à un point tel que nous serions incapables de les comprendre et de les réaliser.

En résumé, nous affirmons notre appui aux réformes qui ont été étudiées et qui ont fait l'objet d'un consensus, de même que nous affirmons notre soutien aux propositions du Directeur général. Nous demandons que soient assurées les ressources supplémentaires, nécessaires à l'exécution de ces réformes, par le biais de crédits complémentaires.

Mais si cela n'est ni acceptable ni possible, il faudra nous mettre d'accord pour laisser la FAO continuer son action qui réalise les souhaits des pays en développement et répond à leurs besoins.

Et cessons alors de demander des réformes aux réformes, comme l'a déjà dit avec éloquence le distingué ambassadeur de Belgique. Nous estimons qu'il n'est plus utile de prolonger les discussions au-delà de cette séance sur un sujet qui a été suffisamment expliqué, disséqué et analysé, et ce contrairement à ce qu'a dit le représentant du Royaume-Uni.

Nous appuyons votre proposition qui consiste à ce que vous continuiez les consultations avec qui vous le jugerez nécessaire pour terminer la discussion à ce sujet de la meilleure manière.

Sundararaman RAJASEKBR (New Zealand) : Thank you for the opportunity to speak on what is undeniably the most important issue before this year's Conference. At the outset, my delegation would like to record its appreciation of what has gone into the Review exercise. The Review has certainly highlighted a positive aspect of FAO's work. We fully support FAO's role in the collection and dissemination of information on food and agriculture, promoting action aimed at increasing food and agricultural production and providing technical assistance. These are, as it were, the bread and butter of FAO's work. We strongly endorse the call for FAO to assume a greater role in the provision of policy advice in its area of competence. This is particularly important at a time when we are engaged in major trade negotiations, in reducing trade barriers and promoting more rational policies in the agricultural sector. As successive studies have shown, a sound policy framework is the best means of ensuring efficient resource allocation and the long-term growth of output and income.

Turning to the issue of Medium-term Planning, New Zealand would like to express its support for the recommendations of the Joint Committee in paragraph 2.50 of document C 89/21. We note that some delegations have expressed doubts about the value of Medium-Term Planning in the absence of firm resource commitments, but we are convinced from our own experience that the process of planning, with its attendant focus on prioritization and the allocation of resources gives strategic direction and introduces new disciplines.

As regards the Review of Field Operations, we would like to compliment the Review Team on its excellent report and very pragmatic recommendations. We see the field activities of FAO as among the most important, and any measures taken to improve project identification, support and oversight are worthwhile.

In his Plenary address, the New Zealand Minister of Agriculture called on the FAO to take account of the very real resource constraints facing all of us. We are not seeking to impose financial constraints and disciplines on FAO or on other agencies that we are not imposing on our own country. By way of illustration, my own department has been faced with a reduction in its budgetary allocation of some 64 percent over the last five years. This has forced a major review of programmes and priorities, while still ensuring that we did not compromise on our statutory roles and functions. In these circumstances we find it difficult to support the call for additional resources to implement the recommendations of the Review. This necessarily places some hard choices and decisions on member countries and on the management of this important Organization, but it would be a pity if we turned away from this Conference without facing up to those choices. We believe that there is sufficient goodwill and commitment among the membership of this Organization to enable it to work towards a consensus on this vital issue.

Sidaty AIDARA (Sénégal): Je suis certainement l'un des derniers à demander la parole sur le point 15 de l'Ordre du jour relatif à l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO, question dont l'importance n'échappe à personne ici. Cette position sur la liste des orateurs, qui m'a permis d'écouter avec beaucoup d'intérêt une centaine de déclarations, aussi intéressantes les unes que les autres, me permet de ne pas être long, encore que ma délégation eût souhaité s'exprimer beaucoup plus longuement sur cette question, compte tenu de son importance.

Une centaine de délégations qui se sont exprimées sur cette question, capitale s'il en est, représente à nos yeux un élément doublement révélateur, d'une part de l'intérêt tout particulier que les Etats Membres attachent à la question qui nous occupe en ce moment, et d'autre part de l'étendue des sensibilités sur une telle question.

Mon intention ici n'est pas, loin s'en faut, de me substituer à vous, Monsieur le Président, pour faire un résumé des débats intenses et des idées intéressantes qui ont animé ces deux jours de discussions. Ce rôle vous appartient et je me garderai bien de vous remplacer dans cet exercice dont je mesure la délicatesse. Vous me permettrez cependant de noter qu'à ce stade du débat il apparaît un certain nombre d'éléments qui ont fait l'unanimité pour les uns et quelques divergences de points de vue - pas de désaccords de fond - pour les autres. Je reviendrai d'ailleurs sur ce dernier aspect.

Ma délégation pense en effet qu'une unanimité - je ne dis pas une majorité -s'est dégagée sur les principaux points suivants: l'utilité et la justesse de l'exercice, dont les termes de référence se trouvent définis dans la Résolution 6/87, et auquel s'est livrée la FAO depuis deux ans en mobilisant beaucoup de temps, beaucoup de ressources et beaucoup d'énergie; la pertinence des conclusions de l'étude du groupe d'experts et des recommandations des deux Comités du programme et des finances; le renforcement de la capacité de notre Organisation à faire face à ses engagements et aux défis de notre temps; la reconnaissance de son rôle de chef de file dans les domaines alimentaire et agricole; la nécessité de se conformer aux buts et objectifs de la FAO tels qu'ils apparaissent au Préambule de l'Acte constitutif de notre Organisation, buts et objectifs qui demeurent, 45 ans après la création de la FAO, aussi actuels et pertinents que jamais; l'importance des trois principaux rôles de la FAO comme centre d'analyses, de politique et d'information, comme forum international et comme source d'assistance technique; la non-poursuite de l'Examen au-delà de cette session de la Conférence générale pour en considérer la mise en oeuvre des recommandations.

Voilà quelques éléments qui, à notre avis, ont emporté l'adhésion de pratiquement toutes les délégations.

Cette unanimité nous semble apparaître également sur certaines questions particulières, notamment sur l'importance de la coordination de la place de la FAO dans le système international, du rôle du Programme de coopération technique, bien que beaucoup de délégations aient regretté la baisse du niveau de ce Programme, de l'importance des représentations de la FAO dans les pays comme au niveau des régions, des programmes et opérations de terrain ainsi que des programmes d'action sociaux, de la formation du personnel tant au niveau des pays bénéficiaires qu'au siège de la FAO. Meme si l'on n'est pas d'accord sur les modalités de financement de cette formation, on est d'accord sur les principes de cette formation. Comme vous le voyez, il y a beaucoup de choses qui unissent les délégations.

Sur les autres aspects de nos discussions, je crois pouvoir dire qu'une très large majorité s'est prononcée en faveur tant des recommandations des deux Comités du programme et des finances que des mesures additionnelles proposées par le Directeur général pour compléter et renforcer ces recommandations, avec la différence que certaines délégations dont la mienne ne sont pas convaincues de la nécessité de la création d'une unité d'inspection des opérations de terrain.

Au reste, sur le contrôle de la gestion de ces opérations, il convient de dire que la grande majorité dans laquelle se reconnaît ma délégation s'est déclarée contre la création de toute structure à ce sujet, quelle que soit l'appellation de cette dernière. Cette majorité s'est également prononcée, il faut le dire, contre tout mécanisme extérieur à la FAO chargé du suivi de la mise en oeuvre des recommandations, si ces recommandations venaient à être adoptées.

Au vu de tout ce qui précède, on est légitimement tenté de se poser la question de savoir où est le problème.

A part certaines légères nuances, plus sur la forme que sur le fond, de quelques questions comme le problème des priorités, la planification à moyen terme, les procédures d'élaboration du budget biennal de l'Organisation notamment, le problème, comme à l'accoutumée, est la question des ressources, donc des modalités financières de mise en oeuvre des recommandations y compris les propositions du Directeur général. Sur cet aspect particulier, la grande majorité est d'avis que la mise en oeuvre des recommandations ne doit se réaliser que dans le cadre de ressources additionnelles, tandis que certaines délégations estiment que par un jeu de réaménagement le budget de la FAO peut absorber les 26 millions de dollars nécessaires à la mise en oeuvre des recommandations. Ma délégation ne partage pas cette opinion.

Nous pensons en effet que, compte tenu entre autres de la crise financière que traverse actuellement notre Organisation, compte tenu du montant très élevé des arriérés de contributions, de l'importance de la dette de notre Organisation, de l'importance qu'accordent les Etats bénéficiaires au maintien du niveau de qualité et du bon déroulement des programmes et opérations de terrain, le montant indiqué du budget de la FAO ne peut pas supporter de coûts additionnels.

Ma délégation partage l'avis de la grande majorité selon laquelle il ne faudrait pas lier l'adoption du budget à celle des recommandations qui nous sont soumises, les deux questions étant distinctes l'une de l'autre.

Le groupe d'experts, comme les Comités du programme et des finances, est arrivé, à l'issue de son étude, à la conclusion majeure que la FAO est une institution solide, dynamique et saine. Solide et dynamique, elle l'est certainement puisqu'en marchant elle a prouvé le mouvement; saine? Nous ne le pensons pas, à moins qu'on ne se réfère à la question de la gestion. Oui, dans ce cas, la FAO est saine; mais comme chacun le sait, la FAO est malade, on l'a dit ici; la FAO est malade de ressources. Comment, dans ces conditions, pouvons-nous demander à notre Organisation d'absorber les coûts supplémentaires qu'occasionnerait la mise en oeuvre des recommandations?

Il nous faut être réalistes et mesurer la gravité de la proposition qui consiste à demander à une organisation, déjà malade et en crise financière, de supporter des coûts additionnels.

Une telle proposition ne ferait que mettre davantage notre Organisation dans une situation difficile. En même temps qu'elle entamerait les activités de l'Organisation, cette proposition mettrait la FAO davantage à genoux et placerait le Directeur général de la FAO dans l'obligation soit de procéder à des emprunts bancaires - ce qui aurait des conséquences fâcheuses sur l'économie déjà affaiblie des pays en développement - soit de procéder à de nouvelles coupes de programmes, par exemple les programmes de coopération technique auxquels les pays en développement tiennent tant, ou alors de réduire l'assistance technique fournie aux pays bénéficiaires.

Comme vous le voyez, les dangers qui guettent la FAO et les pays en développement bénéficiaires sont énormes. Cependant, nous ne devons pas perdre espoir; nous devons garder la tête froide, rester calmes et sereins, car ma délégation a noté tout au long des débats la volonté manifeste des uns et des autres de parvenir à un accord.

Pour sa part aussi la délégation sénégalaise est ouverte à tout dialogue constructif, qu'il soit organisé dans un cadre officiel ou informel. Dans la perspective de la recherche d'un consensus que tous les pays appellent de leurs vœux, ma délégation ne ménagera aucun effort pour apporter sa modeste contribution, car elle est convaincue qu'un consensus est tout à fait possible par la poursuite du dialogue, fut-il dans un cadre informel.

A cet égard je réitère à la commission l'entière disponibilité de ma délégation.

Je ne saurais terminer sans féliciter le Professeur Mazoyer, Président du Comité du programme, et le Directeur général de la FAO pour leurs exposés introductifs aux débats, et qui ont animé l'examen de cet important point de notre Ordre du jour.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): At this stage of the debate there is very little I can say. What I could say has been said ten times already by my colleagues with which I associate myself but allow me to reiterate the approval by the Philippines delegation of the main conclusions and all the recommendations already expressed during the Council.

We realize the recommendations and conclusions of this Review have been eloquently described by the delegate of Argentina as a compromise. We believe we can go along with these compromised recommendations and we can agree with the conclusion agreed upon by most developing countries that the Organization is basically in a dynamic and healthy state. I believe the mandate of the Review, as spelled out in Resolution 6/87, which has also been a compromise, has described a particular mechanism for carrying out the Review and these steps have been undertaken. I believe no further steps are being requested at this stage.

Reference has been made to the need to realize savings through internal reorganization. We think everything is possible but we think it is difficult at the present time after the cuts of US\$ 45 million which have been made during the past biennium due to shortfalls of contributions which the Organization is facing.

Regarding the monitoring and streamlining of the Field Programmes, we believe that the creation of a new committee or new body would merely increase the operating costs of the Organization. I suggested, via the Head of the Philippines delegation, to the Council that possibly this could be done by extending the functions and responsibilities of the existing Committees to carry out the overseeing and streamlining of the field operations.

We believe at this stage we should be open to dialogue and come to a unanimous conclusion on this Review.

Mlle. FAUZIA BOUMAIZA (Algérie): Compte tenu du nombre important d'orateurs qui sont intervenus avant nous, la délégation algérienne désire abréger son intervention en priant le Secrétariat de bien vouloir prendre en compte les vues que nous avons déjà exprimées sur ce point lors de la quatre-vingt-seizième session du Conseil.

Nous renouvelons nos remerciements aux experts qui se sont acquittés honorablement de leurs missions; nous félicitons le Comité conjoint financier et du programme des efforts qu'il a fournis en vue d'aboutir à des recommandations consensuelles; enfin, nos félicitations vont également au Directeur général qui a facilité le déroulement de l'examen, ainsi qu'à vous-même, Monsieur le Président, pour l'excellente manière dont vous dirigez nos débats depuis le début de nos travaux.

Toutes ces félicitations reflètent un peu la disposition d'esprit constructive et la volonté de dialogue que la délégation algérienne souhaite affirmer. En effet, nous avons examiné les recommandations proposées à l'issue de l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO, conformément à la Résolution 6/87, et la délégation algérienne, tout en approuvant en général les recommandations proposées, souhaite à son tour insister sur certaines d'entre elles qui méritent, selon nous, une attention particulière, et ce en plus des aspects que nous avons déjà développés lors du Conseil sur ce même sujet.

Il s'agit par exemple de la nécessité de renforcer la coopération entre les institutions des Nations Unies, s'occupant du développement, de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment celles qui se trouvent à Rome.

D'ailleurs nous nous joignons à la proposition du Directeur général telle qu'il l'a présentée au Conseil, à savoir un renforcement de la consultation entre les organisations internationales ayant leur siège à Rome non pas par n'importe quelle solution, mais il me semble qu'il y a nécessité de renforcer cette consultation et, à ce sujet, nous reprenons à notre compte l'intervention du Président du FIDA sur ce sujet.

En ce qui concerne l'ordre des priorités proposé par le Directeur général à la page 19 du document C 89/21 notre délégation est d'accord sur la hiérarchisation des besoins; toutefois nous pensons qu'à l'intérieur des trois catégories de priorités délimitées en fonction du financement, les domaines répertoriés ne doivent pas rester impérativement dans l'ordre proposé. Si tel est le cas, notre délégation souhaite une sorte de révision de l'ordre dans lequel sont énoncés les domaines bénéficiant de dépenses prioritaires dans le cadre du budget.

Enfin, la délégation algérienne considère que l'examen est arrivé à son terme et que sa conclusion devrait être confirmée par une résolution reprenant les recommandations sur lesquelles un consensus aura été trouvé. A ce sujet, nous nous joignons à ce qu'a dit le délégué de l'Argentine; nous sommes en effet arrivés aujourd'hui à l'issue d'un examen qui, tout au long de son processus, a été jalonné par un compromis, et nous pensons que nous ne sommes pas loin d'arriver à la conclusion de ce compromis.

Notre délégation a enregistré avec satisfaction la conclusion des experts, à savoir que la FAO est une organisation solide et dynamique; c'est pour nous une confirmation du rôle important que joue la FAO au plan international dans l'exercice des trois rôles qui lui sont dévolus. Nous n'allons pas les énumérer une fois de plus car tout le monde les a lus dans le document. J'ajouterai que nous souscrivons à l'analyse du Comité conjoint financier et du programme concernant ces trois rôles.

En ce qui concerne le financement, l'approche de la délégation algérienne est à peu près identique à celle de bon nombre de pays en développement qui connaissent actuellement des difficultés économiques, entraînant des restrictions budgétaires.

Nous reprendrons ici la partie du discours du chef de notre délégation qui a été insérée dans le PV de la plénière. Notre délégation souhaite que toutes les solutions possibles soient explorées afin que l'on trouve les fonds nécessaires, en tenant compte toutefois de l'austérité économique de plusieurs pays en développement, en particulier du nôtre, qui ne peuvent apporter de contributions supplémentaires directes ou indirectes qui augmenteraient finalement leur contribution telle que fixée par le barème des contributions.

En conclusion, notre délégation considère qu'aujourd'hui plus qu'il y a deux ans nous avons davantage la possibilité d'arriver au consensus souhaité; nous sommes proches d'y aboutir et il ne faudrait pas que notre accord sur le fond des propositions avancées dans le document C 89/21 ainsi que dans les annexes achoppe sur la question des ressources financières. Enfin, je tenais à dire que l'examen a eu au moins le mérite - car il en a plusieurs, mais il a au moins celui-là - de jeter des ponts entre les différentes délégations à Rome; et un dialogue a pu finalement s'instaurer entre nous malgré l'écart qui nous séparait il y a deux ans.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): You will recollect that the idea of the Review of FAO first emerged during the Twenty-first Conference in 1985. Thus, as the prelude to this long debate yesterday and today in Commission II, we have been having an exchange of views of the FAO Review, including formal and informal consultations, for nearly four years now. Nearly one year after the idea of the Review was initially mooted in 1985, serious and in-depth discussions started in November 1986 in the Ninetieth Session of the Council. These proceeded intermittently till November 1987 when during the Twenty-fourth Conference, Resolution 6/87 was adopted. From April 1988 onwards, for implementing the Conference Resolution, a detailed and elaborate exercise has been in progress, first by the two Groups of Experts and management consultants, then by the Programme and Finance Committees in the SJS and then the Council and now finally in the Conference itself. Because this long discussion in Commission II followed the excellent introduction by Professor Mazoyer we do not propose to go into each of the 32 recommendations of the SJS, as also the two additional points raised by the Director-General in terms of staff training, paragraph 67, and the one on financial resources on which, while the SJS did not make a specific recommendation, the Director General has placed before us a tentative statement of extra costs that the recommendations might involve.

Having been a member of the Programme Committee, the COAG and the Council, India has had ample opportunities to express its views on the Review of the FAO, as also on each of the recommendations which are now before the Conference.

We have expressed our views on ten of these recommendations in paragraph 2.64 during the discussion in the Council. These views are at pages 15 to 20 of the Council's verbatim record, the document CL 96/PV/7. To save time may I request you to kindly include our intervention in the Council, along with the corrections which have been sent to Room A-357, as a part of the proceedings of Commission II on this Agenda item.

In view of the further and long discussion in Commission II on the SJS recommendations and the views and comments of the Director-General we do not want to take your time to deal with the 15 recommendations in Chapter 3 and the 7 recommendations in Chapter 4, except to mention that we support the recommendations of the SJS and the views and comments of the Director-General on these recommendations.

Since all these recommendations are by now widely known and discussed, while desisting from discussing them in detail we may, with your permission, utilize this opportunity to furnish our views on some of the suggestions which have emerged during the course of this discussion in Commission II. There was a widespread feeling expressed about according a high priority for environmental protection and the role of women. While we concede that the role of women in development activities in rural areas in the developing countries is very important, so far as environmental factors are concerned it has been our stand that FAO has a role to play in building awareness about the linkages between the responsibility for environmental degradation and damage and the obligations to share the cost of repairing the damage. This would be an ideal choice for a Special Action Programme.

Coming to the Special Action Programmes, no doubt having more Special Action Programmes, as recommended by the SJS, would help in ensuring better focus, continuity of programmes and also would be amenable to better management. However, the point raised by the Director-General in his views and comments, whether the additional Special Action Programmes could be serviced and funded with the existing level of staff and technical support, is an issue that we should not lose sight of.

Reference was made about country studies and policy advice and implicit in this criticism was the view that FAO has not been engaging itself in this activity. I would draw your attention to paragraph 2.15 of the SJS Report. "The Committees recall that FAO has carried out a large number of Agricultural policy studies at global (5 large-scale studies), regional, sub-regional (6 studies) and country (several dozen studies) levels. In so doing it has mobilized multidisciplinary teams and collaborated with other UN agencies and institutions and Member Nations. The Committees urge the Organization to continue along these lines." We would, however, add that these studies can be undertaken only when a Member Nation wants the study to be taken up and secondly, this involves a lot of time, human effort and also cost.

There was also a point made about the need for having a committee on operations by the delegate of Switzerland, for I invite your attention to Annex 3, of the Swiss note, at pages A43 to 45 of document C 87/30 which was considered by the last Conference, which was also considered by the Groups of Experts and the SJS and this particular proposal has not found favour in any

of these fora. However, we would submit that this is an issue on which one cannot take a stand forever. I understand in the late 1960s, that in the FAO the Conference did set up two technical committees, one of which was supposed to deal with field programmes and my information is they met only once in 1969, whereas in 1970 a decision was taken to abolish these fora. I would be grateful if you could request the representatives of the Secretariat to give us some factual information on these matters when they reply to the debate.

Another issue which we would like to touch upon is the funding for implementing the results of the Review. The delegate of Switzerland has mentioned, if I got the quotation correctly, "the Review did not entail additional funding", and he supported the stand taken by the delegate of France. The delegate of Norway had said, "In the Nordic view the main thrust of the Review has not been to identify the areas where additional resources are necessary." In view of these forceful pleas, we have had another careful look at all the relevant documents relating to this Review. Our study has confirmed our recollection that nowhere in the documentation connected with this Review exercise did the delegates of these Member Nations say clearly, or according to our understanding, even by implication, that the Review exercise should not involve any additional resources. We have gone through the Nordic countries' papers at pages A14 to A18 of document C 87/30. We have gone through the Swiss paper at pages A32 to A45, along with its three annexes in document C 87/30. We have carefully studied the Resolution 6/87 under which the Programme and Finance Committees have been entrusted with the task of Review. We have also gone carefully through the French paper which came after the Conference but it was included at pages A73 to A76 of document SJS 1/2 of April 1988 to which we have had access as a member of the Programme Committee. We have also gone through the Terms of Reference of Group 1 in pages 5 and 6 of document SJS 3/2. We have also seen the Terms of Reference of Group 2 in pages 1.19 of document SJS 3/2. To be fair to the Programme and Finance Committees, and I am sure Professor Mazoyer will agree with me, we would like to point out that nowhere did the Conference or the Council stipulate either categorically or even by indication or implication that under no circumstances should the Review exercise result in an additional bill of costs. Nor did these governing bodies say that if any of these recommendations involved any additional costs then the SJS should simultaneously also identify and list out which are the activities, whose relative importance should be reduced, as suggested by the delegate of Switzerland, or, as he went on to add, to eliminate even some activities which should go to some other United Nations body. It is not clear to us as to how certain delegates are suggesting that resources of this magnitude could be found by cutting out some other programmes or activities. The Review exercise as far as we are aware and as far as we could discern did not produce any material or evidence to substantiate any such conclusion.

We are witnessing here two strains of thought marked by mutual tension coming from the same quarters. On the one hand there is a political position in that it has not emerged from any process of demonstrable analysis that no money should be made available for new activities. On the other, the same countries are suggesting excellent new initiatives which cost money, sometimes considerable amounts. Increasing cooperation with GATT and the World Environment Conference are excellent examples which we are sure will multiply with time.

Any enlightened management has to weigh new activities in the light of their affordability, at the cost of existing obligations and a time is bound to be reached, if it has not already been reached in the FAO as sane of us believe, when there is no room to accommodate new activities. In the circumstances the approach of suggesting new activities without funding them would conceptually become synonymous with a patent call for stagnation.

However, having said this we should also note that the bill of US\$ 26.75 million of the Director-General's views and comments is but a first estimate, as the Director-General himself clarified yesterday. We should note that even if these figures were to be taken as final, only US\$ 18.36 million are to be met from the Regular Programme funding, while US\$ 8.39 million, according to the Director-General, are to come from extra budgetary sources of funding. It is conceivable that these figures could bear a second look and, depending upon a revised phasing and scheduling, one could arrive at a lower bill of costs for implementing the recommendations of the Review, particularly if these are to be spread over a longer time frame.

It could also be argued that if over the last three years, there was a cut-back in the programme funding of the order of US\$ 68 million, US\$ 20 million, US\$ 23 million and US\$ 25 million per year - even though this cut-back was not due to the review but due to the delays in the contributions of Member Nations - surely this extra expenditure of US\$ 18.36 million could also be met from the Regular Programme - by imposing corresponding cuts without recourse to any additional funding.

On this issue perceptions differ among Member Nations, depending on which of the FAO's three basic functions are most important to a Member Nation and secondly, how dependent on the FAO that Member Nation is for securing the services.

However, we firmly believe that given goodwill and understanding on all sides and extending the spirit of consensus that has marked the Review exercise since April 1988, it should be possible to discuss this matter in the Programme and Finance Committees, or through informal channels and in consultation with the Director-General and arrive at an agreed level and time frame, as also sources of funding for implementing these recommendations.

One could also join the delegate from Australia and take the view that implementation of the recommendations of the Review exercise, once the Conference approves them, is a management function and the Director-General, after the Conference passes the resolution, should work out the implications, if need be in consultation with the SJS.

Another alternative would be to entrust this task to an informal contact group which in addition to drafting an agreed resolution would also come up, after consulting the Director-General, with revised figures about the priorities, funding levels required and the time-frame for implementation.

However, for all this to happen the Conference must agree and come to definitive conclusions on the outcome of the Review.

We sincerely feel that in the interests of the Organization this is not a matter on which the Member Nations should divide.

We also believe that this is an issue on which a decision on the basis of voting should really be the last resort. We urge that there should be consensus extending the spirit of understanding, conciliation, negotiation, give and take, which have characterized the entire Review process exercise in the SJS since April 1988.

May I point out that the thirteen experts in the two groups with members drawn from all parts of the globe have been able to arrive at unanimous conclusions in both the groups. We would submit that this was possible only because the thirteen experts did not look at the issues close to them as representatives of their nations to which they belong but as individuals and as professionals.

May we join the delegates of Canada and Australia in their appeal that Member Nations should look at the proposals keeping in view the good of humanity at large so that we could build further on what has already been accomplished and that we do not harp on our differences, but we talk of the differences only with a view to narrowing them down and proceeding further on the basis of agreement already achieved.

Should we ultimately fail to broaden the area of agreement we would respectfully submit that at least on the thirty-five recommendations of the SJS on which there is unanimity, barring the funding, we should agree on a suitable resolution. It should be our common endeavour to see that for the good of the Organization the wealth of the data, insight and the agreed recommendations which have emerged should not be lost irretrievably, as they well might be if we fail to arrive at a consensus.

We firmly believe that this opportunity should be seized for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization and to strengthen the FAO which, as we are all aware, has been the main object of this Review exercise right from the beginning.

Gustavo SOMMA (Uruguay) : En nombre de la delegación del Uruguay debo manifestar el reconocimiento a la labor llevada a cabo por los miembros de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, y a todas las demás personas que han hecho posible la preparación de los documentos que han demandado un intenso trabajo de dos años.

Destacamos el hecho que haya sido posible llegar en casi todos los casos a conclusiones adoptadas por unanimidad, si bien en algunos puntos ello no se ha logrado, a pesar de que como se expresa en el párrafo 16 del informe de los Comités, se hicieron esfuerzos por intentar alcanzar una postura común y llegar a un entendimiento mutuo.

Sobre un punto que es de trascendental importancia esa conclusión única pudo ser posible: el de que la FAO continúa siendo una institución sólida, fuerte y dinámica. Ya en la pasada Conferencia, mi delegación había expresado la confianza en la Organización y en sus posibilidades de ajuste y dinamismo en

su modo de actuar sin la necesidad de que se establecieran por vías indirectas procedimientos extensos y complejos, que más que agilizar, podían burocratizar y por lo tanto debilitar a la Organización. Hoy, una vez concluido este examen, debemos agregar además el alto costo que el proceso ha tenido en un momento financiero particularmente especial para la Organización.

Pasando a las conclusiones del examen, en lo que se relaciona con las funciones de la FAO, definidas en los Textos Básicos, recalcamos la importancia que tiene cada una de ellas, pues cada una es válida e importante en el ámbito específico de competencia inherente a los fines para los cuales la Organización fue establecida.

Sin embargo, mención especial merece la asistencia técnica para los países en desarrollo por el fundamental papel que ella tiene como medio de hacer frente y superar nuestras dificultades. También nos parecen adecuadas las propuestas basadas en nuevas exigencias que podrán reforzar el rol de la FAO.

Asimismo remarcamos el papel de la FAO en materia de investigación y transferencia de tecnología. La estrategia internacional para el desarrollo debe ser dinámica y flexible para facilitar el acceso de los países en desarrollo a la tecnología y permitir un aprovechamiento racional de los recursos y a la vez la protección del medio ambiente. Nuestra dependencia tecnológica es un factor inhibitorio del desarrollo y constituye una amenaza a la soberanía política. La puesta en práctica de políticas de desarrollo que aseguren el aprovechamiento racional de los recursos, protegiendo el medio ambiente, requiere la disponibilidad de tecnologías y medios financieros apropiados que no están al alcance de todos los países en desarrollo.

Compartimos lo expresado por los comités sobre la CTPD y la importante función que ella desempeña para la difusión de tecnologías locales, recursos genéticos y sistemas agrícolas adecuados.

Asimismo, en cuanto a otras medidas para fortalecer el papel de la Organización apoyamos las recomendaciones para la aplicación del Plan de Acción para la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo y la valorización de su papel en las actividades rurales.

Apoyamos la labor que puede cumplir la FAO en el campo del comercio internacional ayudando a los países en las negociaciones que se llevan a cabo en el GATT.

A través del Codex Alimentarius y de la convención internacional de protección fitosanitaria se podrán hacer progresos para la eliminación de los obstáculos sanitarios al comercio internacional de productos agrícolas.

De conformidad con lo propuesto por los comités en el párrafo 3.42, apoyamos lo atinente al examen de las operaciones de campo por los órganos técnicos, compartiendo además la consideración de que la asistencia debe ser examinada de acuerdo con sus méritos, debiéndose conservar la flexibilidad necesaria para adaptarla a las diversas situaciones de los países y su fase de desarrollo y de form tal que se aprovechen todas las posibilidades de financiación.

Ello debe entenderse dentro del contexto de que no debe existir limitación al derecho de los Estados de fijar sus propios planes y programas de desarrollo.

Nos parece adecuada la conclusión de que se continúe y refuerce el Programa de Cooperación FAO/Banco Mundial que tan buenos resultados ha dado.

En síntesis y para concluir, podemos apoyar todas las recomendaciones de los comités, expuestas en el informe conjunto, pero haciendo mención que vetos con preocupación el hecho de cómo se llevará a cabo la incrementación de las conclusiones a que ha arribado el examen. Creemos que no es posible efectuar reajustes al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto y que ni es posible para los países en desarrollo aportar nuevos recursos para financiar esas conclusiones.

Finalmente expresamos el deseo que la Conferencia pueda llegar a adoptar el informe y endosar sus recomendaciones por consenso.^{1/}

LE PRESIDENT: L'Uruguay nous a fait parvenir son intervention. Elle sera insérée dans le procès-verbal.

Je donne la parole à M. Shah pour lui permettre de donner les éclaircissements qu'il faut à ceux qui lui ont posé des questions.

V. J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programmer Budget and Evaluation): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor at this stage. Let me reassure you, Sir, that this is no attempt to reply to the debate at this stage of your deliberations. I just felt it was my duty, and it might be useful, to try and clarify some of the questions which have been raised, and I do not presume to take up all the questions now. But one series of questions which has been raised concerns the calculation of the costs of implementing the recommendations. This issue has been raised a number of times by a number of delegates, with a different perspective, at least one saying that there were not necessarily any costs involved, others asking for more information, others having some doubtful eye on them in terms of, "Well, perhaps they are not too accurate or perhaps they could be recalculated". Let me try to give you some information to try and clarify all these comments.

Mr Chairman, I wish to reassure you that these cost estimates have been made on a very pragmatic, careful, realistic basis. There is no question of pulling figures out of a hat. Action on these recommendations where it involves staff is easy to cost in terms of the cost of staff positions. Action where travel is involved, action where meetings are involved - these are all normal elements of our Programme of Work and Budget and we have applied the same discipline and the same system of costing these estimates.

In other debates, some delegates have complimented the Secretariat, and the Secretariat is very grateful, for the assurance of professionalism of what is submitted to our governing bodies, and I would like to assure you that the Secretariat has tried to keep to the same level and the same quality of professionalism.

1 Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

Secondly, these estimates were not brought forward now in the final comments of the Director-General on the review of the SJS; the estimates were submitted to the Special Joint Session of the two Committees so that they could be examined by them in all fullness of consideration of the issues before the recommendations came from the two Committees.

Let me give you some examples very briefly. One example would be on the regional studies. An estimate is given of US\$ 1.6 million. For basing this estimate we took our last experience of the regional study for Latin America and the Caribbean. The experience was recent enough so the figure is reliable. For the same reason, when the proposal for a regional study for Asia and the Pacific has been advanced by a number of Member Nations, the Director-General has been very cautious in the Programme of Work and Budget by saying, firstly, that he wished to ensure that the proposal met with the endorsement of the governing bodies, and secondly, that since no provision is included for a full study for Asia and Pacific in the next Programme of Work and Budget, all he could undertake to do was to start preparatory work and if the proposal was endorsed by the governing bodies, then ensure that the study would be carried out in the following biennium.

A second example is that of the country policy studies. Four million US dollars, yes: the explanation is given in the documents that this is based on an average of US\$ 400 000 per country study. The explanation also is very-honest. Not every study costs US\$ 400 000; there are some which can cost a great deal more, and it is not a question of estimating such a study in terms of the size of the country. In fact it may very often be that the smaller the country the higher the cost of the study. It depends on the data which is available, the expertise which is available within the country, on a host of factors, but the estimate is based on experience.

A third example, and I will not give any more in the interest of time, is that of the strengthening of country offices. The total amount of US\$ 5 050 000 includes three elements. There is an element - and I refer here to paragraph 60 of the report - of US\$ 2 million for strengthening ten country offices to play a role in policy analysis and advice. What does this involve? This involves the creation of posts and the assignment of ten officers at the P-5 level with some clerical support and some general operating expenses. Why ten? This was a matter of judgement. But if Member Nations want the offices of FAO representatives to be strengthened to engage in policy dialogue with the national government in order to provide support in policy analysis ten would be a useful figure. If you said, "We do not want ten, we only want five", fine, no quarrel, but the estimate is still realistically calculated. Similarly, additional programme staff, this is the second element of the strengthening of FAO offices. The proposal involves US\$ 2 250 000 for strengthening 15 offices. This is calculated on the basis of staff, not at the P-5 level, no, this type of expertise and programming can be provided at the P-3 level with some clerical support and general operating expenses. And the third calculation, still in this overall figure of US\$ 5 050 000, is a strengthening through office automation and communications equipment - US\$ 800 000. The US\$ 800 000 is not a blanket figure. The US\$ 800 000 is based on the following assumptions: that out of the seventy-four offices, twenty-one would justify substantial equipment in terms of microcomputers, printers, facsimile equipment, modems, additional telephone lines; forty would be strengthened with much more moderate equipment - just some facsimile equipment, additional telephone lines, telephone systems; and thirteen just with some minimal facsimile equipment. So there is a judgement used in presenting these estimates.

In brief, I trust that Member Nations will be reassured of the seriousness with which these estimates have been put forward. It is not a question of the Director-General or the Secretariat saying that we insist on these figures. No, these figures have been based on assumptions which have been clarified.

The matter, as the Director-General said yesterday, is really in your hands. If you do not wish specific recommendations to be implemented, that is the sovereign decision of the Conference. Then it will not need to consider the cost implications of those recommendations. If you wish certain recommendations to be implemented subject to extra-budgetary resources, so be it. If you wish certain recommendations implemented at a lower level through phasing over a longer period, as has been suggested during the debate, that is also a matter for your decision.

I hope that these few clarifications will answer the points which have been raised on this subject.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois effectivement que les explications de Mr. Shah étaient nécessaires. Comme je l'ai dit, nous allons ajourner le débat sur cette question. Nous y reviendrons demain après-midi. Je vais essayer, avec le concours de mes amis - et je sais que vous êtes tous mes amis -, de nous faire arriver au consensus que tout le monde appelle de ses vœux.

Nous allons donc lever la séance et nous reprendrons notre débat demain après-midi, lorsque la situation sera un peu plus mûre.

The meeting rose at 19.30 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.30 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 89/II/PV/13

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

THIRTEENTH MEETING
TREZIEME SEANCE
13ª SESION

(22 November 1989)

The Thirteenth Meeting was opened at 17.15 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La treizième séance est ouverte à 17 h 15
sous la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 13a sesión a las 17.15 horas
bajo la presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II

ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART I
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - PARTIE I
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE I

13. Programme of Work and Budget 1990-91 and Medium-Term Objectives (paras 1-36)
13. Programme de travail et budget 1990-91 et objectifs à moyen terme (par. 1-36)
13. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1990-91 y objetivos a plazo medio (párrs. 1-36)

LE PRESIDENT: Bonsoir Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs. Je voudrais tout d'abord m'excuser du retard avec lequel nous reprenons nos travaux, mais, comme je vous l'ai dit hier, nous essayons de trouver des solutions à nos problèmes.

Notre Ordre du jour appelle, en principe, l'examen des conclusions de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO, puis l'adoption de notre rapport.

Pour ce qui concerne le premier point, j'ai essayé de mettre en place un groupe d'amis qui ont travaillé avec moi hier soir et ce matin et je crois pouvoir dire que sur la partie que nous avons examinée nous avons fait quelques progrès. Mais ce travail doit se poursuivre si nous voulons arriver au consensus que vous appelez tous de vos vœux.

C'est la raison pour laquelle nous devons laisser aujourd'hui ce point de l'Ordre du jour et continuer les pourparlers que nous avons engagés afin d'obtenir un texte qui, nous l'espérons, pourra rallier l'ensemble des membres de notre commission.

Le groupe d'amis va continuer à m'aider à mettre au point un texte. Nous nous retrouverons tout à l'heure pour poursuivre ce travail, et c'est tout ce que je peux dire à ce stade sur le point 15.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Para que quede reflejado en las actas, yo quisiera leer la lista de los patrocinadores de la resolución que me honré en presentar. Es el grupo latinoamericano y del Caribe, más los países de Libia, Sudán, Arabia Saudita, Líbano, India, Pakistán, Filipinas, Congo, Madagascar y Siria.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom) : My delegation said yesterday that my country would present a draft resolution on the outcome of the Review and I would just like to announce that my delegation, together with Switzerland and the United States of America, do now submit to the Commission a Resolution, the text of which has already been passed to the Secretariat.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le représentant du Royaume-Uni; bien entendu tout cela suivra les voies habituelles.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): La délégation guinéenne confirme sa confiance au groupe d'amis que notre commission a autorisé le Président à constituer autour de lui. En outre, nous saluons les résultats encourageants déjà atteints par ce groupe grâce, il faut le reconnaître, à l'esprit de dialogue et de compréhension rendu possible par la remarquable compétence de notre Président.

Nous en appelons au vent de solidarité internationale et de compréhension qui déferle à travers les continents, pour qu'il influence à son tour les débats et que toutes les bonnes volontés ici présentes appuient les efforts en cours au niveau du groupe d'amis du Président, pour aboutir au consensus indispensable au renforcement des activités, tant attendu par notre Organisation, la FAO.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le représentant de la Guinée; je pense que tout le monde est animé de la volonté d'aboutir et nous nous efforcerons dans toute la mesure de nos possibilités, d'oeuvrer dans ce sens.

Nous ajournons le débat sur cette question et vous serez avisés en temps opportun du moment où nous le reprendrons.

Je suppose que vous avez tous le document C 89/II/REP/1 que nous allons examiner.

M. SAVINI (Secrétaire adjoint Commission II): Je voudrais signaler quelques erreurs minimales qui se sont glissées dans le texte du document C 89/II/REP/1.

Dans la version anglaise du document, au paragraphe 18 page 5, cinquième ligne, un mot est mal imprimé. Il faut lire "they requested that a formula should be found" et non pas "should be formed".

Dans la version française, la note de bas de page qui figure en page 3 doit figurer au bas de la page 2.

En outre, au paragraphe 31 de la version française qui commence par "En conclusion, la Conférence a accepté/n'a pas acceptée ..." il faut insérer des crochets autour des mots "a accepté/n'a pas accepté".

Il en est de même pour la version espagnole; au paragraphe 31 il faut insérer des crochets autour de "acordó/no pudo acordar".

Ces crochets figurent dans les versions arabes et chinoises qui n'ont donc pas à être corrigées.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): As you know, the Commission discussed last week the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennia, and the discussion was thorough, it was varied and it was rich and a great number of delegations took part in that discussion. I am glad to inform you that the Drafting Group was working on a very good text which was supplied by the Secretary and that members displayed willingness to seek agreement and consensus. In the same manner members of the Drafting Group showed respect for the views of others while taking the opportunity to express their own.

On behalf of the Drafting Group I have the pleasure of submitting a Report to you which is well balanced and which to the extent possible reflects the main themes of the debate on this item. Allow me, however, to elaborate on one single matter, namely paragraphs 30 and 31 on the so-called lapse factor. The Group devoted more hours and attention to these two paragraphs than to all other paragraphs together. Great care was taken to reflect properly in paragraph 30 the various positions brought forward in the Commission's debate. Paragraph 31, therefore, the only one with brackets in this Report, provides the Commission and the Conference with the opportunity to have a simple choice. Maybe this matter is best dealt with in conjunction with the budget as a whole.

There is one small observation concerning paragraph 36: this paragraph reflects the customary way of bringing forward to the Plenary the budget resolutions contained in draft form in the Director-General's proposal. It does not, of course, pre-judge the position delegations will eventually take when the vote is passed on the budget level.

With these words I submit the Report to you.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 6

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 6

PARRAFOS 1 A 6

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Président du Comité de rédaction. Je crois qu'avec cette excellente introduction nous pouvons examiner le rapport qui nous est soumis. Comme à l'accoutumée nous examinerons paragraphe par paragraphe.

Paragraphe 1. Pas d'observations?.... (adopté).

Paragraphe 2. Pas d'observations?.... (adopté).

Paragraphe 3. La parole est au représentant du Danemark.

Carl THOMSEN (Denmark): We would like to make an editorial comment to the end of the second phrase in paragraph 3: the sentence starts "The Conference expressed regret that successive programme cuts made necessary by income shortfalls, particularly contribution shortfalls in the last two biennia", and then we would like to suggest the insertion "to some extent had deprived Member Nations". We believe that as it stands it can give a wrong impression of the services provided by the Organization in spite of the shortfalls. ,

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez entendu l'amendement proposé par le représentant du Danemark, Y a-t-il des observations sur cet amendement?

Si tout le monde est d'accord, nous considérons que le paragraphe 3 est adopté tel que, légèrement amendé.

Nous passons au paragraphe 4.

Carl THOMSEN (Denmark): We would like to suggest at the end of paragraph 4 to add the wording "More concentration of effort". The sentence would then read "They considered, however, that this should not necessarily imply additional resources but should be effected primarily through reordering of priorities and redeployment of resources and more concentration of effort." In our view this would reflect the interventions made during the debate of the Commission on this point.

LE PRESIDENT: Voilà un nouvel amendement proposé par le représentant du Danemark. Y a-t-il des remarques sur ce point?

Jacques WARIN (France): Ayant participé au Comité de rédaction, je voudrais signaler que ce qui est proposé par le représentant du Danemark est parfaitement inclus dans le réajustement des priorités. Donc je trouve superflu le membre de phrase qu'il ajoute et je voudrais qu'on en reste au texte initial.

Antonio Rodrigues PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je voudrais me rallier à la France parce que je crois que le texte est très clair et reflète parfaitement les opinions des uns et des autres.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que le représentant du Danemark insiste pour son amendement? Puisque le représentant du Danemark n'insiste pas, le paragraphe 4 est adopté en l'état.

Nous passons au paragraphe 5. Pas d'observations?... (adopté).

Nous passons au paragraphe 6. La parole est au représentant de la Suisse.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland) : In this paragraph my delegation would suggest to add a sentence at the end, a sentence which could read as follows: "Answering to specific questions in this regard, the Legal Counsel confirmed that the Basic Texts of FAO called for the adoption of one single budget by the Conference."

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez écouté la proposition d'amendement faite par le représentant de la Suisse. Avez-vous des observations à présenter sur cet amendement?

Noumansana BAGOURO (Mali): Je ne suis pas contre le fond de ce complément d'information qui est demandé, mais je suis contre son individualisation. La question a été posée pour le compte de la Conférence au Conseil juridique qui a donné des informations à la Conférence et à celui qui a posé la question. Personne ne l'a nié ici. Dans ce cas, la Conférence a pris acte. Nous pouvons simplement dire que la Conférence a retenu ou a accepté. Mais mettre au compte d'un fonctionnaire de la FAO, s'agissant de notre rapport, cela me paraît un vice de forme.

Mlle. Faouzia BOUMAIZA (Algérie): Tout comme l'Ambassadeur de France, nous avons participé au Comité de rédaction, nous sommes donc censés être d'accord, et nous le sommes d'ailleurs, et solidaires avec tous ceux qui ont travaillé sur ce rapport. Nous n'interviendrons donc que pour les questions qui restent en suspens.

Cela dit, en réponse aux réactions à cet amendement, ce qui nous gêne, nous, délégation algérienne, c'est le fait que l'on dise: en répondant à une question spécifique etc.. Si dans le rapport d'une Conférence, on reprend les réponses à chaque question posée, est-ce que cela apporte un plus au contenu du rapport? Est-ce qu'il est vraiment nécessaire d'apporter cet amendement?

Nous voulons ajouter qu'au sein du Comité de rédaction nous avons discuté de long en large et nous avons cru de notre devoir de refléter fidèlement les débats, c'est-à-dire de tenir compte des idées qui ont été soulevées. Si une question est posée au Secrétariat, le Secrétariat est tenu d'y apporter une réponse, mais est-ce que nous sommes tenus, au niveau du rapport, de dire qu'une question a été posée et qu'on lui a répondu? Je vous pose la question parce que je pense qu'il est inutile d'apporter cet amendement, cela n'apporte rien au contenu.

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom): My delegation would find it helpful if this useful piece of advice, which to us was new, should be included in the Report. If it is wished to give it fewer words I would suggest we just put in: "The Legal Counsel advised the Conference that the Basic Texts and for the adoption of a single budget."

LE PRESIDENT: Je souhaite d'abord que vous vous prononciez sur le bien-fondé de cet amendement. Si l'amendement n'est pas opportun, ne discutons plus.

David McGAFFEY (United States of America) : Like my colleagues from France and Algeria, I also was a member of the Drafting Committee and I think we worked valiantly to produce a text which would be satisfactory to this Commission and to the Conference as a whole. However, on this particular point I must disagree with the delegate of Algeria. We did not, we do not, pretend to all wisdom. I think our words are fine but no one disagrees that this exchange took place and if a member of the Conference feels it is important to add it, that is not a reflection on our work and I think we should support this amendment.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (Mexico): Mi delegación, como la delegación de Argelia, piensa que la introducción de este elemento en nuestro Informe, tanto por la forma como por el fondo, crea confusión y adiciona un elemento que no es muy conveniente y por lo tanto no desearía que se introdujera.

I. Ihebom EGEDO (Nigeria): My point is a slight emission. You said that we should agree that amendment before. My point is not based on the amendment, just a slight emission in the second sentence between the word "proposals" and the word "not". In the English text there should be the word "should" -"Accordingly they urged that a final position on the budgetary proposals should not be taken." "Should" is omitted in the English text.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est un autre aspect.

Noumansana BAGOURO (Mali): A l'appui de ce que j'ai dit pour ne pas retenir cet amendement, je voudrais rappeler que plusieurs délégations ont communiqué des informations, plusieurs personnes du Secrétariat et du Presidium ont eu à communiquer des informations. Le point dont il est question a fait l'objet d'une intervention de la part de ces pays membres. Cela a permis de nous éclairer tous et d'attirer notre attention, Une réponse a été donnée et personne n'a réagi. Cela veut-il dire que tout le monde est d'accord? Pour ma part je pense que l'amendement n'est pas nécessaire, d'une part; d'autre part, si l'information doit être mise au compte de quelqu'un, à ce stade du rapport c'est au compte de la Conférence et non pas d'une personne. Du reste, il n'apporte aucune information. Il ne change rien. Nous risquons en l'adoptant de créer un précédent.

Antoine SAINIRAIN (Belgique): Je voudrais simplement dire que fatalement toutes les questions qui ont été posées au cours de cet intéressant débat ne peuvent pas être reflétées dans le rapport, que le rapport est le fruit d'un compromis et, en ce qui me concerne, je me range totalement à l'avis qui vient d'être exprimé par le représentant du Mexique.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Simplemente, para ser breve, debo decir que si nosotros vamos a ir incluyendo en cada uno de estos artículos cualquiera de estos detalles - que recuerde algún miembro de los que asistieron al Comité - entonces esto se va a convertir en una minuta de acta y no en un informe, que es lo que estamos tratando de presentar aquí. Por eso voy a apoyar la posición de la delegada de México, que es miembro de la Comisión y que nos ha dicho aquí realmente lo que sería correcto.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): I feel we are about to set a dangerous precedent. If we continue in this vein, we may delay the whole Conference. My immediate question is: "What exactly does this tell us? Can either Mr Shah or the Legal Counsel tell us? What has this told us that we have really not known before?" This is a crucial question. I must know this before I can determine if, in fact, this proposed amendment is useful.

LE PRESIDENT: Je propose au représentant de la Suisse de bien vouloir retirer son amendement si c'est possible.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Je propose plutôt de l'expliquer. La question a été posée: pourquoi cet amendement? C'est ce point-là qui pourrait être expliqué par ma délégation. Le but du rapport est de bien expliquer ce qui s'est passé. Si l'adoption de cette partie du rapport a été retardée, il y a des raisons pour cela.

LE PRESIDENT: Si vous voulez poursuivre le débat, vous êtes inscrit sur ma liste et plus tard je vous donnerai la parole. Je pensais que je pouvais arrêter le débat sur cette question, en vous proposant de retirer cet amendement. Personnellement je ne me souviens pas qu'au cours de notre débat il y ait eu une intervention du Conseil juridique. C'est possible. Je sais qu'il est intervenu au Conseil. Est-ce qu'il est intervenu pendant la Conférence? Je ne sais pas. Mais on peut toujours continuer le débat.

V. K. SIBAL (India): We were also privileged to serve on the Drafting Committee. Normally, therefore, we would not wish to enter into this debate.

First of all, we also are not sure whether it was said and, more importantly, when it was said. We are not sure whether it should be in the Report. It is a bit out of context. In fact, the sentence preceding that is talking of the views of some members who felt that the Review and the Budget should not be connected.

Then it is said that in this context enquiry was made. We are not sure, first of all, whether enquiry was made. Secondly, if it was made, it does not belong here. Thirdly, if the legal position is such, and we know what the legal position is, it is all in the verbatim; there is no need to put it in the Report. The Report is trying to reflect the themes, and there is not room in it for everything. Everything is in the verbatim and we can consult that if we wish to know what was said. We feel it adds nothing valuable to the Report and that it should not be there.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de poursuivre, je voudrais moi-même avoir le coeur net sur cette question, je voudrais savoir si le Conseiller juridique est intervenu sur cette question au cours du débat au niveau de la Commission.

LEGAL COUNSEL: In fact, I did not intervene on this question during the course of the Conference debates. I did answer a question from Switzerland during the Council session preceding this Conference session, but I have not been asked this question directly during the course of this Conference.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous voyez que nous avons suivi les débats. Je crois que ce n'est pas la peine de continuer la discussion sur cette question. Puisque la question n'avait pas été posée, il n'y a pas eu de réponse. Donc inutile de discuter cet amendement.

David McGAFFEY (United States of America): There was an amendment to paragraph 6 which I believe was adopted, that the word "should" be inserted in the fourth line. You have said that the paragraph was adopted without amendment, Mr Chairman. I was just correcting you to ensure that the word "should" was included.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est vrai, le "should" proposé par notre ami nigérien avait été retenu. Je crois que les anglophones sont d'accord sur ce point.

Paragraphs 1 to 6, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 6, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 6, así enmendados, 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

PARAGRAPHES 13 A 19

PARRAFOS 13 A 19

Antonio Rodrigues PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je voudrais proposer à cette assemblée que le paragraphe 19 commence comme ceci, étant donné les préoccupations de certains pays africains au moment où nous avons discuté, dans cette salle même, certaines questions dans le cadre de ce programme:

"De nombreux délégués ont regretté la suppression de certains éléments du programme destiné à l'Afrique. La Conférence a appuyé la poursuite de la priorité accordée à l'Afrique" .

LE PRESIDENT: Voilà la proposition d'amendement faite par l'Ambassadeur du Cap-Vert.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Effectivement, au cours de nos débats, de nombreux délégués africains se sont préoccupés de cette suppression de certains éléments de programmes spécifiquement destinés à l'Afrique. Nous soutenons donc les propositions de l'Ambassadeur du Cap-Vert.

Soumaïla ISSAKA (Niger): Nous appuyons l'amendement proposé par le délégué du Cap-Vert parce qu'il reflète les débats qui ont eu lieu sur cette question. Mais pour une question de syntaxe, nous demandons simplement qu'au lieu d'avoir la répétition "l'Afrique" à la fin de ce paragraphe, on dise simplement "cette région". Il s'agit simplement d'une question de forme.

LE PRESIDENT: Si je comprends bien, l'amendement devrait se lire comme suit:

"De nombreux délégués ont regretté la suppression de certains éléments de programmes destinés à l'Afrique..."

Ensuite, on reprend avec: "La Conférence.....".

Vous n'atténuez pas l'importance, comme cela? Peut-être faudrait-il commencer par "La Conférence"?

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Je prends la parole pour dire qu'à la suite de la constatation de cette suppression, la Conférence a appuyé la poursuite de la priorité accordée à l'Afrique.

Benjamin NMMÈ (Cameroun): Je prends la parole pour appuyer cet amendement parce qu'il rend le paragraphe 19 plus explicite et reflète nos débats.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense qu'il n'y a pas de problème pour cet amendement. Personne n'est contre? On peut considérer qu'il est adopté. Il faudra donc arranger la formulation de ce paragraphe.

Paragraphs 13 to 19, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 13 à 19, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 19, así enmendados, 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

PARAGRAPHERS 25 A 31

PÁRRAFOS 25 A 31

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland) : On this paragraph, which deals with cost increases, I suggest that we add one sentence at the end, reading as follows: "It was also proposed that the External Auditor should present the Report to the next Conference through the Finance Committee and the Council on the appropriateness of the present cost increase methodology of FAO."

LE PRESIDENT: Je suppose que tout le monde a pris note de cet amendement au paragraphe 26 proposé par la Suisse. Y a-t-il des commentaires?

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Je voudrais savoir si le commissaire aux comptes est en mesure de faire ce travail parce qu'en fait parler d'adéquation des coûts signifie faire une analyse des coûts de réalisation. Il faut donc se rendre dans les pays et voir comment les projets se déroulent, évaluer et analyser les coûts sur le terrain. Je ne pense pas que le commissaire aux comptes soit la personne appropriée pour faire cette analyse des coûts. C'est pour cette raison que nous ne pensons pas opportun d'avoir cette formulation.

V.K. SIBAL (India): So far as the methodology is concerned, I think we should look at paragraph 27, where we have the essence of what the Conference felt. The last sentence of paragraph 27 says: "They saw no basis to question the total estimate which had been calculated according to established methodology. "

This is being suggested as if it were the theme of the Conference, and this view might have been reflected by one member. It was not picked up. It was not an issue on which there were any conclusions and therefore we feel it should not be heard, because when you are trying to produce a report you are trying to cull out the main themes that emanated from the Report. This was not a theme, because the Finance Committee had accepted the methodology and the Commission had also accepted it.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Très brièvement, je voudrais redire ce que je viens de dire à la Commission III. Le rôle du vérificateur aux comptes est de vérifier les comptes. C'est peut-être un truisme mais le vérificateur aux comptes n'a ni un rôle d'évaluation, ni un rôle d'inspection, ni un rôle d'appréciation. Cela relève d'autres instances. Le vérificateur aux comptes vérifie les comptes, un point c'est tout.

Noumansana BAGOURO (Mali): Je voulais simplement dire ce que l'Ambassadeur de Belgique vient de dire. Je pense qu'il faut faire attention car il y a des compétences. Les compétences d'un commissaire aux comptes sont limitées. Si la Conférence de la FAO veut faire une analyse de l'évolution du budget, elle peut confier cette tâche à un cabinet d'expertise. Mais ce n'est pas le rôle d'un commissaire aux comptes.

LE PRESIDENT: Cet amendement n'est pas approuvé. Si le représentant de la Suisse est d'accord, nous allons l'enlever.

Robin Garth PEFTTTT (United Kingdom) : I have an amendment on a separate subject. I should like to make two proposals. One is for an insertion after the middle of the paragraph which ends "implications became known". This would be point of some substance to my delegation. We suggest that the sentence should read: "A number of delegations could not agree to any action by the Conference which appeared to pre-judge decisions of the General Assembly". Taken out of context it appears rather odd but it refers to the salary revisions, of course. That is one point. I would also suggest a change to the next sentence.

LE PRESIDENT: Non, nous allons avancer progressivement. Je crois qu'il faut que nous discussions d'abord de cet amendement. Tout le monde en a-t-il pris note? Je souhaite connaître vos réactions.

Antoine SAINTRAIMT (Belgique): Très brièvement, je dirai que eux, c'est eux et que nous, c'est nous, et que nous n'interférons pas dans les décisions de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Celles-ci prennent leurs décisions librement et la Conférence de la FAO, dans le cadre de ses compétences, prend ses propres décisions.

Il est clair que, la question du salaire du personnel de la FAO étant soumise au règlement de la Fonction publique internationale, les décisions de l'Assemblée générale s'appliquent automatiquement à ce personnel. Je ne vois donc pas en quoi l'amendement ajouterait quelque chose à la situation actuelle. Il va de soi que l'Assemblée générale est compétente en matière de statut du personnel et en matière de rémunération. Nous n'avons pas de décisions à prendre en ce qui concerne les barèmes et les questions financières se rapportant au statut du personnel de la FAO, qui est soumis à des règles générales. La Conférence, organe plénier, a à prendre des décisions dans le cadre de ses compétences propres.

Je vous avoue que, personnellement, je ne comprends pas cet amendement. LE PRESIDENT: Voilà une position contraire à l'amendement.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Ma délégation aimerait appuyer l'amendement proposé par le Royaume-Uni, pour la simple raison que nous avons également soulevé ce problème; pour répondre au délégué de la Belgique, je dirai que "eux" c'est "nous" dans ce cas-là puisqu'effectivement la FAO est tenue de prendre les décisions de l'Assemblée générale en matière de rémunération du personnel; par conséquent, tant que ces décisions ne sont pas prises, nous ne pouvons pas les mettre dans un budget, mais nous devons utiliser le compte de réserves spécial; c'était cela le fond des contributions de plusieurs délégations à ce débat, y compris de la mienne.

Jacques WARIN (France): Tout comme mon collègue belge je pense que l'amendement suisse n'ajoute absolument rien à ce qui est déjà inclus dans le texte, à savoir que certains Etats Membres ont émis des réserves sur l'inclusion d'une provision et qu'ils ont évoqué la possibilité d'avoir recours au compte de réserves spécial. Tout cela est parfaitement indiqué dans le texte et je ne vois pas pourquoi nous en changerions la formulation.

LE PRESIDENT: On estime donc que cet amendement est déjà formulé d'une autre manière dans le texte du rapport.

Robin Garth PETTTET (United Kingdom): Not really, Mr Chairman, with respect, I do not think it is covered in the text at present and it is a matter of some substance to us that this should be said. It is said in similar situations throughout the UN system and it is a reference to statements made by at least two delegations. I would refer to the Summary Record of the Verbatim Report, C 89/II/PV/3, page 14, where the point is made in the last paragraph but one of that page. It is a point made by delegations, and it should be recorded. It is of substance to them.

IE PRESIDENT: Je donne la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Thank you. Of course no draft can be perfect. In the Drafting Group we had the understanding, and I shall now read from the text where the interventions actually made on this point were covered. It reads:

"A few members questioned the inclusion at this stage of provision for the costs likely to result in particular from the decisions in the General Assembly", etc.

This seems to cover exactly the amendment proposed by the delegate of the United Kingdom.

David McGAFFEY (United States of America) : I should like to draw the Commission's attention to paragraph 26, read with paragraph 27 . On a number of points in the Drafting Committee we chose in one place to state the views of some members who held one view and we separately stated the views of those members who held a different view. That is what we have done here. I must agree with the Chairman of the Drafting Committee that no report can be perfect. We did attempt to capture the views of one side in paragraph 26. It is clear from the intervention of those who are making those statements that they feel we did not fully succeed. I think therefore that since this paragraph was attempting to capture their views, we should be willing to accept their statement of their views and apologize for not having fully succeeded in capturing them before.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce-que ça gêne la majorité d'entre vous? Une minorité désire que le rapport reflète son avis. Peut-on accepter cet amendement? L'amendement est adopté.

Robin Garth PETTTT (United Kingdom) : The next amendment is in relation to the following sentence "A few Member Nations". It is, in fact, a suggested change of some substance and I would be grateful if careful attention could be paid to, particularly by the Secretariat, what I am going to say. It would be helpful to some member countries I believe in dealing with issues of this sort that instead of making reference to "a few members were of the opinion that the costs would be monitored by the Finance Committee" and so on, that if the Report said "the Conference took note of the statement by the Secretariat that the situation in relation to these costs, if approved, would be monitored by the Finance Committee and if the funds were not needed for this purpose they should form part of an eventual cash surplus at the end of the 1990-91 biennium". This is using language from the Report but in an attempt to reproduce the statements made to us by Mr Shah on 17 November in C 89/II/PV/7, page 4, and later amplified in answer to a question of my own and reproduced on page 12, I should, I fear, have spoken to the Secretariat to see that I was correctly representing the position they said. It would be helpful if, rather than being presented as an idea of certain delegations, it was a statement by the Secretariat which we took note of.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Let me offer two comments. Firstly, it is entirely a matter for your Commission, Mr Chairman, to consider whether it wishes to adopt a change in the text of the Report which has been submitted to you by the Drafting Committee. I wish to be absolutely clear on that. If the Commission is going to consider an amendment to the sentence ascribing the matter to what the Secretariat stated then I would refer to the precise words I used in my statement, and in particular to the insertion of the clause "other things being equal".

Robin Garth PETTTT (United Kingdom) : I do recall very clearly that Mr Shah did say "other things being equal". This does reduce the value of the statement to us because of the difficulty of interpreting this, in which case I withdraw my suggestion and we will seek to take action in other ways.

LE PRESIDENT: Le paragraphe 26 tel qu'amendé - je parle du premier amendement et non pas du dernier - est adopté.

David COUTTS (Australia) : Ever since this issue - the lapse factor - first appeared, we have been very concerned that a proposal with such a significant impact on the budget and on members' assessed contributions has been brought forward at such a late stage and without, in our view, adequate justification for the change. On reflecting about this matter in our general consideration on the budget, our attention has been drawn to the question of whether this matter has been correctly handled in accordance with the rules of the Organization as set out in the Basic Texts.

The particular regulation I am concerned about is Financial Regulation 3.4 which requires that "the Director-General shall submit to the Regular Session of the Conference detailed budget estimates for the ensuing financial period. The estimates shall be dispatched to all Member Nations and associated members not less than 60 days before the date fixed for the opening of the Session".

As I understand it, the document covering the change in the lapse factor C 89/II/REP/1 was not circulated until some time in October, well after the 60 days deadline. We raise this because it is our impression that many delegations at the start of the Conference, and during the discussion of this item, did not fully appreciate the nature of this proposal, how it relates to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget and what the impact on assessed contributions may be; and I underline that last comment, Mr Chairman. In fact, I would add that there has been no indication of what that impact might be.

This feeling is reinforced by the fact that very few delegations made specific reference to this proposal in their interventions on this item. Indeed, we counted this in the Drafting Committee and I think only about 11 or 12 delegations altogether actually mentioned the issue. We would appreciate an explanation from the Secretariat on this question.

LE PRESIDENT: Un problème juridique est posé, je souhaite qu'il soit éclairci, et ensuite nous passerons aux autres problèmes.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The question has been raised by the distinguished delegate of Australia as to whether the proposals regarding the handling of the lapse factor have been made in accordance with the Basic Texts of the Organization and in particular the Financial Regulations, more particularly, Financial Regulation 3.4. Financial Regulation 3.4 as the distinguished delegate has stated, requires that the Director-General shall submit to the Conference detailed budget estimates and that these should be submitted not less than 60 days before the date fixed for the opening of the Session. It is my understanding that this has been done and the budget estimates contained in document C 89/3 have been submitted in accordance with these deadlines. But my interpretation of Financial Regulation 3.4 is that it does not entail that the budget formulation process stop at this point. Traditionally, supplementary papers have always been submitted which do take into account some fine tuning or adjustments of the budget, or some elements

of the budget, such as the upgrading of posts, which I understand are normally submitted at the beginning of November just before the Conference Session, and other elements on which the Director-General himself may wish to seek the views of the Finance Committee. This is, in fact, I understand the case with the present proposals regarding the lapse factor, which I understand were submitted to the last Session of the Finance Committee and on which the Finance Committee has commented. You will note that the Finance Committee ended its discussions only at the end of September - well within the 60-day period.

I do not think that the drafters of the Financial Regulation 3.4 intended to preclude the Director-General from taking into account any of the suggestions that the Finance Committee might wish to make on the Director-General's proposals for the Organization. If one followed the interpretation or the lines suggested by the distinguished delegate of Australia that might, in fact, be the purport or the consequence of his suggested interpretation. I should also point out I am not sure that this issue was raised during the debate otherwise I might have responded to it during the debate on this item.

David COUTES (Australia): I am sorry, Mr Chairman, but this is just a point of order on that question I raised and I just want to clarify something. Other delegations may have a view on the point I raised. I personally did not find the Legal Counsel's explanation convincing. I would say one thing; the Finance Committee did look at this and the Finance Committee was unable to agree é I would very much question whether that qualifies him to take the course of action that he just suggested. The very fact the Finance Committee could not agree, it would seem to me, would require the Director-General to exercise some caution in putting a matter like this forward. I would also query whether this is, in fact, fine tuning. Indeed, I would ask the members to consider whether an amount of US\$ 9 million which takes the increase in the budget from one percent to about three percent real increase could really legitimately be called fine tuning. I will not comment again, Mr Chairman, because I have abused your indulgence but I will leave the matter for others to consider.

Robin Garth PETTITT (United Kingdom) : I originally raised my flag to put a related point on the lapse factor, whether the description seemed not to give full strength to the views of some delegations, including my own, about the way in which a decrease in the lapse factor would cause an increase in the real growth in the budget, and I was about to suggest in the sentence that ends in the middle of the paragraph with the words "contributions" one adds "and at the increase in the real growth in the budget which such a change would entail".

I was about to comment on the lapse factor point really in relation to paragraph 31, and was going to suggest that as the arrangements for our thinking about this matter were in some ways unsatisfactory - whether they are legally or technically unsatisfactory - they are unsatisfactory to the extent that the Finance Committee were not able to agree on a specific recommendation. I would propose that paragraph 31 be deleted and replaced by: "The Conference decided to refer the matter for further consideration by the Finance Committee during the 1990-91 biennium".

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Mi delegación considera que ésta es una cuestión de fondo que afecta tanto al párrafo 30 como al 31. Por consiguiente presumo que podemos todos entender que la enmienda de la distinguida delegación del Reino Unido es pertinente.

Mi delegación quisiera expresar que efectivamente el documento que proponía la disminución del coeficiente de descuento por vacantes llegó a mi oficina más o menos una semana antes de que se iniciara el Consejo, motivo por el cual no pudo ser analizado en mi capital, en Buenos Aires, antes de la iniciación de esta Conferencia. Yo creo que ésta es una situación que debe haber afectado a la mayor parte de las delegaciones de los países en desarrollo, que tienen lentas y dificultosas comunicaciones con sus capitales.

Coincidió, por otra parte, con la delegación de Australia, al calificar esta disminución del coeficiente de descuento por vacantes como significativa, y no como un matiz que modifica ligeramente el Presupuesto. Yo discreparía en este sentido con el juicio del Sr. Consejero Legal, por cuanto creo que esto es una modificación de las estimaciones presupuestarias y que, por consiguiente, está dentro de la provisión del artículo del Reglamento Financiero, que fue mencionado por el señor delegado de Australia.

En todo caso, si esta cuestión no fue mencionada por la delegación argentina durante el debate del Presupuesto, fue porque suponíamos que no habiendo acuerdo en el Comité de Finanzas y no refiriéndose a esta cuestión muchas delegaciones durante el debate, la cuestión sería nuevamente devuelta al Comité de Finanzas. Por consiguiente, apoyamos la enmienda que acaba de proponer el señor delegado del Reino Unido.

Francisco MORA (Costa Rica) : Costa Rica es miembro del Comité de Redacción y ha participado en la formulación de la propuesta que aparece en el Artículo 30. Durante la discusión llevada a cabo en el Comité de Redacción se formularon dos propuestas, que aparecen en el párrafo 31, trasladando a esta Comisión la discusión en la que no llegó a un acuerdo el Comité de Redacción.

Nosotros estamos sumamente molestos por el hecho de que las propuestas precedentes para enmendar este párrafo 30 no están referidas al texto del Informe, sino a cosas de procedimiento que no fueron planteadas oportunamente y que no corresponde discutir en este momento, cuando lo que corresponde discutir es el Informe que ha elaborado el Comité de Redacción.

También queremos decir lo que manifestamos en el Comité de Redacción. La gran mayoría de países, al referirse al Presupuesto, aprobaron las propuestas generales del Director General sobre el Presupuesto, y aquellos países que por alguna razón no coincidían con algún aspecto del Presupuesto lo señalaron concretamente. En el Comité de Redacción, los que no estaban de acuerdo con esta visión o con nuestro punto de vista, lo interpretaron en sentido contrario, o sea que los países que mayoritariamente aprobaron el Presupuesto debieron haberse referido en sentido contrario a este aspecto del coeficiente por vacantes. Por lo tanto, Costa Rica considera que la propuesta hecha anteriormente para considerar ilegal o fuera de procedimiento la formulación de este tora en esta Comisión es presentada extemporáneamente, no corresponde en este Capítulo discutirla siquiera y que deberíamos concentrarnos en el aspecto que señala el Artículo 30, cual es que los países en una gran mayoría apoyaron el Presupuesto y dieron su apoyo a todas las propuestas que fueron formuladas por el Director General en materia de presupuesto.

LE PRESIDENT: Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je viens d'être informé d'une douloureuse nouvelle. En effet, le Président du Liban, René Moawad, vient d'être assassiné. Je vous demande donc de vous lever et d'observer une minute de silence.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

LE PRESIDENT: J'ai une longue liste de personnes qui voudraient intervenir sur cette question. Je souhaite qu'au moment d'adopter le rapport, nous puissions l'adopter tel que nous l'avons discuté au niveau de notre Commission et je souhaite que l'on ne soulève pas au cours de l'adoption du rapport des questions qui n'ont pas connu une intensité de discussion. Le rapport doit refléter les débats qui ont eu lieu au cours des discussions. Or qu'avons-nous fait? Est-ce qu'il y a des gens qui se sont élevés contre cela? Oui, il y en a eu, mais pas beaucoup. Beaucoup d'entre nous ont appuyé l'adoption de ce budget du Programme de travail et budget. Cela sous-entend que nous avons donné notre accord, ceux qui ont dit oui au budget ont donné leur accord à tous les éléments de ce budget. Je souhaite que l'on n'ouvre plus le débat sur cette question. Que les points de vue qui ont été exprimés ici soient reflétés dans le rapport, c'est normal mais il ne faut plus ouvrir le débat. Ceux qui ont appuyé le budget étaient pour. Ceux qui ne l'ont pas appuyé étaient contre. Il y en a qui l'ont dit de manière spécifique. C'est ça que nous devons refléter dans le rapport: l'esprit des débats.

Jürgen DEKTEN (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): I believe that our representative in the respective session took a very clear stance on this issue which did not preclude his approving or expressing our delegation's approval, by and large, for the budget, but we have a position which does not enable us to approve what we find in this paragraph.

First of all, we have some misgivings as to the reply given by the Legal Counsel, which we did not find altogether convincing, any more than the Australian delegate did. Furthermore, we believe that this is an issue of principle, a fundamental issue, because it is our view that the budget must reflect the real position in which the Organization finds itself and we believe that the reality at present is not being properly reflected.

Secondly, to tell the truth, we were not given the information that would lead us to be convinced that this whole situation should change in the near future and this is why, as we said last week, we feel that the United Kingdom's proposal is the proper one. It is the only way that we can rightly proceed, namely we call upon the Finance Committee to continue to ponder this matter.

Jacques WARIN (France): Je suis ému par ce que vous venez d'annoncer, Monsieur le Président. Mon pays étant particulièrement attaché au Liban, je me permets de transmettre mes condoléances personnelles aux délégués du Liban qui sont présents dans cette salle.

Sur ce point technique - nous sommes uniquement sur le paragraphe 30 - je pense que le paragraphe 30, que nous avons mis deux heures à discuter au Comité de rédaction, et le Président pourra le confirmer, reflète de manière aussi équilibrée que possible les différents points de vue avancés.

Je précise, et tout le monde le sait, que ma position rejoint celle du Royaume-Uni, de la République fédérale d'Allemagne et des plus gros contributeurs du Système des Nations Unies. Je pense comme eux que rien ne justifie un changement dans les taux d'abattement pour mouvements de personnel. Je me suis inquiété d'une proposition qui aboutirait à augmenter le chiffre du budget de 9,3 millions de dollars et je suis heureux de voir que l'on rappelle que le Comité financier n'est pas parvenu à se mettre d'accord sur cette proposition.

Je considère donc que ce paragraphe 30 reflète très bien ma position, que nous devrions l'adopter tel qu'il est. En fait, c'est sur le paragraphe 31 que nous aurons peut-être des difficultés à nous mettre d'accord.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous adoptons le paragraphe 30 tel qu'il est et nous passons maintenant au paragraphe 31. Le paragraphe 31 contient une alternative: la Conférence a accepté/n'a pas accepté. Cela veut dire que la Conférence a accepté si la majorité a accepté, et la Conférence n'a pas accepté si la majorité n'a pas accepté. Il vous appartient de trancher. En principe, on devrait mettre cela aux voix, mais je voudrais lire le débat à travers vos interventions.

David COUTTS (Australia): I just need some clarification again. I thought the United Kingdom proposed an amendment which I have interpreted as replacing, or being a suggestion to replace, paragraph 31. I can certainly strongly support that proposal made by the United Kingdom which, as I heard it, without the exact words, was that given all these difficulties, including I might say the one I mentioned before, the matter should be referred back to the Finance Committee.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Royaume-Uni pourrait peut-être nous rappeler son amendement.

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom): I had suggested one simple sentence, which was: "The Conference decided to refer this matter for further consideration by the Finance Committee during the 1990-91 biennium. " Possibly it might be better to add a sentence before this: "The Conference was not able to reach agreement on the Director-General's proposal that the lapse factor should be reduced." Then my sentence would follow it.

Sidasty AIDARA (Sénégal): Sur ce paragraphe particulier, je crois que l'idéal aurait été que la Conférence se prononce non pas en faveur ou contre la proposition concernant l'abattement pour mouvements de personnel. Si la Conférence se prononce en faveur de cette proposition, cela ne refléterait certainement pas la réalité. Si la Conférence se prononce contre, cela non plus ne refléterait pas la réalité. Et l'amendement qui est proposé ne me semble pas non plus refléter la réalité car sur la forme, il faut rappeler que la Conférence est amenée à examiner cette question parce que le Comité financier n'a pas pu se mettre d'accord sur la question, il a demandé au Conseil de l'examiner et à la Conférence de décider. Maintenant, on nous demande de renvoyer la question au Comité financier par le biais du Conseil. Cela revient à dire que nous allons retourner à la source. Ce sera donc un cercle vicieux. Quand va-t-on décider? La Conférence doit décider. Si nous ne pouvons pas décider, utilisons la rédaction habituelle. Il y a une forte majorité - parmi laquelle se reconnaît la délégation sénégalaise - qui a accepté cette rédaction; il y a une minorité qui ne l'a pas acceptée. Peut-être pourrions-nous refléter le débat dans ce sens par un nouveau libellé. Mais nous ne pouvons pas encore demander que le Comité financier examine cette question. Le Comité financier va encore avoir le même problème. Il va demander au Conseil d'examiner la question et on va retourner à la source. Il nous appartient donc de prendre nos responsabilités et de décider.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois qu'il faut prendre une décision. Je ne vois pas quel est le libellé qui va mettre tout le monde d'accord. Mais, en fait, toutes les positions sont reflétées au paragraphe 30. Au paragraphe 31, on tire les conclusions. Mais comme, au Comité de rédaction, on n'a pas pu se mettre d'accord, on a libellé le paragraphe 31 de cette façon, pensant qu'au niveau de la Commission nous pourrions décider.

Il y a ensuite une proposition faite par le délégué du Royaume-Uni qui pense qu'il existe une autre formule: au lieu de décider ou de ne pas décider, autant renvoyer cela.

Peut-être que le Président du Comité de rédaction, qui a vécu cette situation, pourrait prendre la parole?

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I really feel sympathy with your predicament here and, as I indicated in my small introduction to our report, I said that in view of the postponement which has been decided in the General Committee concerning the adoption of the budget later in the Conference, I said that maybe this matter would be better dealt with in Plenary rather than in this Commission, in conjunction with the adoption of the budget.

LE PRESIDENT: Je ne sais pas si c'est une bonne formule. Mais beaucoup d'Etats sont présents et ce qui se décidera ici se décidera en plénière; c'est certain.

David McGAFFEY (United States of America): Thank you, Mr Chairman. First, I must agree with you fully that the task of this report is to reflect faithfully the debate. As the Chairman of the Drafting Committee said, we struggled long hours on this and the firm conclusion we reached was that agreement was not reached. The majority of those who spoke were clearly opposed. A small number mentioned it favourably. The reason that we did not adopt a position that the large majority opposed this and a small group chose it was uncertainty about what the meaning behind those who did not speak to the subject was and I do not think that we can put an interpretation on words not spoken, reach into the minds of those who did not speak, but we chose to lay it out as an area of no agreement, going along with the idea of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee that perhaps this should be decided as part of the budget. However, at the time that we had those lengthy deliberations and came up with this, I think, well-crafted and well-balanced statement, we did not have the concept raised by the delegate of Australia on a point of order, which questioned whether this proposal by the Director-General in fact legally can be considered part of the budget. The Programme of Work and Budget as presented clearly states that the lapse factor will be 5.5 percent. This reduction is a late idea which was certainly not distributed to members within 60 days. I suggest that the way out of this dilemma would be for us to follow the suggestion made by the delegate of the United Kingdom. Because it was a late idea and there was not time to study all of the ramifications and find out what has been done in similar circumstances, the Finance Committee could not reach agreement. Because it was a late submission and we did not all have time to understand it, the Commission did not reach a decision. Because of the debate the Drafting Committee could not reach a decision. What the amendment of the United Kingdom does is to send it back to the body which is charged with that responsibility in FAO and gives them time to study it and reach a decision, and to do anything else would be hurrying on in the face of ignorance and I think that would not be a wise course for FAO.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Most respectfully - and thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor at this stage - perhaps some remarks may be in order, and I hope that the Commission will take them in the spirit in which I offer them.

The decision is entirely yours of course, and please do not misinterpret my remarks as any attempt to try and lead you one way or the other. But a few points I would like to submit.

First, the explanation given by my colleague the Legal Counsel has not been found fully satisfactory, or fully convincing, by some individual Member Nations. It is not up to me to intervene between the opinion given by the Legal Counsel and the perception of that opinion by individual Member Nations, but let me recall that the submission of budgetary proposals is in fact a responsibility which is given to the Director-General. It is a constitutional responsibility for the Director-General to submit his proposals for the budget of the Organization to be considered and approved by the Conference. That is point number one.

Point number two is that these proposals contain as a part the element of the lapse factor.

Point number three is that the proposals are examined by a number of intergovernmental bodies and subsidiary bodies.

It has rightly been recalled that the Finance Committee could not agree on the issue of the lapse factor. It is in the Report of the Finance Committee. But the agreement of the Finance Committee is not required for the proposal to be considered at the subsequent body - that is, at the Council, and at the body even after that, the supreme governing body, you, the Conference.

The Report of the Finance Committee in fact shows that there were a variety of positions. That lack of agreement does not mean that the proposal was rejected. Lack of agreement is characterized with the positions of those who could support it, those who could not support it, those who could support it in a modified form, and the Finance Committee could not reach a definite conclusion and noted that the matter could be pursued in the Council and Conference. This is in the Report of the 66th Session of the Finance Committee held from 18 to 29 September. The matter was then referred to the Council, together with the consideration of the Programme of Work and Budget proposals.

The Council's Report also says that the Council noted that a decision on this issue would need to be taken at the Conference. I only draw these matters to your attention to point out that there was perfect conformity with the procedural requirements in this matter being submitted and being considered. What you debated and how you wish to be recorded is, of course, your sovereign authority. It is entirely up to you to decide. However, I felt that you might find it proper for me to make these few comments at this stage even before you decide.

V.K. SIBAL (India): First of all, I must thank Mr Shah for recalling the background of the discussion on this subject which I was intending to do myself but now I need not do so.

One has to keep in mind that the lapse factor was a part of the budget proposals. These budget proposals were approved by the majority of the Member Nations. In the Drafting Committee we thought that was a straightforward indication of what the Member Nations wanted. However, the point was made that, as has been stated a little earlier, the Member Nations were perhaps not clear as to whether they were accepting this position. It was because of this that we agreed to reflect, with balance, on the two different positions in paragraph 30; and to produce two different positions in paragraph 31.

One train of thought in the Drafting Committee was the conclusion that the lapse factor be reduced. Others said no, this perception was not correct. It was decided, "O.K., let us not debate it here because, even if we agree to something here, it might be reopened there, so let us leave it to the Commission to reflect what it actually wants. " Not only was it discussed in the Commission, but the Finance Committee and the Council also discussed the matter, and at no stage in the discussion was there a point made that the matter be referred back to the Finance Committee. We are, therefore, now considering an altogether new proposal which was never produced on the table, which was never debated, and we do not think now is the time to consider it. We have simply to reflect what we were doing when we approved the budget proposals. When we did, we approved the reduction in the lapse factor. That is the question we have to ask ourselves and reflect on the conclusion in paragraph 31.

We find the explanation given by the Legal Counsel to be satisfactory. In any event, we wish that this point had also been raised during the debate, and in the debate it could have been pursued in greater depth.

Raphaël RABEL (Madagascar): Je suis reconnaissant, moi aussi, à Monsieur Shah pour les explications et les mises au point qu'il a bien voulu nous prodiguer.

En fait, je voudrais proposer une formulation du paragraphe 31 en tenant compte de la position de la délégation du Royaume-Uni. Ce paragraphe pourrait être libellé comme suit:

"En conclusion, la Conférence a accepté que l'abattement pour mouvements de personnel soit ramené à 3 pour cent. Cependant, certaines délégations ont souhaité que le Comité financier continue à examiner la question."

LE PRESIDENT: Non. Evidemment, on peut toujours essayer de faire plaisir à telle ou telle délégation. Mais ce que je souhaite, c'est que notre rapport soit le reflet des débats.

Effectivement, certaines délégations pourraient certainement se rallier à la proposition du Royaume-Uni, mais celle-ci n'a pas été faite ici pendant nos débats. J'ai suivi attentivement les débats et cette proposition n'a pas été faite lorsque nous avons discuté de la question. Le problème est celui-là. Il faut que nous reflétions nos débats. Je vais voir qui appuie et qui n'appuie pas cela et nous en tirerons les conclusions.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): We heard arguments on this subject during the debate and we said that we could not accept a decrease in the lapse factor because that simply means an increase in the budget. Also, we took into account the fact that the Finance Committee could not agree to this proposal.

We have another difficulty. When listening to the discussion between the Legal Counsel and the distinguished representative of Australia, I have the impression that we shall have difficulties at home with our Legal Counsellors. Then we shall be prohibited from paying our share when the Conference accepts this increase in the budget.

I would like to go on with the discussion with the Legal Counsel because that period of 60 days was not taken into account. I think we shall have difficulties at home.

Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Mi delegación está completamente disconforme con la posibilidad de aceptar la propuesta del Reino Unido por la sencilla razón que ha sido enumerada y expuesta hace un minuto por usted. Desgraciadamente el Reino Unido no la presentó durante el debate. Yo me permito recordar de la manera más firme a este Comité que aquí no estamos reabriendo el debate. Hay muchos países que explican por qué no han aceptado

la reducción del coeficiente por vacante. Eso, si hubiesen deseado manifestarlo, lo podían manifestar durante el debate. Si lo han manifestado, entonces ha sido tomada nota de esto. Aquí tenemos únicamente que decidir lo que ha pasado durante el debate. Y nada más.

Esto es una fase de aprobación del debate. Le recomiendo, señor Presidente, que haga respetar el Reglamento y la Constitución de la FAO y no permita que se reabra el debate.

Respecto a lo que ha pasado, la interpretación de mi delegación es ésta: que la gran mayoría de los países han aprobado las propuestas presupuestarias del Director General.

Esto ha sido aceptado ya hace un minuto con la aprobación del párrafo 30. Al final del párrafo 30 se dice: "La mayoría de los Estados Miembros aceptaron las propuestas presupuestarias del Director General". Entonces, decir que por lo tanto, eso es lo que prácticamente diría el párrafo 31: "ha sido aprobada también la disminución del descuento por vacante", es simplemente una consecuencia.

Se puede mencionar el punto de vista de la minoría, si la minoría lo quiere, y así se puede decir: "una minoría no estuvo de acuerdo". No creo que se pueda ir más allá. De lo contrario, estaríamos en fase de reabrir el debate y eso está prohibido por todos los Reglamentos y por la Constitución misma de la FAO.

LE PRESIDENT: De nombreux délégués souhaitent intervenir sur cette question mais je doute que cela nous avance. Je vous propose une alternative, mettre la proposition aux voix et comme ça on tranchera. En effet, à force de discuter nous n'arriverons à aucune solution sur cette question et en fait le Comité de rédaction lui-même était presque parvenu à une conclusion.

David McGAFFEY (United States of America): I do not wish to reopen the debate on the substance, but the distinguished delegate from Costa Rica has raised the question of the Rules of Procedure. When I heard the intervention by the distinguished delegate of Australia he used the term "point of order". Can I have a ruling from you, Mr Chairman, because it is my understanding that when a point of order is raised it must be settled before the issue can be brought to a vote. We clearly do not have settlement of that issue.

LE PRESIDENT: On ne m'a pas traduit cela comme étant une motion d'ordre, mais si tel est le cas je vais d'abord vous demander de bien vouloir rappeler cette motion d'ordre; ensuite, je demanderai à deux personnes favorables et deux qui ne le sont pas de bien vouloir intervenir, après quoi nous la mettrons aux voix.

David COUTTS (Australia): I cannot recall the exact words I used now, but I said very clearly that I was raising a technical point, and I thought I used the words "point of order" at the start but I did not push that, but if you want me to repeat it the issue I raised was whether the proposal to reduce the lapse factor had been circulated and put before the Conference in

accordance with the basic rules of the Organization. I mentioned Rule III.4. The Legal Counsel gave us a view on that, and I think it is legitimate for the Members to decide whether they think that view is correct or not. Some have said they accept it and some have said they do not. That would be the point of order.

LE PRESIDENT: Je n'avais pas saisi que c'était une motion d'ordre formelle; puisqu'il en est ainsi, je souhaite entendre l'opinion de quatre délégués, deux en faveur et deux contre la motion proposée. Le Conseiller juridique lui-même doute que cela soit une réelle motion d'ordre.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I am not sure whether this is a point of order. There may be a difference of opinion regarding interpretation but I am not sure that it really is a point of order in regard to the procedure of the debate.

David COUTTS (Australia): I will not push that point of order. I asked for a ruling from the Legal Counsel. I personally do not feel satisfied with the answer, and neither do some delegations. I think he must address that issue seriously, Mr Chairman, because it is very important that we should not go away from here feeling dissatisfied as to whether the rules of the Organization have been properly followed. Ambassador di Mottola made exactly the same point just now, coming from the other direction. It works both ways, Mr Chairman.

LEGAL COUNSEL: In response to the requests for additional comments on my view, I would say there certainly was no intention on my part - I think it was raised at one point by the delegate of Australia to imply that the Finance Committee had endorsed the proposal put forward to it. I did not mean to imply that in any way. I merely wished to say that my reading of the text and of the practice is that the basic budget estimates are put forward by the Director-General and then an opportunity is given to present additional observations, comments or proposals for minor changes which are then considered by the Finance Committee. In this case, had the Finance Committee endorsed those proposals, even though the Finance Committee meets within that sixty-day limit, there would have been no problems whatsoever.

that was the only point I was making. In fact the Finance Committee, as mentioned before, specifically noted that, while not passing on any of these proposals and not being able to reach agreement on them, they would be referred to the Conference for decision. It seems to me this is merely a part of the traditional process as recognized in the Basic Texts. The basic proposals are made and circulated well in advance within the sixty-day limit and then certain additional changes or modifications may be submitted through the normal procedures - in this case through the Finance Committee.

In this instance they did not receive the full agreement of the Finance Committee, but the Finance Committee itself, in its wisdom, noted that they would go forward to the Council and the Council suggested it should go forward to the Conference for decision. So far as I can see, that followed the normal procedure of debate on the budget estimates. I do not see that it was in any way outside the normal procedures.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): J'avoue, Monsieur le Président, que je suis difficilement ce débat; j'ai eu très longuement l'occasion d'expliquer notre point de vue lors du débat général; j'ai expliqué qu'il était temps de permettre à la FAO de fonctionner et de ne pas entrer dans la prochaine décennie à reculons et a fortiori en tournant en rond et en renvoyant au Comité financier ce qui vient du Comité financier.

Sur le fond, la position de chacun est claire; nous discutons de ce problème de l'abattement pour mouvements de personnel depuis des mois; le "lapse factor" n'est pas un élément inconnu. Je ne comprenais pas bien cette question et je me suis entretenu de ce problème avec M. Shah, il y a de très nombreux mois; il m'a expliqué de façon complète - et je l'en remercie - comment se présentait la situation.

Pour le moment, il y deux séries de positions. Ma position, celle du Royaume de Belgique, est qu'après des années et des années d'austérité au cours desquelles on a gelé toute une série de postes, si l'on veut rendre à la FAO la possibilité d'accomplir sa mission, il est temps de remplir un certain nombre de postes indispensables; subséquemment, les abattements pour mouvements de personnel devraient être réduits de façon drastique.

Discuter sur le point de savoir s'il faut 3 ..3,8... 3,2...3,5...2,8... Je suis incapable de donner une réponse; irais la réponse, elle, a été donnée au cours du débat général, au cours duquel tout le monde a dit que la FAO avait un certain nombre de tâches à remplir; on a même parlé d'un certain nombre de nouvelles tâches.

Si tel est le cas, il est clair que le personnel doit être renforcé et que du personnel supplémentaire doit être prévu. On a dit hier, à l'occasion de la discussion de la revue, qu'il fallait plus de personnes pour se charger des projets; qu'il fallait des inspecteurs, peut-être un corps réduit, qu'il fallait toute une série de spécialistes pour remplir un certain nombre de priorités.

Quant aux "non-priorités", personne ne les a définies jusqu'à présent; la position définie est claire; il nous reste à prendre nos responsabilités.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): Thank you. I have hesitated to join in the debate because of the delicacy of the question. From the procedural point of view, it would be difficult to put in the report the request of the United Kingdom, precisely because it was not raised during the debate. Secondly, the question as to whether it is correct procedure or not, which is now being raised by Australia, is only being raised now and it was not raised during the debate in Council.

If we have accepted paragraph 30, the question I should like to ask is whether the last sentence signifies that the budgetary proposals include the lapse factor as proposed, with the reduction to three percent, or not. If that is included, paragraph 31 is probably superfluous, in the sense that if you are trying to reflect the debate and the positions are already indicated in paragraph 30, the position of the members who agree with the lapse factor and the position with those who do not agree with it the conclusion would probably be in the last sentence of paragraph 30. That would imply that the Conference has admitted and agreed to the budgetary proposals of the Director-General.

I wonder whether we really need paragraph 31. I am questioning whether the positions, as they were expressed during the debate, have not been adequately indicated already in paragraph 30. Therefore if that is so why do we need to bother with 31? It seems that it is indeed so. I am just expressing the opinion that probably 31 would not be required at all.

LE PRESIDENT: Je ne pense pas que cela soit inutile; on peut certainement mettre cette phrase ailleurs, par exemple au paragraphe 30, mais la décision est suffisamment importante pour qu'elle ressorte clairement du rapport. A mon avis, c'est ce qui a justifié que le Comité de rédaction sorte cette phrase du paragraphe 30. En effet, c'est une décision que l'on prend et il est normal qu'elle ressorte clairement en début de paragraphe.

C'est vrai que c'est une conséquence du paragraphe 30; et si c'est une conséquence tout le monde peut l'admettre. La plupart des Etats Membres ont accepté les propositions budgétaires du Directeur général; or dans ces propositions ce taux d'abattement était présent. En conséquence nous avons accepté le taux d'abattement.

Il me semble inutile de prolonger le débat sur cette question; je vous propose de vous départager par un vote sinon nous n'allons pas trancher; si le vote est favorable on dira que c'est accepté, s'il n'est pas favorable on dira que ce n'est pas accepté. C'est une motion que je vous propose: je vous propose que nous mettions cette question aux voix. Je souhaite que deux délégations favorables à la motion et deux délégations défavorables à la motion s'expriment.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Realmente hemos escuchado tres intervenciones: del delegado de Costa Rica, del delegado de Bélgica y del delegado de Filipinas, que han expuesto muy claramente cuál es la situación. Está perfectamente claro que nosotros, después de aceptar lo que dice el párrafo 30 con su corolario, que es la frase final, no vamos a necesitar el párrafo 31. Por consiguiente, señor Presidente, creo que éste es el memento de pedir una moción de orden porque esto se ha discutido suficientemente y hemos visto muy claramente dónde están las dos posiciones: o una posición contraria a la situación que se delinea en el párrafo 30 y otra, que en el párrafo 30 están dadas todas las circunstancias para poder considerar una aprobación del párrafo tal como está. Por consiguiente, yo le apoyo señor Presidente como moción de orden para llegar a una votación.

Bashir EL MABROUK SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): I do support the proposal made by the Ambassador of Venezuela. As I explained earlier, paragraph 30 is crystal clear. We would have hoped that the three or four delegations concerned will understand the situation, and that we need not put the matter to the vote. Since we have not been able to go further on this illogical discussion, because we are moving round in circles and beating about the bush, I support the Ambassador of Venezuela that we put the matter to the vote. If the delegations who have raised this point, that is to say the delegations of Australia, the United States, and two or three others, insist on their positions then we would like the matter put to the vote.

LE PRESIDENT: Qui est contre la motion?

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): La délégation guinéenne estime que le Sénégal avait déjà épuisé cette question. Etant donné que le budget lui-même n'a pas été voté, il est tout de même plus important qu'un élément du budget. A notre avis, cet abatement pour mouvements de personnel est un élément du budget. Or, on veut le faire voter, alors que le budget a été adopté par consensus. C'est pourquoi nous aurions souhaité que nous reflétions le débat en disant que la plupart des Etats Membres ont accepté les propositions budgétaires du Directeur général et qu'ils ont accepté en conséquence le projet d'abattement pour mouvements de personnel et que certains délégués n'ont pas accepté cet abatement. L'abattement, je le répète, n'est qu'une partie du budget qui, lui, n'a pas été soumis au vote.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous êtes contre la motion, mais je signale que le budget n'est pas encore voté. Il sera voté en séance plénière. Qui est également contre la motion?

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom) : I oppose the suggestion that we have a vote on the grounds that one of the threads that runs through our entire discussion is that there should be a decision by consensus or by unanimity on the budget. The vote on this issue would substantially reduce the chance of unanimity in any eventual voting on the budget. On the particular point raised that the last part of paragraph 30 implies there was agreement on the proposals for the lapse factor, this I believe we cannot accept. If that were the case there would be no requirement for discussion of paragraph 31. Paragraph 31 is simply there to make certain there is a distinction between the Director-General's proposals in the Programme of Work and Budget which was, in fact, based on a lapse factor of 5.5 and not on 3, and to allow us to take a decision specifically on the lapse factor issue.

If I may go on to another point, I am quite prepared to withdraw my proposal that I put, namely that the Report say the matter be referred to the Finance Committee, in the light of the points made by various delegations that this Report: should only discuss things made at an earlier stage of the discussion.

I would, however, do that by replacing the sentence by another based on the factual situation. The sentence would read, "However, the Conference was unable to reach agreement on the Director-General's proposals as regards a change in the lapse factor".

LE PRESIDENT: Le représentant des Etats-Unis nous a indiqué qu'il fallait que nous respections les règles. Je crois que c'est le moment de respecter les règles. Vous avez entendu deux délégués qui ont parlé pour la motion, deux délégués qui ont parlé contre la motion, cela signifie que nous devons mettre ceci aux voix, c'est-à-dire le paragraphe 31.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland) : For my delegation it is difficult to vote before we are clear on the legal aspects. I would just like to have a clear answer from the Legal Counsel. Has the period of 60 days which is defined in Financial Regulation III.4 been respected? Could I have an answer, yes or no? At least then I would know what the situation is.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I thought I had been clear in saying that the 60 days rule to my mind had not been violated in the sense that the budget estimates had been submitted within 60 days as is required by Financial Regulation III.4 and the normal process is that certain aspects of the budget estimates will be discussed later on in the appropriate fora. There will continually be slight amendments to the budget proposals during the months following that and that the Finance Committee itself has always traditionally been a part of that process. The Finance Committee itself has noted that the present proposal would go forward in a regular manner for decision by first the Council and then the Council itself has decided that it should go straight on to the Conference. I see that this is the normal process as it has traditionally been applied in FAD.

The Finance Committee, as I understand it, has always been a traditional part of this budget formulation process which starts with the submission of the first basic budget estimates 60 days beforehand and then we go through the process of the Finance Committee and the Finance Committee then makes certain suggestions. In this case the suggestion was not, "Yes, incorporate the reduction in the lapse factor" or "no, do not incorporate it" but "we note that this will be passed on to the Council, and on from the Council to the Conference". That I find is a part of the traditional process.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous êtes satisfait?

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland) : I did not get a yes or no reply. I got a reply which is somewhere in between and since I have to be very careful about the legal aspects, does the Legal Counsel suggest that the full budget, with all the elements of the budget, including the lapse factor - one single budget - has been submitted 60 days before according to Financial Regulation III.4 because I recall the discussion we had about one single budget being voted for? I think the tuning can be on an element which has already been included but I do not think the tuning can be made on an element which is added.

LEGAL COUNSEL: As I understand it, the budget estimates were submitted within the 60 days, and thus met the 60-day deadline, and they did include the lapse factor but then some modification to the lapse factor has been suggested and this, of course, was sent to the Finance Committee. As I understand it, it would not be proper to send it directly without the views of the Finance Committee and the Finance Committee itself has noted that the decision on this would be taken by the Conference. So the answer to your question is yes,

LE PRESIDENT: La réponse est donc oui.

Je vous signale qu'il y a une motion que nous devons voter pour aller de l'avant. Je vous signale également que plusieurs délégués souhaitent prendre la parole, ils sont inscrits depuis longtemps, mais nous ne souhaitons pas la leur donner car cela va allonger les débats.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (Mexico): Estamos en medio de una votación que usted ya sometió, que fue apoyada. No puede haber más declaraciones. Pasamos al voto.

LE PRESIDENT: On va procéder au vote puisque le quorum est atteint.

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Si es tan amable, Sr. Presidente, nos puede contar qué es lo que vamos a votar. Porque, que yo sepa, la enmienda del Reino Unido no se puede votar porque la ha retirado. Entonces, usted nos tiene que decir cuál es la opción que vamos a votar.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous allez voter pour ou contre l'abattement de trois pour cent proposé?

Tout le monde a compris la question?

David McGAFFEY (United States of America) : If that is what we are voting on then I would move we vote by roll-call so we know who is supporting and who is not supporting.

LE PRESIDENT: Je choisis le pays qui va voter en premier. Il s'agit du Kenya.

Je voudrais vous rappeler que si vous dites "oui", cela signifie que vous êtes favorables à l'abattement de trois per cent. Si vous dites "non", cela signifie que vous n'êtes pas favorables à l'abattement.



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

ROLL CALL VOTING
APPEL NOMINAL
VOTACION NOMINALVote on
Vote sur

.....Votación para

3% LAPSE FACTOR

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	49
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	18
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	10
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	80

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	67
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	34
--	----

ADOPTED
ADOPTÉE
ACERTADADate.....22/11/89.....Elections Officer.....
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
25 Session de la Conférence
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

FULL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT
APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN
VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE BULETINOS

Vote on 3% LAPSE FACTOR
Vote sur.....
Votación para

COUNTRY	YES	NO	ABSEN	COUNTRY	YES	NO	ABSEN	COUNTRY	YES	NO	ABSEN
Afghanistan			X	Gambia			X	Iran			X
Albania			X	Germany (Fed. Rep. of)		X		Pakistan	X		
Algeria	X			Ghana			X	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	Guyana			X	Portugal			X
Bangladesh	X			Haiti			X	Qatar			X
Barbados	X			Honduras			X	Romania			X
Belgium	X			Hungary		X		Rwanda			X
Belize			X	Iceland			X	St. Christopher & Nevis			X
Benin	X			India	X			Saint Lucia			X
Bhutan			X	Indonesia	X			St. Vincent & Grenadines			X
Bolivia			X	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	X			Samoa			X
Botswana			X	Iraq	X			Sao Tome and Principe			X
Brazil		X		Ireland			X	Saudi Arabia	X		
Bulgaria	X			Israel		X		Senegal	X		
Burkina Faso			X	Italy	X			Seychelles			X
Burundi			X	Jamaica			X	Sierra Leone			X
Cameroon		X		Japan		X		Solomon Islands			X
Canada		X		Jordan			X	Somalia			X
Cape Verde	X			Kenya		X		Spain	X		
Central African Republic			X	Korea (Rep. of)			X	Sri Lanka			X
Chad			X	Kuwait		X		Sudan			X
Chile			X	Laos			X	Suriname			X
China	X			Lebanon	X			Swaziland			X
Colombia	X			Lesotho			X	Sweden		X	
Comoros			X	Liberia			X	Switzerland		X	
Congo			X	Libya		X		Syria			X
Congo			X	Luxembourg			X	Tanzania			X
Cook Islands			X	Madagascar		X		Thailand			X
Costa Rica	X			Malawi			X	Togo	X		
Côte d'Ivoire			X	Malaysia			X	Tonga			X
Cuba			X	Maldives			X	Trinidad and Tobago	X		
Cyprus	X			Mali		X		Tunisia			X
Czechoslovakia	X			Malta			X	Turkey	X		
				Mauritania		X		Uganda	X		
D.P. Rep. of Korea	X			Mauritius			X	United Arab Emirates			X
Denmark		X		Mexico		X		United Kingdom		X	
Djibouti			X	Moldavia		X		U.S.A.		X	
Dominica			X	Morocco		X		Uruguay	X		
Dominican Republic			X	Mozambique			X	Vanuatu			X
Ecuador			X	Myanmar			X	Venezuela	X		
Egypt			X	Namibia			X	Viet Nam			X
El Salvador	X			Nepal		X		Yemen Arab Republic			X
Equatorial Guinea			X	Netherlands		X		Yemen (P.D. Rep. of)			X
Ethiopia			X	New Zealand		X		Yugoslavia	X		
Fiji			X	Nicaragua		X		Zaire			X
Finland		X		Niger			X	Zambia			X
France		X		Nigeria			X	Zimbabwe			X
Gabon			X	Norway		X					
	16	7	5	24		15	7	2	4	3	31

Soumaïla ISSAKA (Niger): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais en deux mots procéder à une explication de vote. En fait, nous n'avons pas voulu prendre part au vote - ni par un oui, ni par un non, ni même par une abstention - parce que nous sommes opposés au principe même du vote sur ce thème dans notre Commission.

Marcelo L.A.S. VASCONCELOS (Brazil): The position taken by the Brazilian delegation in regard to the proposal to reduce the lapse factor is due to the impact it would have on the total amount of the budget and the consequential increase in the assessed contributions of member countries. Many developing countries find it extremely difficult to absorb this increase as a consequence of the economic and financial crisis they are facing. It has a very adverse effect on the assessed contributions of some developing countries due to the revised scale of contributions adopted by the United Nations. This position should not be in any way misconstrued as an enforcement of the zero growth principle or of any negative policy that aims at debilitating this Organization.

Benjamin K. KISILU (Kenya): I wish to explain why we abstained from the vote. We agree to the proposed budget for 1990-91. On the other hand, we have not received any explanation by the Secretariat what the implications of the lapse factor reduction as presently proposed would be to the Member Nations and especially to their contributions. We are also not convinced yet, or satisfied, that this matter has been discussed fully and well understood by all members. We raised this concern in our presentation under item 15 of the agenda. We would have been happy if our concern was satisfied then.

Sra. Mónica DERBGIBUS (Argentina): Señor Presidente, la delegación argentina quisiera explicar su voto en abstención. Nos hemos decidido por el voto en abstención, señor Presidente, por los mismos motivos que explicara hace unos momentos la delegación del Brasil y que en virtud de la brevedad no voy a repetir.

David McGAFFEY (United States of America): I apologize because perhaps I should have intervened earlier to be sure, but my understanding of what we were voting on was simply the language to be presented to the Conference for their consideration. If that is not correct, what your spokesman said when he replied to the question, Sir, was that a "yes" vote meant a reduction in the budget; and a "no" vote meant no reduction. If that is what we were voting on of course that requires a two-thirds majority and requires half of the members present because that would be a vote on the level of the budget. Is my understanding correct that all we were voting on here was the language to present to the Conference for their consideration where the Secretariat will have the opportunity to provide some information about the implications of this?

LE PRESIDENT: Le Secrétariat va certainement donner des explications. En tout cas, ce que j'ai mis aux voix ce n'est pas le budget; c'est un élément du budget.

LEGAL COUNSEL: As I understand it, the voting was on the wording of paragraph 31, whether it should read that the Conference agreed or could not agree to the reduction of the lapse factor, and that goes forward to the Plenary Session.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada) : I wanted to get some further clarification from our Legal Counsel before the results of the vote had been announced. I would just like to get some further clarification from the Legal Counsel with respect to Article XVIII-5 of the Basic Texts^f where reference is made to: "Decisions on the level of the budget shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast".

I recognize that we are not voting on the budget but we are voting on an element which affects the level of the budget. So I would appreciate some further clarification from the Legal Counsel as to whether just a simple majority is required to approve this or whether in fact a two-thirds majority is not required.

LEGAL COUNSEL: As I understand it, this was a vote on a paragraph of the Report to go forward to the Plenary, as was explained before. It is true that Article XVIII-5 will require a two-thirds majority vote on the budget itself, on the budget level, and that is in fact the vote on the Resolution on budgetary appropriations. This, as I understand it, was merely a vote on what would be in this report, which will then go for adoption by the Plenary Session. It reflects only the views of the Commission with respect to one of the budget elements, not to the whole level of the budget.

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España) : Realmente nosotros queríamos explicar también nuestro voto, que coincide con la aclaración que ha hecho el Consejero Legal. Hemos votado un párrafo del Informe en el que creemos que se reflejaba correctamente lo ocurrido durante los debates, pero tenemos la impresión de que durante esta votación ésta no ha sido la misma idea de muchas de las delegaciones que han dicho sí, no, o abstención. Yo no sé si esto convendría tenerlo muy claro, y que desde luego las consecuencias que puedan tener sobre el presupuesto no sean otras que las que se deriven de este párrafo 31 exclusivamente. Es decir, el Informe refleja que la Conferencia - se puede añadir en su mayoría - aceptó la reducción en el lapse factors.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous n'allons pas prolonger le débat sur cette question; vous venez de trancher; nous allons poursuivre l'adoption de notre rapport.

Paragraphs 25 to 31, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 25 à 31, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 25 a 31, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 32 to 36 approved

Les paragraphes 32 à 36 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 32 a 36 son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 1, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport de la Commission II, 1ère partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de Informe de la Comisión II, Parte 1, así enmendado, es aprobado

Ms Kay KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): We have been asked to announce that the Resolutions Committee will meet tomorrow morning at 8.45 in the German Room.

LE PRESIDENT: J'attends mes amis tout de suite après cette séance; nous allons poursuivre notre travail.

En ce qui concerne le programme de demain, vous le verrez demain; chacun vient ici tous les matins s'enquérir du programme; il m'est impossible de vous dire ce que nous ferons demain matin; en tout cas soyez dans les parages et nous essayerons de vous informer à temps pour nos réunions éventuelles.

The meeting rose at 20.15 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.15 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/II/PV/14

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

FOURTEENTH MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE
14ª SESION

(23 November 1989)

The Fourteenth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

Carl Christian Thomsen, Vice-Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La quatorzième séance est ouverte à 15 heures

sous la présidence de Carl Christian Thomsen, Vice-Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 14a sesión a las 15.00 horas

bajo la presidencia de Carl Christian Thomsen, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

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

- 17. Relations and Consultations with International Organizations
- 17. Relations et consultations avec les organisations internationales
- 17. Relaciones y consultas con organizaciones internacionales

- 17.1 Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO (including the International Conference on Nutrition)
- 17.1 Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies et intéressant la FAO (y compris la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition)
- 17.1 Novedades recientes en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO (incluida la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición)

- 17.2 Relations with Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations
- 17.2 Relations avec les organisations intergouvernementales et les organisations internationales non gouvernementales
- 17.2 Relaciones con organizaciones intergubernamentales y organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales

CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, the meeting is called to order. As you can gather, our Chairman has asked me - in view of other talks going on - to take his seat this afternoon. Our business will be, as was announced earlier by the Secretariat, to deal with item 17 of the Agenda, that is Relations and Consultations with International Organizations. Then, if time permits, the Commission will continue, after a break, with item 16, United Nations/FAO World Food Programme.

I have been asked to inform you that at half past three the Plenary will meet to adopt the Report of the General Committee. That is for your information. My understanding is that business can nevertheless continue in our Commission.

Therefore, to revert to our business, Relations and Consultations with International Organizations, there are two sub-items. The suggestion is that we deal with them one by one. The first will be, Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO (including the International Conference on Nutrition), and the documents for this item are C 89/9, C 89/27 and C 89/LIM/21. The item on Relations with Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations will be taken separately, so we shall have introduction, discussion and conclusions on the first sub-item before we move on to the second.

I would like now to ask Mr Lühe, the Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs, to introduce first more generally the sub-item; and then, following that, the Assistant Director-General Mr Dutia, will introduce the item on the International Conference on Nutrition.

E.E. LUHE (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): I am pleased to introduce the item "Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO".

The Council of FAO, at its Ninety-fifth Session in June of this year, considered this subject on the basis of document CL 95/17. The present document in front of you provides an update on a number of matters covered at the time. In addition, the document provides a brief review of developments in some areas which were not reflected in the previous document. You may have noticed that a few items of particular importance from an inter-agency point of view have not been reported in the documents before you. They relate to the preparation of an International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, Women in Development, and the FAO/UNIDO relationship Agreement. These items are covered in separate documents and have been discussed under separate agenda items. This has been done because, in view of the direct importance of these subjects to FAD, we thought they should be dealt with and treated separately.

As well as the subjects covered in the documents I mentioned, there are also other numerous areas which are not dealt with in this document - items and matters where cooperation has been pursued on a regular basis by FAO with its sister organizations of the United Nations system on a technical and day-to-day basis.

Since reporting to the Ninety-fifth Session of the Council in June 1989, FAO has kept up with its effort to maintain and strengthen cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system through both formal and informal channels on matters of mutual interest. As in the past, our guiding principle has been enhancing the efficiency of the system and optimizing the use of resources.

The Director-General of FAO has since then participated in two sessions of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the ACC. There was a special session in July 1989 in Geneva which dealt exclusively with personnel matters and, more specifically, with the comprehensive review of conditions of service of professional staff; the other ACC meeting this year was the second regular session of ACC in October in New York.

In addition, FAO participated actively in the Joint CPC/ACC Meetings, held for the first time in New York in October 1989. The CPC is, as you know, the United Nations Committee on Programme and Coordination and may be compared to FAO's Programme Committee. Subjects selected for this year's joint meeting were coordination aspects of Drug Abuse Control and preparation of the new International Development Strategy. I should mention that CPC members attached very high priority to the fight against drugs and that the UN General Assembly last week decided to have a special session of the General Assembly on the international control of drugs, to take place at the end of February 1990 in New York. Needless to say, FAO continues to be active in all relevant subsidiary bodies at ACC and has the responsibility at this time to chair at least two of them - the ACC Task Force on Rural Development and the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) dealing with personnel matters. FAO has also been elected to chair in the coming year another subsidiary body of ACC - the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions dealing with finance and budgetary matters.

In the document before you, you will find a report on the Seventeenth Session of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development held in Vienna from 31 May to 2 June 1989 under the chairmanship of FAO. At this session, the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control joined in the work of the Task Force for the first time. This was a significant development. Another significant step was the Task Force decision to continue with the exchange of advance information between agencies on their rural development programmes, so as to facilitate joint planning and cooperation. The Task Force also considered the role it could play in the preparation of the Third Progress Report on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development on the follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. This report is to be submitted to the FAO Conference in 1991 and to ECOSOC in 1992.

The section on Operational Activities for Development is also an update of the information provided to the Ninety-fifth Session of the Council in June this year in document CL 95/17. This section reports on the Thirty-sixth session of the UNDP Governing Council held in New York in June 1989 and the outcome of ECOSOC's consideration of the item on operational activities for development. The document on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development, prepared by the United Nations Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, is now being discussed by the General Assembly in New York. Till yesterday, debate on this item was continuing at the Second Committee of the General Assembly. As you know, today is a holiday in New York.

Let me take this opportunity to inform you briefly on the outcome of the 1989 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities held in New York on 30 and 31 October 1989. Pledges by 74 countries and estimated contributions to the UNDP core resources amounted to approximately US\$ 1.0 billion for 1990. This represents an increase of almost five percent over 1989 in real terms (notwithstanding the adverse effect of the increase in the value of the US Dollar). It appears that the total resources at UNDP's disposal for 1990, including UNDP-administered funds and co-financing contributions, will amount to US\$ 1.3 billion. For UNICEF's 1990 general resources, 70 governments pledged US\$ 184.0 million. Additional estimated contributions amount to about US\$ 178.0 million. The resulting estimated total of US\$ 362 million exceeds UNICEF's 1989 income by US\$ 34.0 million, representing an increase of about ten percent. For UNFPA, total estimated pledges represent a five percent increase over last year's figure of US\$ 114.5 million.

The section on the Common Fund for Commodities updates the information provided to the Council at its Ninety-fifth Session in document CL 95/17. It reports on the outcome of the first annual meeting of the Governing Council of the Common Fund held in July 1989. The Governing Council of the Common Fund has, *inter alia*, elected Mr Budi Hartantyo of Indonesia as the Fund's first Managing Director and selected Amsterdam as Headquarters for the Fund. Subsequently, Mr Hartantyo visited Rome for a preliminary exchange of views and met with the Director-General. He assumed office on 15 September 1989.

At the Ninety-fifth Session of the Council in June this year, the Executive Director of the World Food Council made an oral report on the fifteenth ministerial session of the World Food Council. We have included a fairly detailed report in the document before you on this session of WFC which was held in Cairo from 22 to 25 May 1989. At this session, the Council of Ministers, *inter alia*, accepted steps articulated in the Programme of Cooperative Action proposed by its President as a framework for individual and collective actions to combat hunger. FAO supports the thrust and emphasis

of the action identified in the WFC Programme of Cooperative Action and is also in agreement with the specific types of action recommended in the Programme. I wish to add that in a resolution on food and agriculture, the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session in July 1989, inter alia, welcomed the Programme of Cooperative Action annexed to the Cairo Declaration as a framework for concrete action against hunger and poverty by governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

The section in the document before you on Relations with International Financing Institutions is an update on the report on this subject submitted to the Council in document CL 94/12 at its Ninety-fourth Session in November 1988. This section deals with the World Bank, IFAD, regional development banks and UN Capital Development Fund. I may add that negotiations on the Ninth Replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's concessional loan window, is still continuing and is expected to be concluded by December 1989. I would also like to add, with reference to paragraph 68 of the document before you, that the final figure of IFAD's Third Replenishment stands at US\$ 566.3 million (as against US\$ 523 million in June 1989). The Replenishment is not expected to become effective until the end of June 1990 and it is to cover the period ending June 1992.

The section on Decolonization and Related Matters provides a review of the resolutions of the General Assembly adopted at its forty-third session and the relevant activities of FAD.

At the Ninety-fifth Session of the Council in June 1989, I had reported briefly, in my introductory statement, on the fifteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme held in Nairobi from 15 to 26 May 1989. You will find a full report on this session in the document before you. Several of the issues raised there are of particular interest to FAD.

You will see that paragraphs 48 through 52 of the document refer to initiatives taken by UNEP and other United Nations bodies and organizations with regard to chemicals, including agrochemicals. Mention is being made of the Convention on "Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work", being prepared by ILO. A more detailed treatment and comparison of these instruments with FAO's Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides is before the Conference in document C 89/LIM/23.

There are other ILO activities and Governing Body decisions in this regard which may overlap or duplicate FAO activities regarding agrochemicals:

ILO is preparing a Guide to Safety and Health in the Use of Agrochemicals. We have been informed that the Guide is "intended to elaborate on the FAO Code of Conduct to promote safety in the use of agrochemicals at work". It will outline safe methods of distribution, use, storage and disposal of agrochemicals all of which are covered in the International Code of Conduct and the technical guidelines developed by FAD. FAO has drawn to the attention of ILO, at various levels, the need to avoid duplication and ensure uniformity in recommendations regarding the use and distribution of agrochemicals.

At the recent session of the ILO Governing Body, which met from 13 to 17 November 1989, FAO drew attention to possible duplication of efforts in various fields, requesting that careful consideration be given to:

- (i) existing international instruments,
- (ii) the technical competence, experience and on-going programmes of FAO, WHO and UNEP in such matters,
- (iii) the need to avoid duplication of work already accomplished in the field of safe use of agrochemicals.

Notwithstanding, the ILO Governing Body has requested the Director-General of ILO, *inter alia*, to develop proposals regarding the harmonization of criteria, classification and labelling of chemicals used at work when preparing the programme and budget proposals for 1992-93 and to promote cooperation with other international organizations.

The Governing Body of ILO also instructed the Director-General of ILO to undertake, in collaboration with FAO and WHO, research into and classification of health and safety hazards in the plantation sector specific to occupations, crops, and technologies, "giving specific attention to the possible importation and use in some countries of chemical substances banned elsewhere...". The Governing Body was informed of the Prior Informed Consent procedures developed by UNEP and FAO.

Furthermore, the ILO Governing Body decided to place on the agenda of the Seventy-eighth session of the International Labour Conference an item for general discussion entitled "Applications of modern agricultural technology" which will address high-yielding varieties of seeds, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, etc. As is known, FAO has carried out extensive activities on the positive and negative impact of these technologies on improved production, which have direct implications for employment and productivity. FAO expressed to the ILO Governing Body its desire to cooperate closely on this item in order to avoid duplication and ensure complementarity of efforts.

I am flagging here the possibility of duplication and overlap as a coordination issue and in order that member countries may harmonize their positions in Governing Bodies of the United Nations system organizations, thereby ensuring that (i) duplication and the consequent waste of human and financial resources are avoided and (ii) technically competent organizations in the United Nations system are responsible for the technical appropriateness of guidance provided to recipient countries.

A few words about coordination aspects of biological diversity and its consideration at the proposed 1992 Conference on environment and development: in discussions of ECOSOC and at the current session of the General Assembly, many countries have expressed support for the idea of a Convention on Biological Diversity which would be submitted to the Environment Conference in 1992. Paragraph 53 of our document refers to a UNEP Governing Council decision in this regard. FAO member countries may wish to recommend that FAO play a key role, in cooperation with UNEP, in the formulation of such a convention. This seems to be only logical in view of FAO's past and ongoing work on plant, animal, forestry and fishery genetic resources, particularly the work undertaken within the framework of its International Undertaking and Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. Moreover, it may be important to consider closely how the FAO global system of plant genetic resources can be reinforced to cover existing gaps, if any, rather than superimposing new structures at added expense for the implementation of a Convention on Biological Diversity.

Finally, your attention is drawn to paragraph 39 of document C 89/9 which refers to UNEP Governing Council decision 15/1 entitled "Strengthening the role and effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme". In operative paragraph II.5 of this decision, the Governing Council decided, on an experimental basis, to mandate the Bureau of its fifteenth session to meet with the bureaux of the counterpart organs of the specialized agencies and other organs of the United Nations to develop more positive and collaborative relationships. We are seeking the guidance of this Conference on this matter.

After consultation with several other specialized agencies, the Secretariat would like to suggest, that the Bureau of the fifteenth session of the Governing Council, its Chairman or one of its members could meet with the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council or with the Chairman of the FAO Programme Committee. However, the guidance of the Conference on this matter would be much appreciated.

As you may have noted, this item also includes the subject of the International Conference on Nutrition. You have before you a separate document C 89/27 on the subject. Mr Chairman, you may wish to invite Mr Dutia, head of the Economic and Social Policy Department, to introduce this document to the Conference.

Before I conclude, let me say that I would be happy to answer any questions or provide any information or clarification which the members of the Commission may wish to have on the item under consideration.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Lühe, for your introduction and I call on the Assistant Director-General, Mr Dutia, to introduce the issue of the proposed International Conference.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department) : The

proposal for holding an International Conference on Nutrition, which had emerged from the Sub-Committee on Nutrition of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC/SCN) at its 15th Session in New York in February this year, was presented to the 95th Session of the FAO Council in June 1989. At that Session, the Council, in general, welcomed the proposal and considered that FAO, in view of its mandate and expertise, should take the lead in convening it in the biennium 1992-93, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and other interested agencies of the UN system.

The Council also noted with satisfaction that a detailed document presenting all aspects of the proposal would be submitted to the 25th Session of the Conference so as to enable it to take a decision on the proposal. This document (C 89/27) entitled "International Conference on Nutrition" is now before you.

Mr Chairman, as noted in the document, after the 95th Session of the Council, the Director-General of FAO met with the Director-General of the World Health Organization to discuss collaboration between FAO and WHO in convening the Conference on Nutrition. As a result, both the Organizations propose to jointly sponsor the Nutrition Conference. The document C 89/27, which has been prepared in close consultation with WHO, reflects the agreed views of both the Organizations on several key issues on the holding of the proposed Nutrition Conference.

Since the preparation of the document before you, the Director-General of FAO and the Director-General of WHO made a joint FAI/WHO presentation to the regular session of the ACC in New York in October. In this presentation, they put forward certain proposals on the broad objectives and modalities for convening the International Conference on Nutrition, and invited other interested UN agencies to collaborate in this endeavour. The proposals in the joint FAO/WHO presentation to the ACC were on the same lines as those in document C 89/27. The ACC after considering the subject adopted a statement in which it welcomed the joint initiative of FAO and WHO to convene the Nutrition Conference. The ACC considered that such a Conference would be an important step towards increasing public awareness and obtaining national and international commitments to implement appropriate strategies and actions. The ACC has also invited concerned agencies and organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to work in close cooperation with FAO and WHO in this respect, using the mechanism of the Sub-Committee on Nutrition whenever appropriate.

Mr Chairman, the proposals contained in Document C 89/27 thus reflect not only the joint views of both FAO and WHO but they have the backing of other interested agencies of the United Nations system.

Mr Chairman, the Council at its 96th Session considered the document C 89/27. It recognized that nutrition problems were widespread in all parts of the world and in some areas they were even worsening. It emphasized the urgent need for greater attention to nutrition problems at the policy level and on action to alleviate them. Although some members expressed reservations, most members welcomed the FAO/WHO initiative to convene the International Conference on Nutrition in 1992 or 1993 and gave their full support to it. They expressed the hope that the FAO Conference would support the proposal.

Let me now briefly highlight the salient aspects of the proposals contained in document C 89/27.

Mr Chairman, the rationale for holding an International Conference on Nutrition is explained in paragraphs 4 to 9 of the document. According to FAO projections to the year 2000, one of the major issues facing the world would be the persistence of under-nutrition, mainly in the developing countries. In developed countries, also, nutrition problems persist mainly because of excess eating and inappropriate eating patterns. The convening of an international conference will be a very important step forward in initiating vigorous and sustained efforts that are needed to bring about a major improvement in the world nutrition situation, especially as the ingredients to do so are already known from the scientific and technological side.

The proposed objectives for the Nutrition Conference are stated in paragraph 10 of the document and the distinguished delegates may wish to comment on them. Proposals on certain aspects of the organization of the Nutrition Conference are put forward in paragraphs 11 to 14. These envisage the Nutrition Conference to be an intergovernmental meeting open to all Member Governments of FAO and WHO as well as to international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations having established relations with FAO and WHO. It is further proposed that the Nutrition Conference may be attended also by observers from Member Governments and by non-Member Governments.

Mr Chairman, although nutrition problems have been discussed at expert level meetings or at regional meetings in the past, the proposed International Conference on Nutrition would be the first inter-governmental meeting on nutrition at the global level with the aim of devising strategies, policies and action programmes to tackle the main nutrition problems and to mobilize necessary political will and resources for this task.

As regards the venue and timing of the Conference, it is proposed that it be held in Rome during the biennium 1992-93. It may be recalled, Mr Chairman, that at the Council Session in June the Government of Italy generously offered to host the Conference in Rome in view of its long-standing interest in food and nutrition matters. To have the Conference in Rome would also have several logistic and operational advantages as, in addition to FAO, the World Food Council, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme are located in Rome. Moreover, Rome has several other facilities to offer: FAO has one of the most extensive specialized libraries on food and nutrition in the world and its Food Policy and Nutrition Division is the largest single unit in the UN devoted to nutrition-related matters. Both these assets would be of great help in preparing for and holding the Conference.

With regard to the date, a minimum of two years is considered necessary to prepare for such an international conference. The earliest possible date would therefore be 1992. But in mid-1992, the UN Conference on Environment and Development is already scheduled. It is therefore felt that to have the Conference in the first half of 1993 would be the most suitable time. Distinguished delegates are invited to give their views on these proposals and particularly on the venue and the timing of the proposed Nutrition Conference.

It is also proposed that, while the Nutrition Conference will be jointly sponsored by FAO and WHO, all interested UN organizations and specialized agencies, members of the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition as well as major international financial organizations and bilateral aid agencies will be invited to actively participate in the preparations for the Conference. To this end, it is proposed to add a special agenda item to the provisional agenda of the 16th Session of the ACC/SCN which will take place in Paris, at Unesco Headquarters, in February 1990.

In addition, it is also proposed that an Advisory Committee of Experts should be created with a view to advising on the general orientation of and on technical preparations for the Conference. Existing international NGOs, research institutes and academics would also be requested to contribute to preparing for the Conference in their areas of specific expertise.

Mr Chairman, it is also proposed that the FAO Regional Conferences scheduled to be held in 1990 would discuss nutrition issues that are particularly important in each region, with a view to developing practical inputs for action at regional and country levels.

The financial implications for the proposed nutrition conference are briefly discussed in paragraphs 20 and 21 of the document. WHO and FAO as co-sponsoring agencies would share the costs on an equal basis. Arrangements would be made with other participating agencies to associate them in financially supporting the conference. Such costs would include the setting-up of the Conference Secretariat, contractual services, travel and

meeting costs. The resources required will be included in the budget proposals for the biennium 1992-93. It is envisaged that extra-budgetary resources will become available through contributions of interested donor countries.

In closing I would like to invite the attention of the delegates to what the Director-General said regarding the International Conference on Nutrition in his opening statement to this Conference: "unlike other major economic and social questions, this burning, universal problem has never been the subject of a real international conference. This was why the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition proposed the holding of such a conference". As I mentioned earlier the proposal to convene an International Conference on Nutrition has also been unanimously supported by the UN bodies at the recent meeting of the ACC. In the light of this, we hope and trust that the Conference will give its full support to the convening of the International Conference on Nutrition under the joint sponsorship of FAO and WHO and along the lines proposed in C 89/27.

CHAIRMAN: You have now heard the two introductions to this sub-Item of the agenda and the floor is open for interventions on both aspects of the sub-item, so we call for them.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Sur tous les problèmes qui ont été soulevés dans le cadre des faits nouveaux intervenus dans la famille des Nations Unies, le document est très clair, très complet. Il est évident que nous n'avons pu que bénéficier de sa lecture. Si je prends la parole, c'est pour dire notre appréciation concernant l'organisation de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. Nous avons eu en juin, en tant qu'observateurs, l'occasion d'intervenir sur ce point. On en a parlé également dans le Conseil qui a immédiatement précédé cette Conférence.

Il est clair que les problèmes d'agriculture et d'alimentation sont étroitement liés avec les problèmes de nutrition. Je n'ai ni la compétence voulue, ni les qualités pour parler des problèmes de malnutrition, de dénutrition, de surnutrition, mais vous savez qu'à l'heure actuelle beaucoup de peuples, non seulement des pays en voie de développement mais dans un certain nombre de pays dits développés, souffrent d'une alimentation déséquilibrée, que des sommes considérables sont consacrées chaque année pour des cures d'amaigrissement (fitness). J'ai toujours été frappé qu'avec des moyens réduits mais avec une volonté politique, il était possible de réduire considérablement certains grands handicaps de l'humanité. L'avitaminose, les régimes non équilibrés ont comme conséquence que chaque année dans le monde un certain nombre de bébés, d'hommes et de femmes deviennent aveugles.

Nous sommes convaincus qu'une étude plus approfondie, avec une préparation à la fois technique et des prises de position qui nécessairement sont des prises de position politiques, pourrait peut-être éviter ce qui peut être évité et ce qui est dans le monde d'aujourd'hui un véritable scandale.

J'ai toujours été frappé, en circulant dans de grandes surfaces, de grands magasins de pays riches, de voir que des rayons entiers étaient occupés par de la nourriture pour animaux dits domestiques. Il existe actuellement tout un commerce qui représente des montants très considérables pour la nourriture des animaux.

les problèmes de nutrition, d'alimentation dans le monde sont des problèmes qui se posent de façon lancinante pour certains pays. Ils pourraient être réglés avec une volonté politique, et je suis convaincu que la Conférence sur la nutrition pourra apporter une réponse à un certain nombre de questions qui se posent. La FAO a une responsabilité dans ce domaine. Elle a à jouer un rôle de chef de file, parce que ce domaine entre dans ses prérogatives, ses responsabilités.

Je voudrais lancer un appel pour que nous soyons unanimes dans ce domaine si important, pour que la FAO réussisse dans une tâche difficile, parce qu'il n'est pas facile d'organiser une conférence avec des résultats opérationnels, mais "whether is a will, there is a way".

Patrick DEMONGEOT (United States of America): We regret that the important subject of operational activity for development is not being taken up as a separate agenda item but in any case we would like to comment on it at some length.

In our statement on the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Objectives, we pointed out that reform was an absolute necessity, not only for FAO but for the United Nations Development system as a whole. This has been recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in Resolution 42/196 of 1987 which has set in motion a reform process within the United Nations system. This process has reached a critical point with the on-going triennial review of operational activities and the completion of the review of agency support costs and related issues by an independent expert group. In 42/196 the General Assembly calls on the governing bodies of the United Nations organizations to review and comment on the Janssen Report which identified a number of deficiencies in the functioning of the United Nations system. Unfortunately the governing bodies of the specialized agencies, including FAO, devoted little time to this review and demonstrated little knowledge and understanding of the issues involved, largely because they had not been sensitized to these issues by the agencies' Secretariats. This is why we strongly endorse the recommendation of the Director-General for development and international, economic cooperation in his Report to the 44th United Nations General Assembly that sub-committees specifically entrusted with the review of operational activities be established within the bodies of the individual organizations. We are truly impressed by the depth and breadth of that Report which outlines in a comprehensive and clear fashion the substantial reforms needed to make the United Nations development system more cohesive, more effective and more responsive to the needs of the developing countries. Given the decentralized nature of the United Nations system, the sectorial focus of most of the United Nations specialized agencies and the need to assist the developing countries build up their programme management capacity, we agree wholeheartedly that the United Nations systems' operational activities for development should be closely integrated at the country level within an inter-disciplinary and multi-sectoral framework and under the overall leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

We believe that effective capacity building requires that external assistance be programmed and implemented as an integral part of nationally managed development programmes, with appropriate analytical, technical, administrative and management support from the United Nations system, including FAO and other sectoral agencies. This in turn requires the decentralization of technical assistance management and monitoring from

Headquarters of both UNDP and the sectoral agencies to the country level and the redeployment of staff and resources from project execution functions to country analysis, policy and programme level technical advice and country level management assistance. Since much of the policy and technical advice is needed on the multi-sectoral integrated basis, it also would be necessary for the United Nations system professional staff to operate as a team at the country level under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator. Such an integrated approach to operational activities, as well as the increased emphasis on national management of programmes and projects assisted by the United Nations system cannot be achieved without major changes in the way UNDP and the specialized agencies operate and collaborate.

As we indicated in our statement on the Review, the expert group on the agency costs were given broad terms of reference which called for an in-depth review of the collaborated relationship and the division of labour between the UNDP and the sectoral agencies within the tripartite system of cooperation between UNDP, sectoral agencies and the host government. As a firm supporter of that tripartite system, we regret the fact that over the years the role of sectoral agencies, including the FAD, within that system have been eroded, largely as a result of the sectoral agencies excessive concentration on project execution which in turn has been encouraged by the current system of support costs reimbursement based on the delivery of project inputs.

I would like to mention in passing that a consensus of 1970 had called for new support costs arrangements, covering not only project implementation but advisory services involving programming project formulation and policy development. The failure to put in place new support costs arrangements is at least partly to blame for the sectoral agencies' excessive concentration on project execution as against meeting their broader responsibilities for sectoral analysis, policy advice, country programming and project design. The narrowing of the sectoral agencies' role has meant that they were effectively eliminated as full partners in the tripartite system when the project execution function was assumed by the UNDP's office of project services and later on by recipient national governments. We want to restore the tripartite system to the true partnership envisaged by the consensus of 1970, which stipulated that the specialized agencies should make their advice available on all projects in their respective areas of expertise, and not only on those projects which they have been requested to execute. Therefore we strongly support the establishment of a new system of agency support cost reimbursement which enables the full participation of the sectoral agencies, including the FAO, in the assessment of national technical assistance needs, the programming of operational activities and the formulation, implementation and evaluation of UNDP-assisted but nationally managed development programmes and projects.

It is essential, however, that FAO and the other sectoral agencies embrace those changes in the tripartite relationship between UNDP central agencies and national governments rather than cling to outmoded models of technical cooperation. It is our firm hope that they will not try to maintain the current system of agency support costs reimbursement which was already strongly criticized in the 1969 capacity study which provided the basis for the consensus of 1970. We do not agree, however, that the current support costs arrangements be extended by one year, as suggested by the administrative coordination committee in their recent decision.

We do not believe that proposals for changes in the current system need to be reviewed by the governing bodies of all the organizations which execute UNDP-assisted projects. It is sufficient that Member Governments have the opportunity to express their views at the UNDP Governing Council and later at the summer session of ECOSOC and at the General Assembly.

As for the specialized agencies themselves, they should participate in the discussion of successor arrangements through the consultative committee on substantive questions of operational activity, and particularly from the CCSQ Task Force on agency support costs. No one agency should have the right to obstruct the establishment of a restructured system of agency support costs reimbursement.

I will now take up the subject of the International Conference on Nutrition. The United States attaches great importance to the subject of malnutrition and in looking for ways to bring about lasting improvements in the world nutrition situation. We have demonstrated this concern in various ways, both bilaterally and multilaterally, in words and deeds. In terms of action which addressed the underlying problems, we believe the types of interventions which could improve the world nutrition situation are known and are primarily regional in nature. As the document notes, the ingredients for bringing about a major lasting improvement in the world nutrition situation are at hand -adequate scientific knowledge, inexpensive and effective technology and accumulated practical experience. What is now most needed is well-focused intervention linked to well-conceived country development strategies. Our preference is for a nutrition approach which reaches households at risk to malnutrition, targeting them for intervention, intervention linked to country and regional development strategies, offering potential solutions to nutritional problems that are indigenous to local conditions. At this time in our view the staff, energy and resources required in programming an international conference might be more wisely spent on other nutrition-related endeavours. However, in the event the Conference is held we would favour a regional approach to the review of nutritional problems.

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom) : I thank the Secretariat for the paper C 89/9, and Dr Lühe for his introduction and his updating.

This of course was a subject which we had planned to take at the Council, but decided to defer it to the Conference so as to give more time to the Review. Our concurrence with this decision implies no lack of interest in the reporting of FAO's relationship with other members of the UN system and in the exchange of ideas and cooperative actions which are necessary for the system to play its full role, particularly in the field of development.

I think the excellent paper is one for information only and trust that there are no requests for decision lurking in it which could lead to decision-taking by inattention. As it happens, my own attention was distracted for a moment in Dr Lühe's intervention and when I returned I thought I heard Dr Lühe asking for guidance in the paper. If there are points on which guidance is required, it would be helpful to have them spelled out and if possible to have them on paper.

I will restrict my remarks to subjects not covered under substantive items and will be highly selective and deal only with the section on Operational Activities for Development covered in paragraphs 5 to 10.

The paper refers in paragraph 6 to FAO's involvement in the work carried out on the policy review dealing with the future role of UNDP. FAI's involvement in this was, as my delegation has said in another place, a positive one. We agree with Dr Lühe's paper that the proper concern was that the existing accumulated experience of the UN system should continue to be fully available to recipient countries through operational activities. The view of the British Government is that the main purpose of UNDP, as the central funding organization of the UN system for technical cooperation, is to make available the resources within the UN system, including FAO, for development. It is not for miscellaneous grants to developing countries. This source of funding is unlikely ever to be big enough for this. We read the long and carefully negotiated decision of the Governing Council, which we supported, to mean just this.

The same paragraph in Dr Lühe's paper refers to the major global project for a joint UNDP/FAO programme for the development of environmentally acceptable alternatives for locust control. Delegations who negotiated this in New York were grateful for the guidance given us by FAO in this complicated and important matter, and it would be comforting to hear now that the arrangements eventually agreed were satisfactory to both Organizations.

My delegation dealt with the successor arrangements referred to in paragraph 7 under item 23.3 in Commission III earlier today, so I will not deal with that.

On the Triennial Review of Operational Activities, mentioned in the next paragraphs, of course the report cannot be up to date on this, as the major activity affecting Member Nations is occurring simultaneously in New York, and I was grateful for Dr Lühe's further news on this, which was echoed by my colleague on my right.

As the paper hints, the consideration of the Triennial Review of Operational Activities by ECOSOC was a disappointing non-event. Our Director-General said it would be at the summer Council, and I have to confess that his forecast was right and the British Government's optimistic one was wrong. However, the activity in preparation for the General Assembly's consideration has more than redressed the position. Two exceedingly important papers have come out, referred to by my colleague from the United States of America, which justify the attention of FAO membership and management. One is the report on the series of country reviews which goes under the formidable title "Report on the Integrated Country Review on the Functioning of the Operational Activities for the Development of the United Nations System", A/44/324/Add.2.

The other contains the recommendations of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation (Mr Blanca) which takes account of the Janssen report which we have discussed here in this forum, the recommendation of the integrated reviews and the work of the ACC which Dr Lühe has mentioned in his paper. These dealt, especially with the role of the Resident Coordinator, the harmonization of procedures, procurement, contract funding and the programme of the assistance of the UN family. By this latter, I refer to the role of the UNDP country programmes as a frame of reference for other assistance from the UN family, or the idea now being developed of a "country statement", based on the country's own development plan, but outlining the nature of the UN assistance required and which will help to form programmes of the UNDP and the other funding agencies, including our own TCP.

It is not appropriate in the time available to mention all the key recommendations of the Director-General, Mr Blanca's paper, or the wisdom in the report on the integrated study. I will select only a few and not mention those already mentioned by my colleagues, but this is to emphasize the important parallels with the work in New York and our own Review of Certain Aspects of our Goals and Operations, and to make the point that they should be taken account of in the implementation of our reviews in the years ahead. Not all these ideas were received in time to enrich our own work, but they should, in the light of the views expressed on them by the membership of the General Assembly, be taken into account.

Amongst sections which I would randomly point to are those in paragraph 25 of the executive summary of the integrated country reviews dealing with the adoption of country programmes.

If I may, I will make just one or two short quotations. This is a quotation from the paper on the country reviews:

"The only valid and viable 'country programme' is the national development plan (or other formulation of strategy) of the country itself. The UN system should move forthwith to adjust all allocation and programming cycles to those of each developing country, and programme the system assistance on a coordinated basis integrally within the country's national plan. For external purposes this could become "Country XX's Co-operation Programme with the UN system. "

Another important point is in paragraph 28 on delegations to the field and the importance of this. A further one is in paragraph 42, which summarizes important other sections dealing with access to the UN system, a subject of importance for developing nations in all states of development. The view of the author is that the capacities of the UN system to act as a switchboard of such access, these activities are inadequately supported by Headquarters for these functions.

There are important chapters which FAO should take into account on the harmonization of procedures.

My delegation has also mentioned the Director-General's opinion that the governing bodies of the individual organizations in general seem unsatisfactory when dealing with operational activities and that a sub-committee should be specifically entrusted with the review of operational activities.

A particularly cogent section in the integrated studies report, which we have touched upon elsewhere in this debate, is concerned with the need for technical assistance. The point is that it is not that needs are changing but that they are now understood better.

I will now indulge myself in my last quotation, again from the report of the country reviews. It says:

"It is clear from the 1989 and earlier reviews and from many other sources of assessment that the services which agencies and other elements of the UN system make available to developing countries need readjusting. Since pluridisciplinary, "above and before project" advice from the grant UN system

is sought along the whole spectrum of countries - those with weak all the way to those with strong analytical and planning capacities - the problem is not one of "changing needs". These needs have been there all along; it has only taken time (and costly experience) more fully to identify them. "

I mention these quotes to encourage FAO to keep fully abreast of international thinking so that we may draw appropriately from the experience of the members of the system. Simple cooperation, important though it is, is not enough. There is need for a creative intellectual involvement.

Turning to the paper on the proposed International Nutritional Conference, I thank Mr Dutia for the paper C 89/27 and for his patient explanations both at Council and today and outside this meeting. Today and at the Council Mr Dutia argued that this Conference was to be the first intergovernmental, that is to say non-expert, meeting. A large and probably the larger part of the proposed meeting must, in effect, be technical, that is to say expert. I read this from paragraph 11 on page 4 of the English text of the paper under Organization of the Conference.

The governmental component is only a part of the meeting. The issue to be addressed by the meeting, and therefore any conclusions reached or proposals made at whatever level, remain the same, that is that although nutritional interventions are often successful in narrow technical terms they have not been shown to be effective, sustainable or widely reproducible at acceptable cost.

A meeting of the Sub-Committee on Nutrition, just before this proposal was made, at which the British Government was represented, failed to find any convincing case that there were examples of effective, affordable interventions to be advanced.

One of the objectives of the proposed Conference is for the establishment of a nutrition surveillance system. I take this from the top of page 4. The first proposal for this was at the World Food Conference in 1973. It has been repeatedly raised but has never, for reasons of cost and technical difficulty, been implemented. UNICEF is currently attempting to develop a surveillance system, and we may well be getting into an area of duplication here. Therefore, my delegation, after consulting our authorities at home, remains unconvinced of the usefulness of such a Conference. Particularly, it is not of the opinion that raising these matters from expert to governmental or political level is necessarily appropriate in this case. Indeed, this proposition seems to involve a misleading simplification of the matter.

Bertrand MATHIEU (France): Ma délégation souhaiterait brièvement commenter la présentation du document C 89/9, qui donne une vue intéressante des principaux faits intervenus dans le système des Nations Unies.

En premier lieu, ma délégation, pour sa part, ne peut que se féliciter de l'engagement total de la FAO et de ses efforts constants et renouvelés dans le domaine de la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin et de l'accord récemment conclu entre la France et l'Organisation.

Notre délégation souligne particulièrement l'intérêt que nous portons aux questions évoquées lors de la quinzième session du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement, qui s'est tenue à Nairobi en 1989. A cet égard, de nombreuses décisions intéressent la FAO, qu'il s'agisse de la lutte contre

le déboisement ou contre la désertification. Le Gouvernement français a déjà souligné l'intérêt qu'il portait à cette question. En témoignent, par exemple, l'initiative du Président de la République en faveur d'un observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel travaillant en étroite collaboration avec le Bureau des Nations Unies pour la région soudano-sahélienne et le projet de lutte contre les inondations au Bangladesh auquel la France apporte un soutien actif.

En second lieu, je souhaiterais dire quelques mots de notre prochaine Conférence sur la nutrition qui se tiendra, en principe, entre 1992 et 1993.

Compte tenu du mandat et des compétences techniques de la FAO, la nutrition constitue un domaine essentiel de l'Organisation. La France se félicite de l'initiative de la FAO et des contacts déjà pris avec l'OMS, et elle appuie pleinement l'idée même de cette conférence et des diverses positions envisagées. Une telle conférence devrait permettre de donner un élan nouveau à la prise en compte des problèmes nutritionnels et mobiliser la communauté internationale. Notre pays souhaite notamment être associé, sur le plan scientifique et technique, à la préparation de cette conférence.

Enfin, pour terminer, permettez-moi de vous rappeler le rôle déterminant de notre pays dans la préparation de la deuxième Conférence des Nations Unies sur les pays les moins avancés (PMA), qui se tiendra à Paris du 3 au 14 septembre 1990, à la suite de l'offre faite par le Président de la République en juillet 1987 lors de la septième CNUCED. A cet égard, la France estime que la communauté internationale doit consentir un effort particulier en faveur des pays les moins avancés. Nous comptons beaucoup sur le fait que la Conférence débouche sur une série de mesures concrètes et établisse un engagement mutuel entre la communauté internationale et les pays les moins avancés, engagement qui devrait permettre un décollage économique de ces derniers. Or le poids du secteur primaire reste bien souvent essentiel dans l'économie de certains pays. C'est pourquoi les mesures qui sont arrêtées dans le domaine agricole et agro-alimentaire revêtent une grande importance. A cet égard, la FAO se doit d'apporter un concours précieux à la préparation de la deuxième Conférence des Nations Unies pour les pays les moins avancés en suggérant des formules originales de soutien et de promotion du secteur agricole et en privilégiant dans ses interventions les pays les plus déshérités.

Francisco MORA (Costa Rica): En primer lugar queremos felicitar a la Secretaría por la elaboración de los documentos en estudio y, en especial, reconocer la magnífica presentación del Doctor Dutia y del Doctor Lühe.

Señor Presidente, en general, sobre los diferentes temas que han sido presentados, queremos referirnos al documento C 89/9. Específicamente nos interesa referirnos a los párrafos 11 al 14 que tratan el tema del fondo com para productos básicos. Al respecto, Costa Rica saluda con entusiasmo las acciones realizadas en dirección a poner en funcionamiento este fondo. Costa Rica tiene la esperanza de que con este fondo llegue a constituirse un valioso instrumento de ayuda que los países en desarrollo pueden utilizar para ejecutar programas que garanticen el financiamiento de las existencias de productos básicos, así como lo prevé la primera cuenta de este fondo.

También los países en desarrollo podrían llevar a cabo actividades de investigación, desarrollo y mejora de la productividad y comercialización haciendo uso de la segunda cuenta. También manifestamos, una vez más, nuestro apoyo a la decisión de que varios grupos intergubernamentales que funcionan en el marco de la FAO sean reconocidos ante este fondo para representar los productos básicos. Así ha sido acordado por las diferentes reuniones realizadas en los últimos años por los grupos del banano, arroz, etc.

Señor Presidente, queremos referirnos también a la Resolución 15/34 del Consejo de Administración del PNUMA. Está comprendida en los párrafos 53, 54 y 55 del documento en estudio. Esta resolución pide al Director Ejecutivo de esa Agencia de Naciones Unidas que convoque, en cooperación con varias organizaciones - FAO incluida -, a reuniones adicionales del grupo especial de trabajo de expertos en diversidad biológica. También se quiere convocar a un grupo de juristas y técnicos para negociar un instrumento jurídico internacional sobre esta materia.

En mérito a esta resolución, Costa Rica quiere subrayar la preocupación expresada por el Consejo de la FAO en su 95º período de sesiones, por la atomización de iniciativas que se están dando en este campo y por las eventuales sobreposiciones y duplicaciones de actividades.

También estimamos, Señor Presidente, que el PNUMA y la FAO son los órganos de mayor rango internacional para tratar este asunto. Lo anterior, en virtud de la especialidad y representatividad de ambas organizaciones. Reconocemos también que la FAD, gracias a que se ocupa de este tema desde 1945 por mandato de su Constitución, ha logrado desde hace una década poner en funcionamiento un sistema global para los recursos fitogenéticos. Este sistema global puesto en práctica por la FAD, tiene, en primer lugar, un marco legal, que es el Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos. También tiene un foro internacional para la discusión de estos temas, que es la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, que funciona aquí en la FAD.

En tercer lugar, existe también un mecanismo financiero, que es el Fondo Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos. Este sistema global, puesto en funcionamiento por la FAD, ha llegado a abarcar 122 países. Hoy la FAO estudia mecanismos similares para los recursos genéticos o la diversidad biológica animal.

Lamentamos que esta resolución, la 15/34 del Consejo de Administración del PNUMA haya ignorado todo esto y quiera comenzar de cero. También consideramos incorrecto dar a la FAO la misma importancia o el mismo rango que a otros organismos no gubernamentales como lo prescribe esta resolución.

Costa Rica rechaza también la idea de separar los temas de conservación de recursos genéticos o diversidad biológica en general y aquéllos del desarrollo agrícola y forestal. Las campañas para la conservación de los recursos genéticos o recursos naturales, hoy tan de moda, deben tomar en cuenta la necesidad de desarrollo agrícola y forestal de los países en desarrollo. No puede haber conservación a costa de hambre en los países en desarrollo. Por esta razón creemos que la FAD, que se ocupa del desarrollo agrícola, debe jugar un rol líder en la conservación de los recursos genéticos en general.

Con respecto al párrafo 43 referente a la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo, que se deberá celebrar en junio de 1992, y en la cual la FAO debe participar activamente, solicitamos que esta Conferencia recomiende a la FAD, en primer lugar, mantener su papel líder en

el campo de los recursos fitogenéticos y de la conservación. En segundo lugar, que conjuntamente con el PNUMA formule un instrumento legal sobre diversidad biológica, como lo solicita la Resolución 15/34, que hemos citado antes. En último caso, y en tercer lugar, solicitamos que la FAO estudie la posibilidad de transformar el vigente Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos en una convención internacional sobre recursos fitogenéticos.

Por último, no podemos dejar pasar esta oportunidad sin mencionar lo cementado por un distinguido delegado anteriormente. Se ha dicho que el Examen de la FAO no ha tenido ningún resultado positivo y que ha sido inútil la revisión que se ha hecho. A este respecto, nosotros queremos ratificar lo que anteriormente hemos dicho acerca de que no podemos considerar inútil dos años de trabajo, varios millones de dólares gastados en sacrificio de los programas ordinarios de la FAO y que al final los expertos y los Comités de Finanzas y del Programa llegaron al convencimiento de que la FAO goza de buena salud y de que la crisis existente es una crisis financiera, especialmente vivida por la falta de pago de las contribuciones a que tienen obligación los Miembros de esta Organización.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Costa Rica. Before calling on the first speaker, I have been asked to announce that the Plenary has now agreed that it will consider tomorrow at 10.30 hours the Report of this Commission II on item 13 of the Agenda, together with the Draft Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations. That is for your information. I call on the delegate of Portugal.

Antonio MBGALHAES COELHO (Portugal): La délégation portugaise félicite le Secrétariat pour l'excellent document qu'il a préparé (C 89/27) au sujet de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition.

Ce document fait le résumé de quelques points de vue importants sur ce domaine, qui inquiètent le monde: soit les problèmes de la famine quantitative dérivée de la privation totale de genres alimentaires, soit la famine qualitative, qui affecte la résistance aux maladies, la capacité de travail et même la joie de vivre, soit encore les problèmes de ceux qui sont supéralimentés et qui souffrent des maladies dues aux excès alimentaires.

Cette Conférence internationale destinée à la participation des organismes liés à l'alimentation et à la nutrition est d'une très grande actualité et d'une très grande importance et devra étudier, discuter, orienter et donner une solution tendant à diminuer les problèmes qui affligent encore l'humanité, d'une façon ou d'une autre.

Selon les éléments disponibles on peut dire que plus de la moitié de la population mondiale est affectée par la famine ou par des erreurs de nutrition et cela nous donne la notion de l'importance du problème.

Au moment où l'on sait qu'un grand nombre de maladies proviennent d'erreurs alimentaires, où, en Europe, se développe une campagne contre le cancer, où l'industrialisation des produits agricoles sur une large échelle est à l'origine de très grands changements alimentaires dans de larges zones du globe, au moment où il y a une diminution des quantités de fibres et une augmentation en teneurs en graisses, en sucre, en sel et en viande,

l'organisation de cette réunion est importante et peut représenter le point de départ décisif pour que les nations et les organisations internationales, y compris celles de financement, coordonnent leurs efforts vers un objectif commun.

L'usage des additifs, souvent très discuté, a besoin d'être étudié en profondeur; il en est de même pour les transformations chimiques, biologiques et celles de la valeur nutritionnelle dérivées de l'industrialisation et des divers procédés de conservation des produits.

Nous sommes entièrement d'accord avec la philosophie présentée au paragraphe 8 du document, concernant les objectifs proposés pour la Conférence.

En ce qui concerne les objectifs décrits au paragraphe 19 du document, nous voudrions que soient énoncées des règles tendant à une alimentation rationnelle faisant valoir les aliments traditionnels de chaque région écologique.

Au paragraphe 14 on prévoit des réunions distinctes, les unes pour discuter les déclarations des ministres et des chefs de délégations, lesquelles auront un caractère fondamentalement politique, et d'autres réunions de caractère technique partagées entre deux commissions. Ma délégation sollicite du Secrétariat l'étude attentive de l'organisation de ces réunions techniques, de façon à permettre un dialogue profitable parmi les spécialistes des diverses formations. Il serait certainement contre-indiqué, d'un côté de réunir les nutritionnistes et de l'autre les techniciens responsables de la production alimentaire. Ma délégation est convaincue que le futur secrétariat en tiendra compte.

Le paragraphe 16 prévoit la création d'un comité consultatif d'experts techniciens de la conférence. Mon pays offre sa collaboration au champ de la nutrition, notamment en ce qui concerne les pays tropicaux; tel est le cas de l'Institut de la médecine tropicale.

La délégation portugaise approuve chaleureusement la proposition contenue dans le document C 89/27 et souhaite que ses remarques soient interprétées dans le sens d'une contribution pour une meilleure définition des objectifs.

D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands): Document C 89/27 proposes an international Conference on Nutrition, to take place in 1993 in Rome, organized by FAO in cooperation with WHO. The document elucidates the importance of such a Conference and the goals it serves. The Netherlands delegation is not without doubts about such a Conference. We fear that such a Conference does not suitably target the arguments which were the basis for the initiatives. Paragraph 5, in particular, gives very good background on the essential and acute problems connected with nutrition, as regards food security, structural adjustment, public expenditure and health, social dimensions of adjustments and nutritional surveillance.

To find these relationships is not just a challenge for the nutritional world but it is a matter of survival: in particular, if the connection between structural adjustments, food security and nutrition is not made, a great opportunity is lost. The donor and developing countries should coordinate activities as much as possible and as a result of that such a Conference would be good for the exchange of information which could lead to decent strategies.

An international nutrition Conference should be part of any regional Conference, The problems mentioned in paragraph six could be dealt with at such a Conference. Other regional Conferences could address themselves to the above-mentioned issues in preparation for an international nutrition Conference. My delegation believes that the goals of the Conference are not realistic with regard to these problems, and the adoption of its goals in a more operational way seems to be necessary, taking the macro-economic relevance into account. In conclusion, my delegation cannot support this Conference but would like a consensus on this issue.

Mrs Carole THEAUVETTE (Canada): Ma délégation souhaite limiter son intervention sur la proposition concernant la tenue d'une Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. Comme nous l'avons déjà indiqué au quatre-vingt-seizième Conseil, le Canada reconnaît pleinement l'importance du secteur de la nutrition en matière de développement. Nos politiques, en ce domaine, soulignent l'importance de la nutrition puisqu'elle touche plus particulièrement la participation des femmes dans le développement.

D'une manière générale, le Canada est favorable à la tenue de consultations internationales et multilatérales sur cette question; toutefois, ma délégation considère que la proposition de la tenue d'une telle Conférence, un an après la Conférence sur l'environnement et le développement, nécessiterait quelques années de préparation intensive de la part des Etats Membres.

Nous avons également des inquiétudes concernant les effets possibles que ces travaux entraîneraient sur les ressources de la FAO.

Ainsi donc, pour ces raisons de chevauchement et de disponibilités de ressources en ce moment, le Canada n'est pas en mesure d'appuyer la tenue d'une Conférence de l'envergure telle que présentée dans le document soumis à la Commission.

Hartmut STALB (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): The

Federal Government has seen with some satisfaction in document C 89/9 that on the basis of Resolution 42/196 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the FAO is coordinating its field activities in the UN system. The Resolution mentioned above, among other things, is a reaction to the Janssen Report, where the lack of coordination in regard to field activities in the UN system was mentioned.

In order to achieve the maximum impact on developing countries with the present limited resources, we call on FAO to fully recognize the coordinating role of the resident coordinators in the individual developing countries. In this context the Federal Government would ask the Secretariat to give a report as to why FAO has yet not signed the standard basic executive agency agreement of UNDP.

In the light of the many people who are suffering from malnutrition in this world, the Federal Government is not in principle against the idea of holding an International Nutrition Conference, but given the not always very satisfactory results of other international conferences, we would therefore ask that the aims of the Conference should be clearly defined and

measurable. Secondly, that a lead agency should be nominated, which would coordinate and implement clearly-described measures. Thirdly, that this lead agency should give periodical reports about the measures implemented and the progress made in achieving objectives. Fourthly, that the measures which are decided upon must have some realistic link to the resources expected.

Francisco ZAMARRIEGO CRESPO (España): El objetivo de nuestra intervención es referirnos especialmente al tema C 89/9, Novedades más recientes en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO, y en especial lo que se indica en los párrafos 53, 54 y 55. Cuando pedimos la palabra todavía no había hecho su intervención el señor delegado de Costa Rica, pero se ha referido a estos mismos puntos y apoyamos lo que ha dicho este delegado en su intervención sobre el tema.

Queremos abundar y precisar en lo concerniente a la recomendación de que se transforme el Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos en una convención internacional, y lo basamos fundamentalmente en la celebración de la tercera reunión, el 21 de noviembre de 1989 del Comité de Resoluciones. El quinto informe, documento C 89/LIM/37 dice lo siguiente: "... el Comité de Resoluciones examinó el proyecto de resolución sobre "Una interpretación concertada del compromiso internacional", presentado por la delegación de España para ser examinado en el tema 9 del programa. El texto del proyecto de resolución se incluye en el Anexo A.

En relación con el apartado (a) del segundo párrafo del preámbulo de resolución, la Secretaría aclaró al Comité que el Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos no se consideraba como un instrumento jurídico vinculante. En consecuencia el Comité recomienda que se suprima la palabra "legal" de este párrafo de manera que el apartado (a) diría así: "El Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos constituye un marco destinado a asegurar la conservación, utilización y disponibilidad de los recursos fitogenéticos".

Es por este motivo por el cual creemos que la Conferencia debe apoyar y recomendar que se hagan los estudios pertinentes para la transformación del compromiso internacional en una convención, para que pueda tener efectos legales y jurídicos oportunos en la vinculación con el resto de las actividades que se van a desarrollar al respecto.

En lo que se refiere a la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición, nuestra delegación, en las reuniones del Consejo, ya expresó su apoyo a dicha Conferencia, lo cual ratificamos en este momento tanto en las fechas como en el lugar que se han anunciado.

Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh) : First of all I thank Mr Lühe and Mr Dutia for presenting document C 89/9 and C 89/27 on Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO and on the International Conference on Nutrition, respectively. As usual, both presentations have been characterized by lucidity and clarity. We appreciate the decision of the Secretariat for making the documents less bulky and repetitious and I am sure, at the end of the day, that we are going to take the right decisions which will be in our common interests.

We note that no specific action by the Conference has been requested but we would like to make some comments on some of the issues which are of special interest to my delegation and I believe to a number of Member States present in the Conference. First of all, we refer to the chapter dealing with the environment. On ecological and environmental issues we in Bangladesh have good reasons to be concerned with these matters. Our Minister for Agriculture in his general statement highlighted the relative problems and mentioned our concern about the possible greenhouse effect. In this context we appreciate the initiatives of UNEP and ECOSOC and other international bodies as described therein.

We believe that FAI, apart from continuing her own programmes, will intensify cooperation and collaboration with all other concerned agencies and organizations. We welcome any support the holding of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development will give us.

I would like to call attention in this connection to the concerns expressed by President Hussain Muhammad Ershad following the devastating floods in Bangladesh last year, particularly at the Nan-Aligned summit meeting in Belgrade and the Commonwealth summit meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

We have noted the developments concerning the Coraron Fund for Commodities. We note with satisfaction that many of the intergovernmental groups and communities have requested the Director-General to approach the Common Fund for designating these groups as the eligible international community bodies, ICBs, in order to get financing from Second Account of the Common Fund. We hope the Secretariat will do this work very promptly and effectively. I emphasize the word "effectively".

Bangladesh attaches much importance to the creation of non-farm employment as a means of enhancing overall rural development. FAI and UNIDO can play a very significant role in the promotion of the food and agricultural industries in order to create non-farm employment opportunities. We mentioned this in our intervention on the Review of Regular Programmes for 1988-89.

Coming to the other item on the International Conference on Nutrition as contained in document C 89/27 we would like, first of all, to again thank the Secretariat for this important item. We thank them for getting this important item on to the Conference agenda. Malnutrition is a persistent social and development problem affecting human welfare throughout the developing world. We in Bangladesh have been making all out efforts to solve the problem through various means but this problem, as with many other developing countries, is growing bigger and bigger and needs urgent attention and assistance from the world community.

Already enough is known as to how to prevent and control malnutrition. The current need is to mobilize the strong political support and develop strategies to provide enough resources to initiate and sustain activities for controlling malnutrition. Bangladesh is pleased to note that the proposed Conference is intended to provide this and, therefore, strongly supports the initiative by FAO and WHO. The control of malnutrition is a multisectoral and multidisciplinary issue. It requires an integrated programme to meet the challenge. We are pleased to note that FAO and WHO have joined hands to convene this Conference.

The other agencies in the United Nations system - particularly UNICEF, which are involved in addition - we hope it will be possible for all UN organizations to pool their resources in the form of a joint nutrition division and look at it in an appropriate place to develop unified nutrition programmes.

Fragmentation of resources is not an efficient way of utilization of expertise and resources in this regard. We believe this will be an important step in the right direction.

Marcos NIETO LARA (Cuba): Señor Presidente, permítame saludar al Sr. Lühe y al Dr. Dutia por la presentación que nos hicieron de este tema. Señor Presidente, en muchas oportunidades hemos tratado aquí los problemas del hambre y los problemas de la desnutrición. Pero el problema de la malnutrición en su conjunto es tanto para aquéllos que no tienen un pedazo de pan, como para aquéllos que tienen o consumen alimentos en exceso y realmente lo hacen de una forma inapropiada. Algunos países, entre ellos países en desarrollo, están acusando determinados problemas con el sistema dietético, ya sea por hábito o por disponibilidad de alimentos adecuados para una adecuada alimentación. Por consiguiente, este tema de la nutrición como aspecto realmente físico, como aspecto de carácter político, como aspecto de carácter técnico, es hora ya de que se someta a un análisis detallado y cuidadoso y para ello nada mejor que una convocatoria de una conferencia bajo el patrocinio de la FAO y de la Organización Mundial de la Salud.

Yo diría que muchos hoy en día, se preocupan por hacer dieta y esto forma parte también de los hábitos nutricionales, pero esto realmente se produce en la mayor parte de los casos en aquellos países que han labrado, que han alcanzado un alto nivel de desarrollo o un cierto nivel de desarrollo. Debemos, entiende la delegación cubana, examinar más en detalle estos problemas para que la disponibilidad de alimentos que tiene el mundo en el día de hoy sea lo más eficazmente utilizada. Por lo tanto apoyamos, repito, la celebración de esta conferencia y el papel activo de la FAO como líder en materia de agricultura y alimentación y, por qué no, también de la nutrición, conjuntamente con la coordinación con la Organización Mundial de la Salud.

Señor Presidente, otro tema de relaciones que nos está ocupando en la tarde de hoy es la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Desarrollo y Medio Ambiente. Pensamos que como se señala en uno de los párrafos del documento que estamos examinando, documento C 89/9, la FAO debe tener un papel mucho más activo en la celebración de esta Conferencia y un reconocimiento mucho más universal en cuanto a su participación en las actividades de desarrollo y medio ambiente. De manera particular, queremos referirnos al hecho de que los recursos fitogenéticos constituyen un elemento importante, tanto dentro de la conservación como en los aspectos relativos al desarrollo de la agricultura, la ganadería, la pesca y la actividad forestal.

Si la FAO ha sido la Organización pionera en este trabajo, ya desde hace varias décadas viene tomando iniciativa en este sentido, consideramos nosotros que todo lo que hace a los recursos fito y zoogenéticos debe continuar siendo liderado por la FAO en cuanto a la actividad técnica de conservación de los recursos y promoción del desarrollo.

Se ha argumentado que el compromiso que hace cuatro años discutimos aquí como una iniciativa válida y muy acertada de la FAO deba devenir en una convención para que sean salvados todos aquellos aspectos legales que den adecuada cobertura al cumplimiento del principio del Compromiso Internacional de que los recursos fitogenéticos y, agregamos, los recursos zoogenéticos, sean patrimonio de toda la humanidad y para bienestar de toda la humanidad.

Mrs Anna-Liisa KORHONEN (Finland) : Over the past two years my delegation has studied the documentation of Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO with particular interest. Finland has also offered some ideas on how to improve its content, thus making it more useful to the membership of the Organization. This year's document C 89/9 is a clear improvement on the earlier ones and therefore I should like to thank the Secretariat for it.

At this particular time a lot of new developments in the field of operational activities for development is taking place. However, the document before us can only cover events that have already taken place. At the same time my delegation appreciates the fact that some broader issues, like the New International Development Strategy, have been discussed separately in other documents and perhaps for this reason, and taking the time factor in the preparation of this document into account, it is somewhat limited in its scope. However, it contains interesting information.

My delegation noted the section on the ACC Task Force on Rural Development with special interest; especially paragraphs 28 to 34 are of relevance to all of us. Finland welcomes the decision of the Task Force to improve the advance exchange of information among the agencies in this field. Likewise efforts by the Task Force to improve methodologies of monitoring and evaluating training activities is a development which Finland supports warmly. The gender-specific reporting has also been under study by the Task Force. My delegation also welcomes the efforts by the agencies to elaborate similar medium-term plans concerning WID issues.

As to the section on the environment, Finland has noted with surprise in paragraph 43 that FAO could play a major technical role in the preparation for the 1992 United Nations Conference for Environment and Development provided that financial and human resources permitted. This statement is somewhat in contradiction with the intentions reported in paragraph 47 which deals with the Joint FAO-UNEP meeting. I would welcome some clarifications from the Secretariat on this point.

The section in the Report dealing with FAO's relations with the international financing institutions is of relevance to this Conference as a whole. It is good to note that there is a concise description of the objectives of the work that the international financing institutions are currently applying. My delegation would have expected that the overall documentation of the Organization could have taken an equally factual approach when the relationship with these institutions and these policies are described, as is the case in the document now before us. As an example I should like to mention paragraph 74. It states that "Prospects for future cooperation between FAO and the Regional Development Banks are uneven... In the Asian region, there is a relative decline in the importance of agriculture in many economies. Many countries no longer need or wish to use substantial amounts of international expertise for agricultural project preparation..." These

kinds of statement are of great value when FAO's technical assistance programmes are planned in general and with the international financial institutions in particular. I would have wished to see statements like this incorporated also in the document of FAO's Field Programmes •

The document C 89/9 does not require any action by the Conference. In the Report of this agenda item, Finland would, however, like to see a paragraph which would state that recent developments in the United Nations system have a direct bearing also on the activities of the FAO and thus the official documentation should reflect more fully these trends and how they influence the future work of the Organization.

Now I am turning to the question of the Conference on Nutrition. The FAO Council noted at its last session in June the proposal made by the Sub-Committee on Nutrition of the Administrative Committee on Coordination that an International Conference on Nutrition be convened in order to mobilize efforts and resources to combat malnutrition. The Council also noted that a detailed document would be presented to the Conference in November 1989. It is now before us, the document C 89/27. My delegation has studied the document with considerable interest. Finland welcomes the initiative to focus attention on nutrition and the multi-faceted cluster of issues closely related to it. Nutrition is a daily concern of every individual and more broadly a concern of national authorities and international organizations dealing with food supply and health questions.

The document underlines two basic and, in our opinion, very important starting points in this exercise, and indeed, an in-depth discussion on nutrition. Firstly, the initiative was taken by an inter-sectoral group. This emphasises the necessity to approach the whole issue as a joint effort of several agencies within the United Nations system.

Secondly, we note with satisfaction that the preparations have brought together the two sides of the coin; the production and supply of food on the one hand and the consumption and health aspects on the other. Consequently a close cooperation and coordination between FAO and WHO is a key to success in preparing and organizing the proposed Conference. As we all knew, the nutritional aspects and their repercussions on the health and well-being of individuals, and sometimes even whole population groups, are sometimes overlooked especially on the supply side. In this context the international community has a role to play, especially with regard to the assistance efforts in the agricultural and fisheries sector in disaster relief and in food aid in general.

The task facing the organizers of the Conference is in no way an easy one. As indicated in the document, every country and indeed every individual is faced with nutritional issues, often even problems. They range from health problems caused by serious malnutrition to those caused by over-eating.

As the document rightly points out, accumulated practical experience, adequate scientific knowledge and appropriate technology are at hand to bring about lasting improvements in the world nutritional situation. The document is calling for the political will to address the fundamental global nutritional concerns. It may well be the case that the problems are known but their causes, consequences and inter-linkages are not yet recognized. Therefore, there may not yet be enough common ground for joint practical conclusions and for making policy level recommendations at the governmental level unless the proposed Conference is very carefully prepared. In this preparatory process, inter-agency meetings, regional consultations, as well

as contact with expert bodies and non-governmental organizations should play an important role. If the preparatory process succeeds in bringing together all whose expertise and experience are of relevance, the Conference could then serve a useful purpose by merging these views in the recommendations, on policy issues and providing thus a common starting point for the future. In the course of the process the objectives of the inter-governmental process itself should be further elaborated and agreed upon.

The document before us states the objectives proposed by the ACC Sub-Committee. Although the list contains issues of major importance it seems to my delegation that it fails to identify the main thrust of such a major undertaking as an inter-governmental event is bound to be. The first objective mentioned in paragraph 10, namely that of identifying the problems of malnutrition, should be dealt with during the preparatory phase and brought to the Conference as a part of its background documentation. The second proposal concerning the adoption of a strategy and proposal for action also requires further thought. What could possibly be reached is an approval by the governments of principles concerning proper nutrition and a balanced diet. These principles must be translated into nutrition strategies, taking into account the circumstances, local production, cultural background, etc., in different parts of the world instead of a uniform strategy for all.

Similarly we do not see the mobilization of additional financial resources as an objective for such a conference at the outset, since we believe that such can be done in this field out of existing resources if adequate information is available and taken into account.

The last objective mentioned in paragraph 10, namely data collection, is, of course, a pre-requisite for monitoring the nutritional status of populations. The proposed annual system with a global coverage seems to us so complex that it is difficult to implement. Nutrition should be an integral part in the regular monitoring of the overall status of vulnerable groups. These data on other groups could be collected in connection with the basic population statistics every five years for instance. I am referring to these objectives of the proposed Conference only to draw attention of our Conference to some of the questions that they give rise to. These issues need to be carefully scrutinized before the members of this Organization make a decision on the proposal of the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition.

Therefore my delegation urges that the co-sponsors, FAD/WHO continue close cooperation in these preparations. They should take a closer look at the objectives in order to make them clear. We also suggest that they approach other UN organs, most notably the World Food Programme and UNICEF, at an early stage and invite them to give substantive inputs to the preparations. A consideration of this item in the FAO and WHO regional conferences and consultations is a good way to proceed, because it helps governmental authorities and organizations on nutrition to specify their ideas on the proposed conference.

It may also be worth our considering whether the existing ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition could serve as a nucleus of the advisory committee on experts and invite other experts, researchers, etc., to participate in their meetings for this particular purpose.

First, however, the co-sponsors should consult on the kind of policy issues that can be presented to an intergovernmental conference and frame the preparation on that basis. The governing bodies of FAO and WHO should be kept informed and given the opportunity to discuss the preparation in their meetings. The planned timetable, namely to convene a possible conference in 1993, would allow this procedure to be followed.

Leslie Ross BROWNHALL (Australia): I would like to direct my remarks to document C 89/27, the International Conference on Nutrition. The proposal for FAO and WHO to co-sponsor an International Conference on Nutrition is supported in principle. There is increasing evidence that diet-related conditions are the major causes of morbidity and mortality in both developing and developed countries. Apart from the health consequences of malnutrition, the availability of an adequate and nutritious food supply is essential to promote well-being and achieve an acceptable quality of life for all peoples. Because of the lead roles that both FAO and WHO have taken in national and international programmes, they are the most appropriate UN agencies to sponsor such a conference.

In respect of the rationale for the Conference, we believe that it is important that the International Nutrition Conference address the problems of both undernutrition and overnutrition. In Australia's region there are a number of Pacific island countries where non-communicable diseases, linked to sedentary lifestyle and to overconsumption of fats, refined sugars and food energy, compared to traditional diets, are major causes of ill health. These diseases, including coronary heart disease, hypertension, and non-insulin dependent diabetes are major causes of morbidity and mortality in Australia. It is of concern to the Australian Government that there is a much higher incidence of these chronic diseases in poorer, less-educated population groups in Australia.

The Australian Government is implementing a social justice policy through its various programmes, including the community services and health portfolio, to address health inequalities and inequity in access to health care and information including nutrition services. The need to focus on special efforts to reverse the situation of malnutrition, particularly affecting the poorest population groups is supported. This issue should be addressed in both programmes in developed as well as developing countries.

In respect of objectives of the Conference, while Australia would encourage efforts to reassess the global nutrition situation, it is important that an international conference be carefully planned and conducted. Preparation for such a meeting should provide for proper briefing and preparatory activities and attendance by appropriate delegates. The emphasis of the conference should be on practical outcomes, as well as addressing political issues.

We are concerned about two major issues in respect of the objectives, the need to raise the profile of nutrition in the consciousness of Governments in the preparation of development plans so that nutrition can be considered integrally across several portfolios, and the mobilization of financial resources on problems of nutrition. Therefore we suggest an additional objective, which could be as follows, or in other words: To increase awareness of the need for government to give consideration to nutrition issues in the development of national policies and programmes, particularly in the food and agriculture sectors.

In respect of the organization of the conference, we support the Secretariat for location and timing, we support the principles of cooperation with other agencies, and we support the establishment of an advisory committee of experts.

On regional discussions, the nutrition topic to be included in the Regional Conference of Asia and the Pacific in April 1990, action programmes to overcome specific nutritional deficiencies. This is an important issue to be discussed in the region, as there is a prevalence of such diseases as xerophthalmia, goitre and cretinism in many countries in Asia and the Pacific.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): We wish only to make a brief intervention on document C 89/27, International Conference on Nutrition. This delegation welcomes the initiative related to the proposed Conference on Nutrition. First, we wish to endorse the point of view indicated by the Secretariat, which emphasizes the mobilization of resources on an international scale, including political will. It cannot be argued that there is any basis whatsoever for considering that nutrition per se ought to be given any less attention than food production. In fact, effective nutrition strategies and practices and the impact on human health and quality of life will ultimately determine the level of success or failure of the overall food production effort, and that is even when we have been able to record adequate achievement in terms of food distribution, including the matter of access of food regardless of the nature of the obstacles involved.

We consider some of the observations by the United Kingdom delegate very interesting, for example the matter of nutrition intervention efforts. Arising out of this, my delegation wishes to recommend that FAO and WHO give particular attention to intervention strategies as preparations are made for the Conference. But with regard to this particular topic, it is not really a matter for mere speeches. If intervention strategies have not worked as well as we had hoped, then let us take a hard look. We assume, and there is experience to suggest, that there must be some elements of success. Can we analyse them thoroughly in the search for data, techniques, community responses, cultural factors, expert characteristics, etc., which may have led to even the limited success that we may be able to identify.

It may be necessary perhaps to have one or more special mini-conferences, perhaps workshop-type sessions, or whatever we may call them, and perhaps what I would refer to as the nitty-gritty of intervention strategies, and here we wish to emphasize action on the ground. In this context we would recommend that any workshop activity and also the Conference have present some selected participants, and if we may borrow that famous phrase, at what we call the people's level, rural leaders of example, community women leaders, and I want to emphasize para-professional workers.

I recall yesterday in Commission I the delegate of Venezuela speaking on the matter of integration of women in development, and I think I heard him speak about many situations in which the decision-makers are busy designing programmes for urban and sub-urban women. I regret to say that some, and I want to emphasize some, only some, of the designers of these programmes for the disadvantaged are themselves very limited consumers of local food and

their knowledge and experience with the real problems can at times be peripheral. Beside this we need to ensure that all groups - urban, sub-urban, rural, and perhaps even what we call interlocation migration types - are taken care of in the designing of various programmes.

The particular point of view that I wish to emphasize here is the careful focusing of activity, resources, and techniques, on this problem of nutrition. My delegation is of the view that a properly organized and managed conference can yield results which will be considerably useful. As we said before, we are concerned that the Conference should not take place before 1992 and we can only urge that FAD, in collaboration with WHO, do all that is possible in the interim - that is, between now and 1992 - to facilitate the Conference having the best possible combination of information and resource personnel such as would lead to programmes and projects which would have a meaningful impact in all situations in all countries where the problem exists. In this regard, we need to remind ourselves that the Ten-Year Post WCAARD Review does not clearly indicate that we are gaining ground.

Marcelo L.A.S. VASCONCELOS (Brazil): I will concentrate my efforts on document C 89/27 concerning the proposal of an International Conference on Nutrition to be convened in order to mobilize effort and resources to combat malnutrition. Malnutrition is one of the world's most serious problems and the Brazilian Government is deeply concerned with the situation in our own country. We would like therefore to express our full support for this proposal, with regard to what has been said before by some speakers, that the Conference should be very carefully planned and we think therefore that FAO and the other UN agencies involved in this question should pay special attention to the technical preparation of the Conference in order to guarantee its success.

Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): In the name of God the compassionate and the merciful, my delegation would like to thank Mr Dutia and Mr Lühe for their excellent introductions to both the documents which we are presently discussing.

My delegation is particularly concerned about the environmental issue, and a specific Environmental Department has been set up within our Ministry. We have also begun to approve certain legislation and regulations relating to the environment. In addition, we actively participate in all conferences related to the subject.

Here I would like to refer to the Cairo Declaration as regards the conservation and preservation of the environment. We had the honour of organizing the Fifteenth Session of the World Food Council in Cairo, at which Mr Yousef Waley was elected the chairman for that session. He is our Minister of Agriculture. My country participated in the foundation of the World Food Council. We had at that conference the participation of many well-known Egyptians dealing with the subject. In January 1990 we shall be organizing a symposium dealing specifically with those issues.

Nutrition, the quality of nutrition and developments related to nutrition, are all of great importance. All Egyptian authorities are trying to study these issues carefully. We would like particularly to support the idea of an international conference on this subject. We think that the participation of FAO and the WHO would be a very useful support and a way of assuring its success. We certainly can, we hope, count on the fact that the FAO will be directly involved in all the preparatory work of the Conference.

Ibrahim KABA (Guinée): La délégation guinéenne se félicite de l'appui efficace fourni par le Centre d'investissement, ainsi que des activités de financement de la Banque Mondiale, du FIDA et des banques régionales qui accordent une priorité soutenue au développement agricole dans les pays les moins avancés. Aussi, notre délégation encourage le renforcement des rapports de coopération entre les organisations du système des Nations Unies.

Concernant la tenue d'une Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, sous l'égide conjointe de la FAO et de l'OMS, notre délégation soutient fermement cette initiative; notre soutien se justifie par le fait que les problèmes de la malnutrition méritent de faire l'objet d'une consultation au niveau mondial, afin que des mesures, des plans d'action et des projets puissent être dressés à l'intention des Etats Membres, tel que cela était fait dans le cadre de la pêche, de la réforme agraire et de la forêt.

De telles conférences renforcent la prise de conscience et motivent la volonté politique des responsables chargés de la mise en place des dispositions devant contribuer à l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire.

Dans ce cas précis, le problème crucial de la malnutrition et de la sous-alimentation dans nos pays pourrait être mieux explicité et faire l'objet de recherches de solutions appropriées, souvent existantes mais mal connues. Une telle conférence mérite une préparation minutieuse et c'est la raison pour laquelle nous apprécions les mesures envisagées au niveau des Conférences régionales.

Ainsi donc, notre délégation appuie la tenue de cette conférence en 1993 et souhaite que cela soit un véritable succès.

Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): Like previous speakers, I will limit my observation to the document on the International Conference on Nutrition. In a statement that was delivered by the Ethiopian Minister of Agriculture, he expressed his full support for the convening of the International Conference on Nutrition because of the additional momentum that it will create for this major problem of food and nutrition.

We also understand from the document that this topic is going to be discussed at length in the regional conferences which will be held during the coming year. We hope that this will give us a chance to discuss it at length.

At this point, I just want to indicate and reiterate my support for the convening of this International Conference on Nutrition, and also express my support for the venue that was proposed by Mr Dutia.

CHAIRMAN: We have now exhausted the list of delegates who wish to speak, except that the delegate of Belgium has asked to make another intervention. Before giving the floor to the Observer from the WHO, I would plead with the delegate of Belgium to be as brief as possible.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): C'est la première fois que j'interviens de nouveau dans un débat, et j'espère que ce sera la dernière. Mais ce matin nous avons eu l'occasion en Commission III de discuter des interventions dans le cadre des projets du PNUD, ce qu'on appelle les dépenses d'appui du PNUD (Support Cost). Je ne voudrais pas que les travaux de la Commission II et ceux de la Commission III aboutissent à révéler certaines divergences de points de vues à l'occasion de la discussion du document C 89/9.

On a réinvoqué et rediscuté le niveau des dépenses d'appui du PNUD et des fonds fiduciaires. C'est une question importante. Vous savez qu'il existe une décision du Comité administratif de coordination - il s'agit de la décision 1989/29 - où, de manière très claire, il est dit que le rapport d'experts devra être examiné par les instances responsables du PNUD, en collaboration avec les organismes responsables des agences d'exécution.

Nous avons dit ce matin, et ce que nous avons dit a été appuyé par un nombre important de pays, qu'il était extrêmement important que la FAO se penche sur le rapport d'experts sur lequel elle a son mot à dire et que la Conférence de l'année prochaine l'examine dans le détail. Il s'agit d'un problème important. Nous tenons à ce qu'il soit examiné convenablement.

Petr ZIZKA (Czechoslovakia): I wish only to comment on the matter of the International Conference on Nutrition. The Czechoslovakian delegation finds that the initiative for organizing the International Conference on Food and Nutrition is a very useful one. It can assist in efforts to solve serious and fundamental problems of concern to all states. The exchange of opinion and the establishment of international programmes can produce positive results at reasonable financial expense.

The solution of nutritional problems necessitates the learning of the present state and the trend of changes in this area. Moreover, it would lead to an evaluation of the steps that have already been taken by FAO and other organizations until now, and will propose further accurate measures. In addition to the necessity for economic assistance on the part of the industrially advanced countries, it would be important to prepare or correct the present long-term programmes of starvation control in developing countries. Analysis of the situation in particular regions would be useful in advancing the recommendations of the Conference.

Food in the industrially advanced part of the world is luxurious and risky from a public health point of view. Statistics on health conditions show an increase in cardiovascular diseases and an increasing incidence of cancer diseases, etc. In this connection, it is necessary to stress that the state of health of the population is a multi-component factor, and as such it must be evaluated. The increased sickness rate which I have already mentioned is at the same time related to other factors such as the state of the environment and the life style.

As for the problems of the nutriment of the population, we recommend the establishment of international research programmes focused on the real causes of the present situation. Attention should be focused on the problems in the area of preservation of health-recommended nutrient rates, mutual interlinks between the nutrients, mutual replaceability correlation with physical and mental load, the influence of the environment, etc., as well as in the area of the food industry. Here we recommend concentrating attention on the principal questions of foodstuffs chemistry, the influence of technologies on these changes, on the reactions leading to the improvement of nutritive value of foods and, on the other hand, observing the generation of substances which could have serious negative impacts on generation of endogenous contaminants. Extraordinary attention should be paid to food additives, both in their production and in their use, including their possible reaction to foodstuffs in the course of technological processing and storage.

The Czechoslovakian delegation strongly supports the proposal that an International Conference on Nutrition be convened in order to mobilize efforts and resources to combat malnutrition. The Czechoslovakian delegation at the Ninety-fifth Session of FAO Council, expressed the view that FAD, by virtue of its Mandate, and thanks to its technical and administrative resources, should play a leading role - in cooperation with WHO - in the organizing and running of the Conference in the biennium 1992-93. As a matter of fact, Czechoslovakia has offered to FAO the assistance of our experts to take part in FAO preparatory work for the proposed Conference. Czechoslovakia is preparing, in close cooperation with experts from Austria, an international seminar for January, next year, on the problems of rational and balanced nutrition of the population. We would welcome FAO's active participation in that seminar.

Christos A. IACOVOU (Grèce): On doit admettre que la convocation d'une conférence internationale sur la nutrition est une initiative positive, d'autant plus qu'elle est proposée à un moment approprié.

La nutrition est un des défis mondiaux des années à venir. Il est à retenir que la malnutrition ne touche pas uniquement les pays en voie de développement mais aussi les pays développés où on trouve également d'autres problèmes: la suralimentation ou l'alimentation impropre. C'est ainsi que le problème de la nutrition dans son aspect général concerne la société internationale car il englobe un volet social, économique, scientifique et politique. Dans ce contexte, une concertation mondiale autour du problème de la nutrition nous paraît particulièrement importante.

Patrick DEMONGEOT (United States of America): With respect to the decision of the ACC, I want to clarify the fact that the ACC did not decide that the current arrangements should be deferred or extended for another year. Perhaps here I could read from the text of document C 89/LIM/13, which says that there was a recent ACC decision "to bring the issue of the timetable to the attention of the UNDP Governing Council with a view to allowing governing bodies of the Executing Agencies to deal with any possible budgetary and organizational implications of the proposals advanced by the UNDP experts group on this subject".

So the ACC has no jurisdiction in this matter: it can only suggest. The only grounds for postponing the application of the new ACC arrangements is if there is a need for more time to implement them. However, time should not be used as one way of discussing them forever. A decision should be reached by the end of next year.

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom) : In view of the intervention made by the delegate of Belgium regarding support costs I would ask, in order to ensure balance in any reporting from this Commission on this subject, that the remarks made by my delegation in Commission III on Agenda Item 23.3 should be noted as if they were a contribution to our discussion here. Thank you.

Saadi Djamil BENBOUZID (OMS): Ma présence ici témoigne de l'importance que l'Organisation mondiale de la santé attache aux travaux de votre Conférence et à vos réflexions sur la préparation de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. Je ne reviendrai pas sur le document C 89/27. M. Dutia en a fait une présentation claire et parfaitement documentée. Il s'agit d'un document conjoint. Il est inutile que j'insiste.

Je voudrais clarifier pour les Etats Membres un point qui a été maintes fois soulevé et dire que pour nous, comme pour la FAO j'imagine, il ne s'agit pas d'organiser une conférence internationale pour le seul plaisir de réunir à Rome le plus grand nombre d'experts qui se retrouveraient une fois de plus dans un monde familier où la réflexion et la recherche scientifique, si elles sont essentielles, ne sont pas suffisantes pour la prise de décision et l'action.

Comme il est dit dans le paragraphe 9 du document C 89/27, les ingrédients existent pour élaborer des solutions. Le temps nous paraît venu de mettre encore une fois les décideurs en position d'assumer certaines responsabilités que justement les scientifiques ne peuvent assumer à leur place, ceci pour des raisons évidentes.

C'est pourquoi nous pensons que s'il existe de nombreux forums où s'expriment les spécialistes de la nutrition, quel que soit leur secteur d'origine, il faut justement utiliser les résultats de ces travaux pour bâtir et renforcer les politiques nutritionnelles dont tous nos pays ont besoin.

Notre Organisation, de même que la FAO dans le domaine de l'alimentation, maintient à jour l'information fournie par les Etats Membres sur la morbidité et la mortalité. Elle analyse les tendances sur la mortalité des facteurs causaux, sur lesquels le système de santé, à lui tout seul, n'est pas en mesure d'exercer des effets positifs. Je citerai le cas des maladies non transmissibles, dont les facteurs causaux liés au régime alimentaire sont multiples. Si nous prenons l'exemple du cancer, une des trois causes majeures de décès chez les adultes à la fois dans les pays industrialisés et dans les pays en développement, on s'aperçoit que pour les plus communs d'entre eux, la détection précoce et le traitement ont peu d'effet. En fait, il apparaît que les changements dans les modes de vie sont les éléments-clés pour le contrôle de ces cancers dans le futur, et dans les changements de mode de vie interviennent des régimes plus équilibrés ou mieux équilibrés et l'usage du tabac qui doit être éliminé. Une conférence internationale sur la nutrition où tous les secteurs, et principalement nos deux secteurs, pourraient joindre leurs efforts pour obtenir des gouvernements des engagements politiques, nous

apparaît nécessaire. Il ne suffit pas en effet que l'on s'inquiète de la montée du cancer du poumon, il faut, et c'est un choix difficile, prendre des décisions qui peuvent entraîner, en terme de production et de ressources nationales, un retentissement peut-être négatif comme dans le cas de la culture du tabac.

Autre exemple, celui du cancer colo-rectal où le régime alimentaire paraît jouer un rôle majeur. Pour que le contrôle de cette forme de cancer soit réalisable, des politiques nutritionnelles nationales adaptées sont nécessaires et elle auraient des effets sur la consommation des graisses et des fibres.

Nous pensons qu'une conférence sur la nutrition pourrait avoir des effets durables sur l'état nutritionnel en considérant toutes les étapes de la chaîne alimentaire. Notre Organisation ne ménagera pas ses efforts pour assurer, avec la FAD, le succès d'une telle réunion dont l'objectif est de garantir la santé pour tous et un bon état nutritionnel dans les années 2000.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department) : No

specific questions have been asked requiring replies from the Secretariat concerning the International Nutrition Conference proposal. However, from the general tenor of the interventions made by distinguished delegates we feel there is general support for the holding of this Conference. Some delegations have some doubts, for different reasons - for example, one has indicated that he can join the consensus and others would like the focus to be on the regional side. We have taken note of that. We have also taken note of the useful suggestions made concerning the objectives of the conference, although there is a consensus that it should be focused more on actions and policies than on only technical-level discussions.

The delegate of the United Kingdom observed that the arrangements made for improving nutrition for specific sectors of the population have not worked well. This of course poses the question: why? I think the delegate of Trinidad and Tobago also referred to that. It is something on which the international community needs to focus attention. We believe that such an international conference as is proposed would be a very good opportunity not only for the experts in the field but also for the policy-makers to give attention to this question and see how the effectiveness of policies and programmes could be improved.

We have taken careful note of a number of suggestions that have been made particularly in connection with the need for careful preparation and for close collaboration between different agencies. In preparing for the proposed conference, we will do our best to respond to these very useful suggestions.

E.E. LUHE (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): I should first like to thank, on behalf of the Secretariat through you, Mr Chairman, the large number of delegates and observers who have made very useful comments, criticisms, suggestions on this item. I think we feel much encouraged by what was said about the format of the document, particularly by the delegates of the United Kingdom, Finland, Bangladesh and others, who were satisfied with it. We shall keep trying to make it even more succinct, more useful, more relevant and more analytical.

I remember in particular the very helpful remarks which were made last time by the delegate of the United Kingdom and Argentina. The United Kingdom spoke about the various purposes of the document, referring to the original purpose - the rather old-fashioned purpose as he said - keeping people aware of what is happening in the system. I think Mr Pettitt agrees with me that the mere fact that something has become old or even old-fashioned does not mean that we should throw it out of the window. We should keep that purpose of the document, which is and continues to be, an important one. Of course, the other functions we mentioned, we also keep in mind when trying to make this document better and more readable.

No particular decisions on the document were requested. The delegate of the United Kingdom rightly remembered our request for guidance and he wanted to know what guidance should be given. Let me repeat that I was referring to the decision of the Governing Council of UNEP - decision 15/1, which is entitled "Strengthening the Role and Effectiveness of the United Nations Environmental Programme". In this decision in operative paragraph 2, the Governing Council of UNEP decided, on an experimental basis, to mandate the Bureau of its Fifteenth Session to meet with the bureaux of the counterpart organs of the specialized agencies and other organs of the United Nations.

On this we in the Secretariat felt the Bureau of the FAO Conference is not perhaps the appropriate interlocutor for UNEP to speak on environmental matters. Our ideas were that it would be better and more fruitful if the UNEP Bureau, its chairman or a member, would talk to our Chairman of the Programme Committee or the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council. This was an idea we thought more fruitful and would be better, and on this item we had requested guidance from you. The fact that there were few comments on this particular item encouraged me that we should perhaps go ahead on this basis.

Since I am on details, the United Kingdom asked about a paragraph in our document, which I think was paragraph 6, dealing with the UNDP and FAO Programme for Fighting Locusts and his specific question was, "Is everybody happy now with this solution?" So far as FAO is concerned, we find this acceptable and we are now working closely together in the implementation of the proposals. We were, however, surprised that OPS is used as the executing agency and not so much the expertise and expertise of FAO.

Comments were made and questions asked about the Triennial Review. This is obviously a matter of great interest to FAO. The Organization, as you know, has a very large and diverse Field Programme with over 2 500 projects which are currently underway in about 140 countries. FAO was involved in the preparation of the study, although we would have appreciated perhaps closer involvement of the specialized agencies in this review.

I would agree that when the Review was submitted to ECOSOC during the summer in Geneva it was, I would not say, a non-event but it certainly was not a great success; the reason being, first of all, as Mr A. Blanca, Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation (DIEC), United Nations, frankly conceded that the paper was a voluminous but incomplete study. It was incomplete because there were no concrete and specific recommendations at all in this study and this was very much criticized at ECOSOC. The other reason was the late availability of the document. It came in very late. It is 75 or 76 pages in length and delegates at ECOSOC just were not in a position to discuss the matter substantially. There was at the end a resolution transferring the matter to this year's General Assembly.

FAO, by the way, intervened at ECOSOC on various issues, to which I may come back a bit later. It was said that when it came to the General Assembly Mr Blanca had retrieved very much. In fact, there was a very good discussion at the General Assembly which went on, by the way, until yesterday evening. Today is a holiday in the USA, and I do not think anything has happened. I think it was a good discussion in New York. There were 80 delegates who intervened and there was a really substantive debate particularly on the almost 200 recommendations, which are contained in a 50- or 60-page paper. It is perhaps premature to say now what the final decisions of the General Assembly were but it seems they will adopt a resolution which will deal with various clusters of problems, i.e. those which can be dealt with immediately and those which need further discussion in the agency and other proposals that require study and decision at the country level with individual governments.

I do not think I should go into all the details, but I should like to tell you, particularly the distinguished delegate of the United States, that we are following events there very closely and that we were involved in the preparation of the study, but not so much in the formulation of the recommendations. Let me put it this way, the realism of some of them would have benefited from closer consultations with the specialized agencies. Talking about operational activities, I think it was the distinguished delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany who made two requests, namely that we recognize the role of the Resident Coordinator. I do not think we have any problem with that. We do recognize the role of the Resident Coordinator and I think we expressed this very clearly in some of our interventions at the ECOSOC meeting when we intervened on this particular item. The second question of Germany was why have we not signed the basic agreement with UNDP? I would like to say here that in the past there were quite a number of developments. I remember, for example, that the role of the UNDP Resident Representative was originally conceived quite differently. It was said, e.g., he was the central authority in the country for development activities which is now no longer the case. We are talking today about government or national execution, institution building, etc. However, it is quite clear that we do not work in a vacuum, having for the time being no basic agreement. There are other agreements which exist and which are the basis for cooperation with countries and agencies, and above all, I would like to say that we at FAD, and I believe, all other specialized agencies who have not signed the agreement, are fully willing to do this. There are now contacts between agencies and UNDP on the whole question of the signature of the basic agreement with UNDP.

I would like to reply briefly to the question raised by the distinguished delegate of Finland. She felt there was a discrepancy or inconsistency in the paragraph in our document, a certain contradiction about the major role that FAO could play concerning environment. The fact is that at the time the document was written, and at the present time this is still the case, there is no budget line in the 1990-91 budget for the Programme of Work and Budget. FAO is, however, doing its best to contribute within available resources.

I think these were the main questions that were asked. We have noted very gratefully all the contents that were made on investment and on the financing agencies, the meeting of the World Food Council, etc. We have noted all of them and in particular the comments made by Costa Rica, Spain and others on the leading role FAO was to be given on the question of plant genetic resources.

CHAIRMAN: That ends special item 17, point 1, but I am reminded there is another sub-item, point 2, Relations with Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations. I understand that you will give us an introduction but I would suggest that it be made very short indeed.

E.E. LÜHE (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): I shall be very brief. The document you have in front of you on the item "Relations with Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations" is document C 89/17. This document gives you the most important developments over the last biennium concerning FAO's cooperation with these organizations. The document, as you see, does not go into every detail but it reports on the most significant events. You can see from the document that we are trying to improve and strengthen our cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

We are invited to many meetings by these organizations. I think there were 1 800 meetings, but obviously we cannot attend all of them. Yet, we try our best in spite of the very serious financial constraints.

There is another information document dealing with the informal meeting we had, discussing with the inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations various matters. I would bring to your particular attention the excellent collaboration which exists with the regional development banks and the large number of regional and sub-regional organizations with whom we have contacts.

Let me stress in conclusion that the purpose of the document is to show that FAO is fully aware of the importance of its cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations - both international and national organizations - and I hope the documentation before you, together with my very brief introduction, reflects this message and facilitates your discussion, if any, on this item.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to draw your attention to the introduction of the document referred to, where it said that the scope of the paper is purely informative and no points requiring action have been put before the Conference in this connection. So I would suggest that unless there are delegates wanting to make an intervention here, that we should proceed.

I have been told that in view of the late stage of the Conference, it is the intention, as I already mentioned in the beginning, to move on to Item 16 but before I do that I would first call on the delegate of Thailand who wants to make an announcement.

D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands): I have one short remark.

My delegation fully endorses the importance of close cooperation between FAO and the intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations.

Also during this Conference this has been stressed in the discussions on different items. This regards particularly such issues as plant genetic resources, the international code of conduct and the related prior consent, and the programme on women in development.

Finally, I mention the relation to people's participation which is in this regard an important one. ^{1/}

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps the delegate of Belgium could adhere to the same thing?

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): En trente secondes, parce que je ne veux pas retarder les travaux de la Commission, je voudrais dire tout l'intérêt que nous avons eu à étudier les documents. Je crois qu'il s'agit d'un aspect extrêmement important de la participation populaire et je veux dire à la FAO de continuer sur cette voie.

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand) : I just wish to inform the Commission that my delegation and other delegations from 22 countries have submitted a resolution to be considered under Item 15 of the agenda, concerning the increasing allocation for the Technical Cooperation Programme. I hope tomorrow that the resolution will be distributed.

CHAIRMAN: Then the intention is, as I said, to move on to Item 16 of the agenda, United Nations/FAO World Food Programme, but in order to allow for the WFP Secretariat to move up, I suspend the meeting for five minutes. Then we will resume.

The meeting was suspended from 18.00 to 18.10 hours

La séance est suspendue de 18 heures à 18 h 10

Se suspende la sesión de las 18.00 a las 18.10 horas

CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, let us resume our meeting on Item 16 on our agenda, as I said before, United Nations/FAO World Food Programme. You have the document in reference C 89/LIM/30 and I would like to call on the Executive Director of the Programme to lead us into this subject.

1 Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

- 16. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme
- 16. Programme alimentaire mondial Nations Unies/FAO
- 16. Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO

J.C. INGRAM (Executive Director, World Food Programme): Your Commission is to consider under this agenda item the pledging target for development resources for the Programme for the 1991-92 biennium. The CFA has recommended 1.5 billion US dollars. You have a resolution before you to this effect: document C 89/LIM/5. I should add that the proposed target has been endorsed by the FAO Council, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and the United Nations General Assembly.

It is vital that this target is fully reached if we are to continue to maintain the level of WFP's development assistance. Clearly, there has been no reduction in the need for development food aid: on the contrary, the challenge of hunger in the developing world remains formidable. Food aid has become even more important for poor, food-deficit countries now faced with larger food import bills following price rises in certain basic commodities.

As you know, WFP is now a very large development and humanitarian organization - in fact assistance from WFP to developing countries accounts for one-quarter of the total grant aid disbursed by the United Nations system.

The volume of resources enables us to have a measurable impact on the livelihood of millions of the world's poorest people. Last year the Programme was either the largest or second largest food aid donor to some 68 countries. That is by no means negligible support since food aid, especially in many of the least developed countries, constitutes up to one-fifth of the total development assistance they receive.

As the economic belt tightens on many developing countries, the poor suffer and become more food insecure. Assuring village households of sufficient food is, in fact, an essential element in all development.

A structural adjustment process that doesn't take this into consideration is likely to fail. Development food aid through WFP is not just providing something to eat; it's opening the door to real and equitable economic growth. For the government it's a way to save on scarce foreign exchange, for the community it's a way to develop productive assets and for the individual it's a better and healthier life.

For most developing countries, agriculture is the foundation of economic growth. Fortunately, most countries now recognize this and are trying to reverse declining per caput food production. It has become increasingly evident that this is neither a simple nor a short process. It is said that food security is achieved through increased food production, increased food access and increased stability of food supplies. We at WFP have been looking lately at the food security strategies that have been formulated and are cooperating closely with FAO in this area. In fact, we are finding that much of what the Programme is already doing fits well into these strategies. For us food security is not mere theory but a real challenge to help provide the poor and disenfranchised with the means to become more productive, especially through our food-for-work projects.

Mr Chairman, we've heard a lot these past days about the environment. I share that concern. Reversing environmental degradation and safeguarding the environment for coming generations is certainly an urgent task for all of us. I'm glad to say the World Food Programme is a leader in this field. At present WFP has 157 environmental projects worth 1.5 billion dollars on its books.

The demands upon the Programme have increased as realization has grown of how effectively WFP uses food aid to promote food security. In 1988, we reached an all-time high, shipping some 3.2 million tonnes of food commodities. However, I regret to say that WFP will not reach that figure in 1989.

Over the eighteen months leading up to September the cost of the WFP food basket had increased by almost 20 percent, primarily because of increases in world cereal prices. Because most pledges to WFP are made in terms of value, increasing food prices are resulting in lower quantities of commodities available to the Programme.

This decline is, of course, not unique to WFP. Overall forecasts by the International Wheat Council now indicate that wheat food aid - which accounts for three-quarters of the total - could drop to as low as six million tonnes in 1989/90 from ten million tonnes only two years ago.

While the flow of multilateral food resources through WFP has shown a marked decrease, the provision of bilateral food aid through WFP shows no sign of decline. Maintenance of this trend would clearly be disturbing. At a time when global food aid is falling - but needed more than ever by food-deficit countries - it is essential that multilateral food aid be maintained. The problems of hunger and malnutrition are global and need to be addressed globally. Resources must go to where they are needed most, rather than being determined by narrow considerations of national interest.

Approving the 1991-92 pledging target is important but we still have thirteen months to go in the present biennium. These will certainly be trying months for the Programme. The impact of declining resources will be severely felt in 1990 for our development projects. We have gone through a major exercise to cushion the impact. However, no country will be unaffected though we have given the highest priority to the least developed countries and to sub-Saharan Africa generally.

In many food-for-work projects the rate of work is expected to be slowed down. WFP-supplemented wages will also be reduced, thereby reducing the level of income transfer to the neediest. In the case of human resource development projects the impact may be even more severe. In some instances, governments may face the impossible choice of deciding which schools or regions must be removed from school feeding or mother-child health programmes.

Food-assisted development projects should not just be accelerated or reined in depending on the availability of resources. As for all development projects stop-go methods disrupt the planning and budgeting mechanisms of the governments concerned. Food aid is like any other form of development assistance: to be truly effective, it has to be assured and it is time that this is recognized. But cutting WFP development food aid has worse effects. The poor have less work, they'll be hungrier and even less will be done to improve the environment and create a base for sustainable agriculture.

Mr Chairman, the picture would not be complete if I didn't also refer to our work in disaster relief.

As I speak the brutal reality of internal hostilities is again afflicting El Salvador. Countless innocent civilians have been caught in the crossfire these past days and hospitals are filling up way beyond their capacity. Others have fled the urban battleground to seek refuge in schools, churches and sporting arenas. The World Food Programme is doing what it can to relieve suffering. Last week we started distributing food to the displaced and wounded. We had estimated then that 10 000 people were in need of assistance but with increased fighting five times more people now require food aid. Having an adequately replenished IEFER remains as important as ever for meeting sudden disasters.

This, of course, is only the latest "life and death" situation where our assistance is needed. In northern Ethiopia people are confronted with yet another failed harvest. Two months ago, WFP warned donors of the impending disaster and itself took steps to start shipping emergency food and speeding up deliveries of food for development. In fact, the day the Ethiopian Government launched its appeal, the Programme had taken all steps necessary to commit more emergency food. However, the worst crop failures appear to be in areas of armed conflict and many afflicted people may not be reachable unless the combatants are willing to facilitate access. Fortunately, that was the case this year in southern Sudan. There WFP played a pivotal role in making Operation Lifeline Sudan, the United Nations initiative to supply more than 100 000 tonnes of food to needy people, a success. In the short time available there was a tremendous mobilization of resources, people, vehicles and aircraft.

WFP is getting itself into a position to make a similar effort in Ethiopia. Our Transport Operation in Ethiopia stands ready to play a crucial role in distributing food to these victims of war and drought. Incidentally, that Operation recently logged its millionth tonne of food within Ethiopia.

The World Food Programme has been able to assist all people wherever there is a really serious need. Millions of people around the world - the Afghan refugees in Pakistan, the Mozambican refugees in Malawi, the Kampuchean on the Thai border, the displaced in Central America and many others - all rely on our food aid.

However, I am concerned that as for development more and more donors want to decide who should benefit from disaster relief. Even here politics may be skewing the international effort. We are in danger of doing too much in some situations but not enough in equally needy ones.

Is this a sign of the times? Can people in painful distress over many years no longer count on international solidarity? I sincerely hope not. The world wide growth of refugee and displaced person populations shows no sign of abating. WFP has not been able to close down any of its feeding operations for refugees this year. At the same time UNHCR faces a resource crisis. We must have your continued strong support.

Mr Chairman, WFP is an action-oriented organization and has no plans to slacken off. Whether it is to help the refugee, the drought victim, the landless farmer, the nursing mother or the eager student, WFP feels its responsibility. With your continued support we can make life a little better for all of them. I appeal to the donors: Please, just because commodity prices are higher and stocks have fallen, do not reduce the volume of your food aid through this Programme.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): La délégation malgache félicite le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents soumis à cet examen. Nous sommes reconnaissants au Directeur exécutif du PAM, M. Ingram pour la présentation très claire du sujet. Il n'est plus nécessaire d'épiloguer longuement sur la grande utilité du Programme alimentaire mondial pour nos pays et nos populations les plus démunies et les plus déshéritées. Lors de la célébration du 25ème anniversaire du Programme, tous les Etats Membres ont eu la possibilité de constater et d'apprécier les performances toujours croissantes du Programme.

En cette période où l'on parle beaucoup de développement durable, de protection de l'environnement, on peut dire, sans exagération, que le PAM a toujours mené des actions allant dans ce sens. En effet, la protection et la restauration des sols, le reboisement, l'établissement de digues ou de dispositifs antiérosifs sont des activités courantes pour lesquelles il a obtenu des résultats très encourageants.

Il faut donc donner au PAM les moyens et les ressources nécessaires. C'est pourquoi nous appuyons chaleureusement le projet de résolution sur l'objectif de contribution au PAM pour la période 1991-92 qui figure au document C 89/LIM/5.

Cependant, nous voudrions attirer l'attention de cette auguste assemblée sur un phénomène négatif signalé à plusieurs reprises au sein du CPA, au sein de la Commission I et maintenant développé par M. Ingram.

Il s'agit de la baisse inportante de l'aide en céréales surtout, baisse due, semble-t-il, à l'augmentation des prix de cette denrée sur le marché mondial. A plusieurs occasions de nombreuses délégations ont déjà lancé un appel auprès des donateurs pour que ces derniers adoptent des dispositions appropriées pour que le volume de l'aide alimentaire ne connaisse pas de diminution quelles que soient les variations des prix concernés, soit sur les marchés nationaux ou internationaux.

Nous souhaitons vivement que notre Commission et la Conférence fassent leurs ces appels.

Enfin, ayant écouté attentivement l'exposé du Directeur exécutif, nous pensons utile de rappeler que les Etats Membres de la FAO et du PAM bien entendu ont toujours insisté pour que la politique n'intervienne pas dans l'aide alimentaire.

CHAIRMAN: Before the next speaker is called upon, I am informed that our Chairman is back and I will cede my place here to him.

Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission II, took the Chair

Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission II, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons poursuivre l'audition de ceux qui sont inscrits.

A.K.M. Fazley RABBI (Bangladesh) : It is good to see you again among us.

We went to stress that with appropriate national policies food aid from WFP can be effectively used to improve living standards and promote social welfare in the rural areas of developing countries. This is a sentence I have quoted from the report of the experts on FAO's Objectives, Role and Strategies. Viewed in the context of the mandate and the role, the activities and achievements of WFP, the content of this sentence is of particular relevance to Bangladesh. WFP at present is the largest single donor to the Government for coordinating food aid from multilateral and bilateral sources. Targeted food assisted programmes from WFP not only aid the food deficit of countries, but also contribute to rural works and maintenance programmes, and generate rural employment. Our Minister for Agriculture in his general statement in the Plenary highlighted and appreciated the role of WFP and food aid in Bangladesh.

Mr Chairman, I have made this brief introduction because it has a direct bearing on the agenda item under discussion. Here I would like to thank and congratulate the Executive Director for his very lucid and clear presentation of the agenda item under discussion. The pledging target of the WFP is of great significance not only to us but also to all food aid receiving developing countries. A sound resource base of the Organization is of vital importance to all concerned. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the efficient and effective management of the Programme earns commendation from all quarters - the donors and the recipient countries. This must have contributed towards the success and achievements of the Organization.

The proposed pledging target for 1991-92, an amount of US\$ 1.5 million, was unanimously endorsed by the governing body of the Organization. The Executive Director was prudent and practical when he proposed a modest increase in the pledging target which was absolutely necessary to maintain the level of the Organization's development assistance. In view of the growing demand for food aid, the proposed target may be considered as a realistic compromise between the need and the availability.

The proposal has been endorsed by the Secretary General of the United Nations, and also the Director-General of the FAO. It was also unanimously supported by the FAO Council in its Ninety fifth Session in June this year. We consider it now as a matter of procedure only. We reiterate our full support for the proposed pledging target and hope that the Conference will readily and unanimously adopt the resolution, the draft of which has been proposed in document C 89/LIM/5.

Before concluding, we would like to urge upon the donor countries to make every effort to achieve the target in full, with at least one third of it in cash as indicated in the substantive paragraph of resolutions 1 and 2.

Jean-Luc GRAEVE (France): En tant que représentant de l'Etat assurant la présidence des douze Etats de la Communauté, je vous saurais gré si vous donniez la parole au représentant de la Commission européenne.

Gerard KIELY (EEC): I would like to thank the distinguished delegates of the Commission for allowing me to speak on behalf of the European Economic Community. In 1989, the European Economic Community continued to make a substantial contribution to the World Food Programme. Together with our usual contributions of food aid the Community also decided on the provision of complementary measures such as financial contributions for a storage programme and the early warning system. Furthermore, the Community called on the services of the World Food Programme both for the transport and the monitoring of these bilateral aids.

The Community has maintained its global effort on food both in terms of its support to the WFP and its bilateral actions, despite the very difficult market for agricultural products. This has necessitated an increase in ordinary resources and those of the IEFER of over 100 million ECU in 1989, without taking account of contributions in favour of refugees.

With regard to aid to refugees, the Community welcomes the fact that during the last Policies and Programme Committee meeting new procedures were agreed for the granting of food aid to refugees. These procedures include the continuation of assistance to refugees according to a global approach, and not only from a food aid aspect. The Community is of the view that this approach will allow better forward planning with regard to food aid, and will also allow the needs of refugees to be better taken account of. At the same time, the new procedure will allow the resources of the IEFER to be disengaged and to be used for real situations of emergency, and not for indefinitely fulfilling the needs of refugees. I would also like to inform you that the Community, both in 1988 and in 1989, provided ad hoc contributions to the World Food Programme for assistance to Afghan and Somalian refugees.

For the forthcoming biennium, the Community is of the view that, given the difficulties being encountered by donors at present, it is preferable to maintain the global objective at its present level. The Community is, however, always willing to take account of the real needs of the World Food Programme and, as in the past, provide assistance to the Programme, provided of course that other donors do likewise.

HUANG YONGNING (China) (original language Chinese): First of all, I would like to express my thanks to Mr Ingram for his introduction. As we all know, since its inception the WFP has expanded tremendously. It currently handles one quarter of the total world food aid. In the past several years, WFP has made further contributions through promoting food security, local purchase, triangular transactions and monetization, and also through coordinating global emergency relief activities.

In view of its achievements, the Chinese Government highly appreciates the efforts made by WFP under the guidance of its Executive Director, Mr Ingram, to assist developing countries and, in particular, the low-income and food-deficit developing countries, to expand their food and agricultural production. Experience shews that food aid is an important tool in combating hunger and malnutrition.

In the last ten years, the Programme has provided important food aid to China. Most of the assistance China receives is provided for by WFP under food-for-work projects. They are used for the development of agriculture in the rural infrastructure, for assistance in our agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fisheries, and in the improvement of the rural drinking water

supply, roads and infrastructure construction. They have proved their effectiveness and have served as examples in China. Food-for-work increased production and also employment opportunities and incomes for farmers. In addition, it reduced poverty in the project areas and improved the ecological environment so that remarkable socio-economic benefits have been attained.

It is our view that, in the circumstances, hunger and malnutrition are aggravating when there is a food surplus in sane countries. The total volume of food aid in recent years has been going down. It will drop to its lowest level in six years this year. This situation has already aroused concern and misgivings in the international community. It also implies that the work of WFP ought to be strengthened and that food aid should be augmented.

Therefore, the Chinese delegation supports the pledging target of US\$ 1.5 million for the biennim 1991-92 proposed by the Programme. This target is both necessary and realistic. Despite the fact that China is currently in the process of economic adjustment and has reduced its financial budget, the Government is among the first to support the work of WFP. It is our hope that the Draft Resolution on the Pledging Target for 1991-92 will be adopted unanimously by this Conference.

Noumansana BAGOURO (Mali): Permettez-moi d'exprimer tous mes remerciements à M. le Directeur exécutif du PAM pour l'exposé qu'il vient de faire. Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour féliciter l'action du PAM en tant qu'action de terrain de sauvetage. En troisième lieu bien entendu, c'est pour moi un devoir de remercier les donateurs, les bailleurs de fonds du PAM pour l'effort qu'ils ont consenti.

Je le dis parce que je suis d'un pays sahélien. Ma profession me fait vivre dans le milieu paysan. Le PAM, en tant qu'action, est très bien connu, parce que s'il n'y avait pas eu le PAM, beaucoup de projets n'auraient pu aboutir. Pendant les longues périodes de sécheresse, nous avons bénéficié d'une action soutenue et efficace du PAM, pour sauver la population nomade qui était en détresse, les paysans qui des années de suite n'ont pas récolté alors qu'ils avaient investi leurs efforts et leurs derniers moyens économiques, les pêcheurs, les éleveurs qui avaient perdu tous leurs moyens de subsistance. C'est grâce à l'action du PAM que nous avons pu ensemble sauver ces populations, envisager de les sédentariser, de les réinsérer dans un circuit de production. Aujourd'hui, en collaboration avec le PAM, les paysans réalisent des systèmes d'irrigation, créent des unités de reboisement et créent même leurs propres projets à leur dimension.

Je voudrais dire que la faim, la malnutrition constituent la dernière forme de la pauvreté. Lorsqu'un homme dans sa pauvreté atteint le stade de survie, la seule chose efficace est de lui donner à manger, et seul le PAM le fait. Pour cette raison, étant donné son expérience sur le terrain, nous appuyons la résolution et nous lançons un appel à la communauté internationale pour renforcer le PAM.

Cependant, il existe sur le terrain des situations multiformes. Si l'on considère le cas de mon pays, après deux ans de pluviométrie plus clémente, des zones du nord restent encore très déshéritées et des zones du sud produisent et connaissent des problèmes de commercialisation. Dans le souci d'améliorer et de renforcer l'action du PAM, nous pensons qu'il est souhaitable que le PAM puisse commercialiser les surplus d'une zone pour les porter dans des zones déshéritées.

Voilà ce que j'avais à dire en réitérant notre soutien au projet de résolution et à toute action qui contribuera au renforcement du PAM sur le terrain.

Marcos NIETO LARA (Cuba): Señor Presidente, deseamos en primer lugar saludar al señor Ingram por la presentación tan diáfana y clara que nos ha hecho del tema. La delegación cubana desea destacar, en primer lugar, la función de la ayuda alimentaria. Esta función de ayuda al desarrollo constituye una de las gestiones más loables que nosotros hayamos podido apreciar en el marco del sistema de las Naciones Unidas en los últimos tiempos. Creemos que la ayuda alimentaria, en un momento de crisis económica que padecen los países subdesarrollados por efectos de la deuda y otros factores ya expuestos aquí en esta reunión, debe continuar prestando su función decisiva sobre todo para las poblaciones más pobres.

Queremos decir también que la ayuda alimentaria, a través del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, ha servido como un motor impulsor para movilizar recursos nacionales y recursos externos al exterior de los países. Decimos recursos nacionales cuando se abren posibilidades de empleo, posibilidades de trabajo y se sustenta en esto el desarrollo o lo que se ha llamado reiteradamente aquí el "desarrollo sostenible".

De otra parte, la contribución de ayuda alimentaria para el desarrollo ha sido elemento de atracción de otras contribuciones y de otras fuentes de financiamiento y de ayuda. Señor Presidente, no podemos dejar de reconocer la función que presta la ayuda alimentaria y el Programa Mundial de Alimentos en casos de desastre o de emergencia. Nuestro país ha tenido oportunidad de apreciar esta ayuda oportuna y eficaz en uno y en otro caso. Cuando hemos tenido un desastre por efectos de ciclones, por ejemplo, ha sido inmediata la reacción del Programa Mundial de Alimentos. En estos momentos muchos de los aquí presentes conocen que Cuba ejecuta un importante proyecto de desarrollo lechero que ha representado un notable incremento de la producción de leche y de la capacidad de empleo de los campesinos de la zona. Y esto sólo ha sido posible precisamente por la ayuda oportuna y - repito - muy eficaz del PMA. En este sentido, queremos agradecer al Programa su gestión y brindarle nuestro reconocimiento.

Señor Presidente, después de haber ponderado estas virtudes y posibilidades, me veo obligado a resaltar la necesidad de que la actividad del PMA sea debidamente reforzada. Para ello, una acción inmediata es el reconocer la necesidad que existe de que todos aprobemos esta resolución que está sometida a la consideración de esta Asamblea.

Queremos instar a los donantes en el sentido de tratar por todos los medios de alcanzar estos niveles de compromiso. Nuestro país hace contribuciones al PMA aunque de forma modesta, y podemos afirmar aquí que estos niveles de compromiso con el PMA serán debidamente garantizados en su oportunidad y en la manera que el Programa lo requiera.

Una vez más expresamos nuestro apoyo a la gestión del PMA, un apoyo decisivo, y le deseamos que siga por ese camino de progreso, avanzando en bienestar de las sociedades y de los grupos poblacionales más pobres y más necesitados de nuestros países en desarrollo.

Jilali HASSOUN (Maroc): La délégation marocaine présente d'abord toutes ses félicitations à Monsieur le Directeur exécutif du PAM pour son exposé complet et précis sur la situation du PAM et ses orientations à venir.

La délégation marocaine tient à indiquer le rôle important du Programme alimentaire mondial dans la lutte contre la pauvreté. L'expérience très positive que le Maroc a de ses interventions montre qu'il peut jouer un rôle important dans les projets de développement.

La délégation marocaine soutient le projet de résolution fixant le montant des contributions soumis à la Conférence. Elle est par ailleurs d'avis que le PAM, dans ses interventions, doit pour chaque cas s'assurer que l'introduction des denrées alimentaires n'aura pas d'effets pervers sur les prix des productions nationales.

Enfin, la délégation marocaine se félicite de la proposition du Directeur général de la FAO de constituer un mécanisme intersecrétariat pour les quatre organismes du système des Nations Unies siégeant à Rome. Cette procédure permettrait, entre autres, au PAM de mieux faire bénéficier les autres organismes de ses compétences et de ses expériences spécifiques.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): Like other speakers, I wish to thank Mr Ingram for his presentation. I note that unlike what is happening to his foodstocks - and I have not heard him for quite a few years - the smooth and statesmanlike quality of his presentation does not diminish in any way.

Of course, we also endorse the comments made which indicate the significance of the Programme. This delegation is extremely sorry that more delegates are not present this evening, because undoubtedly Mr Ingram has said certain things which are extremely relevant and must guide us to the decisions we take during this Conference.

I note in particular that his statement indicates that the problems really relate to the thrust for multilateral action. He also made the observation that there may be a tendency for delivery to be determined by narrow interests rather than by real need.

I also took note of his comments that politics can in fact "skew", although I cannot remember his exact words. However, in essence, the comments related to the delivery of needed assistance. Undoubtedly those observations must be kept in mind, because I am sure that we in this Conference want to take decisions which would not facilitate that undesirable trend mentioned by Mr Ingram.

Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica): Ante todo me alegra la lúcida y extremadamente interesante presentación del señor Ingram. Nos ha dado una información sintética, pero al mismo tiempo bastante detallada, dándonos una idea muy clara de lo que ya conocíamos en cuanto a la eficiencia del PMA. Mi país tiene una experiencia directa sobre esta eficiencia porque ha tenido ocasión de aprovecharse de la ayuda del PMA en sus tres formas: en la de ayuda al desarrollo, en la forma de ayuda en oportunidades de emergencia -como la que hemos tenido con motivo de la erupción del volcán - y en otras clases de emergencia, y especialmente en su carácter apolítico de ayuda a los refugiados.

Quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para expresar mi agradecimiento no sólo al PMA sino especialmente a los contribuyentes. Sin la aportación de los que están contribuyendo al PMA, toda la actividad del PMA no sería posible. Creo que deberíamos expresar nuestro caluroso agradecimiento a los contribuyentes. Eso no impide que hagamos un caluroso llanado para que hagan lo posible para aumentar su contribución.

El objetivo de promesas de contribución para este proyecto de Resolución está fijado en 1 500 millones de dólares, y nosotros apoyamos calurosamente la adopción por unanimidad del proyecto de Resolución.

Hideki ITO (Japan) : My delegation would like first to express its appreciation to Mr Ingram for his very good introduction and also to the World Food Programme for its important and substantial activities of recent years.

Japan, as a member of CFA and the World Food Programme and also the World Food Council, have had good opportunities to discuss the minimum target for voluntary contributions to the Programme for the period 1991-92. When we recognized the increasing requests for food aid for development projects and emergency food needs for refugees and disasters and even the price increase of food aid commodities, the increasing costs for project implementation, the increase of a pledging target of US\$ 1.5 billion seems reasonable.

Japan supports this draft resolution. However, we have to pay attention to the level of achievement of the targets. To increase the target level is not so difficult but to achieve its target must be difficult as we can see in examples of previous years. Japan, as one of the major contributing countries, will make every effort to increase its voluntary contributions to the World Food Programme despite its tight Government budget in order to contribute to the full attainment of the target.

Mohammed Suleiman KARBOUG (Syria) (original language Arabic): My country would also like to express its appreciation for the World Food Programme. It is one of the international institutions that have proved its efficiency and effectiveness and have helped developing countries all over the world, especially Syria. We would also like to thank Mr Ingram for his clear and concise introduction of the document.

We are sorry the Programme is witnessing a decrease in the budget and that it will be reflected in the aid to developing countries. Therefore, my country stresses that the budget should be increased so that it can meet its duties and commitments to developing countries. We also endorse the draft resolution regarding the Pledging Target for the World Food Programme.

We would also like to express our appreciation for the tripartite effort of the Programme as well as its efforts to all developing countries. Finally, we would like to express our support of the draft resolution and our thanks to the donor countries hoping that they will increase their contributions in the future.

V. K. SIBAL (India): I apologize for not being present when this item was introduced as I was engaged elsewhere with you, Mr Chairman, but I am sure that it must have been introduced with the customary clarity and conscientiousness by Mr Ingram. The Twenty-fourth Conference had decided, in its paragraph 4 of Resolution 8/87, that subject to the review of the World Food Programme, decided by Resolution 9/65, the next Pledging Conference of the WFP should be held in early 1990 to which governments and appropriate donor organizations will be invited to pledge contributions for 1991-92 to reach a target which may be recommended in the General Assembly of the Conference. The review in question has been done by the Twenty-seventh CFA and by the Ninety-fifth FAO Council.

We fully support the approval of the 1990-91 target of world contributions of US\$ 1 500 million, of which not less than one-third should be in cash and aggregate services. We also join in the hope that substantial additional resources will become available from other sources both in view of the level of sound projects requiring assistance for which the resources foreseen may not be sufficient and the capacity of the Programme to handle even a high level of operations. We hope the target will be attained.

We support the modest increase in the pledging level proposed as a signal to flag the increasing need to be met and in the interests of maintenance of the level of assistance. The gap between the cash component of the target and the actual receipts is a matter of some concern as it limits the capacity of the Programme for effective action. We would hope that past strengths will see a reversal and the donors will give cash and services at the level required by the WFP. We fully support Resolution 1/95.

Daniel DANG MEKOULA (Cameroun) : La délégation du Cameroun a suivi avec un grand intérêt la présentation du sujet faite par Monsieur Ingram. Nous avons noté avec intérêt également que le Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire et le Conseil de la FAO avaient approuvé la proposition du Directeur exécutif visant à porter à 1,5 milliard de dollars E.-U. l'objectif des contributions pour la période 1991-92.

Devant la baisse régulière du niveau de l'aide publique au développement et aussi du fait que la part de cette aide qui est réservée à l'agriculture des pays pauvres est de plus en plus réduite, nous pensons que l'attention que nous devons accorder aux interventions du Programme alimentaire mondial comme ressource de développement se justifie parfaitement.

Au Cameroun, outre la situation d'urgence, comme par exemple la catastrophe du lac Nyos ou les inondations dans les provinces du nord et de l'extrême nord, l'assistance du Programme alimentaire mondial est orientée vers l'appui à l'exécution des projets et programmes de développement identifiés dans le plan national de développement dans les secteurs spécifiques de développement rural, la valorisation des ressources humaines dans les secteurs de la santé publique et de l'éducation nationale.

C'est dire, Monsieur le Président, que pour nous l'assistance du Programme alimentaire mondial est considérée comme une ressource de financement spécifique de notre programme de développement.

La diversification des formes de cette assistance qui, outre la fourniture des denrées alimentaires proprement dites, s'étend actuellement sur l'octroi des produits non alimentaires, les transactions triangulaires et autres, donne au PAM une nouvelle dimension dans le cadre de l'appui au projet de développement économique et social, et surtout, visant l'accroissement de la production alimentaire en vue d'asseoir, dans les pays bénéficiaires, les bases d'une sécurité alimentaire.

C'est donc en raison de cette lourde mission d'appui au secteur de développement agricole et alimentaire des pays pauvres et à déficit vivrier que la délégation du Cameroun appuie le projet de résolution tendant à porter l'objectif des contributions aux ressources du PAM au titre de la période 1991-1992 à 1,5 milliard de dollars E.-U. et souhaite que tous les Etats Membres fassent ce qui est en leur pouvoir afin que cet objectif soit atteint.

Issam Eldin MOHAMED EL SAYED (Sudan) (original language Arabic): I should like to begin by expressing my thanks to Mr Ingram, Executive Director of the World Food Programme, for his very clear and concise introduction describing the present and future activities of the WFP. We are all fully aware of the importance of the Programme in providing food aid and development aid in the most needy countries among developing countries. We are most appreciative in Sudan of the assistance provided by the Programme because it is continuing to provide this assistance under the guidance of Mr Ingram. This has enabled us to alleviate the effects of the disasters that we have suffered. This has helped us revive our hopes and we are grateful for the support given through the various Programme activities for refugees when there are natural catastrophes, disaster and so on and aid for development.

We believe this document before us deserves our full support. We support the figure US\$ 1.5 billion.

Mohammad Saleen KHAN (Pakistan) : One can speak at great length of the recognition of the role of WFP in the field of food aid and few could recognize it better than my own country, which has enjoyed a very beneficial and prolonged relationship in this regard with WFP, and more particularly in the case of the humanitarian assistance to the 3.27 million Afghan refugees based in Pakistan.

Realizing the lateness of the hour and that Pakistan has had the opportunity of speaking on this item in the CFA of the World Food Programme and in the Council of the FAD, both of which bodies we are governing members, we would confine ourselves to merely reiterating our full support for the Pledging Target and the draft resolution thereon before us.

We should like to join in the many appeals to donors to lend maximum possible support to WFP by ensuring not only attainment of the target but also making efforts to provide WFP with additional resources.

In the end we would like to express our sincere appreciation to WFP and the donors behind it for the generous support given over the years to Pakistan.

Pinit KORSIEPORN (Thailand) : I would like to extend my thanks to the Executive Director for the introduction. On behalf of my Government, the Thai delegation would like to express our appreciation of the food aid given to the Kampuchean refugees on the border of Thailand. My Government hopes that this activity will continue as long as there are refugees still in my country. We also appreciate the work that has been carried out in other regions by the World Food Programme. I can reaffirm that Thailand will continue to contribute to the World Food Programme in spite of the fact that Thailand is not a major donor.

Lastly, Thailand fully supports the resolution target for the World Food Programme figures for the 1991-92 and also requests the member nations to endorse it.

Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): The Ethiopian delegation would also like to thank Mr Ingram for the detailed and comprehensive introduction that was just made on the document that was placed before us for our consideration.

This item that we have before us was considered during the preceding CFA sessions and the Finance Committee in September. We have supported it then and this view has not changed since then and we will continue to support it.

The development programme being supported by the Programme, like the one we have before us, has been very supportive of the development efforts of respective countries, particularly mine.

In reference to the project that is being implemented in Ethiopia, its contribution is not to be viewed only in terms of the physical target in conservation efforts but also in the awareness and sensitivity that it has created for a sustainable development and continuity: its long-term impact on control and conservation of natural resources which will contribute to a long-term food self-sufficiency.

The need for the Programme is increasing and it will continue to increase. With the resource requirement being higher the pledging target set for the next biennium has not increased in as much as was the desired need. Because of the environment thus prevailing we hope that the target will pose no difficulty and would like to appeal that donors will do their utmost to fulfil it, including the cash request for a smooth operation while indicating its due regard for the generous contributions of the past.

In relation to the Ethiopian emergency food needs in northern Ethiopia, I have attempted to indicate it in my intervention during the consideration of the item on the State of Food and Agriculture in Commission I. We request that this could be included in the verbatim report of this particular consideration, the Report of this item, so as to avoid going into that detail here again.

With regard to the concern that was expressed by the Executive Director in connection with the difficulty of distribution of food, I will communicate this concern to my Government. As an initial response, I would like to indicate that in the past my Government has mobilized all resources so as to meet all those who are in need. Even so, we have not been completely free of difficulties of all natures that we have gone through. These difficulties have also never come to a point of stopping our effort in reaching those who are in need of food and this effort, as is being seen today, will continue.

The Government in its effort and continued attempt, as there is an effort of settling the problem that was just raised by the Executive Director, through democratic discussions with the parties concerned, we hope that this latest move will bear fruitful results as quickly as possible. Even so, this goodwill of settling the problem through democratic discussions in the northern part of the country is the wish of my Government. It is important to note that such efforts will require a similar response from the other parties concerned, and who are the reasons for such obstructions. We hope that all those who are involved will consider the matter along the line that is being demonstrated by my country.

Finally, but not least, I would like to thank the Executive Director of the Programme for the immediate response they have made in relation to the present drought, the drought-caused food situation in northern Ethiopia and also we hope that the present food situation could be averted with the usual help of the international world community. While indicating my regard and tribute to those member countries who have already responded to this, I would like to point out that the pledges are still about 60 per cent short or less than the actual requirement. We therefore would like to join with Mr Ingram in the appeal that was made and have no doubt that this could be fulfilled as soon as the requirement itself is demanding.

Ethiopia is also hosting refugees in the south-western and southern parts of the country whose numbers is in the region of close to one million. We have witnessed the efforts of the Programme in helping these people who are in need in that difficult situation and, in spite of the present economic difficulty of Ethiopia, Ethiopia has cooperated with WFP and UNHCR in this noble endeavour and we will continue to do so. We also feel that this is an important area to which donors' attention will need to continue focusing.

Stanley Mukindia GURNTAI (Kenya): Let me first thank the Executive Director for the very clear presentation. In our statement to the Plenary, the Minister for Agriculture emphasized the good performance of the World Food Programme. We would like to urge that this purpose be maintained and enhanced even further.

Kenya has benefited from WFP activities that have included commodity purchases from our country. We hope that this approach, to acquire commodities from developing countries, will be continued and in the case of Kenya we would like to inform you that we presently have surpluses of coarse grains that could be acquired to support those in need in our sub-region.

We wish to concur with the appeal to donors to ensure commodities by volume are maintained. We have had an ample opportunity to debate and make our views known about the important role played by food aid in the fight against hunger, poverty and malnutrition and on the potential for developmental activities using food aid resources. The need for food assistance particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, continues to increase. Similarly requirements are also evident in other regions. This is why we agree that the pledging target proposed is prudent and justifiable. We have maintained that the diversification in the use of food aid through monitorization and also through other activities that promote agricultural production, should be given attention.

We also appeal for the cash component of the pledges to ensure the overhead costs in handling, shipping, transportation and operations, especially in the least developed countries, can be covered.

We took note of the appeal by Mr Ingram to donors that food aid should be provided on the basis of need. I take this opportunity to convey the appreciation of my Government on the Programme's assistance and cooperation. We join others in support of the resolution and hope that it will receive unanimous support.

David JOSLYN (United States of America) : The United States of America is a member of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, the FAO Council and the FAO Finance Committee. Therefore, we have had ample opportunity to comment on the activities of the World Food Programme that the Executive Director, Mr Ingram, has so accurately and succinctly described for us today.

I would like to join the many delegates who have spoken and reiterate my country's appreciation for the work carried out by the World Food Programme and all of its staff, and I would especially like to acknowledge the dedication of the World Food Programme field staff, working in very difficult, often life-endangering conditions throughout the world.

The World Food Programme, like many other agencies, is being asked to do more with a very tight resource situation, and as the Executive Director has stated, in such a situation it is imperative that resources be channelled to the highest priority, populations and projects, recognizing that greater selectivity and efficiency of operations will result in a larger positive impact for the Programme. We have been informed in various meetings of the processes WFP is using to make the difficult decisions as to where, when and how much food aid is provided. We firmly support the criteria being used by WFP to make these decisions, since the highest priority for regular development programme resources appears to be low-income, food-deficit countries generally, and sub-Saharan Africa specifically.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my delegation's support for the pledged target for 1991-92 of US\$ 1.5 billion and consequently support Resolution 1/95. In so doing, however, I repeat what we said at CFA 27 in the Ninety-fifth FAO Council. We believe the increased pledging target may be difficult to reach unless other than traditional major donors increase their pledging levels and new donors make significant contributions. However, it is certainly a worthy target. I would like to assure the Executive Director and food aid recipients that the United States will continue to contribute to reaching the target.

H. RWEHUMBIZA (Tanzania): The message brought down by Mr Ingram, the Executive Director of WFP, is clear. The needs which he has described are as real as they are pitiable.

As for the Emergency Food Aid, we join him in appealing for contributions to enable WFP to continue their noble tasks. Certainly, political considerations should not in any way influence the decision to help people in distress. We salute the efforts which the WFP has been putting in mobilizing food as a resource which could be used to realize dormant potential into goods and services useful to mankind. My country has been a beneficiary to WFP Food Aid

as a resource in our efforts to rehabilitate our dairy, sisal and rural development. We wish to attest to the usefulness of this aid. Unfortunately for our country, we cannot at this stage join the donors' group. We hope soon that we shall not have to require the WFP food aid and be able to contribute to assist others should the situation demand. We therefore endorse the resolution to increase the contribution for WFP and request that this be adopted by consensus.

Joao LUSEVIKUENO (Angola): Ma délégation profite de cette occasion pour féliciter Monsieur Ingram, Directeur exécutif du PAM, pour son exposé combien brillant, précis et clair qu'il vient de nous faire sur la situation alimentaire mondiale.

De ce fait, ma délégation se joint aux orateurs qui l'ont précédée pour féliciter le PAM pour le rôle qu'il ne cesse de jouer dans la solution des problèmes alimentaires dans nos pays, et en profite une fois de plus pour appuyer le projet de résolution qui vient de nous être soumis. Elle lance un vibrant appel aux pays donateurs afin qu'une attention particulière soit accordée aux activités du PAM répondant massivement à la Conférence des contributions qui sera convoquée en 1990.

Malgré nos difficultés, mon pays, qui a toujours été bénéficiaire de l'assistance du PAM, en particulier dans le sud du pays, sera prêt, comme dans le passé, à donner sa modeste contribution.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark): May I join the previous speakers in thanking the Executive Director, Mr Ingram, for his introduction to this subject. In view of the late hour I will be very brief. I can refer to my Minister's statement in the Plenary last week, a section of which was referring to the World Food Programme. Denmark is also a member of the CFA and we participated in the debates concerning the establishment of the pledging targets for the World Food Programme. Therefore I can reconfirm our support and endorse the draft resolution on WFP's pledging targets for voluntary contributions for the period 1991-92. In doing so we would hope that new and potential donors will join the Programme in order that the pledging target can be achieved.

Finally, we would also appeal to donors that one-third of the contributions would be made in cash in order to give the maximum flexibility to the Programme.

Leslie Ross BROWNHALL (Australia): Australia recognizes the conditions around the world that necessitate the provision of increasing quantities of food directly and quickly to relieve distress. It also believes that food commodities used wisely and innovatively constitute an effective means of transferring resources and promoting sustainable development. We have a certain comparative advantage in food production and it is therefore logical that food comprises a substantial proportion of our overseas development assistance.

Australia supports the role, functions and programmes of WFP and believes the Organization to be an effective deliverer of assistance for development and relief purposes. Australia sees value in the multilateral means of delivering food aid and believes that the WFP has built up a very significant body of experience and expertise in developing food programmes. I join with the

delegate of the United States in complimenting WFP field staff for their dedication, particularly in the face of very difficult conditions. The level of expertise built up in the WFP is widely recognized and utilized by donors not only in the administration of the donations but also in the delivery of bilateral food aid. Approximately half of our food aid contributions are channelled through the WFP.

We note the reality of the pressure on resources as outlined by the Executive Director and are concerned that there should be widespread support for the pledging target. Again we join the delegate of the United States in pointing out that in the face of declining or scarce resources it is necessary to set priorities very clearly and firmly, and again with the United States we commend the priority setting procedures adopted by the WFP.

Australia supports draft resolution 1/95 and will endeavour to maintain the level of its contributions.

Antoine SAINIRAIN (Belgique): Je serai extrêmement bref vu l'heure tardive. Je voudrais, tout comme notre collègue du Danemark, souligner que la Belgique est un membre très actif du CPA, qu'elle l'a été dans le passé, qu'elle le sera encore dans l'avenir. Nous défendons bien sûr la répartition: un tiers en espèces, deux tiers en nature et pour le reste je ne puis que me ranger à ce qu'a dit excellemment notre collègue et ami du Costa Rica.

Ms Carole THEAUVETTE (Canada): At the outset our delegation joins with previous speakers to thank Mr Ingram for his thoughtful introductory remarks. In view of the late hour I will make our intervention as concise as possible.

Canada has already supported the approval of the WFP proposed pledged target of \$1.5 million for the biennium 1991/92 at the last CFA Session as well as the 95th FAO Council. As the second largest donor to the WFP Programme we consider it important that the target be set in a realistic and adjustable level. In determining the level of our contribution to the WFP the approved target is one element that is taken into consideration. Another is the available amount of our total aid budget. Last spring the Government of Canada made very difficult budgetary decisions which affected government expenditures, including Canada's official development assistance programme. Since Canada's food aid programme is an integral part of our programme our multilateral and food aid programmes had to be reduced. Subsequently, we informed the Executive Director and the WFP that Canada would maintain its global level of contributions to the WFP regular resources for the current pledging period but that we would not be in a position to make additional assistance to the IEFR and the new projected levels. Canada is nonetheless prepared to consider a proposal from WFP as to how they would like to allocate next year's contributions for the various programmes.

As the Executive Director stated earlier, we are aware that over the last year WFP's operations have been severely affected by higher commodity prices and the reduced level of contribution. This situation calls for increased coordination and cooperation between donors and beneficiary countries to maximize our common effort to achieve food security and poverty alleviation.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reiterate our country's strong commitment to the WFP and supports the proposed resolution.

Hermann REDL (Austria) (original language German) : First I must apologize for the fact that because of other obligations it was not possible for me to hear Mr Ingram's introduction.

I would say that the Austrian Minister of Agriculture in the Plenary meeting of the Conference referred to the cooperation between Austria and the WFP and stressed in particular that Austria also in future would constructively help and assist in the activities of the WFP.

Austria therefore supports the resolution which has been put forward and hopes that the cooperation will continue in an harmonious way in the future as in the past.

LE PRESIDENT: La liste des intervenants est close. Les délégations suivantes désirent insérer leur déclaration dans ce procès-verbal: Egypte, El Salvador, Guinée-Bissau. Ensuite, je vais pouvoir demander à Monsieur Ingram, Directeur exécutif du PAM, de faire le commentaire qu'il souhaite faire.

Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt) : The Egyptian delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent introduction of this document which dealt with WFP proposed pledging target 1991-92. The Egyptian delegation feels happy with the efforts of Mr Ingram in respect to maintaining the level of its development assistance despite the current resource situation. According to our deep conviction we support the new pledging target and call all donor countries to make every effort to ensure the full attainment of this target.

Mr Chairman, the relations between Egypt and WFP have roots since 1963. The aids have great impact on the development process specially in land reclamation sector. Egypt participates effectively in the meeting of CFA. We are looking for a better cooperation in the future.^{2/}

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Le delegación de El Salvador desea dar su apoyo al proyecto de Resolución sobre los objetivos de promesas de contribución al Programa Mundial de Alimentos, PMA, para el bienio 1991-92, contenido en el documento C 89/LIM/5.

Nuestra delegación aprovecha esta oportunidad para agradecer al Programa Mundial de Alimentos, en nombre del pueblo y del Gobierno de El Salvador, por la valiosa ayuda que nos ha venido proporcionando a lo largo de los años.

2 Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

En caso de terremoto, sequía, inundación, la ayuda del PMA ha llegado siempre en manera eficiente y oportuna.

El PMA está también presente apoyándonos en la búsqueda del desarrollo de nuestro país, a través de proyectos de construcción de viviendas, caminos vecinales e infraestructura en general, y fundamentalmente en la lucha contra la malnutrición a nivel de los grupos más vulnerables de nuestra población, como son los niños y las madres, lactantes y embarazadas.

Por todo ello, nuestra delegación no puede menos que dar su pleno apoyo a la labor que realiza el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, así como al proyecto de Resolución que se somete, instando a todos los países a realizar esfuerzos por alcanzar la cifra establecida para el próximo bienio.^{3/}

Jorge Alberto DE OLIVEIRA (Guinée-Bissau) : La délégation de la Guinée-Bissau veut, comme elle l'a déjà fait dans la plénière, attirer l'attention sur l'importance que les projets du Programme alimentaire mondial ont dans les actions de développement dans notre pays, notamment dans le domaine de la production, formation et construction des infrastructures sociales dans le milieu rural.

Dans le domaine de l'agriculture, le dernier projet a permis de mettre en place des centres de multiplication de semences pour tout le pays, la récupération de presque 10 000 ha de rizières de mangroves et de plus de 2 000 ha de reboisement forestier.

Dans le domaine des infrastructures du milieu rural, on a fait:

- plus de 400 points d'eau entre puits et forrages
- plus de 500 km de pistes aménagées
- 100 pharmacies de village construites
- 150 magasins de village construits
- plus de 50 écoles bâties.

Dans le domaine de la formation ont été formés plus de 200 vulgarisateurs et environ 2 000 paysans dans divers domaines.

Cette importance est encore plus marquée après l'engagement de notre gouvernement dans un Programme d'ajustement structurel.

Les projets du PAM jouent un rôle de stabilisateur aux effets nocifs dudit Programme d'ajustement structurel.

Monsieur le Président, pour ce fait notre délégation fait siennes les préoccupations du Directeur Exécutif du PAM en ce qui concerne les objectifs de contributions pour 1991-92 et exhorte les donateurs à faire un effort pour annoncer et renforcer leurs contributions à cet objectif.

Nous voudrions aussi appuyer le projet de résolution concernant les objectifs de contribution du PAM pour la période de 1991-92.^{4/}

3 Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

4 Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

James C. INGRAM (WFP): I would like to make a very brief comment simply to thank the delegations who spoke; to thank very much those developing countries who expressed quite clearly the particular ways in which WFP helps them; to thank them for thanking the donors, because that is important and I was pleased to hear that, I was also pleased to hear from several developing countries of their contributions to the Programme. These are very important, not only in their own right but they signify to the major donors the mutuality of the whole operation.

Mr Chairman, as many have said, the hour is late. I will simply say once again how appreciative we in the Secretariat are for the strong support we always receive. We will certainly pass on to our field staff the very nice sentiments expressed about the difficult and, at times, quite dangerous work. Thank you.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Monsieur Ingram. Je ne souhaite pas, moi non plus, allonger les débats irais je voudrais néanmoins tirer des conclusions.

Je pense que l'examen du point 16, qui a vu la participation de 26 délégués, malgré l'heure tardive, a suscité beaucoup d'intérêt au sein de notre Commission Celle-ci a appuyé l'aide alimentaire en tant que source de financement importante en cette période de crise et comme catalyseur d'autres sources de financement. Ce sont là des points sur lesquels un accent particulier a été mis au cours de ce débat.

Le Directeur exécutif et le reste du Secrétariat ont été félicités pour les efforts qu'ils font pour contribuer à souligner la souffrance humaine ainsi que pour le dévouement.

Enfin, la Commission a appuyé le projet de résolution relatif à l'objectif de contribution au PAM pour la période 1991-92 et recommandé son approbation à la Conférence à l'unanimité.

La Commission trouve cet objectif de 1,5 milliard de dollars comme raisonnable, et un appel a été lancé aux donateurs actuels et potentiels pour qu'ils s'efforcent d'atteindre cet objectif. Chaque donateur a été également invité à mettre à la disposition du PAM un tiers de la contribution en espèces pour donner au Programme plus de souplesse et lui permettre de faire face à ses multiples activités.

Le point 16 est donc achevé.

The meeting rose at 20.00 hours

La séance est levée à 20 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.00 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/II/PV/15

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

FIFTEENTH MEETING QUINZIEME SEANCE 15ª SESION

(24 November 1989)

The Fifteenth Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La quinzième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45
sous la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 15a sesión a las 15.00 horas
bajo la presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II

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

- 15. Conclusions of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations (continued)
- 15. Conclusions de l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO (suite)
- 15. Conclusiones del examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAO (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Il est 9 h 50. Nous devons nous retrouver en séance plénière à 10 heures. Nous n'avons donc plus que cinq ou huit minutes si je compte les deux minutes nécessaires pour nous rendre d'ici au troisième étage. Autant dire que nous n'avons pas beaucoup de temps.

Je souhaite dire que nous rouvrons le débat sur le point 15 de l'Ordre du jour. Comme vous le savez, l'examen de ce point a suscité un dialogue qui s'est instauré dans cette salle, d'abord, puis en dehors de cette salle. Ce dialogue a été quelque peu difficile au début. Je vous avais dit qu'il valait peut-être mieux l'organiser et c'est ce que j'ai fait au nom de tous. J'ai réuni ce que j'ai appelé un groupe d'amis - tout en reconnaissant que vous êtes tous mes amis. Ce groupe a travaillé avec moi pendant des heures; je n'ose même pas vous dire le nombre d'heures parce que nous avons travaillé nuit et jour. Je crois pouvoir vous dire que ces efforts ont été couronnés de succès et que nous sommes arrivés à un accord sur un texte que j'ai l'honneur de vous présenter en mon nom personnel, en tant que votre Président.

Je sou mets donc ce texte à la sanction de notre Commission. Je souhaite qu'il ne suscite pas de débat, parce que les discussions ont été âpres et difficiles. Je dois souligner que le débat que nous avons engagé sur ce texte est un débat normal dans une Organisation telle que la nôtre. Ce dialogue que nous avons entamé se poursuivra certainement au sein des comités et en dehors des comités. Nous continuerons donc les discussions. Mais le texte que je vous propose est un texte de compromis. Les positions étaient au départ très éloignées et je crois pouvoir dire que les discussions ont comblé quelque peu le fossé. C'est pour cette raison que je pense que nous ne devons pas allonger le débat sur cette question. Je sou mets à votre sanction ce projet de résolution que je souhaite voir adopter par consensus. Le consensus, cela signifie qu'il n'y a pas de vote. S'il y a des délégués qui souhaitent un vote, je retirerai le projet.

Voilà ce que je vous propose. Si vous êtes d'accord, nous allons adopter ce texte par acclamation.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Je tiens à vous remercier car ces acclamations signifient que nous avons accepté ce texte par consensus. Bien entendu, nous le transmettrons à la séance plénière de la Conférence et je suis certain que le débat se poursuivra au niveau de la plénière.

Je vous signale donc que nous n'avons pas beaucoup de temps. De toute façon, nous poursuivrons la discussion sur le point 15 de l'Ordre du jour après notre réunion en séance plénière.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I wish to take the floor at this stage in order to thank you, Mr Chairman, to say how very much we appreciate your efforts, and to express the gratitude, both of myself and in the name of the whole Near East Group, for the great efforts which you yourself and your friends - the members of your group - have made in order to achieve this resolution which we have all adopted by acclamation.

Knowing your abilities, your qualities, your courage and your patience we were sure that you would fulfil this noble task, and we hope that it will have positive results in the interests of this Organization and all its member countries.

We very warmly thank you, and we would like once again to express our gratitude to you and assure you of the high esteem in which we hold you.

LE PRESIDENT: Je tiens à dire que c'est pour moi une satisfaction mais, pour avoir le coeur net, je voudrais vous communiquer la liste des amis qui ont participé avec moi au travail que je vous ai présenté: M. Monroe - que je ne vois pas ici - et Mme. Baker, des Etats-Unis; M. Sibal, de l'Inde; M. Buist, du Royaume-Uni; M. Khan, du Pakistan; M. Halinen, de la Finlande; Margarita -c'est comme cela qu'elle veut qu'on l'appelle - du Mexique; Faouzia, de l'Algérie - elle n'est pas là non plus mais elle aussi veut qu'on l'appelle par son prénom; M. Miller et M. Franklin, de l'Australie. Voilà le groupe d'amis qui a travaillé avec acharnement au texte que je vous ai soumis et que vous avez accepté.

The meeting was suspended from 10.00 hours to 12.30 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10 h 00 à 12 h 30

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.00 horas a las 12.30 horas

LE PRESIDENT: Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, nous :reprenons notre séance. Nous sommes toujours sur le point 15 dont nous devons tirer les conclusions.

Auparavant, je voudrais signaler qu'hier soir nous avons conclu les débats sur les points 16 et 17. J'ai été contacté par trois délégations: l'Egypte, El Salvador et la Guinée-Bissau, qui n'ont pas eu l'occasion de présenter leurs interventions et qui souhaitent que leurs textes soient insérés dans le procès-verbal révisé concernant le point 16.

Si vous n'y voyez pas d'inconvénient, nous pouvons accepter ces déclarations, qui ne contiennent aucune attaque envers les Etats Membres, pour qu'elles figurent dans le procès-verbal.

Le Bénin nous a annoncé une intervention sur le point 15. Nous avons également pris l'intervention du Bénin parce que nous avons considéré que nous avions achevé les interventions sur cette question.

Comme vous le savez, en début de matinée, nous avons adopté le projet de Résolution soumis à votre attention. Je vous en remercie une nouvelle fois.

J'avais reçu également deux autres projets de résolution, le projet de Résolution présenté par le Mexique, qui est le document C 89/LIM/39, et le projet de résolution présenté par le Royaume-Uni C 89/LIM/42. Ces deux pays m'ont contacté pour me demander de retirer ces deux projets de résolution. Nous pouvons considérer ces deux résolutions comme ne faisant plus partie de nos travaux.

Cela dit, il y a un autre projet de résolution distribué sous la cote C 89/LIM/40, par lequel on demande un accroissement des crédits alloués au Programme de coopération technique pendant le prochain exercice biennal.

A.K.M. Fazley RABBI (Bangladesh) : I was referring to your proposal for inclusion of three statements in the verbatim record on item 16. You will remember during the closing of item 16, Mr Chairman, you said that the Pledging Target was unanimously adopted by the Commission. We do not know the content of the statements which will be inserted later on. If there is some diverse opinion on those, what will happen to your conclusions? I would just like clarification, Mr Chairman.

LE PRESIDENT: Faites-moi confiance. Je vais examiner attentivement ces trois textes et, s'il n'y a pas l'unanimité, nous modifierons le résumé que j'ai fait. Mais je crois savoir qu'il y a bien l'unanimité sur ce point.

Vous êtes donc saisis du document C 89/LIM/40: Projet de Résolution demandant un accroissement des crédits alloués au Programme de coopération technique pendant le prochain exercice biennal. Avant de donner la parole aux délégués qui souhaitent intervenir, je voudrais porter à votre attention le fait que ce projet de Résolution a été présenté au niveau du Bureau et que le Bureau a demandé qu'il soit envoyé directement à la Commission. Ce projet n'est donc pas passé par les voies habituelles. Cela fait partie des prérogatives du Bureau d'avoir la possibilité d'envoyer directement à la Commission un projet de Résolution.

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand): At the outset I would like to recall that when we were discussing Item 13 on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 last week, my delegation expressed our concern about the budget allocation to the Technical Cooperation Programmes. I stressed that in 1986-87 the share of the TCP said that the total budget was 14.1 percent. It then declined to 12.8 percent in 1988-89 and it has further declined to 11.8 percent in the coming biennia. This is of grave concern to many of the delegations, especially the delegations from the developing countries.

In order to stop this decreasing trend, my delegation has proposed that at this Conference we should at least agree that starting from the 1992-93 biennium FAO should allocate at least 17 percent of the total Regular Programme to the TCP. After we made this concrete proposal we observed the majority of the delegates in this room supported our view.

Today I am very happy to inform you that my delegation, and other distinguished delegates from 22 countries, have submitted a resolution to be considered in this Commission requesting an increase in allocation for the Technical Cooperation Programme in the forthcoming biennium. That has been tabled now.. I sincerely hope this Commission will strongly support our resolution.

LE PRESIDENT: Comme vous pouvez le constater, la Thaïlande vient de présenter, au nom de nombreux pays membres de l'Organisation un projet de résolution relatif au Programme de Coopération Technique. Il vous appartient évidemment de vous prononcer à ce sujet.

Gerald MONROE (United States of America): The resolution before the Committee I fear is one my government cannot support. Without regard to the views of my government with respect to the Technical Cooperation Programme, which I think is a view we have made clear in the various governing bodies and oversight Committees of this Institution, the notion of pre-judging our future programmes of work and budget by establishing, even indicatively, or even notionally, a percentage of that budget to be applied to specific activities is simply one we cannot accept. Therefore, let me register very early my government's opposition to this resolution.

Marcos NIETO LARA (Cuba): No queremos alargar el debate con ponderaciones de las ventajas del Programa de Cooperación Técnica. Simplemente, nuestra delegación desea adherirse a la propuesta que ha sido formulada por un grupo de países y a la manera general en que ha sido apoyada la gestión del PCT en esta Comisión.

Antonio Rodrigues PIRES (Cap-Vert): Le Cap-Vert, qui s'associe au représentant de Cuba pour des raisons qu'il a très bien expliquées lors du débat sur cet important programme de la FAO qu'est le Programme de Coopération Technique, appuie fortement ce projet de résolution.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Comme tout le monde le sait, tout au long de nos travaux, la délégation du Congo n'a cessé de dire combien elle avait à coeur le programme de coopération technique; et comme toutes les autres délégations, nous avons demandé un accroissement substantiel des ressources allouées à ce Programme.

C'est pour ces raisons que nous demandons que la longue liste des pays qui sont déjà en faveur de ce projet de résolution comprenne le nom du Congo Nous sommes en effet tout à fait acquis et nous persistons à croire que ce Programme mérite l'appui de tous et, à ce titre, mérite l'augmentation des ressources qui lui sont allouées.

Horacio MALTEZ R. (Panamá): Nuestra intervención va a ser sumamente breve. Todo lo que pensamos sobre el PCT lo hemos dicho en otras ocasiones, inclusive en esta Conferencia.

Mi delegación desea adherirse plenamente al proyecto de resolución que se nos presenta y por lo tanto solicitamos que se incluya el nombre de nuestro país entre los países que presentan esta resolución.

Earl W. Weybrecht (Canada): The question of the TCP had been looked at in the context of the Review of FAO. The proposals that are put forward in this particular Resolution were not reflected in the reports that originated from the Review exercise. I fully recognize the importance that is attached to the TCP programme by many countries. However, it appears to me that this opens up an issue that is in one way or another associated with the Review exercise.

We did adopt a Resolution this morning on a consensus basis on the Review. It would be my preference to see this particular Resolution not considered at this time since we had already reached an understanding and agreement on the outcome of the Review. So our preference would be to see the Resolution withdrawn at this time. If that is not the case we have difficulties with the proposal put forward and will not support it.

Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic) : We have felt that there has been great support for the Technical Cooperation Programme during our previous sessions and this is a reflection of the awareness of the Member Nations about the importance of the TCP. For all these reasons we wish to join the other Member Nations who supported this draft Resolution and increase its allocations.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Ya hemos manifestado en nuestras intervenciones la posición de mi país con respecto al Programa de Cooperación Técnica, posición que fue ratificada por nuestro Ministro de Agricultura en la Plenaria. Por ello deseamos simplemente dar nuestro pleno apoyo a este proyecto de resolución y confiar en que el Director General pueda atender la invitación que se le hace en el numeral 3 de la misma.

Srta. Mery HURTADO (Colombia): Nuevamente la delegación de Colombia ratifica lo suscrito en la presente resolución. Consideramos que el Programa de Cooperación Técnica es vital para nuestra Organización. Reconocemos su importancia. Todas las delegaciones lo han reconocido en esta Comisión. Por lo tanto apoyamos nuevamente este Programa.

LE PRESIDENT: Le débat risque d'être long. Ceux qui ont leur nom sur le projet de résolution n'ont pas besoin de prendre la parole; on sait qu'ils l'appuient. Je crois qu'il faut donner la parole à ceux dont le nom n'est pas sur cette liste. C'est une proposition que je vous fais.

Omer ZEYTINOGLU (Turquie): Monsieur le Président, je suis tout à fait d'accord avec vous. Je prends la parole pour dire simplement l'appui de ma délégation à ce projet de résolution.

Benjamin NAMI (Cameroun): L'impulsion donnée par le Programme de Coopération Technique aux activités de terrain de la FAO est indéniable. C'est pour cette raison que, nous aussi, nous appuyons vigoureusement ce projet de résolution.

StureTHEOLIN (Sweden): Sweden recognizes, of course, that the TCP is an important part of FAO activities. At the same time we feel that this Programme cannot cover all the requests and demands and problems in this area.

We underline the necessity that the TCP should be well-formulated and consistent with other country-specific activities by the United Nations system in developing countries.

This morning this Commission accepted by consensus a very important resolution. The TCP was covered in this resolution. The now-introduced draft Resolution opens a new dimension of this aspect. The Swedish government has faced for some ten years budget cuts in its own budget. Nevertheless it has been possible for Sweden always to increase the level of our development assistance. Even against this background it will be very difficult for my delegation to support this resolution and we would therefore, like Canada, urge that it will be withdrawn.

Roger PASQUIER (Suisse): La Suisse a été, dès le départ, en faveur du Programme de Coopération Technique mais a toujours été d'avis que 10 pour cent du budget était la part qu'il ne faudrait pas dépasser.

En ce qui concerne l'aspect formel, nous appuyons les raisons avancées par le Canada et appuyées par notre voisin de la Suède pour inviter au retrait de ce projet de résolution, qui traite un point qui est déjà couvert par la résolution portant sur l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): We support the views expressed by the delegate of Canada and we support his proposal.

I would like to say just something about the TCP Programme. I have seen the development that the TCP money produced also for identification and formulation of projects and after formulation it is offered to the donor community, that means that the figures given here do not give a full picture of the real situation and perhaps you can ask the Secretariat to give an explanation about it because the sponsors of this Resolution could be convinced that not a figure 11.8 percent - of course the figure is correct but the influence of the Programme is much more because it is formulation identification and then it attracts money of the donor communities. So please ask the Secretariat to give some explanation.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland) : Very briefly, Finland welcomes the ongoing discussion on TCP and its role. However, what we find missing here in this resolution is the reference to that discussion and therefore the operative part we find premature at this point. We would prefer, like some other speakers before me, that this draft resolution would not have been presented at this point, since we cannot support it.

Jean-Pierre POLY (France): Ma délégation a déjà eu l'occasion de dire, lors de cette Conférence, tout l'intérêt qu'elle porte au programme de coopération technique dont le fléchissement du niveau lors du dernier exercice est effectivement préoccupant. La spécificité des projets du Programme de coopération technique doit être préservée. Ces projets d'un coût modeste et d'une durée limitée ont un rôle catalytique sur l'ensemble du Programme de terrain de notre Organisation.

Ma délégation considère que le Programme de coopération technique est parfaitement adapté à certaines catégories de projets dans le domaine de la formation, de la coopération technique entre pays en développement, par exemple.

Toutefois, comme je l'ai déjà indiqué, il nous paraît important de renforcer à l'avenir le rôle du Comité des Programmes dans l'examen du Programme de terrain, et, d'une manière générale les activités opérationnelles de la FAO.

Il conviendrait donc, à mon sens, de recueillir en temps opportun, l'avis du Comité du Programme lors de la préparation, par exemple, de prochains documents sur le Programme de travail et budget de prochains exercices avant de nous prononcer sur ce sujet.

Laurie CORDUA CRUZ (Nicaragua): Gracias Señor Presidente. Muy brevemente. Mi delegación quiere sumarse al apoyo a este proyecto de resolución. Al igual que la mayoría de las delegaciones, también hemos tenido la oportunidad de expresar nuestros criterios sobre el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, los cuales considero que están contenidos en el proyecto de resolución que se ha sometido a nuestra consideración en esta sesión.

Alphonse NTUKAMAZINA (Burundi): La délégation burundaise a déjà souligné l'efficacité du Programme de coopération technique ainsi que le bénéfice que les pays en développement en tirent. A cette occasion la délégation burundaise réitère son soutien au Programme de coopération technique.

Sra. María Susana LANDAVERI PORTURAS (Perú): Señor Presidente, la delegación del Perú desea solamente, al igual que otras que le han precedido, apoyar esta resolución del PCT.

John GLISTRUP (Denmark) : Only a few hours ago did we here in this room achieve a consensus on the review process of FAO which talks about establishing a medium-term plan and through that establishing overall priorities of FAO's work. As we read this draft resolution in front of us, like other speakers have said, it is trying to prejudge the debate of Member Nations which we are looking forward to participating in, establishing priorities of FAO's overall work. I am sorry I cannot agree with the words just said by the delegate of India, because it is very clearly in operative paragraph 3 said here that higher priority should be given a percentage established. We would hope that such a debate could take place during the coming biennium and that all Member Governments could participate in the establishment of the individual priorities of the programme. For that reason, as has been said by specifically Canada and Sweden, my delegation is not in a position to support this draft resolution as it is in front of us now.

Iutta BURGHARD (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): The Federal Republic of Germany does not have any serious objections to the correct allocation of resources to the various development programmes. But we feel that these means should not come from compulsory contributions but from voluntary ones. This is why we cannot unfortunately support this draft resolution.

Jorge Alberto DE OLIVEIRA (Guinée-Bissau): Notre délégation a déjà donné, dans les enceintes de cette Conférence, sa position concernant les programmes de coopération technique; c'est pourquoi nous appuyons fermement ce projet de résolution.

Inge NORDANG (Norway): The Norwegian delegation can support what has already been said by the delegations of Sweden, Finland and Denmark. My delegation will therefore support that the draft resolution is withdrawn since we are not in a position to support it.

ZULKIFL MOHAMED (Malaysia): The Malaysian delegation has made its stand clearly, as reflected in the draft resolution, as one of the co-sponsors to the draft resolution. Therefore we take this opportunity merely to reiterate our strong support for the TCP programme.

Sidasty AIDARA (Sénégal): J'ai écouté les diverses déclarations de délégations sur cette question spécifique et je voudrais faire deux observations

La première concerne les remarques selon lesquelles le problème du PCT a été réglé dans le cadre de ce que nous pouvons appeler un "package deal" relatif à l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO.

Ce projet de résolution qui traite de cette question se réfère au Programme de coopération technique pour donner à la Conférence l'occasion, d'une part, d'insister sur l'importance qu'elle attache au renforcement des liens ou de la cohérence entre le Programme ordinaire de la FAO - y compris le Programme de coopération technique - et le programme de terrain, et d'autre part de réaffirmer, et là je cite le texte du projet de résolution qui est devenu résolution puisque nous l'avons adopté au cours de nos travaux par acclamation "que la teneur et l'orientation des activités opérationnelles de l'Organisation, notamment de celles qui sont financées au moyen de fonds fiduciaires et par le PCT, doivent être conçues et orientées en fonction des besoins et des objectifs particuliers du pays, tels que le gouvernement lui-même les détermine et les énonce".

Donc ces deux références portent sur le PCT, et j'ai indiqué la teneur de ces deux références.

D'autre part, dans le projet de résolution qui nous est soumis sur le niveau du PCT, à aucun moment on indique que le Directeur général est invité à augmenter le pourcentage du PCT au niveau du budget pour quelque biennium que ce soit. Le projet de résolution "invite le Directeur général à tout mettre en oeuvre pour porter les disponibilités du PCT au niveau antérieur de 14% du budget total...", il n'est pas dit s'il s'agit de ce biennium ou du prochain. Il y a là une certaine souplesse qui devrait être prise en considération par ceux qui craignent que le PCT ne soit augmenté dès le prochain budget.

Troisième remarque: le niveau du PCT proposé, c'est-à-dire les 14%, et éventuellement les 17% - mais j'insiste sur les 14% - ce n'est qu'un retour à la normale, parce que n'oublions pas que le PCT était en fait constitué par les 14,1% du budget total de l'Organisation en 1987.

Je ne pense pas que ce projet de résolution doive faire peur à certaines délégations, parce que certainement ces délégations pensent que si cette résolution est adoptée, elle va amener le Directeur général à porter tout de suite le niveau du PCT à 17% du niveau du budget.

Ce n'est certainement pas l'interprétation de la délégation sénégalaise. C'est la raison pour laquelle non seulement nous sommes favorables à ce projet de résolution, mais nous sommes prêts à être coauteur du projet.

Ernest BENJAMIN (Antigua and Barbuda): Antigua and Barbuda has unequivocally supported the TCP. In respect of the resolution before us, it does not bind the Director-General - or the Conference for that matter - to increase the level of the Budget. Therefore, I do not see the need for prejudgement. All it does is to ask the Director-General to use his best endeavours to increase the level, to get it back to where it was originally. In that spirit, we feel that the resolution should be supported.

David COUTTS (Australia) : Over the last few years Australia has consistently indicated that it accepts that the TCP is a most important component of the Programmes of FAD. In the context of the Review with which we have been very closely involved, we have been happy to accept that it is one of the three key roles that is intertwined with the other two of FAO.

However, like sane delegates who have spoken we consider that basically the technical assistance role and the field programme should not be funded from the Regular Programme, and we have misgivings about any commitment - as is done in the last paragraph of this resolution - to increase the level of the TCP to the sorts of levels that are indicated. It is for that reason that we cannot support this resolution. If the last paragraph were removed, I think we could probably support it.

Robin Garth PEPTTTTT (United Kingdom) : My delegation cannot support the draft resolution in its present form. We have no objection to a planned expansion of the TCP in future years if it is properly supervised by the membership and if it is in the future acceptably used in accordance with the programming arrangements for UN assistance being developed in the context of the triennial review of operational activities. However, in our view any expansion should occur by the TCP being able to attract contributions from external sources and by appropriate internal arrangements to facilitate this. This view accords with that expressed by the relevant expert group advising the SJS in the review of certain aspects of our goals and operations.

A.N. LEKLEBAN-KA-TAKOTESSOU MBA (République Centrafricaine) : La délégation de la République Centrafricaine associe sa voix à celle de la majorité des pays en développement, principaux bénéficiaires du PCT.

Jules Marius OGOUEBANJA (Gabon): Ma délégation ne présente aucune objection pour appuyer le projet de résolution qui nous est soumis. Je voudrais simplement quelques éclaircissements sur le point 3 où il est demandé au Directeur général de "tout mettre en oeuvre pour porter les disponibilités au niveau antérieur de 14% du budget total du programme ordinaire et, si possible à 17%". Je crois comprendre que ce qui est demandé au Directeur général c'est de ramener les disponibilités du POT au niveau inférieur et, si possible, de l'accroître à 17%. Si tel était le cas, ma délégation n'éprouverait aucune difficulté à approuver cette résolution.

Mme. Amina BOUDJELTI (Algérie): A cette heure tardive, du moins pour la matinée, je me limiterai simplement à ajouter la voix de la délégation algérienne à la majorité des orateurs qui ont pris la parole ce matin et qui étaient en faveur du projet de résolution et de l'augmentation du PCT.

Sra. Yolanda GAGO PEREZ (Costa Rica): La delegación de Costa Rica apoya este proyecto de resolución.

Srta. Elena MORA MONROY (Venezuela): Nosotros también apoyamos la propuesta.

Kahtan M.N. AL-MTWALLI (Iraq) (original language Arabic): The Iraq delegation supports the draft resolution because of the great importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme for all of us.

Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand): At the beginning, when certain countries asked me to withdraw this resolution one reason they gave was that it was an inappropriate item to discuss here. However, I think it should be discussed here. Even though my English is not good, English is not my mother tongue, I know what we are doing now. Let us open the document on the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations, C 89/21, to page 31, paragraph 3.30. I will quote the first sentence:

"Most members have stressed that funds allocated to TCP are inadequate to meet requests and that the Programme's share of the Organization's budget should, in the future, gradually be increased."

What does that mean? I would urge the distinguished delegates from Canada, Finland and Japan please to look at that paragraph.

On another point, I was happy when I heard sane countries - Sweden, Switzerland and Denmark - talk about the resolution that we had accepted this morning. I understand what we accepted in paragraph 4. This resolution is a tool to make this paragraph feasible and enable action to be taken. I do not think that our resolution conflicts with the resolution which we approved this morning.

The other point addressed by the delegate of the Netherlands concerned badly-needed funds for the TCP. I know that we need funds. For example, I will read the number of requests pending at the end of the year. At the end of 1986 there were about 179 projects which were pending. In 1987 there were 191 and at the end of 1988 there were 200 projects. We agree that about US\$ 110 000 or 120 000 are needed for the TCP projects. Therefore it means that in every year we need more than US\$ 20 million to meet the requests for projects. I just want to point this out to the delegates.

A. REGNIER (Director, Field Programme Development Division) : I think the delegate of the Netherlands put a question as to the catalytic role of the TCP on the formulation of projects. I may say that the TCP is in fact working to very specific criteria and its projects fall within seven categories: training, advisory services, emergencies, investment, formulation of programming missions and TCDC.

As you will see from this list, it is obvious that the catalytic role of the TCP is there in each category and in fact the TCP is catalytic by nature. I would summarize it by saying that the TCP answers specific immediate needs and also helps to pave the way to larger programmes. So the catalytic role is not there only on the formulation of projects. Incidentally, we have more and more recourse to the TCP for programming and for the formulation of projects. In the framework of the preparation for the fifth cycle of UNDP we are sure we shall have more requests than ever for this type of thing.

If we take investment the catalytic role is also there, since the objective is to prepare industrial projects. As regards advisory services, there is a policy role involved, which has been advocated so often in this Conference. The TCP can also help in reviewing policy, especially in the agriculture sector, paving the way not only for the UNDP's intervention but for the international community at large.

If we take also the emergency services, it can help in the immediate allocation of inputs, for example, and in addition paving the way for rehabilitation schemes. It is a catalytic role that I think TCP is playing very well in a number of cases. TCDC is also obviously catalytic by nature but it is only part of the required funding that the TCP provides, and the rest is provided by the countries themselves. So I think it is obvious that the catalytic role of the TCP is there throughout.

Calixte AEAPINI (Bénin): Permettez-moi tout d'abord, comme c'est la première fois depuis le début de nos travaux dans cette salle que la délégation béninoise prend la parole, de vous présenter nos félicitations pour votre élection comme Président de la Commission II. Nos félicitations vont également aux Vice-Présidents élus et au Secrétariat de la FAO pour la promptitude et la qualité des documents mis à notre disposition. La délégation béninoise apprécie hautement la façon très sage et courtoise avec laquelle vous dirigez nos débats depuis le début des travaux de notre commission.

Pour ce qui est du sujet qui nous occupe présentement, à savoir l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO, la délégation béninoise voudrait exprimer ici clairement sa totale satisfaction pour les conclusions auxquelles sont parvenus le groupe d'experts et les Comités du Programme et Financier. Comme l'a dit l'éminent représentant de la Belgique et le distingué délégué du Sénégal, notre Organisation est malade mais pas de la maladie dont certains représentants des pays membres veulent l'accabler. Elle est naïade parce que bon nombre de pays, parmi lesquels mon pays aussi en toute franchise, ont des arriérés de contributions impayées. Je voudrais vous réaffirmer d'ailleurs sur ce point que mon pays le Bénin fera tout son possible malgré la grave crise économique qu'il traverse, de s'acquitter de toutes les contributions dues à notre Organisation dans un délai raisonnable.

Nous voudrions ici rendre un hommage mérité au Directeur général de la FAO, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, pour la tâche ardue abattue et la parfaite adaptation de toute son équipe à la situation financière critique de notre Organisation. Que signifie une augmentation du budget proposé de 1% ou mieux 0,45% après absorption des coûts?

Monsieur le Président, après tant d'hésitations et de chemins battus, il est grand temps de doter notre Organisation de moyens suffisants pour mener à bien le programme de travail présenté qui, avouons-le, a été élagué surtout en ce qui concerne le PCT alors que plus que jamais en cette période de récession économique, nous avons grand besoin de cette assistance de la FAO qui a fait ses preuves sur le terrain.

Monsieur le Président, la délégation béninoise voudrait réitérer le vœu que notre commission parvienne à adopter par consensus les documents sur les conclusions de l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO. ^{1/}

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais annoncer qu'au titre du point 15 de l'Ordre du jour, nous avons reçu une intervention de la Dominique qui n'a pas été en mesure de la faire dans la salle et qui demande qu'elle soit insérée au procès-verbal. Je pense que vous n'y voyez pas d'inconvénient. Nous vérifierons que, dans ce texte, il n'y a pas d'attaque contre un Etat Membre.

Hannelore BENJAMIN (Dominica): Dominica wishes to give full support to the resolution of the TCP.

TCP projects mean a great deal to one country, if not all; as already mentioned by my Minister of Agriculture in the Plenary. ^{2/}

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que nous pouvons arrêter le débat sur la question bien que quelques noms s'ajoutent à la liste actuelle: le Congo, Panama, la Mauritanie et la Libye.

Cela dit, nous avons tous suivi le débat. Il semble qu'il y ait une majorité qui appuie ce projet de Résolution. Je crois que nous pouvons le considérer comme adopté.

Nous allons donc conclure nos débats sur cette question et je vais essayer de donner ce que je crois être le résumé de nos débats sur ce point 15.

Je voudrais rappeler que sur ce point 15, 76 orateurs ont pris la parole. On peut s'estimer satisfaits de ce débat large et riche qui dénote le grand intérêt que ce sujet a suscité auprès des Etats Membres. Je crois que chacun a pu exposer son point de vue. Dans l'ensemble le débat s'est tenu dans le cadre de la Résolution 6/87, adoptée à la 24ème session de la Conférence. La nécessité d'arriver à un consensus sur les recommandations finales et sur leur mise en oeuvre a été généralement reconnue. Notre Commission a

1 Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès verbal.

2 Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

favorablement accueilli le travail de haute qualité des comités et des experts, auxquels le Secrétariat a fourni toute l'assistance nécessaire. Un accueil aussi favorable a été réservé aux vues, observations et mesures additionnelles proposées par le Directeur général. Il ne fait l'ombre d'aucun doute que les conclusions des comités et des experts qui confirment que la FAO est une organisation saine et dynamique, malgré les difficultés financières, a réjoui les membres de la Commission.

Cependant, il a été reconnu que, dans certains domaines, la FAO pourrait encore améliorer son efficacité. Le bien-fondé, la validité, la pertinence des objectifs poursuivis par l'Organisation, conformes au Préambule et à l'Acte constitutif de la FAO, ont été reconnus et un hommage a été rendu aux fondateurs de la FAO pour leur clairvoyance. En effet, tous ont reconnu l'importance des trois grands rôles de la FAO: celui de Centre d'information mondial sur l'alimentation, l'agriculture et la nutrition, celui d'instances de formulation, de politiques et d'action et enfin celui de promoteur et fournisseur d'assistance technique. Tous les trois sont considérés comme hautement prioritaires et complémentaires. Bien que la plupart des délégations aient insisté plus sur son rôle d'assistance technique alors que quelques délégués mettaient l'accent sur les deux autres, on peut retenir que tous ont retenu l'interdépendance de ces trois rôles et la nécessité d'assurer un équilibre entre eux.

Les conclusions et recommandations du rapport des comités ont été généralement acceptées et il ne reste que quelques points de désaccord, entre autres, la question des avantages comparatifs, l'établissement des priorités, le mécanisme de suivi et le problème des ressources nécessaires pour donner suite aux recommandations de l'Examen. Leur mise en oeuvre exige, de l'avis de la majorité, un financement supplémentaire tandis que certains pensent que les coûts pourraient être couverts par la suppression de certaines activités et un redéploiement des ressources vers des activités relatives à l'Examen.

La Commission a été d'accord pour que la FAO accorde une attention soutenue et ait un rôle accru dans les activités qui concernent: les avis en matière de politiques agricoles et alimentaires, particulièrement dans le contexte des Tables rondes du PNUD, des Groupes consultatifs de la Banque mondiale et des négociations concernant les programmes d'ajustement structurel; le commerce international, y compris les nouvelles formes de coopération de la FAO avec le GAIT qui découleront des Négociations d'Uruguay; le développement durable et la conservation de l'environnement, notamment le Plan d'Action Forestier Tropical; le Rôle de la femme dans le développement rural; la promotion de la recherche et le transfert des technologies, y compris les ressources génétiques, les systèmes agricoles appropriés et la biotechnologie; la CTPD, particulièrement le soutien aux réseaux de celle-ci; la coordination avec les autres agences internationales, notamment la proposition du Directeur général de créer entre les quatre organismes de Rome s'occupant des questions alimentaires un mécanisme inter-secrétariat de coordination.

En ce qui concerne le processus de programmation du PTB, il y a eu accord avec quelques réserves pour l'établissement d'un plan à moyen terme pour trois exercices pour lequel de nombreux délégués ont souligné la nécessité d'un chiffrage des ressources alors qu'un petit nombre ne partage pas ce point de vue. La nouvelle procédure comprenant l'étape supplémentaire du schéma a fait l'objet d'avis divers. En effet, si un grand nombre doute de son utilité, ils réservent néanmoins leur jugement définitif aux vues des

résultats du vote sur le présent PTB, qui a déjà eu lieu. Quelques délégués pensent plutôt que cette étape supplémentaire a permis un dialogue plus intense entre les Etats Membres entre eux et entre les Etats Membres et le Secrétariat, et que cela justifie donc son utilité.

En ce qui concerne les opérations de terrain de la FAO, il y a eu, malgré quelques divergences, un accord général pour: premièrement, renforcer l'examen et le suivi des opérations au niveau des comités techniques, des réunions conjointes du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier et du Conseil; deuxièmement, accroître les capacités de soutien de l'Organisation au moyen de contributions additionnelles au PCT; de la création de quelques programmes spéciaux d'action de haute priorité visant notamment le développement durable; de projets supplémentaires et d'un service renforcé d'identification et de formulation de projets; de l'établissement éventuel d'une inspection des opérations qui pourrait être rattachée au Service d'évaluation; de la normalisation des procédures relatives aux documents; d'un renforcement du PrograMme de coopération FAO/Banque mondiale; de la participation accrue du gouvernement et du personnel national à l'exécution des projets - l'accent a aussi été placé sur la formation du personnel national et sur une collaboration accrue avec les ONG - de même que de la décentralisation et du renforcement des représentations au niveau des pays, particulièrement en ce qui concerne l'élaboration d'avis politiques et la coordination avec le gouvernement et les autres institutions qui s'occupent du développement.

Voilà le résumé des débats qui ont eu lieu sur le point 15. Bien entendu, d'autres points ont été soulignés lors de ces débats; le Secrétariat devra les mentionner dans le rapport qui sera présenté à la Commission, de même que seront joints à ce rapport les deux projets de résolutions que nous venons d'adopter.

S'il n'y a pas d'autres interventions, je voudrais vous parler de la suite de nos travaux. Comme vous le constatez, il est déjà deux heures moins le quart; il se fait donc tard et il y a de nombreux points que le Comité de rédaction n'a pas pu examiner: je pense aux points 16 et 17 et, bien entendu, au point 15. Nous devons en principe terminer l'adoption de notre rapport aujourd'hui. Je vous propose donc que nous nous retrouvions vers 17 heures pour commencer l'adoption du rapport. Etant donné que le Comité de rédaction n'a pas beaucoup de temps pour se réunir - c'est déjà arrivé plusieurs fois ici - nous proposons que le rapport qui sera préparé par le Secrétariat parvienne directement à la Commission. De cette manière, nous pourrions l'adopter ici, au cours de la séance de ce soir. Compte tenu de notre calendrier - et je tiens à vous dire que le Bureau veut que le calendrier soit respecté - c'est de cette façon que nous pourrions nous en sortir.

Sture THEOLIN (Sweden): Everyone realizes, of course, we are awfully late in our work and that we should have already adopted the Report of our Commission. Nevertheless, I have to inform you, Mr Chairman, that several members of the Drafting Committee from various growings have asked for an opportunity to consider the Report within the Drafting Committee before submitting it to you and the Commission. I would, therefore, think it would be appropriate to actually convene the Drafting Committee and to work on the text supplied by the Secretariat.

Concerning the timetable, Sir, I have the understanding that many delegations do not expect the election procedures in Plenary next week will take all of the two days actually set aside for it and that it would, therefore, be possible to advise the General Committee that this Commission should meet on Monday to consider a full report from the Drafting Committee.

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom) : If the proposal by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee is accepted there is no need for me to speak but I was going to say, not as a member of the Drafting Committee, that we would prefer the Drafting Committee should draft the reports outstanding and we think this, in fact, would be the most expeditious way of dealing with business and a very proper way. We would not have thought the timetabling aspects of the programme would require us to conclude today. There is time next week.

Gerald MONROE (United States of America) : I can only endorse what the Representative of the United Kingdom has said that the matter of the Review, for example, and the rich deliberations in this room I believe truly do deserve whatever additional attention we can give them. I think indeed we do have the time, particularly where this very important topic is concerned since it is embedded in the Report of the Commission.

David COUTTS (Australia) : I had indicated to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee that I would be prepared to go along with either option, that is, the report coming directly to the Plenary or the report being dealt with by the Drafting Committee. I would also indicate that depends on the rest of the Drafting Committee being happy with the process. As that is obviously not the case Australia would prefer the Drafting Committee to look at the report first.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): La verdad es que durante todo el debate de la Resolución del PCT estaba yo detrás esperando poder hablar con usted para proponerle que a fin de que hubiera una sensación de mayor participación, el Presidente de nuestro Comité de Redacción pudiera en nombre del Grupo de Redacción ver el borrador de este punto, que sería transmitido a la Plenaria. De esta manera el Comité de Redacción habría sentido que estaba representado por su Presidente y que estaba presente en todo el proceso, conforme normalmente son las reglas. Lamentablemente me perdí lo que pasó con el PCT y me he perdido el principio del presente debate. No sé si mi intervención es oportuna, pero en todo caso la hago como una aportación a este proceso.

V.K. SIBAL (India): Our position is much the same, in large measure as Australia's position. We have no preference either way. We could work on either option. It is really a matter of time constraints. The Commission and you, Sir, are the best judges of that. If you have the time then the Drafting Committee can meet. If you have not got the time and there is a time constraint then we have no problems in seeing the Drafting Committee.

Mlle. Faouzia BOUMAIZA (Algérie): Effectivement, le Président du Comité de rédaction nous a consulté, en tant que pays membre du Comité de rédaction, et tout comme l'Australie, nous lui avons dit que nous étions ouverts à n'importe quelle solution qui lui conviendrait. Nous avons également discuté de la possibilité, comme l'a dit la représentante du Mexique, de soumettre le rapport au Président du Comité de rédaction si le temps était insuffisant. En tant que délégation algérienne, nous avons confiance en sa capacité de régler les éventuels problèmes qui se poseraient. Mais nous tenons à dire que, jusqu'à présent, au sein de la Commission II et du Comité de rédaction, le Secrétariat a fait un excellent travail et a tenu compte de l'ensemble du débat. Nous tenons à l'en féliciter et nous l'encourageons à continuer dans cette voie.

Nous pensons que la proposition du Mexique est très utile parce que, d'une part nous gagnerions du temps et, d'autre part, nous laisserions quand même la possibilité au Président du Comité de rédaction d'examiner notre rapport.

Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada) : I think we should respect the wishes expressed by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee in his intervention on this subject. We feel that the issues that have been addressed and which need to be reflected in the report are very major issues and we want to ensure that the quality of the reports produced are of the highest calibre. So, Mr Chairman, we would encourage the Drafting Committee to meet to look at the reports before they are submitted to the Commission for its consideration.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): Experience has shown that the work of the Drafting Committee has been facilitating the work in the Commissions and the Plenary, and particularly already at this Conference they are referring to the experience of the Drafting Committee on this Commission. I generally feel it would be helpful if discussions took place before coming here.

There is another point, I think, in looking at the timetable of next week's deliberations. I understand that among the membership there have been some discussions to perhaps make some constructive changes in the order of scheduled discussions. I think this is obviously the case for the General Committee to discuss but I would hope that if there is a possibility of accommodating this Commission's discussions, drafted as suggested, next week I think I would regard that as helpful.

Finally, I would like to put one question here. You mentioned in your intervention and in the Order of the Day there is a scheduled meeting at 14.30 hours on the adoption of the report, C 89/II/REP/2 and C 89/II/REP/3, and you mentioned we should reconvene at 5.00 p.m. to consider this matter. What is the state of these scheduled reports?

US PRESIDENT: Vous savez que nous sommes à la disposition du Bureau; c'est lui qui aménage notre programme, et il faut dire que depuis deux ou trois jours nous étions soumis à une pression au niveau du Bureau car nous étions la Commission qui demandait toujours une demi-journée ou une journée supplémentaire pour arriver à des conclusions.

Je ne sais pas quand le Bureau se réunit et c'est bien là qu'il y a le problème.

Nous pourrions reprendre nos travaux à 16 heures et nous pencher sur les rapports REP/2 et REP/3.

En fait, vous voulez une réunion la semaine prochaine; autant laisser le Comité de rédaction se mettre à l'oeuvre pendant le week-end et travailler. Il me semble que c'est ce que nous venons de décider puisqu'il se dégage une majorité pour que le Comité de rédaction "mâche" ce rapport avant qu'il ne nous soit transmis.

Laissons le Comité de rédaction travailler samedi et dimanche; deux journées peuvent suffir; et si le rapport est bien travaillé ce point ne nous demandera pas beaucoup de temps lundi.

Lundi, en fait, il y a des élections; on a besoin de tout le monde et il faut que tout le monde se retrouve en plénière pour voter.

Nous saurons ce soir à quelle heure nous pourrions reprendre le travail, mais de toute façon la Commission se réunira cet après-midi à 16 heures pour se pencher sur le REP/2 et le REP/3.

J'espère que vous serez à l'heure afin que l'on puisse terminer rapidement.

The meeting rose at 14.00 hours

La séance est levée à 14 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 14.00 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/II/PV/16

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

SIXTEENTH MEETING SEIZIEME SEANCE 16ª SESION

(24 November 1989)

The Sixteenth Meeting was opened at 16.30 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La seizième séance est ouverte à 16 h 30

sous la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 16a sesión a las 16.30 horas,
bajo la presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 2

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - PARTIE 2

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 2

LE PRESIDENT: Tel qu'indiqué ce matin, ou plutôt en début d'après-midi, nous allons examiner les documents C 89/II/REP/2 et C 89/II/REP/3. Je suppose que tout le monde est en possession de ces documents.

Avant de donner la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction, je vais la donner au Secrétaire adjoint qui a quelques corrections à vous communiquer.

Michel SAVINI (Secrétaire de la Commission II): Je voudrais simplement signaler deux petites modifications techniques à apporter aux documents qui vous sont soumis.

Au paragraphe 4 de la version anglaise du document C 89/II/REP/2, à l'avant-dernière ligne, il faut supprimer un mot. La ligne commence par les mots "had affected" et le mot qui suit, "weakened", doit être supprimé.

En ce qui concerne la version espagnole de ce texte, il y a une phrase à supprimer à la fin du paragraphe 5. La phrase qui commence par les mots "La mayor parte de los miembros" doit être entièrement supprimée jusqu'à la fin. En fait, on la retrouve en tant que seconde phrase du paragraphe suivant.

LE PRESIDENT: Je suppose que tout le monde a pris note de ces modifications et je donne la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction qui va nous présenter le rapport.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): You have in front of you the second part of the Report on item 12, Review of the Regular Programme. I do not have very much to add on this Report than I said when introducing item 13. The thirteen members of the Drafting Committee worked with a view to producing for you a report which is well balanced, taking into account all the various suggestions, interventions and proposals made during the debate, and fully reflecting as far as possible the main themes of the debate.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous êtes en face du REP/2. Nous allons procéder comme à l'accoutumée; nous passerons paragraphe par paragraphe pour voir s'il y a des amendements.

PARAGRAPHS 1-19

PARAGRAPHES 1-19

PARRAFOS 1-19

Nous allons donc commencer par l'examen du Programme ordinaire 1988-89. Paragraphe 1.

A.K.M. Fazley RABBI (Bangladesh) : We have some comments on the second sentence of the paragraph. We feel that the theme of this sentence is not very relevant here and it may not have a universal welcome or appreciation by the delegates, so we would suggest deleting this sentence from the paragraph. However, I should like to make it very clear that we do not have a strong position on this, whether the Commission agrees with our proposal or not. I should make that clear at the outset.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee) : In fact we were thinking along the same lines and we discussed this for some time. We feel that the sentence makes this exercise within FAO able to be put in proper perspective. With the present wording it could well justify its position in the Report.

LE PRESIDENT: De toute façon le Représentant du Bangladesh a dit qu'il n'insisterait pas. Est-ce qu'il y a des membres qui souhaitent insister sur cette question? Non? Dans ces conditions, nous considérons le paragraphe 1 comme adopté; paragraphe 2 adopté. Paragraphe 3.

Stephan HUSY (Switzerland): I should like to propose the addition of one sentence at the end of paragraph 3 as follows: "In this connection calls were made for clearer priority setting and greater concentration of activities".

LE PRESIDENT: Voici ce que j'ai entendu au niveau de l'interprétation. La Suisse propose qu'on ajoute une autre phrase à la fin du paragraphe 3. Cette phrase se lirait comme suit: "A cet égard des appels ont été lancés pour que des priorités égales soient fixées de manière plus claire et les activités plus concentrées".

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Dans l'hypothèse où cette proposition serait retenue - ce que je ne souhaite pas - je désire la compléter par le texte suivant: "Il a été demandé que ceux qui souhaitent définir des priorités aient le courage d'établir la liste".

LE PRESIDENT: Un ajout est proposé par la Suisse à la fin du paragraphe 3, mais une autre phrase vient contrebalancer cette phrase-là. Qu'en pensez-vous?

Ibrahim KABA (Guinée): À notre avis ces deux propositions s'annulent.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous propose que l'on n'ajoute rien. D'accord?

Raymond ALLEN (United Kingdom) : My proposal is very much on the same lines but perhaps a change of wording. Again at the end of the paragraph, simply adding after "from evaluation" the words "thus assisting with the systematic application of the principles of selectivity in programming".

LE PRESIDENT: Je n'ai pas compris ce que vous voulez ajouter ni surtout où il faut le placer.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): C'est le même amendement présenté de façon différente. Au lieu de parler de priorité, je parlerai de sélectivité.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est la raison pour laquelle je propose que cela ne soit pas ajouté. Tout le monde est d'accord pour que l'on n'ajoute rien?

Stephan HUSY (Suisse): C'était une recommandation de la "review" sur les priorités; nous serions d'accord pour que l'on ajoute les deux phrases.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous êtes d'accord pour que l'on ajoute les deux phrases?

Stephan HUSY (Suisse): Oui.

LE PRESIDENT: Mais la Commission n'est pas d'accord et c'est là qu'est le problème. Si la Commission n'est pas d'accord, on n'ajoute rien.

Nous considérons le paragraphe 3 comme adopté tel quel.

Raymond ALLEN (United Kingdom): Still on paragraph 3, Mr. Chairman, on line 4 we just have a small addition. After the words "analysis of impact" we would like to suggest the following wording "in relation to the costs".

LE PRESIDENT: Le Royaume-Uhi propose qu'on ajoute après "analyse de l'impact", "en liaison avec les coûts" ou "par rapport aux coûts".

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Je regrette, Monsieur le Président, mais si on entre dans un type d'analyse économique, je demanderai qu'on examine les incidences sociales également. Elles me paraissent tout aussi importantes que la rentabilité d'ordre financier; la rentabilité sociale est un élément extrêmement important, je suis prêt à vous proposer un texte dans l'hypothèse où le texte qui vient d'être proposé serait retenu,

LE PRESIDENT: Il me semble que le rapport tel qu'il est fait est bon.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I leave it with you, Mr. Chairman.

LE PRESIDENT: Soyons sages et adoptons le paragraphe 3 tel quel. Vous en êtes d'accord? Adopté. Paragraphe 4 adopté; paragraphe 5 adopté; paragraphe 6 adopté; paragraphe 7 adopté; paragraphe 8 adopté. Paragraphe 9.

João LUSEVIKUENO (Angola): J'aurais aimé avoir un petit éclaircissement sur le paragraphe 9 à la cinquième ligne où il est dit: "à la formation de personnel national dans ces domaines et à l'assistance aux pays". De quels pays s'agit-il? Des pays développés ou des pays en développement? Cela nous laisse un peu perplexes et il faudra s'en expliquer.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que le Président du Comité de rédaction a une réponse?

Sture THBOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I have the understanding that, first of all, was did not particularly discuss this point. We did not see the need to qualify this. Secondly, some of these activities are of high value for all the Member States of the Organization and, therefore, it was seen as valuable not to specify it in this case.

LE PRESIDENT: On nous dit qu'il y a d'abord un aspect dont on n'avait pas discuté en Comité de rédaction; d'autre part le Président du Comité de rédaction pense qu'il s'agit d'un domaine qui concerne tous les pays membres de l'Organisation.

Si c'est "tous les pays" on peut laisser en l'état ou mettre éventuellement "pays bénéficiaires"?

João LUSEVIKUENO (Angola): Il me semble qu'on pourra voir plus clair un peu plus tard; au début on a parfois des difficultés à concevoir le texte tel qu'il est mais j'interviendrai plus tard, page 6, paragraphe 15 où l'on précise qu'il s'agit de pays en développement car ce sont les pays en développement qui ont besoin de l'assistance technique de la FAO.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est la raison pour laquelle je propose qu'on mette bénéficiaires ou plusieurs, cela peut être aussi bien des pays développés; il me semble que l'on peut retenir ce terme de pays bénéficiaires; si cela ne gêne personne on ajouterait au paragraphe 9 "pays bénéficiaires". Le paragraphe 9 ainsi légèrement amendé est adopté. Paragraphe 10 adopté; paragraphe 11 adopté; paragraphe 12 adopté; paragraphe 13 adopté. Paragraphe 14.

João LUSEVIKUENO (Angola): Je voudrais faire la même remarque que j'ai faite sur ce qui précède. A la quatrième ligne du paragraphe 14, il est dit: "en particulier au niveau des pays". De quels pays s'agit-il? Il faudrait que l'on soit clair et net.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que cela est vrai.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Peut-être suffirait-il de mettre "les pays concernés".

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que ça va comme cela. Si l'Angola est d'accord, le paragraphe 14 est adopté. Les paragraphes 15 à 19 sont adoptés.

Paragraphs 1 to 19, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 19, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 19, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 2, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport de la Commission II, deuxième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El Proiecto de Informe de la Comisión II, Parte 2, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 3
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - PARTIE 3
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 3

PARAGRAPHS 1-13
PARAGRAPHES 1-13
PÁRRAFOS 1-13

LE PRESIDENT: Si le Président du Comité de rédaction n'a pas de commentaires et s'il n'y a pas de rectifications, nous pouvons tout de suite nous mettre à l'oeuvre.

Le REP/3 traite du point 14 de l'Ordre du jour: Examen des programmes de terrain 1988-89. Les paragraphes 1 à 5 sont adoptés.

Le délégué de la Suisse demande la parole sur le paragraphe 6.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): A la fin de ce paragraphe, il y a une phrase qui parle du Plan d'action forestier tropical qui le donne en modèle de programme de terrain hautement prioritaire. Nous aimerions ajouter après les mots: "qui regroupe toute une gamme d'activités de terrain dans ce domaine hautement prioritaire", "Il a été suggéré d'organiser les activités dans d'autres domaines de manière similaire".

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Si on parle "d'autres domaines", il faut les citer. L'ajout ne servira à quelque chose que si on cite les domaines dans lesquels on fait cette proposition. Autrement la phrase n'a aucun sens.

UE PRESIDENT: Le représentant de la Suisse pourrait-il préciser sa phrase?

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Bien sûr. On pourrait donner une longue liste. Je peux vous donner quelques exemples; il y a le PASA, toutes les autres activités dans le domaine de l'agriculture. Nous avons fait dans notre intervention effectivement des propositions plus spécifiques. Mais il ne nous paraît pas nécessaire de donner une longue liste. L'idée passe très clairement. Nous nous sommes déclarés en faveur du Plan d'action forestier tropical et beaucoup de délégations ont dit que c'était un succès. Nous pensons qu'il est bien d'imiter le succès.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Nò es costumbre de mi delegación, que está representada en el Comité de Redacción, tomar acción dentro de la aprobación del Informe, pero aquí se trata de la introducción de una idea subyacente en relación con que todas las actividades se transformen en programas de acción. Estamos por los programas de acción dentro de cierto contexto, pero no que todo se organice. Así que creo que esta introducción aquí tiene esa connotación. Por lo tanto, considero que no procedería aquí.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee) : As I stated before to you and to the Commission, we had tried to reflect what was actually proposed and suggested in the Commission. On this particular point this idea that organized activities in special action plans was brought up in this context and in the other context. We thought we did good justice to this by quoting this particular example. It is also true that other delegations warned against the proliferation of special action plans which reflects the opinion given by the delegate of Mexico, and also I think of my own. So this is a matter of judgement. The Committee did not judge it necessary to include this phrase, the Commission is, of course, supreme in its decision.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est juste. C'est la Commission qui doit décider.

Sra. Mercedes FERMÍN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Abundando en lo que ha dicho el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, y apoyada en la sugerencia de la miembro de este Comité, delegada de México, yo voy a agregar una opinión que iría en contra de lo que ha sugerido Suiza. Los Programas de Campo están generalmente determinados por las necesidades de los países. Estas necesidades de los países son tan variadas, tan numerosas, como son la vida, las características de cada país miembro de la FAO, de acuerdo con la región geográfica donde se ubican, de acuerdo con su nivel de desarrollo; y esto sería imposible si son programas específicos: agrícolas, ganaderos, pesqueros, forestales, etc., cada uno de los cuales tiene una modalidad diferente. De manera que sería cuestión de enumerarlos y esto sería inagotable. Por consiguiente, pienso que lo mejor es no iniciar una enumeración o una referencia específica agregándolo al numeral que me parece está completo.

Robert Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom) : I had the same difficulty over this suggestion as, I think, Mexico and other delegates. Equally I would hope to see a reference to the point made that further special action programmes should be considered. I would suggest the point is met by having the Swiss sentence but instead of "should" just simply "might", we replace "should" by "might" which would make it clear that there is no suggestion that all the activities of FAO should be in the form of special action programmes, which is an impractical idea. Equally, it leaves us to the idea that special action programmes might be started.

LE PRESIDENT: Voilà un amendement de l'amendement. Etes-vous d'accord avec la proposition du Royaume-Uni?

V.K. SIBAL (India): We would not have liked to take the floor because we were in the Drafting Committee. We think a new idea has been introduced at this stage and in case it is to be retained we would suggest the insertion of the word "suitable" before the word "fields" also in addition to the British amendment so that it would read that "activities in other suitable fields might be considered."

LE PRESIDENT: C'est encore un amendement sur l'amendement de l'amendement.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Tout en reconnaissant avec le délégué de la Suisse que le Plan d'action forestier tropical est un succès, ce que tous les pays membres reconnaissent effectivement, ma délégation a de la difficulté à admettre cette proposition.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres opinions?... Il est très difficile de pouvoir trancher.

Sidasty AIDARA (Sénégal): Je crois que le paragraphe 6, tel qu'il est libellé, constitue la reflet d'une réalité. Il y a eu des discussions sur ces questions et le paragraphe 6 reflète bien ces discussions. Si nous introduisons de nouvelles idées, nous risquons de relancer le débat, parce que les opinions ne sont pas arrêtées sur cette question. L'amendement lui-même ne pose pas tellement de problèmes, mais il faut considérer le fait que cet amendement ne peut pas être accepté par beaucoup de délégations d'une part, et d'autre part que cela représente tout de même une certaine somme de travail pour le Secrétariat, cela représente certainement des programmes additionnels et cela entraîne des frais. Je crois qu'il est important que le Secrétariat nous dise ce que cela représente sur le plan de l'incidence des programmes et de l'incidence financière. C'est un petit amendement qui n'a l'air de rien mais sur lequel nous devons réfléchir avant de prendre une décision. C'est la raison pour laquelle je pense qu'il est préférable que nous adoptions l'article tel qu'il est libellé et présenté par le Comité de rédaction.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais dire que le paragraphe est bien fait. Une mention

spéciale a été donnée au Plan d'action forestier tropical dans le texte. Cela peut vouloir dire effectivement au Secrétariat que c'est un bon exemple et qu'il faudrait le suivre. Même en laissant le texte en l'état, le message devrait parvenir au Secrétariat.

Je vous propose donc qu'à la fin de ce paragraphe on ajoute après "dans ce domaine hautement prioritaire" "et pourrait constituer un exemple à suivre".

Est-ce que vous êtes d'accord sur cette rédaction?

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Je propose: "... un exemple à suivre dans d'autres domaines d'activités." Ce serait plus précis.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois qu'il vaut mieux laisser: "un exemple à suivre". Cela veut bien dire ce que cela veut dire. C'est suffisamment clair. Le paragraphe 6 est ainsi amendé et adopté. Nous passons au paragraphe 7.

Manuel VIVADO (Bolivia): Se trata solamente de una aclaración que solicito. En la segunda oración del párrafo se habla de la "utilización de equipo por parte de los países en desarrollo", y esta parte de la oración no tiene mucho sentido. Deseo pedir una aclaración.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Well, you could give the word to Mr Rinville of the Secretariat but I think we refer here to the actual purchase of goods and services produced in developing countries. "This is my understanding.

Manuel VIVADO (Bolivia): El párrafo se inicia refiriéndose a la "capacidad de los países en desarrollo", y especifica la utilización de sus expertos y personal nacional en proyectos de campo. No se refiere a insumos fabricados o importados. Se refiere específicamente a conocimiento tecnológico o experiencia local. Entonces, el concepto de introducir "utilización de equipo" no cabe. De la misma manera prosigue, en esa frase en la segunda oración, lamentando la escasa participación de actividades de subcontratación. Obviamente todo el párrafo se refiere exclusivamente a aspectos de participación profesional.

Yo sugeriría que se cambie la redacción, si es que éste es el sentido que se le quiso dar al párrafo, para decir: "Al mismo tiempo, se tomó nota con pesar de los escasos progresos realizados para aumentar la utilización de equipos profesionales", etc.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Sí, es lo que acaba de decir usted. Es un problema de traducción porque se trata de la utilización del equipo proveniente de los países en desarrollo. Para darle mayor información al distinguido representante de Bolivia, el concepto es que se desea aumentar la participación tanto de los profesionales como del equipo producido en los países en desarrollo y la contratación de los servicios de consultoría. Aquí se trata de equipo proveniente o producido por los países en desarrollo. Pero es proveniente para que sea comparativo con las otras versiones. Es un problema de traducción.

LE PRESIDENT: Si c'est un problème de traduction, les traducteurs pourront le régler. Si c'est un problème de fond, c'est différent.

Manuel VIVADO (Bolivia): Desearía sugerir que se cambie la redacción para decir: "La utilización de insumos producidos en los países en desarrollo". De esta manera se involucra insumos de tipo mecánico o de tipo humano.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois qu'il faut peut-être donner la parole au Secrétariat qui nous donnera des explications plus amples sur cette question.

F. RINVILLE (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement) : Je crains de ne pas pouvoir apporter d'autres éclaircissements que ceux donnés par le Président du Comité de rédaction. Il s'agit vraiment d'équipements produits dans les pays en développement, il ne s'agit pas de main-d'oeuvre, dans ce qui a été évoqué lors de la Commission et ce qui est reporté ici dans le rapport.

LE PRESIDENT: On a dit que c'est un problème de traduction. Est-ce qu'on ne pourrait pas rapprocher les deux textes anglais et espagnol pour voir s'il y a un problème de traduction?

La représentante du Venezuela a peut-être trouvé la solution.

Sra. Mercedes FERMÍN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Yo sí creo que es un problema de traducción y en ese sentido podría ponerse en primer lugar la palabra equipo en plural: "equipos", y entonces poner: "(herramientas, maquinarias...)", para que se entienda que son instrumentos de trabajo, no personas. Porque también acostumbramos a decir "equipos humanos", pero no es correcto. Habría que poner entre paréntesis "herramientas, maquinarias, etc."

LE PRESIDENT: Une proposition vient d'être faite. Pose-t-elle des problèmes?

Manuel VIVADO (Bolivia): Lamento insistir en esto, pero para mayor claridad, tanto en la expresión como en el concepto del párrafo, es necesario que se establezca la referencia hacia la capacidad propia de los países en desarrollo en primer lugar. Y en segundo lugar hacia el hecho que incluye tanto recursos humanos como equipo e insumos.

Me permito sugerir que se introduzca una palabra más en la primera frase del párrafo 7. Que diga: "Se destacaron los progresos realizados en el aprovechamiento de la capacidad propia de los países en desarrollo ..." Y luego, saltando a la segunda frase: "Al mismo tiempo, se tomó nota con pesar de los escasos progresos realizados para aumentar la utilización de insumos y equipo propios por parte de los países en desarrollo. "

LE PRESIDENT: Les hispanophones ont-ils pris note de cette rectification?

Carlos FERREIRA C.(Chile) : Para colaborar y poder seguir con el trabajo con cierta serenidad, me parece bien la propuesta del delegado de Bolivia. El se ha expresado en un buen castellano, y debe decir: "...para aumentar la utilización de equipos e insumos provenientes..." Y ahí queda arreglado el asunto globalmente: "...equipos e insumos provenientes de los países en desarrollo..."

LE PRESIDENT: Cela ne pose pas de problème? Non. Alors, nous prenons cette formulation et nous considérons donc que le paragraphe 7 est adopté tel qu'il vient d'être amendé par le délégué de la Bolivie et celui du Chili.

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom) : I have two small amendments to this paragraph. In the English text they are on page 4 in lines 9 and 10. They are simply intended to make the wording closer to the sentence expressed which I think the passage intended to summarize. After the word "evaluation" in line 9 on page 4 before the comma insert: "and the routine analysis of results by country and sector"; and three words further, at the end of the same line where the word "attention" is, in the English text add: "to the adoption of more specific procedures", and then run on as at present.

LE PRESIDENT: Eprouvez-vous des difficultés à accepter cet amendement?

Sidasty AIDARA (Sénégal): J'ai bien suivi, mais mon problème c'est que je ne comprends pas ce que la délégation du Royaume-Uni veut dire. Que sont ces procédures spécifiques? C'est cela que je voudrais comprendre. Je ne vois vraiment pas ce que cela veut dire.

LE PRESIDENT: Le délégué du Royaume-Uni pourrait-il donner de plus amples explications?

Robin Garth FETTTTT (United Kingdom) : The logic behind this is described in the intervention recorded in verbatim PV/8 page 3.

LE PRESIDENT: Je n'ai pas ce procès-verbal devant moi. Qui a fait cette déclaration?

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom, Mr. Chairman.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est donc le Royaume-Uni qui a fait cette déclaration. Le délégué du Sénégal est-il plus avancé maintenant?

Sidasty AIDARA (Sénégal): Pas du tout, Monsieur le Président, parce que je n'ai pas ici le procès-verbal des débats qui ont eu lieu sur cette question et notamment la déclaration du délégué de la Grande-Bretagne, si bien que je ne sais vraiment pas ce que cela veut dire. Peut-il nous dire rapidement ce que cela veut dire?

LE PRESIDENT: Evidemment, même si cela est écrit dans le procès-verbal, je ne crois pas que chaque délégué puisse poser des questions à la suite de chaque déclaration. Je crois que le délégué du Royaume-Uni doit donner des explications pour que tout le monde comprenne ce que cela veut dire.

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom) : Our statement was: "...the External Auditor found that no specific procedures had been established to guide staff in the feedback and monitoring of evaluation findings, nor was the recording of action taken required." I will not go on. This is the source of the observation.

Calixte ALAPINI (Bénin): J'avoue très sincèrement que ma délégation est encore embarrassée après les explications que vient de donner le représentant du Royaume-Uni parce que, dans la déclaration qu'il vient de faire, il a bien dit "d'adopter des procédures plus spécifiques" mais il n'a pas précisé ces procédures. Il faut vraiment qu'il aille au fond de sa pensée pour nous permettre d'avancer dans nos débats.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): Like the previous speaker, I am lost! If the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom would read out exactly what he said, a little more slowly, and then indicate what he wants to put in here, we may be able to get somewhere. It is a little hazy at this point in time.

Joao LUSEVIKUENO (Angola): Ma délégation, comme celle qui l'ont précédée, a du mal à digérer le contenu de ce paragraphe, que ce soit dans sa forme ou dans son fond. Ce qu'il y a à retenir, c'est que l'on veille davantage à la prise en compte d'un maximum d'informations. Le représentant du Royaume-Uni dit: "que l'on veille davantage à l'adoption de procédures". Cela change automatiquement le contenu du paragraphe. Donc, s'il n'y a pas d'objection, je demande au délégué du Royaume-Uni de retirer son amendement parce qu'il déforme totalement le contenu du paragraphe.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I understand the driving force behind the two amendments from the United Kingdom delegation. As Chairman of the Drafting Committee, I would like to advise you that the understanding is that when you say "including thematic evaluation" that covers the first amendment about analysis of results by country and sector.

Secondly, "to ensure the maximum feedback" includes the development and adoption of more specific procedures. The present wording covers, in a way, the points put forward by the Member States in order to allow them to carry on this work in the Technical and other Committees in times to come.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que le Royaume-Uni est convaincu et qu'il demande la parole pour retirer ses amendements.

Robin Garth PEFPTTT (United Kingdom) : In view of the fact that this explanation will be recorded in the verbatim, and on the understanding that what is there includes the points I have made, I withdraw the specific amendment.

Jutta BURGHARD (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German):

There is a very minor amendment I would like to suggest to the last sentence, that is to add after the words "to be cost-effective" the words "and efficient", because it is not just a matter of economic considerations in discussing these projects but it is also a matter of the quality of what is being done and what the outcome of such activities is. I would appreciate it if you could add the words "and efficient".

LE PRESIDENT: La représentante de la République fédérale d'Allemagne propose que l'on ajoute, à la fin du paragraphe 8: "que les activités des projets soient rentables et efficaces". Peut-on ajouter cela?

Sra. Mercedes FERMÍN GOMEZ (Venezuela): En la versión española dice esto. Dice: "Varios Estados Miembros subrayaron la necesidad de que las actividades de los proyectos fueran eficaces en relación con sus costos". Eso es justamente lo que está pidiendo la República Federal. Lo dice en la versión española.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est compliqué. Je crois qu'il y a des problèmes de langue qui se posent. Effectivement, si vous lisez le texte espagnol, il y a les deux ou presque. Je crois que nous allons laisser au Secrétariat le soin de régler ce problème et de mettre le texte anglais en rapport avec le texte espagnol qui, je crois, reflète mieux cette idée-là.

C'est l'anglais qui est mieux? Je ne sais pas. Il y a quelqu'un à côté de moi qui me dit que l'espagnol est mieux. Je n'en sais rien car je ne suis pas anglophone et encore moins hispanophone. Je crois que le Secrétariat s'efforcera d'harmoniser tous les textes.

Je ne sais pas ce que l'on entend par rentable, d'ailleurs. Malheureusement, l'Ambassadeur de Belgique n'est plus là, parce que je lui aurais posé la question: rentable par rapport à quoi? Il y a les aspects sociaux. Nous allons continuer. Le paragraphe 8 est adopté. On réglera le problème. Les paragraphes 9, 10, 11 et 12 sont adoptés. Venons au paragraphe 13.

Earl W. WEYBRBCHT (Canada) : We wish to propose a slight change in the wording of the first sentence on paragraph 13 of this Report. I would suggest that we change the wording after the word "involvement" to read "of NGOs, including in particular local NGOs". There were many references in the discussion to NGOs. We did not, however, have the perception that this was confined strictly to local NGOs. This small amendment will not change the focus of the sentence.

LE PRESIDENT: On ajoute "en particulier" ou "y compris"? Y compris? En effet, dans le texte français, on parle de ONG locale; or, le délégué souhaite qu'on élargisse davantage et qu'il s'agisse de toutes les ONG et non pas locales tout particulièrement. Donc il n'y a pas de problème et on pourra apporter cet amendement; par conséquent, avec ce léger amendement, le paragraphe 13 est adopté et ainsi donc tout le REP/3.

Paragraphs 1 to 13, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 13, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 13, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 3, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport de la Commission II, Partie 3, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El Proiecto de Informe de la Comisión II, Parte 3, así enmendado, es aprobado

LE PRESIDENT: En principe nous arrêtons ici pour notre Commission. Le Comité de rédaction va se réunir pour examiner le rapport sur le point 15; il se réunira demain à 13 heures, Salle du Mexique. Nous leur demandons de terminer ce travail dès demain afin que notre rapport soit prêt lundi matin et que nous puissions l'adopter lundi matin.

Je pense que tout le monde souhaite que la Conférence se termine le plus rapidement possible. Vous avez suffisamment travaillé et mérité le repos le plus rapidement possible; et je crois savoir que notre Président nous invite à le faire. Nous allons adopter le rapport le matin et, selon le vœu de notre Président en exercice qui est d'ailleurs dans cette salle, nous pourrions adopter notre rapport en plénière lundi après-midi. Ainsi aurons-nous avancé nos travaux rapidement pour que la Conférence prenne fin mercredi. C'est le souhait de tous; d'ailleurs, ce matin, Madame Becker a fait une proposition tendant à ce que la Conférence soit écourtée d'une semaine. On n'en est pas encore là. Mais si l'on peut l'écourter d'un ou deux jours ce ne sera pas mauvais.

Muhammad Saleem KHAN S. (Pakistan): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me the floor. Before you close the meeting I should like to make an announcement addressed to the Group of 77. There will be a meeting on Monday. I have already advised several of the members concerned but inadvertently omitted to give the time of the meeting. It will be held at 12.30 hours on Monday. I merely wanted to inform those people I have requested to attend the meeting.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia) : Con la venia suya y la de los distinguidos colegas y amigos, Miembros de esta Comisión, le ruego que me permita aunque sea desde el puesto de Colombia, intervenir en mi condición accidental de Presidente en ejercicio del Comité General y de la Conferencia.

Quiero expresar mi satisfacción a usted y al Sr. Theolin, competente Presidente del Comité de Redacción, con quien tuve el placer de reunirme al principio de esta tarde, por la manera eficaz y ordenada como avanzan los trabajos de esta importante Comisión. Sé que representa un esfuerzo para el Sr. Theolin y sus compañeros del Comité de Redacción reunirse mañana sábado pero estoy seguro de que cumplirán la tarea con la consagración con que lo vienen haciendo y se esforzarán por que mañana puedan concluir el resto de la consideración de los temas que estén pendientes. Podrán así disfrutar de un domingo agradable y de reposo y facilitar, como usted lo ha dicho, la adopción del Informe de esta Comisión el lunes por la mañana y ojalá el lunes por la tarde en Plenaria.

Como usted lo ha dicho, el Comité General y también en la plenaria, varias delegaciones han expresado su preocupación por la prolongación de las reuniones porque algunas delegaciones han tenido que ausentarse. Yo creo que todo ello podría contribuir a que, como generalmente sucede cada dos años, se logre concluir la Conferencia ojalá el miércoles por la tarde o a más tardar el jueves en la mañana. Si lográsemos esto con la valiosa cooperación suya, del Sr. Theolin, de los miembros del Comité de Redacción y de todos los colegas representados en esta sala, podríamos considerar la posibilidad de que el Consejo celebrara su reunión el jueves 30, en la tarde y así todos estaríamos satisfechos de habernos economizado un día como justa compensación a nuestro intenso trabajo.

Quiero en nombre del Comité General y también del plenario de la Conferencia, agradecer de antemano a usted, señor Presidente, sus valiosos oficios, lo mismo que al señor Theolin por la cooperación y comprensión que nos ofrecen en estos sanos propósitos que creo que todos compartimos.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci Monsieur le Président en exercice de notre Conférence.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours

La séance est levée à 18 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 89/II/PV/17

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

SEVENTEENTH MEETING DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE 17ª SESION

(27 November 1989)

The Seventeenth Meeting was opened at 11.15 hours
Joseph Tchicay, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La dix-septième séance est ouverte à 11 h 15
sous la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 17ª sesión a las 11.15 horas
bajo la presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II

LE PRESIDENT: Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs. J'espère que vous avez passé un bon week-end; je pense que tel n'était pas le cas pour les membres du Comité de rédaction qui ont travaillé samedi après-midi et le soir; ils ont fait un bon travail et j'espère que vous en serez d'accord. Nous allons en tout cas examiner le Projet de rapport qu'ils nous ont soumis, mais je voudrais auparavant vous rappeler que nous avons l'intention de terminer l'adoption de nos rapports, c'est-à-dire les REP/4 et 5 et ce pour des problèmes de quorum car plusieurs réunions ne peuvent pas se tenir en même temps; puis nous ferons une pause pour le déjeuner et nous irons en plénière pour l'élection. En fin d'après-midi nous présenterons notre rapport en plénière.

Comme vous le voyez, notre journée est chargée et j'espère que nous irons suffisamment vite pour tout terminer à temps.

Avant d'entamer la lecture du REP/4 je vais passer la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction qui va vous le présenter.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): What I have to say is an introduction to REP/4 in the first place, which covers the Review. The substance of the report is well known to you all. The Review has been discussed within the Organization since the last Conference by Experts, by the Programme and Finance Committees, by the Council, by Governments and by this Commission, and also among your friends Mr Chairman. A well-crafted resolution on the Review was adopted by consensus last week, but this substance is so well known that it made the work of the Drafting Committee at the same time easy and very difficult. Delegations are advised to look at the text in its entirety since most paragraphs interlock with one another. The text should also be taken with the consensus resolution, which obviously is by far the most important part of our Report. Since this is a synthetic report it seemed suitable to place the resolution on the TCP together with paragraph 32, in which the debate on this matter is reflected.

I should like to make one small comment on the first page of REP/4, which is the table of contents. This was not discussed in the Drafting Group and I should like just to indicate to you a change which reflects the contents of the draft report. First, A. refers to Agenda item 15, and A. is not changed. Item B. is split into two so that we have B., FAO's Field Operations, then we have a new item C, which is Resolution on the Technical Cooperation Programme. Then C. becomes D., Relations with other Institutions. Item E. is now labelled Resource Implications and it will become, under its new name, "Conclusion".

Under that, the resolution is indicated Resolution .. /89 and that refers to the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations.

In that manner the table of contents reflects better the actual draft which you have before you. On behalf of the Drafting Group I hereby submit the Report to you with, to the extent possible, what it reflects as the main theme on this important item.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez suivi l'importante introduction du Président du Comité de rédaction; je suis certain que vous tiendrez compte de ses remarques et observations.

Nous allons donc passer à l'adoption du REP/4: Conclusions de l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO (point 15).

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 4

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - PARTIE 4

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 4

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 7

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 7

PARRAFOS 1 A 7

David McGAFFEY (United States of America) : I am sure it is only a typographical error but the second line in the English text of paragraph 1 reads incorrectly. The word is "Objectives". There is an "iv" missing and I believe there is an "s" missing from the word "Role". It should read "Objectives, Roles,".

LE PRESIDENT: Il s'agit effectivement d'une erreur typographique dont le Secrétariat prendra note.

Manuel VIVADO (Bolivia): La observación que tengo es en el párrafo 2, no en el 1.

LE PRESIDENT: En dehors des observations proposées par les Etats-Unis, avez-vous quelque chose à ajouter? Paragraphe 1 adopté; Paragraphe 2.

Manuel VIVADO (Bolivia): Es solamente una consulta de traducción. En la primera línea del párrafo se lee: "como una piedra miliar". Supongo que esto en inglés significa mile stone. El equivalente en castellano es "hito".

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons pris note. Y a-t-il d'autres observations? Paragraphe 2 adopté; paragraphe 3 adopté; paragraphe 4 adopté; paragraphe 5.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): The last sentence does not actually agree with paragraph 13 of the resolution. The resolution requests the Director-General to implement the recommendations emanating from the Review. I think, therefore, we should take out "Member Nations and".

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): We

should not forget the implementation of the recommendations of the Review is not only a duty for the Organization and its Secretariat but the implementation of the Review requires extra-budgetary resources and calls for Member States also to implement or to honour their commitments as regards the contributions in the budget. We also should be aware that the implementation of the Review should be a cooperative undertaking so there is responsibility on the shoulders of the developing countries. We should not forget this. There are responsibilities which fall on the shoulders of the developed countries and there are responsibilities which fall on donor countries in general.

Therefore, Member Nations should be actively participating otherwise the Review cannot possibly be implemented by the Secretariat alone without the cooperation of other parties as well.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Mi delegación participó en el Comité. Allí se analizó esto. La Resolución y la implementación, sobre todo, del ejercicio es una corresponsabilidad de los Estados Miembros junto con la Secretaria, y por lo tanto pedimos que se quede.

Ibrahima KARA (Guinée): Ma délégation était présente tout au long des débats qui ont concerné ce point de l'Ordre du jour, débats au cours desquels on a surtout insisté sur la coopération indispensable des pays membres; on a insisté sur leur participation au paiement, à la mise en oeuvre des recommandations faites par le Comité conjoint; leur participation est indispensable à la mise en oeuvre correcte des recommandations. Sans ressources il est exclu de mettre en oeuvre ces recommandations.

Notre délégation pense qu'il est inutile de changer quoi que ce soit dans ce paragraphe.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Royaume-Uni veut peut-être retirer sa demande.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I am completely convinced, not least by the intervention of Mexico. I think I have looked very carefully to make sure there was no discrepancy between the two texts but I see that, of course, the Review relates to the whole of the resolution and naturally enough that is for everybody. So I withdraw my proposed amendment.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que le débat est terminé sur cette question.

Roger PASQUIER (Suisse): Comme notre Conférence se réunira seulement dans deux ans, il y a également le Conseil et ses organes subsidiaires dont la fonction est importante; je propose que nous disions: "elle a estimé que les Etats Membres, le Conseil et ses organes subsidiaires, et le Secrétariat ...".

LE PRESIDENT: La Suisse souhaite ajouter quelque chose. Qu'en pensez-vous?

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Les organes de notre Organisation sont constitués par les Etats Membres. Je ne vois pas pourquoi on alourdirait cette phrase.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que la Suisse est convaincue? Non.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom) : I think the difficulty is easily met if we say "and the Organization" and not the Secretariat because that includes the Secretariat and all the bodies.

LE PRESIDENT: En fait l'Organisation c'est à la fois les Etats Membres et le Secrétariat. Si cela peut donner satisfaction, il n'y a pas de problème. Parfois la redondance ne nuit pas.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): Does the Organization include the Conference?

LE PRESIDENT: Voilà une question pertinente.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Très sincèrement ce débat nous paraît inutile parce que cette phrase reflète exactement le contenu du débat. Les membres ont insisté sur la participation, la coopération des pays membres au paiement des contributions. Pour la mise à exécution des recommandations le Secrétariat a effectivement un rôle actif à jouer.

Ainsi donc, ce sont les deux éléments impliqués dans la mise en oeuvre, et à notre point de vue, c'est bien précisé.

LE PRESIDENT: Je lance un appel au représentant de la Suisse pour qu'il retire son amendement. Bien, merci. Le texte reste donc en l'état et le paragraphe 5 est adopté tel qu'il est. Les paragraphes 6 et 7 sont adoptés.

Paragraphs 1 to 7, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 7, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 7, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 8 TO 20

PARAGRAPHES 8 A 20

PARAFOS 8 A 20

LE PRESIDENT: Sur le paragraphe 8, le délégué des Etats-Unis demande la parole.

David McGAFEY (United States of America) : In the title I believe it is "Roles" not "Role".

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): In the Resolution 6/87 it is "Role" in the singular: "FAO's Role" in the singular.

LE PRESIDENT: Dans la Résolution 6/87, le mot "rôle" est au singulier. Laissons-le au singulier, cela ne va pas changer le fond du texte. Le paragraphe 8 est adopté. Sur le paragraphe 9, le représentant du Canada demande la parole.

Warren MAJOR (Canada): With your permission, to make the point I would have to refer ahead to paragraph 11 where it is explained that "Member Nations held different perceptions of the relative importance of each role" and that "the Director-General's view that there was no ready-made solution for achieving an ideal balance among the three major roles". Thus the phrasing in the last sentence of paragraph 9 is confusing, where it is written that "three roles were valid, complementary and equally important". It is that last phrase I think, that requires changing. If you wish an alternative might I suggest "valid, complementary and essential", which I am told is the SJS formulation.

LE PRESIDENT: Voilà une proposition d'amendement faite par le représentant du Canada. Je pense que vous l'avez tous notée: il s'agit de remplacer "importants" par "essentiels".

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Nosotros preferiríamos mantener la redacción original del párrafo y le pedimos a la delegación de Canadá que lo mantenga así, porque esto fue parte de la intervención de muchas delegaciones, que resaltaron que efectivamente las tres funciones eran igualmente importantes. Sabemos que son esenciales, porque si no no estarían en la Constitución de la FAD. Evidentemente esenciales son. Aquí el problema no es saber si son esenciales, el problema es saber si son igualmente importantes y creíamos que se había llegado a un consenso sobre este tema.

En relación a lo mismo, mi delegación tiene una pequeña observación con relación a la traducción que figura en el párrafo 10, pero se la vamos a decir más adelante.

LE PRESIDENT: Je donne la parole au représentant du Royaume-Uni, toujours sin: la proposition du Canada.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom) : I am on the general point about this paragraph and some others. We all know how difficult it was to reach a process of consensus of the exact wording of the Resolution. I do think it would be quite desirable if the language which caused so many problems there, which we were successfully able to deal with, were really the same language as we find when we come to conclusions which expressed the view of the Conference. Of course, whatever member states have said, and so forth, that has clearly got to be in there and it is separate. For instance, if you look at (ii) it is not at all the same as the second row as it is expressed in the Resolution and I feel that (ii) in the third line should read "international forum for and source of policy advice", which is the phrasing used actually in the Resolution and then on this last sentence, the point made by Canada, is, I think, if I may say so, in fact valid because many delegations did indeed say the three roles were equally important; not all of us said so, and this is intended to be an expression of the Conference's unanimous view. So I think really the last sentence should read "the three roles were valid and complementary". If delegates want to add "most states thought they should be equally important", there is no problem about that for me but we get into dangerous ground if we move away from the text we agreed and I do appeal to you and to my colleagues to realize the importance of not doing so, and so my suggestion is that we make (ii) conform to this and this last sentence also.

LE PRESIDENT: Voilà une proposition qui rejoint en fait la proposition du Canada. Mais tout cela doit être vu d'une manière globale.

Atif Y, BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I

think the comments made by Canada should be taken into consideration. I think it is quite correct with respect to the Arab text that I have in front of me and which is translated from the English in paragraph 9. There is some confusion with respect to paragraph 9, particularly the end of paragraph 9 and perhaps we could say in the last two lines of paragraph 9, "The roles are valid, complementary and equally important", and we could just stop there and delete the rest of paragraph 9 because this, I think, is covered in paragraph 11, so that the final clause could be deleted because it does to a certain

extent contradict or conflict with what is in paragraph 11. So we could say, "equally important" and then delete from the comma to the end of the paragraph. I hope that is clear.

Sture THBOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee) : As I said in my introduction, the existence of a consensus resolution at the end of this text makes it both easy and difficult at the same time to reflect the debate as it actually took place in this Commission and the views that were expressed and the fact that at the end of that day and after a long night with you and your friends, Mr Chairman, we adopted a resolution which to some extent covers the contradictory views put forward. Therefore you will find on this point and on some others a language which is not directly corresponding to the actual text in the Resolution. I think we have to accept this as a fact, that we had a debate which later on turned into a Resolution which was accepted by everyone. It will not be possible in all circumstances to have these texts exactly corresponding to each other.

Secondly, this particular paragraph was lightly touched by the Drafting Group and we wanted to reflect the opinions put forward by a large number of delegations that these three roles had an equal importance and that their application deserved high priority in the overall work. This is not covered in paragraph 11. Paragraph 9 and paragraph 11 are complementary. This has been the method of work in the Drafting Committee and this is the way which was used to reflect and to balance the Report in this Commission.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que vous êtes convaincus par les explications du Président du Comité de rédaction pour qu'on laisse le texte en l'état, étant donné les difficultés que cela pourrait représenter si l'on ouvrait de nouveau le débat?

Javier TANTALEAN ARBULU (Perú): Señor Presidente, en realidad creo que tiene la razón la delegación del Canadá respecto al párrafo 9. Las tres funciones eran válidas, complementarias e igualmente importantes. El problema viene con la frase "igualmente importantes", porque en el párrafo 11 se dice: "si bien los Estados Miembros tenían opiniones distintas acerca de la importancia relativa". Entonces estaría bien sustituir "igualmente importantes" en el párrafo 9 por la palabra "esenciales".

Me parece que sería coherente para guardar una coherencia entre los párrafos 9 y 11.

David McGAFFEY (United States of America) : First I think I might simply say that I agree with the representative of Peru and the representative of Canada, we cannot have two contradictory statements in two paragraphs so that I believe some change is necessary or equally important and essential, being the language of the FAO Report would be something that we can all agree upon since we have all endorsed the FAO Report. I would also like to say that while I do not consider it vital I think it would be useful, as the United Kingdom suggests, to conform to the language of the Report as much as possible with that of the resolution. So the formulation he suggested for

(ii) appears somewhat better, it is not a change in meaning, it just avoids confusion. Finally, if the representative of Saudi Arabia has problems with that last clause and which is a difference, I do not find that essential but I would be willing to support Saudi Arabia as well.

LE PRESIDENT: Les Etats-Unis sont bien membres du Comité de rédaction?

David McGAFFEY (United States of America) : It was on the Drafting Committee and, as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee said, this paragraph was touched on lightly.

David COUTTS (Australia): We are on the Drafting Committee too and I merely intervene to try to be helpful. We can of course accept the paragraph as it is, but the words that are giving difficulty "equally important", and this is an area where there was a lot of discussion in SJS and later in your Group, I think the way we got out of it in the SJS was to use the term "intertwined" or "interlocked", and I would point out that in the previous sentence we say: "These roles were vital to the needs of Member Nations and essential to FAO's mandate". It seems to me that if we then said: "The three roles were valid, complementary, intertwined or interlocked" that would not give a logic problem with paragraph 11, which goes on to explain even so there were difficulties. That is how we got out of it in the SJS, used the term "intertwined" or "interlocked".

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Gracias, señor Presidente. Mi delegación no es miembro, miembro del Comité de Redacción. Nosotros preferiríamos la frase como está, compartiendo lo que anteriormente expresó la delegada de Argentina. Sin embargo, comprendemos que podría existir cierta diferencia entre el párrafo 11 y el párrafo 9. Por ello mi delegación quería retomar una propuesta que había hecho el delegado del Reino Unido en el sentido de reflejar lo que la gran mayoría de los delegados aquí dijimos de que las tres funciones eran igualmente importantes, planteando el último párrafo, introduciendo una frase que diga: "las tres funciones serán válidas y complementarias" y que la gran mayoría de los delegados plantearon que para ellos eran igualmente importantes las tres funciones. Habría que buscar una redacción sobre eso pero que quedase reflejada la posición de la gran mayoría de los delegados que intervinieron durante este punto.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de donner la parole à ceux qui l'ont demandée sur cette question, je voudrais préciser un point.

Je pense que le rapport que nous adoptons doit refléter les débats qui ont eu lieu au sein de la Commission. En ce qui concerne la résolution, nous avons dans toute la mesure du possible tenté d'arriver à des positions de consensus. Cela peut être un peu différent du rapport.

Mais ce qui compte, à mon avis, ce sont les décisions que nous avons insérées dans la résolution. Au niveau du rapport, toutes les propositions qui se sont

fait jour dans cette salle peuvent être reflétées, mais la résolution elle-même est le résultat d'un certain nombre de compromis qui ont abouti à ces conclusions. Il ne faut donc pas chercher absolument à retrouver les termes de la résolution dans le rapport; je ne pense pas que cela soit utile. Le rapport doit être le reflet des débats mais la résolution est le résultat d'un compromis.

En tout cas, c'est un appel que je lance à la Commission: le rapport doit refléter les débats qui se sont déroulés au sein de la Commission. C'est justement comme cela que l'on verra quelles concessions ont fait les uns et les autres pour arriver à cette résolution.

Ce qui sera mis en oeuvre, ce sont les recommandations de la résolution, mais vous ne devez pas chercher à retrouver à tout prix les mêmes termes dans le rapport. Je ne crois pas que, si on enlève les mots "et également importants" cela changera grand-chose à la phrase. Je pense, pour ma part, que l'on peut maintenir la phrase telle quelle en enlevant simplement les mots "et également importants". Voilà la proposition que je vous fais pour que nous puissions avancer. A moins que vous n'acceptiez la proposition faite par le délégué d'El Salvador pour essayer de différencier les deux aspects, car il y a un aspect sur lequel tout le monde est d'accord, c'est-à-dire "valables, complémentaires", et un aspect sur lequel la majorité est d'accord, c'est-à-dire "également importants".

Si vous voulez faire cette distinction, on peut toujours la faire. Mais je pense que, pour éviter de trop longues discussions, nous pourrions laisser la phrase en l'état.

Warreri MAJOR (Canada): Thank you Mr Chairman. Could you read the sentence as you propose it?

LE PRESIDENT: Je propose simplement que l'on biffe les mots "et également importants" et qu'on laisse les mots "valables, complémentaires et doivent inspirer de façon prioritaire l'ensemble des programmes et activités de la FAO".

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I can accept either of those proposals and the proposal of the Saudi Arabian delegate on this last sentence, but I do not think I have heard anyone speak against the suggestion I made for reformulating (ii) so I hope that would go into the revised paragraph as well. It is important because, as you said, the resolution is the foundation for action, but that also refers to the views of Member Nations and of the Conference, so we have to get those in harmony.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (Mexico): Gracias señor Presidente. Como miembro del Comité de Redacción, apoyo lo que dice nuestro Presidente. Este es un informe largo porque justamente a diferencia de la Resolución, en donde se logró articular un consenso total, el informe nos está reflejando ciertos matices que se produjeron en la discusión, y digo matices, señor, porque no quiero decir diferencias, porque este tema es muy sustantivo y debe reflejar

una armonización y, como decía nuestro Presidente del Comité de Redacción, este texto ha sido cuidadosamente manejado. No solamente hay articulación sino complementariedad en sus párrafos. En ocasiones llegamos a suspender un párrafo para regresar a él de manera que todo estuviera articulado y balanceado.

Por lo tanto, señor Presidente, yo le pediría que hiciera un llamamiento, que tratásemos de mantenerlo porque el término de igual importancia fue uno de los elementos que justamente se ha logrado evolucionar más allá de lo que lograran los Comités de Programas y de Finanzas en su labor conjunta y sería triste que no podamos solucionarlo.

Konan Daniel YIMAN (Côte d'Ivoire): Je dois avouer qu'en un premier temps, je n'éprouvais pas de difficulté à accepter les amendements proposés par les délégués du Canada et de la Grande-Bretagne. Je pense que l'on pourrait très bien les approuver. Mais il me semble que, dans un esprit de compromis, la proposition que vous venez de faire, Monsieur le Président, à savoir biffer purement et simplement les mots "et également importants" pourrait recueillir l'assentiment général.

En ce qui concerne le ii), comme l'a suggéré le délégué du Royaume-Uni, on pourrait effectivement reprendre le libellé de la résolution.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Si nous avons demandé à intervenir, c'est parce que nous avons fait un constat, à savoir que, la semaine dernière, après l'adoption de la résolution, on a entendu l'argument selon lequel la résolution recouvrant plusieurs aspects, on ne devrait pas mettre sous forme de résolution tel ou tel autre aspect, surtout lorsqu'on parlait de la résolution concernant le Programme de coopération technique.

Notre délégation ne souhaite pas que cet argument nous soit présenté chaque fois que nous avons des problèmes. Il faut reconnaître que, chronologiquement, les débats ont précédé la résolution. La résolution que nous avons entre les mains n'est pas un texte adopté à l'unanimité; ce texte a fait l'objet de plusieurs débats et il n'est le résultat que d'un consensus. C'est pour cela que, comme vous l'avez dit vous-même, Monsieur le Président, nous trouvons tout à fait normal qu'il y ait parfois des divergences entre les termes de la résolution et ceux du rapport.

Dans le cas qui nous concerne précisément, nous pensons que nous ne devons pas nous enfermer dans les termes de la résolution et que les sujets qui sont couverts par cette résolution dépassent ceux que nous avons adoptés au niveau de la Commission. Je citerai comme exemple le problème des femmes, qui fait l'objet, dans d'autres commissions, d'un projet de résolution.

Ce que nous voulons, c'est que le rapport soit le reflet de ce qui s'est dit ici. En ce qui nous concerne, pour en revenir au paragraphe 9, d'après ce que nous avons compris au cours des débats, on a effectivement parlé de l'importance égale des trois grands rôles de l'Organisation. Nous pensons donc que nous ne devrions pas allonger le débat et que le texte qui nous est proposé est correct. Nous aimerions que tout le monde fasse l'effort de s'en tenir à ce texte.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I have really no problem with the present text, but apparently some do. Your proposal, Mr Chairman, is also good but it would effectively eliminate the views that have been expressed by the majority regarding the equal importance of the roles. I believe the compromise which was proposed by El Salvador would be the ideal one. First, instead of saying "equally important" you would say "closely interlocked" and then at the end of the paragraph you would say "In the view of the great majority these roles were equally important." Then you would have no problem with reconciling the resolution; you would have the views of the majority; and then you would have also the view that they are all interconnected. I think that this is a very good compromise.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que nous pouvons retenir cette proposition qui émanait du délégué d'El Salvador, comme je l'ai dit tout à l'heure. C'est une solution de compromis qui reflète le débat. Nous pouvons donc reprendre cette formulation pour ce qui concerne la dernière partie du paragraphe. En ce qui concerne le ii), je ne pense pas qu'il y ait de difficultés à reprendre la formulation du projet de résolution, comme l'a souhaité le délégué de la Grande-Bretagne.

Si tout le monde est d'accord, nous allons donc retenir la phrase suivante: "ils sont valables, complémentaires et, de l'avis de la grande majorité, ils sont également importants ..."

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): I just want to know what we are going to adopt. Could you please repeat paragraph 9 with the amendment?

LE PRESIDENT: Le Secrétariat a pris note des amendements. Il pourra nous relire le paragraphe tel qu'amendé un petit peu plus tard, pour ne pas perdre de temps.

Je voudrais tout simplement signaler que le Royaume-Uni avait proposé qu'au lieu de dire "instance de formulation de politiques et de décision", on dise "servir de forum international et donner des avis sur les politiques". En gros, c'est cela.

Il y a ensuite la dernière phrase qui se lirait comme suit: "Ils sont valables, complémentaires et, de l'avis de la grande majorité des Etats Membres, également importants, et doivent inspirer de façon prioritaire l'ensemble des programmes et activités de la FAO."

Je crois qu'ainsi, tous les avis sont reflétés.

C. Srinivasa SASTKY (India): I am willing to go along with the compromise formula suggested by you, Mr Chairman. I have some problems with the formulation that what is contained in the Resolution under paragraph 42 must uniformly harmonize with what is contained in paragraphs 1 to 41. I agree with the point that you have made. The Resolution is preceded by an introduction which clearly says "Taking account, however, of consultations undertaken on the initiative of the Chairman of Commission II, the Conference

adopted the following Resolution" as a consensus compromise. To the extent that we concede that 42 really is a result of compromise effort, and to the extent that we recognize that paragraphs 1 to 41 reflect the actual tenor of the discussions in the Commission, I would submit that there is bound to be a difference between the terminology used in paragraphs 1 to 41 on the one hand and the Resolution in paragraph 42.

If you accept it as axiomatic that what is contained in the Resolution must appear in paragraph 9, I would submit if you are going to be consistent you should adopt it for all three and not only for item (ii).

LE PRESIDENT: J'ai dit ce que je pensais du rapport, c'est-à-dire en quelque sorte du compte rendu résumé des débats et de la résolution. J'estime que le texte de la résolution est le résultat d'un compromis; il ne reflète pas toujours ce qui s'est passé ici. Le rapport ne peut pas refléter la résolution, et vice versa. Il faut que nous nous en tenions à cela.

La résolution a déjà été adoptée. Adoptons maintenant notre rapport en tenant compte des débats qui ont eu lieu dans cette salle. Nous ne devons absolument pas aligner les deux textes. D'ailleurs, tous les points qui ont fait l'objet de discussions ne figurent pas dans la résolution, et c'est normal. Nous avons choisi un certain nombre de points jugés essentiels sur lesquels nous sommes arrivés à un compromis.

En ce qui concerne le rapport, c'est différent. Tous les points de vue doivent y être reflétés. C'est la procédure normale. Nous allons donc faire avancer les travaux en tenant compte de cela. Le paragraphe 9 est donc adopté tel qu'amendé. Paragraphe 10.

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Esto no es para reabrir el debate sobre la cuestión, sino para que los países de habla hispana no tengamos problemas con la formulación que aparece en la primera oración del párrafo 10. Hay una mala traducción del inglés, pues dice que "... la función de información era de primer orden para la FAO". En inglés se dice unique, was unique to FAO. Yo propongo que la versión española diga: "... que la función de información era privativa de la FAO", para reflejar el texto del inglés. No vayamos a tener problemas luego con que si una es más importante que la otra.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vois, en effet, qu'en anglais c'est le terme "unique" qui est utilisé alors qu'en français, on a le mot "irremplaçable".

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Entonces en español podríamos decir "privativa".

Sidasty AIDARA (Sénégal): Je crois qu'au-delà de ces problèmes de traduction, il y a également un petit problème de fond. En effet, si l'on regarde la première phrase de la version anglaise du paragraphe 10, elle signifie que ce rôle d'information est unique à la FAD, c'est-à-dire qu'il n'y a que la FAO

qui possède ce rôle d'information. Mais si l'on se reporte à la traduction française de ce texte anglais, on voit qu'il est dit "La Conférence a reconnu que, dans son rôle d'information, la FAO est irremplaçable", ce qui donne une autre notion différente de celle donnée par la délégation espagnole. Il ne s'agit pas seulement d'un problème de traduction et d'harmonisation des textes mais également d'un problème de fond qu'il faut régler.

LE PRESIDENT: Il y a d'abord un problème de traduction qui entraîne un problème de fond; la traduction en français n'est pas tout à fait identique à la traduction anglaise; le français a été mal traduit et il faudrait l'adapter au texte anglais.

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España): Nosotros quisiéramos también que se quedara reflejado en el sentido de la traducción del inglés unique, porque "privativa" realmente nos suena un poco extraño. Nosotros propondríamos "exclusiva" en español. Es decir, "... que la función de información era exclusiva para la FAO".

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous propose de laisser le tout au Secrétariat pour que les traductions des différentes langues correspondent exactement à ce qui est dit en anglais, ou en tout cas que le sens de la phrase ne soit pas changé. Effectivement le sens, tel qu'il est dans la phrase française, est différent de celui de la phrase anglaise; laissons au Secrétariat le soin de trouver les mots reflétant exactement ce qui a été dit dans cette salle.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I do not know whether the "role of information" of FAO is really unique, but I think that the French translation is better than the English version because when you say "irreplaceable" something very concrete is conveyed. When you say "unique", there are many sources of information and certainly the information provided by FAO is replaceable. I believe that the French word should be the one translated into the other languages, and you will probably then avoid these difficulties.

LE PRESIDENT: La FAO est irremplaçable dans son rôle d'information? C'est bien cela? Mais, dans ses autres rôles elle est remplaçable?

En fait je souhaite qu'il y ait une certaine harmonisation du texte parce qu'il est déclaré que les trois rôles sont également importants et ensuite on parle d'un rôle irremplaçable ... Il faudra trouver le moyen d'harmoniser le tout.

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España): Perdona señor Presidente por tarar otra vez la palabra. Es que realmente hemos oído la palabra justa con la que nosotros traduciríamos esto en español. Esta palabra es "irreemplazable". Por consiguiente, cambiamos nuestra propuesta por la palabra "irreemplazable".

LE PRESIDENT: Donc c'est: "Dans son rôle d'information, la FAO est irremplaçable". C'est bien cela? Le Secrétariat trouvera la formulation nécessaire pour refléter ce débat.

Le paragraphe 10 serait adopté notamment avec les amendements anglais et espagnols et en vue de l'adapter au texte français.

Paragraphe 11.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom) : I have a small but important point which relates ' to the last sentence which speaks at present of the "requirements of different regions and categories of countries". It has been the case all along that we have seen great differences amongst the different members of individual categories - for instance the island least-developed, the landlocked, and so forth. I think we really ought to take out those two words so that it is "different regions and countries".

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez des problèmes sur ce léger amendement? Adopté. Paragraphe 12 adopté; paragraphe 13 adopté; paragraphe 14.

Roger PASQUIER (Suisse) : Je voudrais proposer un changement qui aurait l'avantage de simplifier et de rendre plus clair ce paragraphe; cela consisterait à affirmer à la première phrase "La Conférence a également exprimé son accord avec les recommandations ... ". La dernière phrase du paragraphe deviendrait inutile et pourrait être supprimée.

Le sens serait le même, mais ce serait de manière directe de la part de la Conférence. Au lieu de dire d'abord que le Directeur général recommande et que la Conférence fait siennes les recommandations, on dirait directement "La Conférence a également exprimé son accord avec les recommandations ..." et le reste sans changement.

LE PRESIDENT: Tout le monde a bien noté?

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Je ne voudrais pas compliquer les choses mais, en fait, il me semble que le but de l'amendement est de voir disparaître le Directeur général. Je ne vois pas très bien l'intérêt de cet amendement; on pourrait dire que la Conférence tout comme le Directeur général ont exprimé leur accord. En effet, il y a eu symbiose entre les points de vues du Directeur général et de la Conférence. Je ne vois pas l'utilité de faire disparaître le Directeur général.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo) : Notre position est très proche de celle de la Belgique; en réalité les choses se sont passées telles qu'elles ressortant du paragraphe 14 et nous ne voyons pas l'intérêt de supprimer une étape parce qu'en fait la démarche était celle qui figure bien dans ce paragraphe 14. Nous serions pour que le texte reste en l'état.

Carlos DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica) : Este párrafo refleja una situación existente que se tiene ahora que modificar completamente. Los fondos de los cuales se habla en este caso son los fondos fiduciarios de la FAO, de los que es responsable el Director General. Por tanto, es importante reseñar que el Director General estuvo de acuerdo. Yo no creo que se hable de desacuerdo en el Comité de Redacción. Por consiguiente, ¿por qué se tiene que suprimir el Director General aquí? En ese caso, se cambiaría completamente el sentido de este párrafo.

Sidasty AIDARA (Sénegal): Les délégations qui m'ont précédé m'ont, comme on dit, "marché sur la langue"; je partage l'avis de la Belgique; il est en effet important que la Conférence sache que le Directeur général a exprimé son accord sur les recommandations; c'est, me semble-t-il, un point important. Un travail a été fait par le groupe d'experts, des recommandations ont été effectuées par le Comité conjoint et le Directeur général a donné son avis.

Cet avis est important, et il est important que la Conférence sache que le Directeur général a exprimé son accord à ce sujet.

Peut-être pourrait-on prendre une formulation qui dirait: la Conférence, comme le Directeur général, a exprimé son accord ...

Roger PASQUIER (Suisse): Ce qui vient d'être proposé me convient, mais je voudrais maintenir un mot que j'ai introduit, le mot "également" et ceci pour une question de cohérence de l'ensemble de notre rapport. Le Directeur général, de même que la Conférence, ont également approuvé d'autres points qui figurent dans le rapport; par conséquent pour qu'il y ait unité il faudrait mettre "La Conférence, tout comme le Directeur général, a également exprimé son accord ..."

LE PRESIDENT: De cette manière la dernière phrase tombe. C'est bien cela?

David McGAFFEY (United States of America) : I am sure this will not cause any problem, but I would draw attention to the words Codex Alimentarius, as printed in the paragraph. I believe that in ordinary usage those words would appear as "Codex Alimentarius": that is to say, both words are capitalized. I would appreciate it being duly noted by the Secretariat.

LE PRESIDENT: Là aussi le texte anglais devrait s'aligner sur le texte français. En tout cas c'est en majuscule dans le texte français. Donc le paragraphe 14 est adopté tel qu'amendé.

Paragraphe 15 adopté; paragraphe 16 adopté; paragraphe 17.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Si vous en étiez d'accord, j'aurais ajouté une phrase in fine du paragraphe 17; et je proposerais deux formules, une plus dure, l'autre plus souple et diplomatique.

La dernière phrase serait libellée comme suit: "Le souhait a été émis que ces Etats ou ces membres aient le courage de faire connaître leur position au sujet de cette hiérarchisation". La formule plus souple serait la suivante: "Le souhait a été émis que ces Etats fassent connaître leur position sur cette hiérarchisation".

En effet, dans le libellé actuel, on renverse la charge de la preuve; les Etats n'ont plus à exprimer quelles sont leurs priorités, leurs moindres priorités ou leurs non-priorités; on demande maintenant au Secrétariat d'accomplir cette tâche qui a été réclamée à plusieurs reprises.

Il faudrait quand même noter - et cela a été dit à d'innombrables reprises -que le souhait a été émis que ces Etats fassent connaître leur position au sujet de cette hiérarchisation. Cela peut être une autre phrase de ce genre; je suis très ouvert.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est une situation que nous avons connue quand nous avons adopté le rapport sur le point 13.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Yes, in fact in this case, as in many other similar cases, the Drafting Group has not retained an argument that was put by one group only and which was not supported by others.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez écouté l'opinion du Président du Comité de rédaction. Que pensez-vous de cet amendement proposé par la Belgique?

David McGAFFEY (United States of America) : I would rather go with the original wording of the paragraph which expresses the majority view and the minority view. A report cannot reflect every word that is spoken in Conference; otherwise it would be verbatim. Therefore I think that we should go with the existing language.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous souhaitez qu'on conserve le texte en l'état?

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Dans un esprit de conciliation je marque mon accord pour que le texte soit conservé tel qu'il est; mais je voudrais quand même faire remarquer que je ne suis pas le seul à avoir défendu ce point de vue; on a parlé des priorités à d'innombrables reprises, je ne suis pas seul à avoir demandé à plusieurs reprises que l'on fasse connaître quelles activités il y aurait lieu de supprimer; d'autres pays que le mien ont pris une position analogue; dans un esprit de conciliation j'accepte que le texte reste tel qu'il est, mais le problème reste posé.

Sidasty AIDARA (Sénégal): Je voudrais simplement soulever un problème de formalisation. Il faudrait que le Secrétariat revoie la version française qui n'est pas correcte grammaticalement.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Secrétariat pourra revoir la formulation et nous adopterions le texte en l'état. Paragraphe 17 adopté; paragraphe 18 adopté; paragraphe 19.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland) : I certainly support the major thrust in this paragraph. It concerns the Special Action Programmes as such but my delegation has difficulty with the last sentence as it now stands. I think we should be consistent with the discussion in Commission I, where a resolution was adopted on this question of sustainable development. In that connection there was no discussion on having a Special Action Programme. I think that if we want to have this reference in the text we should qualify that since there are differing opinions on the concepts of environmental concerns. I should like to refer to the first paragraph of the Resolution adopted. It refers to ensuring environmental conservation in all FAO's activities. Now we are talking here about this Special Action Programme. I think the easiest way would be to delete the entire last sentence of this paragraph, since it is only an example as mentioned. If we want to retain it, I have a qualifying text which I would add to it. However, my submission is that we should delete it in this connection.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I was afraid the delegate was going to do that. This sentence was discussed, and the delegation of Sweden brought up this particular point. We ended by keeping the sentence, noting that it states "a possible new Special Action Programme" - making it more uncertain in what form and at what time this could take place.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Président du Comité de rédaction voudrait ajouter quelque chose à ce qu'il vient de dire.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Only that we will also have a problem in other translations because in French the word "possible" does not appear. Perhaps we would like to take up the proposition to delete this but it is entirely up to you, Sir.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que l'on pourrait dire "...d'envisager un éventuel nouveau programme d'action spécial", si on traduit de l'anglais. Le mot "éventuel" ne figure pas dans le texte français.

Il y a une proposition qui a été faite par la délégation de la Finlande qui propose de supprimer la dernière phrase, sinon cette délégation serait dans l'obligation de proposer un amendement.

Est-ce que vous êtes d'accord pour qu'on supprime cette dernière phrase?

Sidasty AIDARA (Sénégal): J'avoue très franchement que je ne vois pas pourquoi on devrait supprimer cette dernière phrase. Je crois que la formulation de la phrase n'autorise pas de crainte: "La Conférence s'est félicitée de la proposition du Directeur général...". Cette proposition du Directeur général envisage tout simplement un nouveau programme d'action. Cette proposition ne vise pas à créer tout de suite un nouveau programme. La proposition du Directeur général est de voir dans quelle mesure on peut créer un nouveau programme d'action spécial. Le Directeur général n'est pas obligé à mettre tout de suite en oeuvre un programme d'action spécial. La question qui a été soulevée tout à l'heure par le délégué de la Finlande insiste beaucoup plus sur la Conférence de 1992 sur l'environnement. Il me semble qu'il s'agit ici de deux aspects différents. Il n'est pas dit ici que le Directeur général doit tout de suite créer ce programme d'action. On se félicite qu'il l'ait envisagé. Il n'y a pas de crainte à ce niveau-là. On peut bien garder la phrase telle qu'elle est.

Omer ZEYTINOGLU (Turquie): Ma délégation est d'accord pour conserver cette dernière phrase avec l'ajout proposé par le Président: un "éventuel" nouveau programme.

Nous avons beaucoup discuté la question au Comité de rédaction et si on étudie mieux le texte du paragraphe, on voit que cette dernière phrase se relie à la première dans le contexte de la mobilisation des montants des ressources extrabudgétaires pour les programmes d'action spéciaux. Il faudrait donc considérer cette dernière phrase dans la relation qui existe entre la mobilisation des montants pour les ressources extrabudgétaires.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): The English text already has the word "possible" in the last line. If I have followed the discussions so far correctly, Mr Chairman, the proposition before us is that we should drop the last sentence in paragraph 19 lest the distinguished delegate from Finland moves an amendment. Before deciding on a trade off may we know what the amendment is?

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): As I was saying, if we keep the sentence as it stands it would draw the attention of the concept of sustainability a little bit in the wrong direction and we, therefore, are not welcoming the new Special Action Programme as such should be created on that particular subject. If the sentence should remain I think we might qualify, as we have done consistently in this body before, and as I was referring to the Resolution adopted in Commission I it would be consistent with that one too. We would take the wording in paragraph 1 in that Resolution saying, if you like, "Some members reiterated, however, the need to integrate environmental considerations in all FAO activities". We should add this sentence to the end of this paragraph.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez tous pris note de l'amendement proposé par la Finlande, qu'en pensez-vous?...

Je vais donner tout de suite la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee) : If this proposed amendment had been advanced in the Drafting Committee my guess is that it would have been accepted by the Drafting Committee. This is my personal evaluation of the sentiments of the Drafting Committee.

Antonio Rodrigues PERES (Cap-Vert): Je veux appuyer la déclaration du délégué du Sénégal.

LE PRESIDENT: Donc vous pensez qu'il n'y a pas besoin d'amendement.

Y.K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): Listening to the amendment from the delegation of Finland one gains the immediate impression that the text, as it is contained in paragraph 19 is narrow in scope. It is, in fact, going to limit the environmental activities of FAO only as to the Special Action Programme. It seems to me the amendment coming from the delegation of Finland is all-embracing and I would like to support it.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I think the problem is just one of English, honestly. The sentence as drafted talks as if this is the only way the Director-General is going to proceed with sustainable development but what it means, I think, is (I see Mr Shah nodding) that there may be a possible new Special Action Programme which is concerned with sustainable development. I believe the problem might be solved simply by changing the order, to proceed with a possible new Special Action Programme for sustainable development and then there is no contradiction with the rest of the conclusions in the other Commission although as yet I have not seen them. I wonder if that meets everybody's needs?

LE PRESIDENT: En fait, ce que vient de dire M. Buist, nous l'avons déjà dans le texte français. Si c'est un problème de traduction, on peut adapter le texte anglais sur le texte français et le Secrétariat fera cela très fidèlement.

Mrs Astrid BERGQUIS (Sweden): Yes, we were in the Drafting Committee and I am sorry we did not at that stage propose the amendment proposed by Finland. I certainly know that if it had been proposed, and I share the sentiments of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, to my recollection of the debate it would have been accepted. As for my delegation I think that I could support the amendment by Finland. It might be the wording needs some refinement but as to the contents, yes, I support it.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes, je pense, d'accord. Le Secrétariat fera son possible pour que le texte anglais puisse refléter ce qui est dit dans le texte français.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland): On paragraph 19, I was just wondering what was the solution. You were referring to the French text, but what about the amendment by Finland which was supported by others here? What was the ruling on that one?

LE PRESIDENT: L'amendement a été appuyé, mais il y a une proposition du Royaume-Uni et en l'examinant nous sommes arrivés à la conclusion qu'il fallait tout simplement laisser le texte tel qu'il est en s'appuyant sur le texte français.

Je vois que la France n'est pas d'accord sur ce point.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je pense qu'effectivement on peut s'aligner sur le texte français. Mais cela ne résout pas le problème de la délégation de la Finlande, car la notion qu'elle souhaite introduire est une notion différente, c'est celle de l'intégration des considérations d'environnement dans l'ensemble des activités de l'Organisation. Cette notion n'est pas comprise dans le texte français tel qu'il est actuellement.

J'ajoute d'ailleurs que l'idée présentée par la Finlande rejoint les idées de mon pays sur la question, donc je m'associe à ceux qui souhaitent que l'on ajoute cet amendement.

LE PRESIDENT: Le problème n'est pas réglé et nous sommes toujours sur le paragraphe 19.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Pensé que habíamos resuelto ya este problema. Mi delegación sí tendrá dificultad en aceptar la propuesta adicional de la distinguida delegación de Finlandia porque este asunto ha sido debatido en otra sección. En este caso nosotros no le dimos esta aceptación y esta condicionalidad porque es una condicionalidad, la sentirlos así, y por lo tanto no forma parte del paquete de este informe, por lo menos en esta forma, y crearos que ya la Resolución tiene un elemento de compromiso ahí interno pero dentro de unos límites establecidos.

En conclusión, señor Presidente, lo lamento pero yo no me podría asociar a esta corrección.

LE PRESIDENT: Si tout le monde a pris note de l'amendement proposé par la Finlande, je vous demande de vous prononcer sur cet amendement.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Quand j'ai levé ma pancarte pour la première fois, c'était pour vous demander d'autoriser la délégation de la Finlande à faire sa proposition.

Maintenant, nous disposons de cet amendement. On nous a annoncé qu'il remplacerait le texte de la dernière phrase du paragraphe 19. Je constate, à la lecture de l'amendement et à celle de cette phrase, qu'il s'agit effectivement de deux idées différentes. La délégation finlandaise vise à une certaine dispersion de l'élément "développement" dans les activités de l'Organisation, alors que le texte qui nous est soumis envisage l'institution d'un éventuel programme d'action spécial.

Je comprends que ceux dont les déclarations sont proches de celles de la Finlande exigent que leur texte figure dans le rapport. Mais si cette proposition de la Finlande est retenue, il va falloir malheureusement allonger le paragraphe 19 en y reflétant la position des autres délégations. A moins que l'on accepte la dernière phrase du paragraphe 19 en disant que la Conférence a tenu compte des différents avis?

Il serait bon de demander à la délégation de la Finlande si elle insiste pour le maintien de sa proposition ce qui, par ricochet, nécessitera un amendement reflétant la position des autres délégations, c'est-à-dire que le paragraphe se terminerait par une phrase donnant les deux positions.

Voilà crament nous pensons régler la question.

Hartmut STALB (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): We

believe that this question of development is probably in quite the wrong place here and therefore we should come back to the first Finnish proposal and delete this proposal.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois qu'il y a deux aspects: celui d'un éventuel nouveau programme d'action spécial, idée que l'on attribue à la Conférence, et celui d'intégrer des considérations d'environnement dans toutes les activités de la FAO, idée attribuée à quelques pays. Peut-être n'est-ce pas dans ce paragraphe qu'il faut le mentionner. C'est à la Commission d'en décider.

Si vous voulez, nous pouvons amender cette phrase proposée par le délégué de la Finlande en disant "quelques membres" ou "certaines membres". Néanmoins, on réitérerait la nécessité d'intégrer chaque fois que possible les conditions d'environnement dans les activités de la FAO. Mais je ne sais pas s'il serait possible de le faire dans toutes les activités de la FAO. Il faut que nous soyons réalistes. Il faut dire, à mon avis, ce qui suit: "il faut que, chaque fois que c'est possible, les conditions d'environnement soient prises en compte". Cela peut-il rallier la majorité?

Hannu HALINEN (Finland) : Perhaps we are creating an unnecessary problem for us here in this Commission because this is a matter of sustainable development which was substantially discussed in Commission I. However, this over-lapping here has been taken up in this Report. My first proposal was to delete the last sentence and then we would avoid all the discussions, and of course, the amendment is not to amend the last sentence as it is but to add another one. So I have never proposed to replace the last sentence with another one but to add to it a minority view, since I see that this already reflects the majority view, but the easiest one would be to delete it and if that is not possible I think we could come back to it in the Plenary, when

the Plenary is discussing both Commission I and Commission II issues, if this is felt to be important to have it reflected in this Report. My preference would be to delete it here. It is not adding to the discussion, what we are doing here, we are discussing special programmes as such and this is only an example mentioned here. Since it creates some problems in the formulations I strongly urge that we delete it.

LE PRESIDENT: Je ne sais pas si je me suis fait comprendre. Je n'ai pas dit qu'il fallait supprimer la dernière phrase pour la remplacer par la proposition finlandaise. J'ai dit que l'on maintenait la dernière phrase mais que l'on amendait quelque peu la proposition finlandaise. Voilà ce que j'ai proposé.

Il faut ajouter que le problème du développement durable a également été traité ici; on ne peut pas le nier. Certains délégués en ont parlé dans cette salle lorsque l'on a abordé cette question. Le problème est de refléter justement ce qui s'est dit ici. C'est pour cela que je pense que la dernière phrase et l'amendement proposé par le délégué de la Finlande peuvent figurer dans ce paragraphe. Mais, comme de nombreux délégués ont de la peine à accepter cet amendement, j'ai pensé qu'il fallait l'atténuer quelque peu et que cela n'enlèverait rien à sa teneur.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): First of all, I think it is an absolute custom that the views of some member countries where they are different from others, should be stated in the Report and so very clearly, if our Finnish colleague would like a statement of this kind put in, it could be put in and no doubt it would be balanced by an extended comment about others who did not agree with it. I really wonder whether this is helpful because I am a little afraid we might find ourselves with different paragraphs of the Report, which is the Report of a single Conference, and the views differing slightly in each place. So I would like to take up the last suggestion which Finland made, which was that we should have the text with the amended last sentence, if it is not acceptable to delete that last sentence. Of course, when you said that the English text should conform to the French text, you had already agreed, I think, the French text must have in the notion of "éventuelle" or "possible", which it does not have now.

Then I think we might recognize that there might be delegations that would like to come back to this particular point when the Report is taken to Plenary so as to ensure that there is not any difference of view. If they then wish to bring forward a proposal at that stage or two proposals, with different views, then we should take it up there. That would enable us to deal with paragraph 19 new, of course, fully understanding that there might be further discussion in Plenary.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Secrétariat souhaite proposer un libellé qui pourrait rencontrer l'agrément de tous.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): In order to help you, and I hope also if possible to save the time of Plenary: would you consider that the third sentence of this paragraph could begin, "The Conference welcomed the proposal of the Director-General to proceed with a possible new special action programme on sustainable development. In this connection a few members recalled the importance they attached to the integration of environmental considerations in FAO activities to the maximum extent possible, " If you wish I can repeat it but essentially the sentence relating to the special action programme is put in terms of a possible new special action programme and the final sentence recalls something which was said, not in this Commission, but which was said in another Commission on a related subject.

LE PRESIDENT: Tout le monde a-t-il pris note de cette proposition?

Sra. Mónica DERBSIBUS (Argentina): Nosotros creemos que una frase como la leída recientemente por el señor Shah - inclusive una frase como la propuesta por la delegación de Finlandia - no refleja las conclusiones de esta Conferencia. La Comisión I de la Conferencia adoptó una resolución cuyo párrafo 1 dice - y leo textualmente -: "Decide que la Organización intensifique su labor interdisciplinaria para asegurar la integración de las consideraciones sobre el medio ambiente en todas las actividades pertinentes de la FAO y lograr que en los programas técnicos y económicos se atribuya mayor prioridad a las actividades relacionadas con el desarrollo sostenible". Este párrafo de esta resolución fue aprobado por la Comisión I sin votación, señor Presidente. Es una decisión de la Conferencia. Si nosotros, en el párrafo 19 de nuestro Informe, ponemos una posición minoritaria - some members -, estamos reflejando una posición que es contradictoria con esto. Nosotros creemos que tenemos que poner aquí que "... la Conferencia acogió conplacida la propuesta del Director General de continuar con el desarrollo sostenible como un posible nuevo programa especial de acción", "en línea o de conformidad con lo ya dicho en el tema tal". Y así terminamos con el problema.

LE PRESIDENT: La liste des orateurs inscrits est importante. Je voudrais qu'ils se prononcent sur la proposition faite par la déléguée de l'Argentine.

João Batista MAWETE (Angola): Ma délégation prend la parole non pas dans le souci de prolonger le débat sur le problème qui nous occupe mais pour faciliter le travail de la Commission.

Notre délégation ne voit pas d'inconvénient à ce que le nom du Directeur général figure dans les textes qui nous sont proposés étant donné son rôle et son importance dans nos activités au sein de l'Organisation.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 19, ma délégation soutient ce que la délégation de l'Argentine vient de proposer.

Ian BDIST (United Kingdom) : I simply want to support the proposal of Argentina too,

Marcelo L.A.S. VASCONCELOS (Brazil): I believe that the main issue in this paragraph is the issue of establishing a small number of special action programmes. I think this idea of sustainable development, which is very important, was dealt with in a different Commission and here it was not necessary, I believe, to add the last sentence. So I would like to support the original proposal of the Finnish delegation, which was also supported by the Federal Republic of Germany, just to delete the last sentence of the original paragraph.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I want to support what has just been said by Mr Shah, because I think it is a very sound proposal. What has just been said by the United Kingdom I think should be applied to the Report. I do not believe that our Commission's report should have a different form from that of Commission I, particularly if we are dealing with the same question. Therefore I think we should try to bring the texts in line and bring our text in line with the Resolution which has been approved. That Resolution welcomes the Director-General's proposal, as I understand it. If the Resolution does not state that, then we would have to find a wording which adopts what has just been approved by Commission I, as I see it, and you, as Chairman, I think must try to find the best way of presenting our recommendations, otherwise the recommendations will be different and the Secretariat will not know which to choose.

Konan Daniel YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire): Monsieur le Président, je voulais vous demander de permettre à la Commission de continuer à travailler sur les autres paragraphes, quitte à mettre ce paragraphe en attente et à y revenir par la suite. Mais tout dépend de vous.

En ce qui concerne ce qui nous divise actuellement, j'ai sous les yeux le paragraphe 13 de la Commission I, puisque cette Commission s'est également occupée de ce problème. Il s'agit de la page 6 du document C 89/1/REP/2.

Je voulais simplement dire que la proposition qui a été faite par le Secrétariat pourrait recueillir notre assentiment, mais il y a un membre de phrase que, selon moi, il faudrait remettre dans la phrase proposée par Monsieur Shah. On dit bien que les questions d'environnement doivent être prises en compte dans les programmes et activités de terrain. Je crois que ce membre de phrase devrait être inséré dans celle proposée par Monsieur Shah parce que, comme vous l'avez dit vous-même, Monsieur le Président, on ne peut pas mettre l'environnement partout. Il faudrait peut-être limiter un peu cela et écrire "dans les programmes et activités de terrain".

Cela étant dit, s'il y a des difficultés, il faudrait peut-être mettre de côté le paragraphe 19 et poursuivre l'adoption du rapport.

Ivone DIAS DA GRACA (Gabon) : Je fais mienne la proposition du Brésil pour les raisons qu'il a énoncées, c'est-à-dire retenir la première proposition de la Finlande.

Y.K. ATTA-KONADO (Ghana): It looks as if this sentence is giving us a hell of a problem, but the solution has already been provided by the United Kingdom delegation. The point is that the second part of Mr Shah's amendment reflects what took place in Commission I irrespective of what is happening here. We are concerned with what we discuss in Commission II, and in the final analysis the Report of Commission I will be read together with this Report. So I do not see why we should repeat it here. If we want to encourage FAO to be effective, we should be cost-conscious and we are not going to do this by creating more redundancy with increased cost to the Organization. So I support the United Kingdom delegation to enable us to finish this business and go ahead with the rest.

Sidasty AIDARA (Sénégal): Il me semble qu'il y a deux choses, et vous avez eu raison tout à l'heure de les rappeler: la résolution et le rapport.

La résolution contenue dans le document C 89/LIM/27 a été adoptée en Commission I sans vote; par conséquent elle a certainement fait l'objet d'un consensus ou d'un compromis.

Nous parlons du rapport de la Commission II qui doit refléter ce qui s'est passé en Commission II; des avis sont partagés sur une opinion qui est différente d'une proposition du Directeur général de la FAO. Il y a une proposition faite par le Directeur général et la Conférence la salue. Ceci est différent d'une opinion émise ici au cours des débats.

Il convient de distinguer les deux choses et c'est la raison pour laquelle je pense que pour sortir de l'impasse il serait bon d'envisager de faire examiner la proposition par le Secrétariat. Si la Finlande n'est pas opposée à l'amendement proposé par le Secrétariat, à ce moment-là nous pouvons avancer. Il est important de savoir si la Finlande a des problèmes avec l'amendement proposé par le Secrétariat.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Nous ne sommes pas convaincus de la nécessité de supprimer cette dernière phrase; en effet, comme l'a exprimé le délégué du Sénégal, cette phrase exprime ce qui s'est passé au cours des débats de la Commission II.

la Finlande propose une autre idée qui, selon nous, est très bien exprimée dans la proposition du Secrétariat que nous soutenons.

Comme le souligne le délégué du Sénégal, la question est de savoir si le délégué de la Finlande a des difficultés pour accepter la proposition du Secrétariat; cette proposition est un compromis que nous acceptons; elle est en rapport avec les décisions de la Commission I.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): En vista de todo este largo debate, yo muy atenta pero firmemente recuerdo que estamos aquí en dos escenarios. Aquí estamos hablando de lo que se trató sobre este tema, que ya es un tema bastante delicado, para traer combinaciones con lo que se ha tratado en otro tema, y en cuanto a resoluciones sobre las cuales hay todavía una revisión, etc.

Sobre este punto señor Presidente, aquí tuvimos un debate y en este informe estamos tratando que se refleje lo dicho en ese debate, que va a llevar a nuestra propia resolución, y no a otras. Cuando esté completo el Informe de la Conferencia, habrá resoluciones que resuelvan los temas según se hayan tratado en los diferentes aspectos. Yo rogaría que nos limitáramos a lo que sucedió aquí en esta Comisión, cómo se tuvo el debate de este tema, porque me parece que sobre este tema no fue tan profunda la discusión, ni mucho menos sobre estos aspectos que ya se resuelven en otro.

A mí me parece que había sido propuesta -como lo dijo el distinguido delegado que me antecedió- una fórmula de compromiso por parte del señor Shah bastante in extenso.

Tal vez si preguntásemos al distinguido colega de Finlandia, a lo mejor lo resolvemos en cuanto a este tema, puesto que ya en otro aspecto se ha definido.

LE PRESIDENT: Je souhaite d'abord que M. Shah relise sa proposition, ensuite je poserai la question au représentant de la Finlande afin qu'il nous dise ce qu'il pense; après quoi nous verrons ce qu'il faut faire.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): The third sentence would begin: "The Conference welcomed the proposal of the Director-General to proceed with a possible new Special Action Programme on sustainable development. In this connection, a few Member Nations recalled the importance they attached to the integration of environmental considerations in FAO activities to the maximum extent possible".

Hannu HALINEN (Finland) : I apologize for prolonging this discussion on this paragraph. One very important question came up in the Argentine intervention which is clearly the fact that the text as it stands in the last sentence is irreconcilable with the text of the Resolution adopted by consensus in Commission I. That means that we cannot say that what we say here is in conformity with the Resolution of Commission I.

Of course, I would not insist on continuing the discussion here, but I would like to point out that the text as read out by Mr Shah refers to "a few Member Nations recalled", something which the whole of Commission I has adopted by consensus. That is the difficulty here. If we go outside this room we shall face difficulties. Therefore, my preference would have been to delete this sentence. I am afraid that the text read out including the words "some members" does not solve this problem. We shall face problems when we go to the Plenary, I am afraid, if we leave that as it is.

My preference is to delete the last sentence, a view which is supported by many countries here. We would then avoid any difficulty.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais vous donner mon sentiment. Il me semble que nous devrions pouvoir accepter la proposition du Secrétariat; d'abord parce que je crois qu'une décision a été prise ou sera prise en ce qui concerne la résolution au niveau de la Commission I, En effet, s'il y a une résolution à ce niveau, c'est celle-là qui sera mise oeuvre. Ici, nous essayons tout simplement de refléter le débat qui a eu lieu en Commission.

Si une position est prise qui soit plus forte que celle que nous adoptons, c'est celle-là qui sera prise en considération par le Secrétariat. Il n'y a donc pas de problème en ce qui concerne la position défendue de la Finlande.

Je vous propose d'adopter le paragraphe 19 tel qu'amendé par le Secrétariat, puis nous continuerons. En effet, le débat sur la question a eu lieu en Commission I; des résolutions ont été prises sur le sujet; c'est cette résolution qui sera mise en oeuvre et personne ne se sentira lésé.

Je vous propose de considérer le paragraphe 20, tel qu'amendé par le Secrétariat, comme adopté.

Warren MAJOR (Canada): For the reasons explained by Gabon, France, Brazil, the Federal Republic, I would like to record that we also would prefer the deletion of this last sentence. We appreciate the efforts of the Secretariat to resolve this matter but their words are straying from the purpose of the paragraph. At this stage in our proceedings, we are reaffirming the value of the Special Action Programmes. We are not deciding which ones in future should be adopted.

LE PRESIDENT: Je n'ai pas envie de prolonger le débat sur cette question et je vais mettre la proposition faite par le Secrétariat aux voix. Il me semble que c'est la seule façon de nous en sortir, sinon nous allons continuer à répéter les mêmes choses pendant longtemps et c'est inutile.

Ceux qui sont pour s'exprimeront, ceux qui sont contre également, et la question sera tranchée. Cela me semble préférable plutôt que de discuter de quelque chose qui n'a pas l'importance que nous voulons lui donner ici.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I wish to raise a point of order. As a matter of principle it is wrong to vote on something if we can avoid doing so. We have several propositions: one is to delete the sentence; one is to leave it as it is; one is to take up the other amendment; and one is to add something else on to that. Would it really not be wiser to do as the delegate from Argentina suggested earlier, or somebody, and leave it aside for the moment? There might be some informal talks on the side about how to resolve this, especially when we come back - if we are going to break at all. Otherwise I am afraid that we might have the wrong spirit in this meeting. I should very much regret that. I would like you to reconsider your idea.

LE PRESIDENT: Je peux toujours revenir mais plus on discute de la question plus les positions s'éloignent et je crains que l'on ne perde trop de temps sur une phrase qui, comme je le répète, n'a peut-être pas l'importance que nous lui accordons ici.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): I think we are concerned here both with time and, may I say, spirit. In that regard I would also like to suggest that we perhaps avoid voting if possible because even voting is giving this matter a certain kind of importance which perhaps you do not want to give it. I think we should avoid voting. It may be possible at some informal dialogue - I will not say anything like a contact group or anything like that but some informal dialogue - to bring some light to the end of the tunnel. If we can, we ought perhaps to avoid the formality of the vote.

Sra. Mónica DERBGIBUS (Argentina) : Yo quisiera apoyar las propuestas que han sido formuladas para no decidir esta cuestión por voto, por dos razones: la primera es que no existe realmente una diferencia de opiniones sobre el fondo de la cuestión, es solamente sobre la manera de expresarla. Y la segunda es que en principio nos llama poderosamente la atención que a la presidencia le guste votar, tanto como le gusta aparentemente últimamente. Nosotros sugeriríamos que la delegación de Finlandia se reúna con las delegaciones que se opusieron a su enmienda, con las delegaciones que formularon otra propuesta y con la Secretaria en un aparte, y que cuando terminemos la aprobación de nuestro Informe nos den una formulación de compromiso.

David COUTTS (Australia): I certainly want to support the idea of not voting. Also, I would have some difficulty with choosing to vote on the Secretariat's proposal on this issue. If we have to vote, I would rather vote on whether we leave the paragraph as it is or not, quite frankly. I have not spoken up to new, but just to record my point of view I would much prefer to leave the paragraph exactly as it is which I think, personally, harmonizes in the best way with the Resolution that was passed in Commission I which fully documents the preferences and priorities that this Conference has given to sustainable development. I do have difficulty with the voting. I would prefer to leave the paragraph as it is. If we have to do something else, I think we should have some delay and discuss the matter perhaps with Finland.

Joao LUSEVIKUENO (Angola): Pour aider nos débats, je fais la proposition suivante: que la délégation de la Finlande, le Secrétariat et la délégation de l'Argentine se réunissent pour essayer de proposer un texte qui serait accepté par tout le monde; ou alors on adopte uniquement le texte tel que proposé par le Secrétariat.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pouvons effectivement arrêter la discussion pour l'instant et revenir sur ce point lorsque nous serons à la fin du rapport. J'espère que des négociations auront eu lieu entre-temps. Je souhaite qu'elles aient lieu pendant que nous discutons du reste du rapport, puis nous reviendrons sur le point.

Ian BUISt (United Kingdom): I see the difference of opinion which is expressed in this draft paragraph but it does not cover the position of those like France and some others - and I think I endorsed this - who believed that something should be done on a more modest scale. We were not against the training in principle. I would like you to add at the end, where this is now a full stop, these words: "... or considered that it should be pursued on a more modest scale."

LE PRESIDENT: Tout le monde a noté cet amendement à la fin du paragraphe 20? Y a-t-il des réactions?

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): Firstly, I do not know if I heard correctly but the sentence did not seem quite to run smoothly. Secondly, I was wondering why we needed to say that, since the first part of the paragraph reads quite generally. There is not much attention paid to the scale on which it is going to be done. Those are my immediate observations.

Ian BUISt (United Kingdom): I am glad to repeat something. The first sentence of course refers to the whole of the recommendation by the Director-General, which is picked up earlier - I think the reference is to page 18. Consequently it includes a resource element. The words we would like to add at the end, which represent the position of a few countries and not that of the majority, were as follows - following the words "resource constraints" there should be a comma, and then: "or considered that it should be pursued on a more modest scale. "

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que le délégué de Trinité-et-Tobago a pris note?

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): Firstly, perhaps we might get the United Kingdom to read the wording again. I may not have heard him properly but the words did not seem to fit quite smoothly. It is beginning to sound a little better.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pouvons considérer que ce paragraphe 20 est adopté tel qu'il a été amendé.

Paragraphs 8 to 20 not concluded

Les paragraphes 8 à 20 sont en suspens

Los párrafos 8 a 20 quedan pendientes

PARAGRAPHS 21 TO 34 INCLUDINS RESOLUTION
PARAGRAPHES 21 A 34 Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION
PARRAFOS 21 A 34 INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

Les paragraphes 21 et 22 sont adoptés.

Le représentant du Ghana demande la parole sur le paragraphe 23.

Y.K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I think the Drafting Committee has done a very good job but, reading the sentence, I have the feeling it is not quite complete and the word "problems" causes me difficulties. Ordinarily there is a problem when our concept of what the position is is different from our concept of what it ought to be. In talking about problems for FAO, it seems to me we are dealing with a whole host of problems. I think perhaps, without being redundant, we might add just one or two words to explain what the problems are. Until we hear from the Drafting Committee, we are not quite sure about the encroachment on FAO's activities and the problems that this involves for FAO.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): In the first place, in this paragraph we only take note that the Conference was informed that others had entered the traditional areas of assistance handled by FAO, which had created problems. We were fully satisfied to leave it at that and not to try to specify the problems.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que le représentant du Ghana insiste pour que l'on spécifie ces problèmes?

Y.K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana) : I am still not too happy, without specifying a few of them. Immediately my mind turns to a programme such as

under-representation of women in the field activities or matters referring to field staff. I would ask that we be more specific about one or two of the key problems. We should not leave it as it is. However, if there is consensus for it to go ahead, I am prepared to drop my objection to this sentence.

LE PRESIDENT: Il semble que tout le monde soit satisfait de ce libellé. Nous allons donc retenir ce paragraphe 23 tel qu'il est. Le paragraphe 23 est adopté en l'état. Les paragraphes 24 à 27 sont adoptés. Je donne la parole au représentant du Royaume-Uni sur le paragraphe 28.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): Since this expresses our views, I wish to alter the sentence which begins "Some Member Nations". It should read: "Some Member Nations endorsed the view of the independent experts that ..." etc.

Antoine SAINIRAIN (Belgique): A propos de cet amendement, il serait souhaitable d'indiquer à quel endroit du rapport se trouve cet avis des experts.

J'ai consulté les rapports sur le point du nombre de projets de terrain et les avis des experts indépendants sont beaucoup plus nuancés que ce que notre collègue vient de dire. Il faudrait donc pouvoir se référer au passage précis où les experts auraient exprimé leur regret d'avoir un nombre important de projets. Ce n'est pas le cas. Il y a différents endroits où l'on pourrait noter que l'opinion des experts est plus nuancée que ce que vient de citer Monsieur Buist.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA. SAUCEDO (México): Yo quisiera hacer un recordatorio. Como se puede ver en todo el tono del Informe, nosotros evitamos hacer referencias separadas a los informes de los expertos porque consideramos todo como parte de un paquete que resolvieron en la sesión conjunta los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas. La Conferencia somos el último estadio de todo el proceso de revisión y en ese contexto nosotros no deseábamos que en este Informe se introdujeran este tipo de elementos, porque se podría estar deformando todo un proceso que estamos tratando de mantener integrado a nivel de la Conferencia.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I have two observations to make. One is that the Drafting Committee always took extreme care in allowing minority and majority views to be properly expressed in the Report. Secondly, recalling the debate on this particular point, the amendment is correctly phrased. This was what a number of Member States actually did. They referred to the Experts in this particular case.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom) : I think it is clear that those countries which took this view have the right to have their views expressed plainly in the Report and so I would ask everyone to accept this. I believe it is up to us who made the points to say what should go in. That is in fact what was said, and so I would ask for my amendment to be accepted.

LE PRESIDENT: Si vous n'avez pas de problèmes avec l'amendement britannique, nous pouvons adopter le paragraphe 28 tel qu'amendé par le Royaume-Uni.

Nous passons au paragraphe 29.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom) : When we come to paragraphs 29 and 30 we enter an area where there are points of interest and great importance to many different countries. I would ask your guidance, or perhaps guidance from the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, about the selection of all these themes. If I may just explain what I have in mind, the Conference endorsed the recommendations in paragraphs 351 to 345 in entirety as they stand. However, we then have a number of these which were picked out. Points were made on some of them. For instance, on the question of the special facilities for project formulation and identification some members drew attention to the increasing use of TCP for those purposes.

In item (g), strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of field projects, some members called for the systematic analysis and production of evaluation results by country and sector.

When we get to paragraph 30 we come to the Field Inspection Unit. As the paragraph is now drafted it appears to take away from paragraph 351 (iv) of the Report of the Committees. I wonder whether the Drafting Committee, in obviously trying to select those themes which were of major importance, had also taken account of this point. We could, of course shorten the text and the whole debate without referring to matters which would then require quite contentious additions to the drafting simply by endorsing the recommendations in the relevant paragraphs of the Report. We are very content to go through these one by one and add points which would bring out the full flavour of the debate. But I wonder whether that is in the best interests of the Commission.

Sture THBOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Referring to this paragraph, I should like to say first that it should be read in the light of the other paragraphs in which the Conference endorsed other recommendations in the Report. Here it is true to say that only some of the recommendations are retained. Secondly, we had a long discussion on whether to include this list or not.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Pour faciliter la discussion de ce rapport, je crois qu'il ne faut pas rouvrir le débat, qui a déjà été largement débattu. Des vues différentes ont déjà été exprimées et le texte qui nous est proposé est un bon texte. Les points de vue ont été différents, les points de vue restent différents. On ne va pas rouvrir le débat.

LE PRESIDENT: Pour l'instant, je propose que nous examinons le paragraphe 29 et ensuite nous verrons le paragraphe 30.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Concernant le paragraphe 29, à mon avis, les recommandations qui sont énumérées ici sont celles qui ont particulièrement retenu l'attention de notre Commission relativement aux opérations de terrain de la FAO exclusivement. Effectivement, ces différents points ont fait l'objet de vives préoccupations. Dans ce cadre, une délégation a évoqué le point e) du paragraphe 29: il faudrait envisager la création d'un mécanisme spécial de formulation et d'identification des projets. Il est vrai que la Commission n'a pas à souscrire à cela, mais la Commission a demandé d'envisager, et effectivement cela a préoccupé notre Commission. Donc à notre avis, très sincèrement, ce paragraphe 29 ne constitue que le reflet de nos préoccupations.

LE PRESIDENT: Adoptons-nous le paragraphe 29 tel quel? Si vous devez proposer un amendement, faites-le pour que nous puissions avancer.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): Certainly. In the first line of (a) will you change "operation" to "operations"?

LE PRESIDENT: Effectivement, en français, c'est au pluriel. Donc le paragraphe 29 est adopté. Paragraphe 30.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I think this paragraph is incomplete because it relates to a decision of the Conference, "the Conference urged the Director-General". Yes, all that is true, but it is not complete. You need to complete it by a comma at the end and then saying, "by establishing a Field Inspection Unit, focusing mainly on project management and organization." That is the substance of the conclusion of the Conference. It is not less than that and I hope there will be no problem about adding those words.

LE PRESIDENT: Tous les délégués ont-ils pris note de cet amendement?

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Nous n'avons pas décidé la création d'une unité d'inspection. Nous avons examiné la question et nous avons décidé de voir si l'on ne pourrait pas créer un certain nombre d'inspecteurs de terrain. Nous n'avons pas parlé de la création d'une unité spécifique puisqu'il a même été dit, à un moment donné, que cette inspection de terrain pouvait s'effectuer dans le cadre de l'évaluation. La possibilité de créer éventuellement une unité n'a pas été écartée mais il n'a pas été décidé de créer une unité spéciale. On a décidé de confier à certains membres du personnel la tâche de réaliser des inspections de terrain, c'est-à-dire d'avoir ion, deux ou trois inspecteurs de terrain qui pourraient se situer soit au niveau de la direction d'évaluation, soit à un autre niveau. Mais rien n'a été décidé en ce qui concerne la place de cette unité dans l'organigramme de la FAO. Là, je suis formel!

LE PRESIDENT: Cela signifie que nous ne sommes pas tous d'accord sur ce point. Je vais donner la parole à ceux qui la sollicitent.

Sidasty AIDARA (Sénégal): J'ai écouté avec beaucoup d'intérêt l'amendement présenté par la délégation britannique mais il me semble que cette proposition est contradictoire avec l'esprit même de la première phrase du paragraphe. Cette phrase se lit comme suit: "Bien que des vues différentes aient été exprimées sur la nécessité de créer une unité chargée de l'inspection des opérations de terrain et sur les modalités de sa création éventuelle, la Conférence a exhorté le Directeur général ..."

Il y a donc une espèce de contradiction ici. On ne s'est pas mis d'accord sur la création d'une unité d'inspection. Ma délégation se rappelle qu'elle s'était prononcée contre la création d'une telle unité et je me rappelle que d'autres délégations l'avaient également évoquée: celle de l'Algérie, pour ne citer qu'elle, celle du Venezuela ...

Il n'y a donc pas eu d'accord sur la création d'une unité d'inspection; cela n'a pas donné lieu à un débat qui a abouti sur un accord. C'est la raison pour laquelle ma délégation pense que le paragraphe 30 est bien équilibré et qu'il reflète les débats qui ont eu lieu. Il y a eu des divergences de vues. Nous pouvons accepter que la Conférence exhorte le Directeur général à renforcer le processus d'évaluation, qui existe déjà, car de nombreuses délégations se sont exprimées en ce sens.

Je crois donc qu'il est préférable de laisser le paragraphe 30 tel qu'il est.

Y.K. AITA-KONADU (Ghana): Ghana will be supporting the U.K. because there have been some ingenious amendments. They have missed the point a little bit. My problem is with the English language since I am not an Englishman. For all I know when talking about evaluation you are talking about the impact of how a project is managed and how a project is organized. The Evaluation Service does need to be looked at as to how it is managed and organized. It seems a little bit incongruous. I do not think Ghana can support the amendments.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous serons très brefs parce que notre ami du Sénégal a pratiquement dit ce que nous voulons dire. Dans ce paragraphe 30, il est dit que des vues différentes ont été exprimées. Il est vrai que l'on n'a pas repris ces différentes idées. On s'est plutôt attaché à faire apparaître dans ce paragraphe ce qui a été décidé à l'issue du débat, à savoir exhorter le Directeur général à renforcer le processus d'évaluation, etc. Ce qui signifie, en quelque sorte, que nous n'avons pas épuisé la question; nous l'avons laissée en suspens compte tenu de nos divergences de vues, et nous pensons que retenir la proposition qui vient d'être faite signifierait que nous avons fait un choix, alors qu'en fait nous n'en avons fait aucun à part demander au Secrétariat de faire en sorte, avec le personnel dont il dispose, que cette fonction soit assumée. Il serait donc injuste d'essayer, au-delà de ce qui apparaît au paragraphe 30, de faire glisser une certaine décision qui, en fait, n'a pas été prise. Je crois que nous avons tous intérêt à nous en tenir à la teneur du paragraphe 30 parce qu'autrement, cela nous amènera à reformuler des vues qui sont différentes et nombreuses, assurément. Nous sommes donc pour le maintien du texte du paragraphe 30 tel quel afin d'éviter d'allonger ou de rouvrir le débat.

LE PRESIDENT: Puis-je lancer un appel au délégué du Royaume-Uni pour que le texte du paragraphe 30 soit adopté en l'état?

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom) : No, I am afraid not because it appears from the language to cast doubt on a recommendation which very plainly is accepted by the resolution. That endorsed all the recommendations in the Committee's Report including this one. So I cannot see why people are saying that we cannot say it. Of course, different views were expressed during the debate and that is so. There were also differing views on some other things in the earlier paragraph, paragraph 29, at which we were just looking. That is why I tried to draw it to your attention. They need to treat these in a balanced way.

The substance is clear. The paragraph is all right down to where it goes but after that you have to say something like, "and in this context endorsed the recommendations of the Committee". I do not mind how it is put. Obviously the implementation is for the Director-General but we endorse the Committee's recommendations as plain as a pikestaff and that must be part of the conclusions of the Report.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): This paragraph was accepted by the Drafting Committee as submitted by the Secretariat and if my recollection is correct, posed no problem in the Drafting Committee. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee confirms.

Secondly, this paragraph was phrased very carefully in order to show that there was no decision in this matter emanating from the Conference discussion and in fact the point was the subject of very different views. To my recollection there were some four countries who supported the establishment of this particular unit but there were nine countries that were either against it or expressed a variety of views. So I for one would find it very difficult to have put a draft text before you or before the Drafting Committee which said anything other than what it does.

Thirdly, may I comment on the fact that paragraph 12 of the resolution which you adopted, while it approves the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the Programme and Finance Committees on the Review also takes into account the additional recommendations of the Director-General in his Views and Comments and in paragraph 13, operative paragraph 13, "Requests the Director-General to implement the recommendations emanating from the Review as approved by the Conference". So this is one recommendation on which views were expressed during the debate and the outcome was not to endorse the establishment of the Unit.

LE PRESIDENT: Le délégué du Royaume-Uni n'est pas d'accord avec ce point de vue.

Konan Daniel YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire): Je crois que, dans son intervention précédente, notre collègue du Sénégal a parfaitement illustré le débat. Je pense qu'il faudrait éviter de faire constamment référence à une résolution alors que nous sommes là pour faire approuver le rapport qui doit refléter les débats qui ont eu lieu au sein de la Commission.

Monsieur Shah vient de nous donner des éléments chiffrés sur ce qui s'est passé au sein de la Commission sur ce point précis et je pense que nous devrions laisser le paragraphe 30 en l'état et continuer d'approuver le rapport.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México) : Señor Presidente, para defender el texto que tuvimos en el Comité de Redacción. Creo que es un texto equilibrado porque justamente es un aspecto sobre el que no se llegó a una decisión. Entonces, si no se llegó a una decisión, aquí ya está claramente en la última parte donde se dice que "se reforzará el proceso de evaluación de los Programas de Campo". El proceso de evaluación significa toda una serie de elementos que no pueden ser enumerados dentro de un párrafo porque puede indicar seguridad de que ha habido transferencia de tecnología. En fin, toda una serie de elementos que sería difícil enumerar.

Hago un llamamiento a que se mantenga este párrafo que, de todas las maneras, tiene un corolario en la Resolución.

Sra. Laurie CORDUA CRUZ (Nicaragua): Muy brevemente mi delegación quisiera expresar que comparte lo manifestado por Senegal y por México respecto al párrafo 30. Consideramos que debe permanecer tal cual.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá) : En nuestra opinión, el párrafo 30 en discusión recoge, en forma general, las opiniones de lo que aquí realmente ocurrió. A nuestro juicio es un párrafo equilibrado, por lo que pensamos que debe quedar tal como está.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Je voudrais tout simplement dire que tous les membres de la Commission qui étaient présents et qui ont effectivement suivi les débats se reconnaîtraient honnêtement dans la déclaration du délégué du Sénégal, qui a d'accord omis de nommer mon pays parmi ceux qui se sont opposés à la création d'une unité d'inspection. Mais dans un esprit de compromis, le Directeur général avait effectivement proposé le renforcement de la cellule d'évaluation. Le paragraphe 30 reflète donc parfaitement les débats qui se sont déroulés au sein de la Commission.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom) : It does indeed reflect the debate but it does not reflect the conclusion. With all respect to Mr Shah, I do not remember him being present during the intimate negotiations which you chaired amongst your friends which reached a conclusion on the resolution which we approved unanimously by acclamation the other day and I do not think, therefore, he is in a position to say what we agreed and did not agree but I can tell him we did agree paragraph 3.51 recommendation (iv). Now, I also note of course what that resolution says about the additional recommendations of the Director-General, of course, I was there when we negotiated and accepted that language, but what are those additional recommendations? You will find them listed, friends. You will find them listed at the beginning of this Report. There they are, paragraph 3, four additional recommendations, namely, expanded cooperation with GATT, staff training, creation of a forum for increased consultation among the Rome-based food organizations and the possible elimination of the Summary PWB. None of them referring to this matter - none!

Now, let us be quite straight about this. We have negotiated an agreement and I mean that agreement to stick but it does not stick with people coming up afterwards and saying that something was not agreed.

We cannot agree to this paragraph as drafted. We regard it, particularly in the light of what Mr Shah has said, as something which is not acceptable, to try to take away through drafting of this kind a decision which was actually already reached by the Commission. I think if you agree to proceed in this way, Mr Chairman, you bring us into a very serious position. I would appeal to you not to do so.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): I get the feeling we will not move on with this paragraph exactly as it is stated, so I have a proposal which I believe can be acceptable to everyone. I will proceed. Paragraph 30: "While differing views were expressed on the need for a field inspection unit and on the modalities for its possible establishment" and here I change "the Conference indicated a preference for the Director-General to strengthen the process of field programme evaluation through the work of the Evaluation Service. A few members, however, indicated their support for the establishment for a Field Inspection Unit".

Mme. Amina BOUDJELTI (Algérie): J'étais un peu perdue au moment de l'intervention du délégué britannique; en effet, je voudrais comprendre si l'objet de notre exercice est d'adopter ce qui s'est dit en Commission, ou en Comité plus restreint ou en groupe d'amis; c'est la question que je voulais poser.

Le second but de mon intervention était d'appuyer les nombreuses voix qui se sont élevées pour défendre le paragraphe 30 tel qu'il est libellé. Nous ne sommes pas opposés à accepter la solution de compromis de la délégation de Trinité-et-Tobago.

LE PRESIDENT: Il n'y a aucune confusion possible: nous adoptons le rapport des débats qui ont eu lieu dans cette Commission, d'ailleurs je l'ai déjà dit et je ne fais que le rappeler.

Roger PASQUIER (Suisse): Notre Commission est en train d'adopter un rapport pour qu'il devienne le rapport de la Conférence et non pas de la Commission. On ne peut pas, dans le rapport de la Commission, avoir des points de vue différents de ceux qui sont présents dans la résolution. Si nous faisons ainsi, nous ferions fausse route; il ne faut pas qu'il y ait contradiction entre ce que nous mettons dans le rapport et ce que contient la résolution.

LE PRESIDENT: Personnellement je ne vois pas de divergences; des nuances peuvent avoir été exprimées et c'est tout à fait normal; mais je ne vois pas de divergences entre ce qui a été écrit au paragraphe 30 et la résolution que nous avons mise au point. Chacun essaie de tirer la couverture de son côté, et cela aussi est normal. Nous sommes là pour discuter.

Il est 14 h 12; je vous propose de suspendre notre séance dans la mesure où nous devons aller à 14 h 30 en plénière pour les élections. Ces dernières sont importantes pour le fonctionnement de notre Organisation et il est bon de suspendre le débat.

Cela pourra donner du temps à certains d'entre vous pour se concerter et trouver une solution pour ce paragraphe 30. Mais j'estime que ce paragraphe 30 doit tenir compte de ce qui s'est déroulé ici; bien évidemment nous nous sommes efforcés, au niveau du compromis, à ne pas faire dire le contraire de ce qui a été dit ici, mais plutôt à rapprocher les points de vues. C'est ce qui est reflété dans la résolution.

J'espère que vous vous en tiendrez là, que vous poursuivrez les discussions en dehors de cette salle et que vers 15 h 30, après les élections, nous pourrons retourner dans cette salle et reprendre les discussions.

Paragraphs 21 to 34, including Resolution, not concluded

Les paragraphes 21 à 34, y compris la Résolution, sont en suspens

Los párrafos 21 a 34, incluida la Resolución, quedan pendientes

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 4, not concluded

Le projet de rapport de la Commission II, Partie 4, est en suspens

El proyecto de Informe de la Comisión II - Parte 4 - queda pendiente

The meeting rose at 14.30 hours

La séance est levée à 14 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 14.30 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 89/II/PV/18

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones
COMISION II

EIGHTEENTH MEETING DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE 18ª SESION

(27 November 1989)

The Eighteenth, Meeting was opened at 16.00 hours
Joseph Tchicaya, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La dix-huitième séance est ouverte à 16 heures
sous la présidence de Joseph Tchicaya, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 18ª sesión a las 16.00 horas
bajo la presidencia de Joseph Tchicaya, Presidente de la Comisión II

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II -. PART 4 (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - QUATRIEME PARTIE (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 4 (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 8 TO 20 (continued)

PARAGRAPHERS 8 A 20 (suite)

PARRAFOS 8 A 20 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons reprendre l'examen du rapport et nous espérons pouvoir aller un peu plus rapidement que nous ne l'avons fait jusqu'à présent.

Je propose que nous revenions au paragraphe 19. Vous vous rappellerez que c'est la dernière phrase de ce paragraphe qui a présenté un problème pour certains d'entre vous. Il semble que les contacts que nous avons eus aient abouti. Il s'agissait d'une proposition émanant du délégué de la Finlande et ces contacts ont donné les résultats suivants: nous nous sommes mis d'accord pour que l'on ne dise pas "La Conférence s'est félicitée..." mais tout simplement "La Conférence à pris note de la proposition du Directeur général d'envisager un éventuel nouveau programme d'action spécial pour le 'développement durable'".

Voilà la version française. La secrétaire va nous donner lecture de la version anglaise.

Ms Kay KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): The last sentence of paragraph 19 will read as follows: "In this connection, the Conference noted the proposal of the Director-General to proceed with a possible new Special Action Programme on sustainable development".

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que le délégué de la Finlande est d'accord et il me semble que nous sommes tous d'accord sur ce point. S'il en est ainsi, le paragraphe 19 est approuvé tel qu'amendé.

Paragraphs 8 to 20, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 8 à 20, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 8 a 20, así enmendados son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 21 TO 34 (continued)

PARAGRAPHS 21 A 34 (suite)

PARRAFOS 21 A 34 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous nous sommes séparés lors de l'adoption du paragraphe 30. Nous allons poursuivre le débat engagé sur cette question.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I had some partial contacts with at least one delegate during the interval, but not sufficient to propose what I might call an agreed text. However, there is one way out of the difficulty we are in. It involves two separate things. The first is to leave the text as it is but to put "most members" instead of "the Conference".

The second point associated with that is to move the text back before the old paragraph 29. This overcomes the problem which was causing difficulty to us. We would not need to mention any other diversionary views or anything else that was mentioned. I must say that I think that would get us out of the difficulty we were in before lunch.

LE PRESIDENT: Une proposition est faite. Y a-t-il des réactions?

V.K. SIBAL (India): I am not too sure whether we are in the midst of any real difficulty in this instance because we have already accepted in the resolution the recommendations of the SJS and those recommendations talk about the Field Inspection Unit but in the Evaluation Service. This particular paragraph summarizes the discussions in which many views were expressed on one side or another. There was no definitive opinion which came out, but something that did come out was that the Field Evaluation Programme should be strengthened through the Evaluation Service.

This is a reflection of the debate. What you have in the resolution is the compromise we arrived at after discussions outside this room. It is reflected there and that is going to be operated. Therefore I do not know whether we need to worry too much. Also, the Field Inspection Unit is going to be within the Evaluation Service and so there is no contradiction between what is in this paragraph and what is in the resolution. In view of that, do we need to spend a lot of time trying to reconcile or re-align these two concepts? They do not require re-alignment because these two debates took place in two different fora. The resolution debate took place in another room and this particular debate was in this room.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Señor Presidente, lo que yo iba decir lo ha expresado muy bien el distinguido delegado de la India. Lo apoyo en todas sus partes. Creo que es una secuencia lógica de los párrafos y que transferirlo a otra parte cambiaría el sentido de la discusión tal c se llevó aquí en la sala.

Ibrahima KABA, (Guinée): Nous appuyons l'intervention du délégué de l'Inde parce qu'effectivement, ce paragraphe 30 n'est autre chose que le reflet des débats qui ont eu lieu au cours de nos séances. Très sincèrement, je ne vois pas du tout la difficulté qu'il présente. S'il y en a, que le délégué du Royaume-Uni s'explique parce que nous n'en voyons pas. Ce paragraphe reflète les débats.

Konan Daniel YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire): Je crois qu'il faut qu'on s'entende. Ou bien notre rapport reprend ce qui a été dit à la Commission, ou bien il ne le fait pas et il reprend alors ce qui a été conclu en dehors de cette salle.

S'il reprend ce qui a été dit à la Commission, je ne vois pas pourquoi on va à l'encontre de ce paragraphe 30 que j'ai sous les yeux. Le délégué de l'Inde, le délégué du Sénégal, avant la fin de la séance, et le délégué de la Guinée ont parfaitement illustré ce qui s'est passé dans cette salle, à la Commission II. Je crois que la mesure transactionnelle que nous pourrions accepter est l'amendement proposé, avant que vous ne leviez la séance de ce matin, par le délégué de Trinité-et-Tobago. C'est sur cette base qu'à la limite nous pourrions accepter une transaction. Sinon, la rédaction du paragraphe 30 correspond à ce qui s'est passé au sein de la Commission. Il faut que vous clarifiez bien les choses: ou nous sommes en train d'adopter un rapport qui reprend toutes les transactions qui ont eu lieu pendant la Conférence, auquel cas nous sommes prêts à nous rallier à ce qui est repris dans la résolution, ou ce rapport reflète vraiment les débats qui se sont déroulés ici. Le délégué de l'Algérie avait soulevé cette question; je pense qu'elle est très importante et qu'il faudrait clarifier les choses.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): Perhaps I should begin by repeating what I said this morning. That is, when I listen to the various delegates, I think we are going to have considerable difficulty in moving from this paragraph in the form that it is. I suggested a formulation which I thought would be acceptable, and I have not heard so far a single delegate say that they cannot accept it. I therefore urge you to give it some consideration.

LE PRESIDENT: Comme le Royaume-Uni est à la base de cette discussion, nous allons lui donner la parole pour qu'il nous donne son avis sur cette proposition.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I think I understood that the proposal of the delegate of Trinidad and Tobago was to add something to this sentence after changing it to "indicated a preference for". That leaves us with a basic problem. I think that if this expression is going to remain - "the Conference urged ..." as opposed to "some members urged" - then I must ask that we put in something that clearly expresses the view of what I understand to be the majority, as expressed for instance by the delegate of Pakistan. He considered that this proposal deserved support. His position was supported by a very large number of countries. I have quoted *ipsissima verba* and so I think we could reach agreement if we said that "the Conference considered that this proposal deserved support and urged the Director-General to strengthen the process of Field Programme evaluation through the work of the Evaluation Service." I think that would cover everything.

LE PRESIDENT: Le problème est que "la plupart" "un petit nombre" etc., ne signifie pas qu'on a pris une décision; or il est souhaitable que nous prenions une décision.

Roger PASQUIER (Suisse): Il me semble que la décision a été prise puisque nous avons adopté une résolution dans cette même salle. Au paragraphe 12 nous avons indiqué que nous faisons nôtres les recommandations des deux Comités; et cette unité de l'inspection est clairement établie. J'ai le texte anglais sous les yeux. Il est écrit: "A field inspection unit be established, reinforcing the Field Evaluation Service".

LE PRESIDENT: Le problème est que dans le même paragraphe il est dit: "En tenant compte des recommandations additionnelles formulées dans ses vues et observations" et je crois qu'il faut en tenir compte.

V.K. SIBAL (India): I asked for permission to take the floor to point out once again that there is no contradiction between what is said in paragraph 30 and what is said in the resolution. The Conference is going to approve the resolution and there is no doubt that the SJS recommendations have been accepted and if the Field Inspection Unit is established it is going to strengthen the work of the Evaluation Service. So there is no contradiction between the positions expressed in paragraph 30 and the position taken in the resolution. If there is no contradiction there should be no difficulty in letting both these remain as part of the text,

Konan Daniel YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire): Nous nous excusons, M. le Président de revenir à nouveau sur notre argumentation il y a quelques minutes, mais nous pensons véritablement que ce paragraphe ne devrait pas créer de difficultés. C'est pourquoi nous demandons instamment à notre collègue et ami le délégué du Royaume Uni de revoir sa position car nous ne comprenons pas ses difficultés; en effet le point de vue des membres minoritaires qui se sont exprimés est bien repris dans la première partie de la phrase du paragraphe 30. Les vues ont été différentes; c'est donc à lui qu'il faut poser la question.

Nous acceptons le paragraphe 30 tel qu'il est; nous pensons qu'une bonne transaction consisterait à accepter la proposition de Trinité-et-Tobago qui ajoute une phrase supplémentaire au paragraphe tout en reprenant le point de vue de ce qui a été minoritaire.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Je partage en tout point l'opinion de notre collègue Sibal de l'Inde. Notre collègue de la Confédération Helvétique a lu une phrase issue du rapport commun; mais il faut lire l'ensemble; il y a les paragraphes 3.40, 3.45, 3.46 aux pages 33 et 34 du texte anglais et qui apportent un certain nombre de nuances. On se rallie globalement au point de vue donné de renforcer l'inspection du terrain, de la mettre dans le service

d'évaluation et de permettre à ce service de préparer des rapports qui seront soumis au Directeur général/Par conséquent, c'est un service qui dépend de lui dans le cadre de l'évaluation et cela se fait donc par l'intermédiaire du Directeur général.

Donc on se rallie à une position du rapport des Comités mais c'est une position nuancée; elle l'est beaucoup plus que la position qu'on voudrait nous faire prendre maintenant.

La formule de compromis telle que présentée par le collègue de Trinité-et-Tobago est parfaitement acceptable et reflète ce qui s'est dit dans cette salle.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Royaume Uni a bien noté la proposition de Trinité-et-Tobago?

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I noted, first of all, that the distinguished Ambassador for Belgium when he intervened said nothing about this except to support the distinguished delegate from Pakistan. I have just read out the delegate from Pakistan's own words. He said he considered that the proposal deserved support. In fact, the minority view, to which some people have referred, is indeed a minority view. It is against the Field Inspection Unit. I have spent a little time during lunch reading up all the procès-verbaux so that I would understand this quite fully. There were seven. It is perfectly clear that it is the minority that imposed the creation of this Unit because others either specifically accepted it or specifically endorsed all the agreed recommendations of the Committee.

It is clear that the way in which it is implemented is left to the Director-General but I believe the only way we can obtain a consensus which fairly reflects the debate in this meeting - not all these new points which people have raised who have not even spoken to them earlier - is to say that after "the Conference" we should add "the Conference considers that this proposal deserves support and urge the Director-General" because the Director-General is going to do the strengthening of the Evaluation Service. I really cannot see that there could be any objection to that. That is my proposal, Mr Chairman. I do not feel that the suggestion by the delegate of Trinidad and Tobago went really in the right direction at all since it confused the two groups, apart from anything else, and we need something that is agreed here. This language I have taken straight out of the delegate of Pakistan's statement.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I am reading from C 89/II/PV/9 at page 9 from the intervention of the distinguished delegate of Pakistan, Mr Muhammad Saleem Khan S., and it says: "The setting up of a Field Inspection Unit to reinforce the evaluation services, and focusing mainly on project management and organization, deserves support but, in view of the position explained by the Director-General, we would like to await his further decisions on this account."

LE PRESIDENT: Je ne sais pas si tout le monde a la déclaration du Pakistan; d'abord je crois qu'il s'est exprimé au nom du Groupe des 77, et d'autre part peut-être faudrait-il lire entièrement cette partie de phrase à laquelle le Royaume Uni fait allusion. En effet, plusieurs aspects ont été développés dans cette phrase.

Ibrahima KABA. (Guinée): Ce texte du paragraphe 30 est vraiment valable car non seulement il reflète les débats, mais de plus il n'est pas en contradiction avec la proposition émise par la Grande Bretagne, proposition qui se trouve dans la résolution et qui n'a pas fait l'objet de débat au cours de notre Commission.

Je pense que nous devrions adopter ce paragraphe 30 qui constitue le reflet des débats de notre séance.

LE PRESIDENT: Oui, mais il faut arriver à convaincre nos amis britanniques.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I have made my proposals. I am quite prepared to see than amended so that we urge the Director-General in his decisions to strengthen the process of Field Evaluation but I am looking for the words which actually reflect what happened. I would not be too worried about the lack of contradiction, so called, which the Indian delegate mentioned if it were not that Mr Shah had actually said that there was a contradiction earlier. That does not reflect correctly the decisions we have already taken by acclamation in this discussion.

I feel obliged to stick on this and we must find language which is a fuller expression of what actually happened in this debate. I do appeal to you, as Mr Chairman, to take the debate very seriously indeed. I am sure you are but I think that we need to make sure there is something which does not indicate afterwards and is not allowed to indicate in any way that somehow or other the agreements which we have already reached have been compromised or qualified. Otherwise a deal is a deal, Chairman, and if something is not there when you look at it afterwards then the deal collapses.

LE PRESIDENT: Je ne pense pas que cela ait pour résultat un effondrement de l'accord déjà obtenu.

Sidasty AIDARA (Senegal): Il ne nous reste plus que 40 minutes avant d'assiter au dépouillement du scrutin qui a eu lieu il y a un instant. Depuis que nous avons commencé nos travaux en Commission II nous n'avons pas avancé, et c'est pourquoi je vous fais la proposition suivante.

Laissons de côté le paragraphe 30 tel qu'il est; continuons sur les autres paragraphes jusqu'à 17 heures pour aller en plénière. Entre-temps pourriez-vous demander aux représentants de la Grande Bretagne et de Trinité-et-Tobago de se voir et de nous proposer un texte à la reprise c'est-à-dire après la plénière. Peut-être est-ce que la Grande Bretagne pourrait accepter cette solution qui nous permettra de réfléchir et de voir dans quelle mesure

on trouvera une solution. Je suis certain que c'est possible. laissons le soin au représentant de la Grande Bretagne de se concerter avec le représentant de Trinité-et-Tobago sur ce paragraphe 30 et voyons ce qu'ils vont nous proposer.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Me parece que ésta es una buena propuesta para tratar de avanzar. Yo preferiría que el párrafo 30 se quedara como está, pero no quiero tampoco que nos detengamos más.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous laissons le paragraphe 30 et nous reviendrons. Paragraphe 31 adopté; paragraphe 32.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): We would like a reference in before the last sentence to the fact that "some Member Nations drew attention with approval to the increasing use of the TCP for project identification and formulation". I think this is a very positive thing which came out of the discussions. I will read that slowly, "some Member Nations also drew attention with approval to the increasing use of the TCP for project identification and formulation".

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): En tout cas en Guinée le PCT est particulièrement utilisé dans l'identification et la formulation de projets; et je pense qu'il en est de même dans beaucoup d'autres pays africains; en tout cas chez nous c'est effectivement le cas; c'est enfoncer une porte ouverte.

Antoine SAUTTRAIT (Belgique): Je ne sais pas depuis combien d'années mais c'est de cette façon là que le PCT fonctionne à l'heure actuelle. Le PCT sert déjà à la formulation et à la mise au point des projets. S'il faut le répéter, c'est un vœu qui devra s'appliquer avec effet rétroactif de x années.

Antonio Rodrigues PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je voudrais abonder dans le sens de l'Ambassadeur de Belgique. Nous parlons de l'effet catalyseur du PCT, cela veut tout dire. Le PCT a toujours joué un rôle de première importance dans l'élaboration de projets. Je suis donc parfaitement d'accord avec ce qu'a dit l'Ambassadeur de Belgique.

Roger PASQUIER (Suisse): Je voulais seulement appuyer la proposition du délégué du Royaume-Uni. Cette phrase supplémentaire a un certain intérêt pour nous.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): I also want to support the proposal made by the delegate of the United Kingdom. I do remember that Mr Regnier has given an explanation about this point and therefore we can use here the words "increasing use of TCP for project identification and formulation". I think that is correct according to his explanation.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): Just perhaps a little explanation from the United Kingdom as to why the request to make this particular statement, if we could understand we could then give the matter relevant consideration.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): Well, very gladly. As you know, we have been concerned that so few of the investments which have come forward for actual financing through the Investment Centre have actually been generated by the field programme. The TCP has, I think, only recently been used increasingly for this purpose and we notice that there was a very satisfactory rise in the percentage of the TCP, apart from what is in the emergency element of course, which is going towards this and we wanted to note this, as I think everybody does, as something which we think is particularly valuable. So that is the purpose of putting in the insert and, of course, I did read "increasing" which is a present tense, in my formula, so it was not with reference to the future, as the delegate for Belgium thought. He must have misheard the translation probably.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense qu'il n'y a pas de problèmes sur ce point. On va simplement ajouter: certains Etats Membres ont également appuyé l'utilisation accrue... C'est ce qui se fait déjà. Ils ont appuyé cela, pour que cela se poursuive de manière accrue.

Quelqu'un demande-t-il encore la parole sur le paragraphe 32?

A.K.M. Fazley RABBI (Bangladesh): I am still on paragraph 32, on another issue, not on the British proposal. It is regarding the fourth sentence here. There is a reference that "in view of the Resolution adopted on the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations". So far as I remember, the Resolution was adopted afterwards, after the discussion took place on the TCP matters so the reference to the resolutions in this context may not be relevant. So I suggest we delete that sentence.

Then the next sentence, "They believed that with better planning by governments", my suggestion is that we delete the "better planning by governments" and say that "they believed that activities now taken up" etc., etc.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez entendu les explications ainsi que les propositions du représentant du Bangladesh. Est-ce que vous êtes opposés à ces propositions?

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): Yes, indeed, this was discussed and I think the agreed sense here at this table that this was actually discussed after the discussion and the adoption of the Resolution of the Review and I have a particular number of delegates in mind who made this very specific point and therefore it was the feeling of the Drafting Committee that this sentence served its place here and it was added to the text as it is.

The second point, I understand the proposal made by the Ambassador of Bangladesh and I only wanted to point out here that this sentence, when it says "They believed" it referred to the positions put forward by a few Member Nations and this particular aspect was actually put forward. We could weight the wisdom of it but it reflects the positions taken.

Antonio Rodrigues PIRES (Cap-Vert): Franchement, en relisant cette phrase de long en large, j'ai de la peine à comprendre ce que veut dire: sous réserve d'une meilleure planification par le gouvernement. Je ne suis ni francophone ni anglophone, j'ai de la peine à comprendre ce qu'on entend par: une meilleure planification par le gouvernement.

David COUTTS (Australia): I personally do not feel that strongly about the sentence that was mentioned by Bangladesh but as far as I am aware that is a different one to the one now mentioned by Cape Verde and certainly for my part I could not accept any modification of the sentence he is talking about. I think given the scope that there were such a lot of problems in the Drafting Group it would be better to leave that paragraph alone but I particularly cannot accept any amendments to this sentence, that Cape Verde was talking about.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que c'est la proposition du Bangladesh. Le Bangladesh souhaite que l'on enlève cela. C'est ce que j'ai noté. Je crois qu'ils sont d'accord tous les deux.

David COUTTS (Australia): If Bangladesh is part of the group that accepts the proposals then perhaps that is all right but I would not have thought they were and I feel we will get into difficulties if we start to redraft what other groups want to say.

Hannu HALINEN (Finland) : I think we are discussing the minority views expressed that the meeting of the Commission and in that sense I realize that the Drafting Committee must have been working very hard to get them reflected here so I am afraid if we are starting to open that discussion here, trying to reflect the minority views again that will take quite a long time so I would prefer that we leave the text as it is by the Drafting Committee.

LE PRESIDENT: Je suis d'accord avec cette intervention. Nous devons dans le Rapport refléter le débat tel qu'il s'est déroulé. Mais j'espère que les mêmes pays continueront à appuyer ce principe jusqu'à la fin. C'est très important.

Je vous propose donc d'accepter le paragraphe 32 tel qu'il venait d'être amendé avant. Le paragraphe 32 est adopté. Nous passons au paragraphe 33.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom) : In the first place I think that before this we have a new heading, do we not, which the Chairman of the Drafting Committee proposed should go in. There is one word that I should then like adopted to the increase to the chapeau, like the other text we are coming to, because there has been a division of opinion in the previous paragraph. I think it would be good to say "the Conference nevertheless adopted", something of that sort, "the Conference, however, adopted". That is the only change obviously that we would want to make in the paragraph.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que c'est normal parce qu'il y a plusieurs points de vue qui se sont exprimés avant. Malgré ces différences la Conférence a quand même adopté une Résolution sur le PCT. C'est comme cela que je le comprends. Mais la Commission est libre de décider.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I think the amendment put forward by the United Kingdom is perfectly in order and should be done. The only thing I wanted to indicate was that the sub-heading, the new sub-heading C would rather be put before present paragraph 32 than preceding the resolution on that.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous proposerais d'adopter le paragraphe 33 irais je vois que les Philippines veulent intervenir.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I think there is a typing error in the second operative paragraph; when you say "through voluntary contributing", I think it is "voluntary contributions". Then also in the fourth preamble, the third line in the English text, "meet food production target" I think that is "food production targets". I think that is all. These are typing errors which I thought could be corrected without any problem.

Y.Y. AL-YOUSSEFI (Kuwait) (original language Arabic) : I would like to make an amendment to the Arabic text. I would like to propose deleting a word in Arabic because it has nothing to do with the amendment here. So the amendment concerns the Arabic text only.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous invite à faire parvenir vos corrections au Secrétariat.

Sidasty AIDARA (Sénégal): Je voudrais rappeler que le Sénégal s'était porté coauteur de ce projet de résolution.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes d'accord, nous ajouterons le Sénégal. Je demanderais également au Secrétariat de revoir le texte du quatrième paragraphe du préambule. On ne retrouve pas forcément les mêmes termes dans toutes les langues.

Marcos NIETO LARA (Cuba): Sólo para agregar el nombre de Cuba a esta relación de patrocinadores de la Resolución, tal como lo planteamos en el debate de la Comisión.

LE PRESIDENT: Tous ceux qui le désirent pourront s'adresser au Secrétariat pour faire ajouter le nom de leur pays. Le paragraphe 33 est adopté tel que très légèrement amendé. Nous pouvons passer au paragraphe 34.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I am glad we have got to this paragraph, because it seemed to me that our debate was developing. I thought we were discussing the Report. I have no objection at all of course to these extra names being added to paragraph 33. But paragraph 34 I find a highly inadequate description of the discussion on this subject. I have made a careful scrutiny of the text and it is clear to me that at least 15 countries supported the strengthening of the Country Offices without any qualification whatever. One country specifically spoke about strengthening the Regional Office. Two spoke about altering the functions of the Regional Office in order to make them more efficient and effective. Another seven spoke about the need to strengthen the Country Offices or maintain - or words like that - the Regional Office. So we have three different groups of views to reflect here and I found that this summary does not accurately balance those views. I would have some proposals for this, but perhaps first we could hear whether there was a very long discussion on this from the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, because it is a point of very considerable importance to many delegations.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee) : This paragraph was discussed in the Drafting Committee. The only discussion which emerged in this context was about the Regional Offices and the support to Regional Groupings. It did not address the wider spectrum of points mentioned by the United Kingdom delegation.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Royaume-Uni a écouté avec attention l'intervention du Président du Comité de rédaction, nous écouterons sa réaction.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom) : I am sorry that the discussion was so limited in the drafting group. I think in order accurately to reflect the debate this paragraph does need to be amended and amplified. I think the first thing we need to do is to take out the last four words, because every single intervention which I read in the debate spoke about ways of doing things better, including certainly the proposals of those who specifically referred to the Regional Offices. Those were the delegates of Lesotho and Côte d'Ivoire.

Then I think we need to add the following sentence: "Other Member Nations supported the view of the independent experts who recommended the strengthening of the Country Offices rather than the Regional Offices, a view which was in general supported by the Committees. Other Member Nations supported the strengthening of the Country Offices without damaging the developmental role of the Regional Offices. A few Member Nations called for a review of the respective roles of Headquarters, the Regional Offices and the Country Offices."

Just to explain this, I do not mind in which order these things go. Actually, the first of the new sentences which I add of course was the view of the countries amongst which my own forms part. The second represents the view of those who specifically supported the position of Pakistan and I think that once again although it is for the Pakistan delegate to speak for himself and for his colleagues, this is taken straight out of the presentation which he made on behalf of the Group of 77. The last sentence refers to calls which were made by several delegations including my own and the delegation of Poland.

I think with all these sentences the paragraph then does give a complete and accurate account of the discussions in the Commission.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Señor Presidente, yo estaría de acuerdo con la exposición hecha por el delegado del Reino Unido porque parece ser bastante ecuánime. Solamente pienso que en vez de insistir en la expresión "las oficinas en los países" se diga "las oficinas nacionales" porque las oficinas en los países son tanto las nacionales como las regionales. Las oficinas regionales también están en los países pero no expresan el concepto de oficina nacional que es el ámbito del territorio exclusivo.

Por esa razón, estando de acuerdo con que hay que dar apoyo a las oficinas regionales y a las oficinas en los países, si se llaman nacionales, propondría que se cambiara la expresión "oficinas en los países" o "offices of the country" como lo lee el señor en inglés, por "oficinas nacionales" para oponerlas a las oficinas regionales. Eso es todo, gracias.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Secrétariat tiendra compte de cette remarque: bureaux nationaux et bureaux régionaux.

Mohammad Saleem KHAN S. (Pakistan): Since reference is made to my statement I asked for the floor some time earlier but perhaps you have not seen my flag.

Reference was made to my statement which I read on behalf of the Group of 77 which a large number of countries supported in their statements, but by implication it can also be assigned to a large number of other countries.

In that I had said what the British delegate has just now said, that we can agree with the strengthening of the Country Offices or the national offices, as you may recall, but without weakening the Regional Offices. So whereas I have no problems with the formulation just now given, there has to be some reordering, and perhaps "the support to the country offices without weakening the Regional Offices" has to go up earlier, and instead of being "others said" it may be said that a large number of countries, or the majority of countries, had these views, while other Member Nations supported the view of the independent experts, and then a few Member Nations. I think in this order it will be acceptable.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Señor Presidente, la propuesta de enmienda de este párrafo ha sido tan larga, contiene tantas ideas, que quiero llamar la atención que aquí se están introduciendo ciertos elementos de los cuales nos hemos cuidado muy bien sus amigos y los amigos de los amigos.

En primer término no tenemos objeción a la cuestión de dar ciertos matices, pero no me parece que tenga que hacerse un párrafo tan largo para resumir un punto de vista sobre algunas preferencias, sobre el apoyo a las oficinas regionales o a las oficinas nacionales.

Hay que recordar que las oficinas nacionales son solamente 74 y somos 159 países. Entonces las oficinas regionales, tienen su papel propio de fortalecer particularmente las redes regionales y dar apoyo también a las agrupaciones regionales, término que sí discutimos en el Comité de Redacción y quedamos de acuerdo con él por el significado que esto tiene.

Entonces podría tal vez resumirse este asunto sobre los diversos puntos de vista y en esto podría lograrse. Lo que sí, Señor Presidente, mi delegación no está de acuerdo es con la parte final, posición del distinguido delegado del Reino Unido porque aquí se habla de la realización de un estudio y en esto fuimos muy cuidadosos de que estamos en esta Conferencia cerrando el proceso de estudios y revisiones. Ciertas cosas, las hemos dejado en el proceso de los órganos rectores y por iniciativa del Director General estarían tomándose pasos por una parte directamente en la medida que los recursos fueran posibles al ser esos refuerzos; en otros casos estaremos viendo qué posibilidades extras podemos hacer. Entonces, Señor Presidente, yo quisiera que se separen estas dos ideas y desde luego en relación con la cuestión del estudio, mi delegación no está de acuerdo.

Roger PASQUIER (Suisse): Nous avons noté l'esprit de logique que veut introduire Mme l'Ambassadeur du Venezuela entre "bureaux régionaux" et "bureaux nationaux". Cependant, le terme "bureaux nationaux" couvre mal l'effort qui est fait pour avoir des représentations de la FAO regroupant un certain nombre de pays; je pense à ceux des Caraïbes et à d'autres. Je le signale car, en fin de compte, "les bureaux dans les pays" correspond encore mieux à la réalité.

Sra. Mercedes FERMÍN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Señor Presidente, con mi intervención yo no he querido ir en contra de las oficinas regionales. Estoy perfectamente de acuerdo con la exposición hecha por la delegada de México que las oficinas regionales tienen un papel muy eficiente que cumplir cuando se trata de la relación entre los países y que constituye una red de atención eficiente para el trabajo de la FAO.

Yo quería darle la importancia que, a mi juicio, merece la existencia de las oficinas regionales porque en algunos casos -y voy a citar concretamente el que mejor conozco que es el de la América Latina y el Caribe, una región demasiado amplia porque está constituida por muchos países- no podría ser atendida eficientemente sólo por una oficina regional.

Porque siempre va a estar ubicada en una situación que produce un desbalance en la cobertura de la región. Y por eso pienso que una combinación de las oficinas regionales y las oficinas nacionales es lo que efectivamente tiene validez para el caso de la FAO, en el sentido de realizar un trabajo que rinda mayor efecto. Por eso pienso que la única modificación que requiere el párrafo en su segunda oración, es cambiar la expresión "oficinas en los países" por "oficinas nacionales" para distinguirlas de las oficinas regionales.

Por eso digo que el párrafo debería mantenerse como dice en español, insistiendo en que tanto las oficinas regionales como las oficinas nacionales tienen asignado un papel válido y lo desempeñan de manera eficaz.

Nada más, Señor Presidente.

LE PRESIDENT: Il est 17 heures. Nous allons suspendre notre discussion pour nous rendre en séance plénière afin de voter.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 30, les délégués du Royaume-Uni et de Trinité-et-Tobago devraient se rencontrer et, si possible, se mettre en contact avec le Secrétariat pour essayer d'ébaucher un texte que nous pourrions proposer à la Commission après l'élection.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom) : I very much appreciate the spirit in which the proposal has been received. For my part I can accept the proposal of our Pakistan colleague to recorder my amendment and to put in "a large number" at the beginning for what he believes is the majority opinion.

b Je propose que le délégué du Pakistan et celui de la Grande Bretagne se retrouvent pendant que nous voterons pour élaborer un texte qui convienne à la Commission de façon que nous puissions avancer rapidement.

The meeting was suspended from 17.00 to 18.30 hours

La séance est suspendue de 17 heures à 18 h 30

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.00 a las 18.30 horas

LE PRESIDENT: Nous reprenons notre séance. Nous en étions au paragraphe 34 et j'avais demandé à M. Buist et M. Khan de se retrouver pour nous faire une proposition de texte. Est-ce qu'ils sont en mesure de nous donner un texte?

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I think I need just two minutes, if you would allow me, to talk further with my colleagues. We were slightly delayed by the process of voting upstairs; otherwise, I am sure we would have been with you before and, if I may, I would like to have a break of two minutes to see my friend from Pakistan.

LE PRESIDENT: A présent il nous faut régler le problème des paragraphes 30 et 34.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): The delegate of the United Kingdom and myself have met, and after considerable discussion, and some give and take, we have a proposal acceptable to both of us. It reads as follows, paragraph 30 "While differing views were expressed on the" - and here we have an insertion - "timing and modalities relating to the possible establishment of " - and we go back to the text - "a field inspection unit, " - and then we leave it, about six or seven, eight words there and continue with the text again - "the Conference urged the Director-General to strengthen the process" etc., etc., ending with "Evaluation Service".

We start off with the text in its original form; "While differing views were expressed on the" - and here comes our insertion - "timing and modalities relating to a possible establishment of" - and we go back to the text - "a field inspection unit" - and then we leave out the words that follows beginning with "and" and ending with "establishment", we leave out that and continue - "the Conference urged the Director-General" - and ending with the sentence as is, that is - "Evaluation Service".

Konan Daniel YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire): Il y a tout lieu de féliciter nos deux collègues du Royaume-Uni et de Trinité-et-Tobago. Nous sommes tout à fait en harmonie avec ce qu'ils ont proposé et je pense que cette nouvelle rédaction du paragraphe 30 devrait recueillir l'assentiment de toute notre Commission.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): Je suis désolé mais à notre niveau il y a des difficultés de fond, car le texte initial parle de la nécessité; c'est bien un problème de fond qui a fait l'objet de nos débats. Certains disaient qu'il était inutile de créer une unité d'inspection, d'autres que c'était utile; et le problème de nécessité n'est évoqué nulle part dans cette nouvelle version. C'est mon premier point.

D'autre part il n'a jamais été question du problème de temps dans nos débats; on n'a jamais dit quand il fallait la créer. La question était de savoir s'il était nécessaire de créer une unité d'inspection. C'est là où il y a eu des problèmes, là où il y a eu partage d'opinions; mais on ne le voit pas dans cette version.

Si la Commission donne son accord je me rallierai pour une question de coopération, mais le problème de fond reste entier.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): I do not know if this would help, but firstly I think the SJS has a recommendation relating to the unit. The words here are only "the possible establishment of", and perhaps if you want to leave out timing you can leave that out, but there was some discussion on possible ways and means of setting it up if it is going to be set up.

A.K.M. Fazley RABBI (Bangladesh): Let me try a compromise. If we add: "While differing views were expressed on the need, timing and modalities" etc., maybe this can help.

Kenan Daniel YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire): Je m'excuse de revenir sur le sujet, mais je pense qu'il y a lieu d'apaiser notre ami de la Guinée parce qu'effectivement le paragraphe 30 parle de la création éventuelle de cette unité; l'important dans ce paragraphe est qu'il reflète les débats qu'il y a eus en Commission; ces débats n'ont pas abouti à la décision de créer une unité chargée de l'inspection.

D'autre part, d'après ce que nous avons pu comprendre, ces débats ont abouti à la nécessité pour le Directeur général de renforcer les services d'évaluation. Ce sont les deux idées importantes contenues dans le paragraphe 30 et qui sont reflétées dans la nouvelle rédaction proposée par nos deux collègues du Royaume-Uni et de Trinité-et-Tobago.

Je pense en fait que l'on reprend tout ce qui fait souci à notre ami de Guinée et la décision finale n'a pas été de créer une unité chargée de l'inspection, irais plutôt de renforcer le service d'évaluation; et cela doit remporter notre assentiment.

En définitif, je ne vois pas tellement de problèmes de fond dans la nouvelle rédaction de ce paragraphe, et c'est la raison pour laquelle je l'approuve.

LE PRESIDENT: La Guinée se rallie?

B Je suis désolé mais j'ai des difficultés; je regrette que cela soit mon ami de la Côte d'Ivoire qui veuille me convaincre, mais il y a ici une question d'opportunité qui a véritablement été au coeur du débat. Personnellement je me suis opposé à l'opportunité de créer une unité d'inspection; d'autres aussi: le Venezuela a très clairement dit que ce n'était pas nécessaire.

Or la nouvelle version accepte déjà cette création; c'est une question de moment et de modalité. Là, il n'y a plus à discuter de la nécessité mais du moment et des modalités. Non. D'ailleurs on n'a jamais discuté du notent au cours des débats; il n'en a jamais été question; si c'est pour arranger tout le monde on le fait mais ce n'est pas cela; c'est une question d'opportunité.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom) : I think that my friend from Trinidad and myself have done our utmost to try and reach a very carefully balanced text. I think those who feel and have spoken in the debate against the need for such a unit should find their concerns fully covered, as the delegate of the Côte d'Ivoire said, by the word "possible". I may say that we were on the point of handing in a text and I suddenly realize that this would have been too firm for some delegates and it was I who proposed with the agreement of my colleague from Trinidad that "possible" should go into the formulation again. Precisely because that is there I feel that the text which we have presented to the Commission ought to be supported by everybody and I hope that they might all make the effort to do so.

Konan Daniel YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire): Nous insistons auprès de notre collègue et ami de Guinée. Comme vient de le dire le délégué du Royaume-Uni, il n'y a pas eu de décision ferme exécutoire de création d'une unité chargée de l'inspection. Le mot "création éventuelle" laisse beaucoup de souplesse et je pense que le mot "éventuelle" devrait pouvoir contribuer à apaiser notre ami de Guinée qui pensait que la décision de créer l'unité serait déjà prise. Non

C'est la raison pour laquelle j'ai pris la parole pour lui demander de bien vouloir accepter cette nouvelle rédaction, de manière à ce qu'on puisse avancer. Tout le monde y trouve son compte; et l'apreté des débats qui ont eu lieu au sein de la Commission est bien reflétée dans cette nouvelle rédaction.

Quant au moment et aux modalités c'est une mesure de compromis entre les deux groupes d'orateurs dont les uns voulaient une unité et les autres ne la voulaient pas. Et finalement le texte est équilibré.

Ernest BENJAMIN (Antigua and Barbuda): It is not very usual. I disagree with my colleague from Trinidad and Tobago. I distinctly heard the question of the need being discussed. Put it this way, there was a factual recommendation about the establishment of a Field Inspection Unit and what was debated was whether there was a need for it. I feel that with the inclusion of the words "While different views were expressed on the need and modalities relating to the possible establishment of a Field Inspection Unit" would capture the point of what actually took place in the discussions.

Sra. Mercedes FERMÍN GOMEZ (Venezuela): En realidad Guinea tiene razón. Nosotros en ningún momento estuvimos de acuerdo en que había necesidad de una inspección del trabajo de campo por la impracticabilidad, como se acostumbra a decir aquí. Realmente es difícil que se pueda hacer una supervisión como se quería, o una inspección del trabajo de campo, dada la amplitud del espacio donde este trabajo de campo se realiza, en el trabajo de campo de FAO, y dada la bastante serie de dificultades a cubrir en tiempo y en modalidad, este trabajo de evaluación.

Por esta razón no hubo en el ambiente de aquel momento de la discusión una inclinación mayoritaria a la creación o el establecimiento de este instrumento, sino que eso se quedó así como expresión del deseo de algunas delegaciones de que se hiciera, pero no se llegó a concretar en la verdadera necesidad o en la verdadera decisión de crearla.

Por esta razón nosotros tampoco vamos a estar de acuerdo con la redacción que se le ha dado, porque se habla de posible establecimiento que está todavía en un interrogante, porque yo quisiera que alguno de los que están aquí opinando a que se haga este establecimiento, me expliquen cómo sería la práctica de establecer ese organismo, esta dependencia, esta inspección de las actividades de campo. Significaría crear otro equipo humano, otro organismo tan amplio, tan numeroso como el de los expertos que están trabajando en el campo para poder seguir cada uno de los proyectos.

Eso, de acuerdo con el criterio del crecimiento cero y de reducción del presupuesto etcétera, me parece que sería muy poco práctico, muy poco viable. Por esa razón, tampoco estamos de acuerdo con eso. Preferiría que se quedara la redacción tal como estaba. Expresaron las diferentes opiniones sobre la necesidad, como no, todo el mundo puede expresar las opiniones, pero aquí no hubo decisión acerca de que se pudiera establecer tal organismo, tal dependencia de FAO.

En consecuencia, nosotros seguimos pensando que es preferible dejar el texto tal como está originalmente, manifestando un deseo, un criterio, una opinión pero de ninguna manera inclinándose hacia que haya la posibilidad del establecimiento.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I was wondering whether it would help if we divide the two phrases, first "Everybody agrees that no decision was taken on the establishment of a Field Inspection Unit, there were different views on this." That would be one sentence. The second sentence would be: "The Conference urged the Director-General to strengthen the process of field evaluation through the work of the Evaluation Service. " In this way we would be stating two facts. Therefore it might help solve the difficulties that are encountered, that have been expressed, by various delegations. I hope this would be a compromise.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): I was wondering for a while if we were perhaps having some difficulty with different languages. I am of the opinion that it is correct to say that different views were expressed on the modalities relating to the possible establishment of a unit. This does not say that there is a decision that a Unit is to be established, but there were varying views and, as the delegate from the Philippines just said, the last sentence is what we had before and what is in again, and we say that is what the Conference did. So there is room for a little variation but I really do not see why that first sentence is causing so much difficulty and I wish to emphasize that there is no indication that there is a decision to set up a unit.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant d'aller plus avant je voudrais vous faire une proposition; je ne souhaite pas que le débat s'allonge et je vous propose que l'on dise ceci: "bien que des vues différentes aient été exprimées sur la recommandation concernant la création éventuelle d'une unité chargée de l'inspection des opérations de terrain, la Conférence..." et on reprendra la dernière phrase: "La Conférence a exhorté le Directeur général...". Qu'en pensez-vous?

Ibrahima KABA. (Guinée): Monsieur le Président, vous nous avez sauvés. Nous pouvons accepter cette proposition. Elle est excellente.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I was, in fact, about to propose much the same thing but I think it is accepted with the greater alacrity because it comes from your distinguished mouth!

LE PRESIDENT: Cela signifie que nous sommes tous d'accord. Le paragraphe 30 est adopté tel qu'amendé. Nous allons donc passer au paragraphe 34.

Mohammad Saleem KHAN S. (Pakistan): The text agreed in the informal discussions which you had requested, Mr Chairman, is as follows. It is quite a lengthy text and I do not know whether I should read it at dictation speed or whether I can read it generally and then, if necessary, read it at dictation speed or I can hand it to the Secretariat. In the last sentence where Mr Buist proposed an amendment to delete the last four words in paragraph 34 would stay intact to the extent that it would read "they stressed that both Regional and Country Offices had a valid and effective role". Then we add the new text which contains the ideas proposed by Mr Buist, and also the differing views, and that is:

"Most members, whilst recognizing the need to strengthen FAO representations, were of the view that this should not be done at the expense of weakening the developmental role of the regional set-up. Some members agreed with the experts who, whilst recognizing that the Regional Offices were a necessary part of FAO's structure, had expressed themselves in favour of strengthening the Country Offices rather than the Regional Offices. They noted that the Committees had generally supported the experts' view though they too had recognized the importance of the Regional Offices, to a majority of Member Nations. A few Member Nations called for a review of the respective roles of the Headquarters, the Regional and the Country Offices. Most members were, however, of the view that such a review was not called for under Resolution 6/87."

That is a very long paragraph. If someone wants me to I can repeat at dictation speed, but all the ideas are contained in it.

LE PRESIDENT: Je ne sais pas ce que vous en pensez. Voulez-vous que l'on répète ce texte à vitesse de dictée?... Certains sont fatigués, ils n'ont plus envie de poursuivre la discussion...

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee) : This long paragraph on the various offices of the Organization is now under the heading of the TCP. Therefore, I would suggest to you that paragraph 34, as amended, is moved and put directly after present paragraph 31 which is on Field Operations in general.

Konan Daniel YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire): Nous avons eu quelques difficultés à suivre la nouvelle rédaction du paragraphe 34 proposée par le Pakistan. Peut-être, avec la permission des autres délégués, pourriez-vous nous donner une nouvelle lecture de ce paragraphe 34 à vitesse de dictée.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que la Commission a décidé qu'on ne répète pas cet article à vitesse de dictée, que le délégué du Pakistan remette son texte au Secrétariat. Tel est, me semble-t-il l'avis de la Commission. J'ai moi-même indiqué que vous étiez fatigués.

Si notre ami de Côte d'Ivoire est d'accord, le texte sera transmis au Secrétariat.

Vous venez d'entendre également ce que vient de proposer le Président du Comité de rédaction. Ce paragraphe n'est pas bien placé là où il se trouve. Il va devenir un nouveau paragraphe 32.

Nous acceptons donc le paragraphe 34 proposé par le Pakistan avec le concours du Royaume-Uni.

Paragraphs 21 to 34, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 21 à 34 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 21 a 34, así enmendados, son aprobados

Hannu HALINEN (Finland) : We are very tired; we have been working very hard here. Differing views have been expressed but I feel that we have achieved a great deal here and, perhaps even more important, is the increased awareness of each other's viewpoints. We have reached a dialogue which you yourself, Mr Chairman, referred to in your introduction to this item when we discussed it in this hall.

We discussed in the group of your friends the point about having a paragraph on this question, a positive paragraph which would guide us in our further deliberations on the Resolution itself. Unfortunately, time did not allow that to take place. I would very much hope that with your wise guidance we could have a paragraph added here which would in essence deal with the fact that this compromise Resolution represents a move forward in strengthening the overall effectiveness of FAO, and that the Member Nations view the Resolution as a good basis on which to continue to strengthen the very constructive dialogue which has prevailed throughout the Conference session.

I am sure, that you will have a text ready for that. I would ask that the text be inserted in connection with the Resolution on the Review Process, perhaps as a new paragraph immediately following the Resolution.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Lo que acaba de decir nuestro colega del Grupo Nórdico es una expresión que todos compartimos. Yo creo que el diálogo a veces no es muy fluido y puede parecer azaroso, pero creo que ha reinado la voluntad. Eso lo hemos manifestado, junto a usted, en su Grupo, y lo hacemos extensivo a los demás países. Considero que una nota positiva de

la importancia del diálogo como fórmula de contribuir a apoyar nuestra Organización, es una expresión importante que usted mismo señaló durante la presentación de la resolución que hemos aprobado por consenso. Creo que usted, con su sabiduría y su buena voluntad, podrá darnos una formulación que permita expresar este sentimiento de importancia, del interés de un diálogo, donde la comprensión mutua se exprese entre todos nosotros como miembros de este importante Organismo.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois effectivement que je peux trouver le libellé d'un paragraphe que nous pourrions insérer après la résolution. J'ai déjà préparé un petit texte. Je peux l'envoyer au Secrétariat directement, mais je voudrais quand même vous en lire les grandes lignes:

"La Conférence

"a rappelé que bien que l'Examen ait été achevé, le dialogue instauré entre pays membres au cours de cette session a été constructif, et elle a souhaité qu'il se poursuive pour mieux appuyer les objectifs de l'Organisation".

Voilà en gros le paragraphe qu'on pourrait insérer après la résolution que nous avons adoptée et qui reflète un peu ce que moi-même j'avais dit ici et au niveau du groupe des Amis. Si nous sommes d'accord, cela deviendra le paragraphe 43 qui sera placé avant l'ancien paragraphe 43.

PARAGRAPHS 35 TO 36

PARAGRAPHS 35 A 36

PARRAFOS 35 A 36

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons à C: Relations avec d'autres organismes. Paragraphe 35.

Je vois que le Royaume-Uni demande la parole. Il doit avoir fort à faire puisqu'il veut intervenir et il doit rédiger le paragraphe 34.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): Monsieur le Président, je suis capable de tout. (Continue en anglais).

There are a couple of points here which I think we need to change slightly -just two words - in order to achieve the sense of the recommendations in the Report. In the fourth sentence which begins "Improved coordination was called for to deal with... " - the next word should be "overlapping" instead of "duplication". The sentence which follows begins "The Report had made some recommendations on how overlaps with these institutions could be avoided... ". I have had consultations with others outside this room, and it seems that was the general view.

The second point is again a small change to meet the wording of the Report. The last sentence begins "The Conference agreed on the need for FAO's..." and the text should be, instead of "participation", "full association with the UNDP-sponsored national technical cooperation assessment programmes". The point is that participation in itself is narrower and in fact it may not be

necessary sometimes because there may be countries to which NATCAPs are sent whose needs may already have been met, for instance, by FAO's work in a particular area. Therefore we think the wording should be... "full association with the UNDP-... ". Those are the two changes in that paragraph that we would suggest.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee) : Mr Chairman, the choice of the word "overlapping" as against "duplication" was discussed in the Committee and we retained the word "duplication"; "overlapping" is also perfectly satisfactory.

As for the second amendment, this was not discussed in the Drafting Group and this matter is really one for the Commission.

LE PRESIDENT: Je ne sais pas si l'Inde veut intervenir sur cet amendement.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): I have just a very minor point. I suppose in the heading we shall have to change the initial from C to D.

MarooS NIETO LARA (Cuba): En el texto español, en la segunda oración, se dice: "Se pidió una mejor coordinación para afrontar la duplicación de labores"... En lugar de "para afrontar" debe decir "para evitar" en el texto español.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est un problème de traduction, n'est-ce pas?

Marocs NIETO LARA (Cuba): Entiendo que debe ser un problema de traducción.

LE PRESIDENT: Je souhaite d'abord que l'on se prononce sur les amendements proposés par le Royaume-Uni.

Y.K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): It is quite obvious that the word "overlapping" is a better expression of our intention here, and I support it. Secondly, it reinforces what we are trying to say in 23, where we have indicated that certain agencies have encroached on the territories of FAD. I think "overlapping" is a better expression than "duplication". I therefore support the United Kingdom's amendment.

Muhammad Saleem KHAN.S. (Pakistan): I would just like to support what the British delegate said when he sent us to the corner although I would not support the word, because in our country we would not use the expression in this context. We discussed the changes that have been proposed and I think we can accept the changes that are proposed to paragraph 35.

LE PRESIDENT: Il semble qu'il y ait un appui général aux propositions d'amendement du Royaume-Uni. Mais les Etats-Unis ne sont peut-être pas d'accord.

Patrick DEMONGEOT (United States of America): I do not disagree. In fact I agree, and suggest that the second time where "overlap" is mentioned, where we say "how overlaps with these institutions could be avoided", if the word "duplication" could be put in there it might be better. "Overlap" is acceptable. We do not want to avoid "overlap" but we want to avoid "duplication". That is what I would suggest.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vois qu'il y a chevauchement entre le Royaume-Uni et les Etats-unis.

Nous pouvons retenir "chevauchement". Je ne pense pas qu'il y ait de problèmes.

Mustapha SINACEUR (Maroc): Dans le texte français n'y a-t-il pas double emploi entre cette phrase et la phrase suivante? J'aimerais avoir quelques éclaircissements.

LE PRESIDENT: Je ne pense pas qu'il y ait double emploi. Je pense que l'on peut retenir ces deux phrases et enlever l'expression "double emploi" en français et l'on mettrait "chevauchements" dans les deux phrases.

Je pense que l'on peut adopter le paragraphe 35 tel que légèrement amendé.

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): Again I have a small change, which has been discussed with some friends outside the room, and that is to alter the word "recommendation" to "initiative". We regard this as an initiative which of course we are glad to see launched. Anything else is rather a formal point and I think would require us to put in something about seeking the views of the other organizations, which I do not think is really appropriate to this text.

LE PRESIDENT: Le mot "initiative" pose-t-il des problèmes? Au lieu de "recommandation" on mettrait "initiative".

A.K.M. Fazley RABBI (Bangladesh) : If we refer back to paragraph 3 where the recommendations of the Director-General are mentioned, we agreed there that it was a recommendation of the Director-General on the creation of a programme for increased consultation. Here also we can keep the recommendation, as created in paragraph 3.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): On this matter I probably need some assistance from the Secretariat. If I am correct, and there has been some movement beyond the recommendation, some of the consultations have already commenced (which I think I may have heard) then perhaps the word "initiative" is even more acceptable. It has moved beyond the stage of recommendation. As I say I am a little uncertain about that. It is a question of choosing one word or the other.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I would say that the Director-General has taken the initiative to submit this recommendation.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): All things being equal I can go along with that!

Konan Daniel YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire): Je crois qu'il faut harmoniser tous les mots que nous avons dans le Rapport. Dans le paragraphe suivant, on parle de 32 recommandations, de 4 recommandations, 19 recommandations etc ... Et à la fin de la page 14, il est dit: "La majorité des Etats Membres ont approuvé la liste des recommandations". Puisqu'on parle d'initiative, il faudrait mettre "initiative" partout, car si on laisse "recommandation", on ne peut pas mettre dans un cas "initiative" et dans l'autre "recommandation", puisque c'est la même chose.

V.S. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office for Programme, Budget and Evaluation): In all seriousness, Mr Chairman, may I suggest a wording which might serve to meet all concerned? The sentence could read, "the Conference welcomed the Director-General's initiative in submitting the recommendation for the creation of an inter-secretariat consultative mechanism" and the rest of the sentence remains unchanged. This will be factual. It was an initiative of the Director-General and it is a recommendation that he put forward.

LE PRESIDENT: Ce que vous disiez en plaisantant devient une réalité. Nous sommes d'accord, n'est-ce-pas? Prenons donc cette formulation puisque tout le monde semble d'accord sur cette formulation.

La paragraphe 36 est adopté tel qu'amendé.

Paragraphs 35 and 36, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 35 et 36, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 35 y 36, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 37-43, INCLUDING RESOLUTION
PARAGRAPHERS 37-43, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION
PARRAFOS 37-43, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

A.K.M. Fazley RABBI (Bangladesh) : I was thinking that in this report we are talking about recommendations of the SJS and also the Director-General. Some of the recommendations are mentioned but scattered over the paragraphs. If we could have one place and one paragraph to mention at least the recommendations then here we have scope in this paragraph with Category 1, Category 2, Category 3. If we replace these paragraphs with the contents on page xviii of the SJS, which contains the items, instead of talking about numbered recommendations etc., this is a duplication with ten recommendations, four recommendations etc., then if we replace them and we do not know the recommendations; I think if we could replace these three sub-paragraphs with the page xviii in the SJS report there would be more clarity to the report.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México) : Mi delegación piensa que es correcto como está en el Informe, porque ya hemos dicho en párrafos anteriores que se presentó una división de las recomendaciones según sus costos en tres tipos de categorías, cada una de las cuales abarcaba un cierto número de elementos, y eso es lo que está justamente explicándose en este párrafo 37. Esos son los detalles que se están dando sobre el costo de cada una de estas tres categorías y por eso están citadas de esta forma.

LE PRESIDENT: D'après ce que propose le délégué du Bangladesh, il faut que ce soit encore plus détaillé. Mais le paragraphe risque d'être encore plus long.

David COUTTS (Australia): I was going to suggest it might help Bangladesh if we include in the fifth line where the phrase starts, "the Director-General had outlined priority expenditures" a reference to page xviii of the SJS report because that is where those exact categories are set out. Then at least the reader knows where to turn if he or she wants to obtain greater detail. I would suggest we say on page xviii of the SJS report, "The Director-General had outlined" and that may help. It is not the report. It is his views on the report.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): That is what I was going to say, referring to that particular page and the certain aspects of (f) so that people would know the ten recommendations are in the context. It would then solve the problem of the delegate of Bangladesh having to make ten recommendations which are really very definite recommendations indicated in the text.

LE PRESIDENT: Il faudra un renvoi en bas de page où l'on indiquera exactement la page dans chaque langue parce que c'est la page 18 en anglais, la page 19 en français, et je ne sais pas quelle page en espagnol. On rectifiera donc cela pour tenir compte du document qui est devant nous. Le Secrétariat en a pris bonne note et va régler le problème de cette manière.

Le paragraphe 37 est donc adopté. Paragraphe 38? Adopté. Paragraphe 39? Adopté. Paragraphe 40? Adopté. Paragraphe 41? Adopté. Paragraphe 42.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je n'interviendrai pas longtemps sur cette résolution qui a été adoptée par la Commission. Je voudrais simplement faire observer qu'au paragraphe 6 de son dispositif, il est question d'un "plan-chenille". Ce terme "plan-chenille" est tout à fait nouveau, en tout cas en français, et je crains que nous ne nous soyons mal compris. Certes, le mot chenille introduit une certaine poésie dans ce texte, surtout lorsque l'on sait que la chenille devient papillon, et cela crée beaucoup d'espoir.

Je préférerais simplement qu'on s'en tienne à une traduction autre que du terme anglais "rolling", qui sera certainement beaucoup moins poétique et qui sera peut-être un peu périlleuse. En français, on dit plutôt "plan glissant" que "plan-chenille".

Ian BUIST (United Kingdom): I seem to recall the Chairman of the Drafting Committee had a new heading for this and ought we not to put that in before this particular paragraph? I cannot now remember what it was called but perhaps he would tell us.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee) : The proposed or suggested new sub-heading would be (f) conclusion and be inserted between 41 and 42.

LE PRESIDENT: Il s'agit du (f). Je crois que le paragraphe 42 ne présente pas de problème. Il est adopté. Nous passons au paragraphe 43.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): J'ai une petite remarque à faire au sujet de l'avant-dernière ligne où il est dit: "Elle a noté que le Conseil est convenu que le Comité financier, sur la base des débats de la Conférence sur l'examen de la FAO..." Je crois qu'il serait quand même préférable de dire "sur la base des décisions de la Conférence sur l'examen de la FAO" parce que les débats ont abordé tellement de questions et de problèmes les plus divers que le Comité financier risque de devoir consacrer des mois de travail à l'étude de l'argumentation qui pourrait lui être soumise; tandis que, si le Comité financier se base sur les décisions de la Conférence, cela lui permettra de donner une suite opérationnelle. Le terme "débats" me paraît quand même beaucoup trop large, je préférerais le terme "décisions".

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que cela ne pose pas de problème car cela circonscrit davantage la question.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): Speaking on a slightly different point while dealing with paragraph 43, I suppose it cannot come under section 5, you may have to have another section G dealing with management review.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais que l'on se prononce d'abord sur la proposition faite par l'Inde. Celle de la Belgique est déjà acceptée. Non?

Ms Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden): I would rather prefer that we retain the word "discussion" since there might be issues on which the Conference could not reach any precise decision but that need to be discussed further in the Finance Committee so I think we will limit the discussions in the Finance Committee if we change the word "discussion" to "decision". So I would rather retain the word "discussion" as it has been decided by the Drafting Committee.

LE PRESIDENT: Le délégué de la Suède est en faveur du texte en l'état. La Belgique propose que l'on mette "décisions" au lieu de "débat". Qu'en pensent les autres délégués?

David COUTTS (Australia): All I wanted to say was that I think Sweden does have a point. I am sure the Conference has made clear or at least very extensive decisions on the management Review and I think it would be better either to leave it as "discussion" or perhaps change it to something like "taking account of any Conference decision on the FAO Review" or something like that. But just to do exactly what Belgium said may be a bit restrictive.

LE PRESIDENT: "Sur la base des débats en tenant compte des décisions de la Conférence." C'est un amendement sur l'amendement.

João Batista MAWETE (Angola): Notre intention était d'appuyer la proposition du délégué de la Belgique parce que nous considérons qu'il y a une décision lorsqu'il y a un débat, c'est-à-dire que les décisions sont liées aux débats de la Conférence.

LE PRESIDENT: Cela rejoint un peu la nouvelle proposition faite par l'Australie, c'est-à-dire qu'il y a à la fois débats et décisions.

Gerald MONROE (United States of America) : I must say that I am somewhat confused by this discussion. I think I share the delegate of Sweden's concerns. I thought I understood what my Australian colleague was saying. I do not think it was quite that. I think the point here is that the Management Review was treated differently; those of us in the SJS are well aware of that. I think it was clearly understood that this was an ongoing process by its very character and a continuing dialogue with the Secretariat would be required, with the Finance Committee representing the membership. I think that to talk about "Conference decisions", unless the Conference between now and Thursday plans to make decisions on the Management Review, is wholly inaccurate. I would much prefer to leave the text in its present form.

Muhammad Saleem KHAN S. (Pakistan): I think it would be easier if we could know, because here we are noting the agreement reached in the Council, what were the exact words used in the Council? I do not know, I do not have a copy of the Council Report with me. I do not know whether the Council used the word "discussion" or the word "decision". Then we could just say "it noted the agreement reached in the Council..." and what was the exact word.

Ibrahim KABA (Guinée): Logiquement, on ne peut donner suite qu'à des décisions, sans même tenir compte du contexte de nos débats. Partant, pour satisfaire les différentes opinions, je propose ceci: "sur la base des décisions issues des débats de la Conférence". En tout cas, ce n'est qu'à des décisions que l'on peut donner suite parce que, dans les débats, il y a des points de vue minoritaires et des points de vue majoritaires. Mais à quoi doit-on donner suite sinon à des décisions.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que l'on a retrouvé le rapport du Conseil. M. Shah va nous le lire.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): This is in the Report of the Council which came to you under LIM/20-Rep.I, the last sentence reads "It" - that is the Council - "agreed that matters arising from it" — that is from the Management Review — "would be pursued within the Finance Committee on the basis of the Conference discussion of the FAO Review. " But while you have given the floor may I suggest that it would be much clearer, as we are dealing with the Management Review, to say "would be pursued in the Finance Committee on the basis of the Conference discussion of the Management Review". That is the matter which is relevant.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): We agree with the suggestion made by Mr Shah.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que tout le monde est d'accord avec la proposition de M. Shah? Le paragraphe 43 est donc approuvé tel qu'amendé.

Paragraphs 37-43, including Resolution, as amended, adopted

Paragraphes 37-43, y compris la Résolution, ainsi amendée, sont adoptés

Párrafos 37-43, incluida la Resolución así enmendada, son aprobados

LE PRESIDENT: Si vous êtes d'accord, nous considérons que le REP/4 est adopté.

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 4, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport de la Commission II, quatrième partie, ainsi amendée, est adopté

El Provento de Informe de la Comisión II, Parte 4, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 5

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - CINQUIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 5

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 8

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 8

PARRAFOS 1 A 8

LE PRESIDENT: Les paragraphes 1 à 5 sont adoptés. Paragraphe 6.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Ma délégation voudrait faire une proposition concernant la dernière phrase de ce paragraphe. En fait cette dernière phrase n'est pas compréhensible dans le contexte de ce paragraphe.

Nous pourrions la supprimer et la remplacer par une autre phrase qui serait la suivante:

"Elle a lancé un appel auprès des donateurs pour qu'ils adoptent des dispositions permettant d'éviter le phénomène."

LE PRESIDENT: Si vous n'y voyez pas d'inconvénient, nous pourrions accepter l'amendement proposé par la délégation de Madagascar. Le paragraphe 6 amendé est adopté. Les paragraphes 7 et 8 sont adoptés.

Paragraphs 1 to 8, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 8, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 8, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 9, including Resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 9, y compris Résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 9, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 10 TO 22

PARAGRAPHERS 10 A 22

PARRAFOS 10 A 22

LE PRESIDENT: Paragraphe 10. Il s'agit du point 17: Relations et consultations avec les Organisations internationales.

Igor MARINCEX (Suisse) : Dans la dernière phrase du paragraphe 10 relatif au point 17, nous proposons la modification suivante. La phrase qui se lit maintenant comme ceci: "Elle souligne que ce document devrait maintenant aider à mettre en lumière les activités entreprises par d'autres organisations des Nations Unies qui pourraient avoir un impact ou des répercussions sur les activités de l'Organisation" se lirait ainsi "... qui pourraient avoir un impact sur l'orientation et l'exécution des activités de l'Organisation".

LE PRESIDENT: Y-a-t-il des commentaires sur la proposition du délégué de la Suisse?

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): Thank you. We find it rather difficult to understand how the activities undertaken by the other United Nations Organizations could have an impact on the direction of FAD. We think it can have an impact on the work of FAO and it can have sane implications for the work of the FAO but, to our minds, "direction" is too big a word to be included in this paragraph. We would suggest leaving the draft as it is.

LE PRESIDENT: Le délégué demande donc que l'on revienne au paragraphe 10 initial.

Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México) : Creo que la reflexión del distinguido colega de la India es adecuada. Pero en todo caso, quisiéramos una mayor orientación sobre de qué se trata efectivamente esto, por que tal vez sería mejor dejarlo como estaba.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Nous donnerons volontiers l'explication requise. Ce paragraphe demande que l'on examine la façon dont les activités entreprises par les autres organisations peuvent avoir un impact sur les activités de l'Organisation. Il s'agit donc, en fait, de savoir quelle est la place respective de toutes ces organisations. Il ne s'agit pas seulement de voir la FAO comme une organisation qui subit passivement les coups, car elle fait partie de cette famille et doit s'adapter aux autres comme les autres doivent s'adapter à elle.

Il s'agit en fait d'avoir des ajustements de part et d'autre. C'est pour cela que ma délégation a proposé une formulation permettant une réaction plus active de l'Organisation au lieu qu'elle subisse passivement les répercussions ou l'impact.

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom): It may be unnecessary now, but I wanted to say that we welcomed the Swiss suggestion originally and it reflected points made by my delegation, among others. We had in mind that the other funding organizations such as UNDP would almost certainly affect the pattern of FAO's development as a field delivery organization and the decisions being taken in such bodies as BCOSOC and the General Assembly are significant as affecting the area and direction of FAO's activities.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): Thank you. I am sorry to intervene again, but we cannot understand how the activities will change the direction of FAD. They can slacken the speed or movements of FAO as regards the direction in which it is already going, but I do not think they will have implications in terms of changing the direction of FAD. I think that "direction" is too strong and all-embracing a word in an Organization like this.

Ibrahim KABA (Guinée): La proposition de la délégation suisse ne nous pose pas de problèmes en ce sens que les activités d'autres organisations ne changeront peut-être pas l'orientation des activités de la FAO mais peuvent l'influencer.

Je donne un exemple. Si l'ONUDI envisageait le financement d'une huilerie dans un pays en développement, cela pourrait pousser la FAO à encourager ce pays à cultiver soit des arachides, soit du soja, pour s'adapter à l'huilerie dont la création est envisagée dans ce pays. C'est un exemple. Cela peut donc orienter effectivement les activités de la FAO sans absolument les changer.

Eberhard LUHE (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): I am inclined to agree with the Indian proposal that "direction" is a rather strong word because I think this Organization is directed by the Governing Body and, of course, there is an impact there whatever any other organization may decide. If we agree to cooperate with another organization there is an impact on our work but I would doubt that it affects the direction of this Organization.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): A mí me parece que el término "labor" es bastante amplio y que esto cubre aspectos prácticamente de toda índole, y que si nosotros agregamos esta cuestión de orientación, daría la impresión de que estamos subrayando elementos que tal vez, a la luz de las aclaraciones que han hecho los otros colegas, no sean los que queremos señalar y pienso que tal vez podríamos detenernos a pensar que pudieran tener repercusiones en la labor de la Organización, y tenemos ya una fórmula suficientemente amplia como para que quepa todo lo que se nos pueda ocurrir, sin tener que influir particularmente en una cierta dirección.

LE PRESIDENT: Qu'en pense le Président du Comité de rédaction?

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): With your permission I would stick to the text of the present draft.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): J'ai entendu le représentant de la Guinée utiliser le terme "influencer". Je pense qu'on pourrait l'utiliser en disant: "qui pourraient influencer le travail de l'Organisation". Comme cela, on couvre aussi la réaction des organes directeurs de l'Organisation à ce qui se passe dans le reste du système des Nations Unies. C'est l'idée qui se trouve à la base de notre proposition d'amendement.

LE PRESIDENT: On pourrait donc dire: "qui pourraient avoir une influence sur le travail de l'Organisation". Cette phrase a-t-elle l'agrément de la Commission?

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): May I suggest "it could have a bearing on the Organization". Instead of "influence" let us have, "have a bearing".

LE PRESIDENT: Etes-vous d'accord?

Y.K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I wonder why we cannot stick to the original text? You can "impact" and "impact" can be either positive or negative and so it takes care of all your concerns. I urge you to stick to the original text and let us move ahead.

LE PRESIDENT: Puis-je lancer un appel en direction du délégué de la Suisse pour qu'on maintienne le texte en l'état? Merci.

Le paragraphe 10 est adopté sans changements. Paragraphe 11? Adopté.
Paragraphe 12? Adopté. Paragraphe 13? Adopté. Paragraphe 14? Adopté.
Paragraphe 15? Adopté. Paragraphe 16? Adopté. Paragraphe 17?
Adopté. Paragraphe 18.

Stephan HUSY (Suisse): Nous avons des commentaires relatifs à la terminologie "instruments juridiques".

La première fois, c'est à la ligne 5 du paragraphe concernant la convention et la recommandation du Bureau international du Travail. Du fait que la recommandation est mentionnée, nous pensions qu'il s'agit d'instruments mais pas d'instruments juridiques.

Trois lignes plus bas, on parle des instruments du BIT et du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides de la FAO. En ce qui concerne le Code international, lui non plus n'est pas un instrument juridique. Nous proposons de supprimer le mot "juridique".

Quatre lignes plus bas, on retrouve encore "instruments juridiques"; nous proposons là encore de supprimer le mot "juridiques".

Il en est de même deux lignes plus bas où l'on retrouve "instruments juridiques".

Nous avons une deuxième proposition: ce paragraphe traite du point 10 de l'Ordre du jour; nous pensons que l'on pourrait insérer une référence à ce document dans le texte qui traite du point 10 de l'ordre du jour.

Ainsi aurait-on une vue globale et une compréhension complète du problème.

LE PRESIDENT: Je n'ai pas bien saisi; que proposez-vous?

Stephan HUSY (Suisse): S'agissant de notre deuxième proposition, nous proposons d'insérer dans le document C 89/REP/4, qui traite du point 10 de notre Ordre du jour, une référence à ce paragraphe. Ainsi aurait-on une compréhension plus complète du problème.

La raison est en fait de mentionner ce point parce que le point est mentionné en priorité non pas ici mais dans un autre document; et on mettrait à cet endroit une référence à ce document.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous parlez d'une autre Commission?

Stephan HUSY (Suisse): Oui, je parle de la Commission I; on parle de ce problème à deux endroits.

LE PRESIDENT: Avez-vous des commentaires?

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Señor Presidente, nosotros hemos estado concentrados en esta Comisión y realmente no hemos seguido totalmente los debates de lo que ha sucedido en la Comisión I. Mi delegación no tiene ningún inconveniente de que haga una congruencia entre lo que se está decidiendo aquí y lo que se ha ubicado allá. Pero el distinguido colega que ha hecho la proposición, nos ha hablado en varias ocasiones de instrumentos jurídicos y en varios elementos y nosotros quisiéramos estar seguros de que realmente esto no es lo que se ha estado aplicando en la otra resolución o en la otra sala, y si aquí se trata de un instrumento jurídico o no. En todo caso, en la versión en castellano, la última citación no se refiere a un

instrumento jurídico, pero en los otros dos casos sí. Yo si quisiera una aclaración por parte de la Secretaría o del Asesor Jurídico porque no vamos a eliminar aquí algo que forma parte de un instrumento y hay que saber que carácter tiene.

LE PRESIDENT: Peut-être est-ce effectivement un problème? Interrogeons le Conseiller juridique pour voir s'il faut maintenir le terme juridique ou pas.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Given that the international Code of Conduct is not a binding legal instrument and given that by using the word "legal" you might imply some binding quality to it, it might be appropriate to drop the word "legal" and just talk about "instruments" and then the problem does not arise.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est donc tranché; nous supprimons le mot "juridique".

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom) : It was really on the other point of the distinguished delegate of Switzerland; I think he simply wanted a cross-reference and if this is the style of the Conference report then I agree in principle and one could simply add "it was noted that Conference also discussed the subject under item..." and we could leave it to the editors to edit.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que le Secrétariat pourra le faire.

Y.K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I agree that sovereign states subscribe to these instruments so you really cannot force them but I think there should be some expression given to indicate that they are obligatory instruments. I would not add "moral" but they are obligatory instruments. The document in the second sentence would read "The document compared these two obligatory instruments" or perhaps - I am sorry - it is implied. Just put in "instruments" and forget about it.

LE PRESIDENT: On va laisser le mot "instrument" sans le qualifier. Le paragraphe 18 est donc adopté tel qu'amendé. Paragraphe 19.

Stephan HUSY (Suisse): Nous avons le même problème sur la ligne 2; on parle d'un instrument juridique qui pourrait prendre la forme d'une convention; je ne connais pas le texte de la décision 15/34 du Conseil d'administration du PNUE, mais je peux imaginer qu'on laisse ouvert le caractère de cet instrument et qu'on parle d'instrument qui pourrait prendre la forme d'une convention.

Si c'est une convention, c'est un instrument juridique,

A la ligne 7 de ce paragraphe on parle de nouveau de "tout instrument juridique"; il ne faut pas préjuger du caractère de cet instrument et il faut supprimer le mot juridique.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee): While in fact I think it was appropriate, as indicated by the Legal Counsel on the last paragraph, to delete "legal", here we are talking about something else, namely, as is quoted in this decision, the preparation of an international legal instrument, a binding convention and hence it should be retained here.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que la Suisse est d'accord? Oui.

Francisco ZAMARRIBO CRESPO (España) : Para insistir en lo que ha dicho el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, porque en la decisión 15/34 en lo que el PNUMA pretende es preparar un instrumento jurídico internacional y eso lo dice concretamente en esa resolución. Por lo tanto nosotros consideramos que dado que la FAO quedaría en desmedro con respecto a esta actitud, con respecto al PNUMA, es importante insistir en la materia y hay que poner la palabra justa.

LE PRESIDENT: On a déjà tranché la question; on laisse le terme "juridique"; la Suisse est d'accord.

Y a-t-il d'autres commentaires sur ce paragraphe 19? Non? Le paragraphe 19 est adopté. Paragraphe 20.

Stephan HUSY (Suisse): Il est écrit à la première ligne: "la Conférence a invité ..."; nous pensons qu'il faudrait mettre "la majorité"; la Suisse pense qu'il est prématuré, vu le paragraphe 19, de commencer déjà avec des instruments juridiques alors que nous pensons qu'il y a aussi la possibilité d'un autre instrument qui ne serait pas contraignant; nous sommes donc pour le mot "majorité".

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais des commentaires sur ce qui vient d'être dit.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Señor Presidente, mi delegación considera que el párrafo debería quedarse como está en virtud de que ésta es una recomendación que viene desde la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, de parte del COAG, etc., y que en este caso se está pidiendo que se aproveche ciertos elementos que ya se han trabajado en el seno de la Comisión y grupos de trabajo, y creo que dejar la mayoría no da ninguna posibilidad que se vaya adelante con el trabajo, que puede resultar muy importante, sobre todo a la luz del éxito que han tenido los trabajos de la Comisión y sus grupos de trabajo.

Sture THEOLIN (Chairman, Drafting Committee) : You are posing such difficult questions to me all the time! In this case I cannot recall Switzerland taking part in the debate; that is the first point.

The second point is that the request here is to examine "the possibility of transforming" the Undertaking into a convention and in examining this possibility, I imagine that the Director-General will in fact consult those who think that it is at this moment premature to take this step. Therefore, I think the wording as submitted to you covers this possibility.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): Simply to say that this delegation regards the matter under consideration here as being of fundamental importance and we support the comments made by the delegate of Mexico and we feel so strongly about it that if in fact there are particular countries which wish to emphasize their disagreement at what is indicated here, they may choose any appropriate means of so indicating.

Hein COPPER (Netherlands): I was just wondering whether in this case we should speak about a binding legal instrument. We are talking about the Report of Commission I, C 89/Rep/3, which includes a resolution on the agreed interpretation of the international undertaking and if I understand correctly there is no wording on a binding legal instrument rather than on a formal framework. So I wonder if I really understand correctly if the binding legal instrument is really requested and not for a formal framework.

Robin Garth Pettitt (United Kingdom): I am sorry I do not actually recall the discussion under this agenda item which led to this but I would very much doubt whether there was what could have been described as a recommendation in this particular discussion and if I listened carefully and I heard that there might have been one, I would, I think, have objected in that we were basically considering an information paper on the relations of the UN system, whereas the issue of Plant Genetic Resources was being considered substantively by Commission I. I think first of all we want to check and discover whether this was discussed on Commission I and whether it is adequately covered and if it was not adequately covered, I consider we drop the paragraph altogether because it is certainly no place to have reached a decision on this point.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Mi delegación como miembro del Grupo de Trabajo de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, preferiría que el párrafo se mantenga como está y en ese sentido apoyamos a la delegada de México. Las palabras del Presidente del Comité de Redacción creo que son muy claras. Estamos pidiendo nada más que se examine la posibilidad de transformar el actual compromiso. Ya después de las consultas que el Director General haga, se verá lo que nace de ese examen que se haga y, entonces, yo preferiría que quede tal cual está.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Il me semble que nous nous lançons dans une discussion que je qualifierai de byzantine. Empêcher le Directeur général d'étudier la possibilité ou l'éventualité d'examiner la possibilité de transformer la situation actuelle en un instrument légal, me paraît ne poser aucun problème. On va étudier la possibilité de cette transformation; le jour où l'étude sera conclue on pourra se prononcer dans la clarté, mais empêcher le Directeur général d'étudier cette possibilité me paraît une discussion surréaliste... Autant discuter du sexe des anges.

En ce qui me concerne je me rallie entièrement à l'avis tel qu'exprimé par l'honorable délégué du Mexique.

Francisco ZAMARRIEGO CRESPO (España) : Nosotros también nos adherimos a que quede el texto, además de que creemos que refleja muy exactamente lo que se dijo muy claramente en la discusión. Nuestra delegación concretamente dijo lo siguiente, según figura en el verbatim: "Es por este motivo por el cual creemos que la Conferencia debe apoyar y recomendar que se hagan los estudios pertinentes para la transformación del compromiso internacional en una convención para que pueda tener efectos legales y jurídicos oportunos en la vinculación con el resto de las actividades que se van a desarrollar al respecto". En este mismo sentido, creemos que se expidieron varias delegaciones, concretamente la de Costa Rica en principio, si no recuerdo mal y alguna otra. Sin embargo, no hay nada en contra de esto. Luego esto reflejaría lo que se dijo en la discusión.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Señor Presidente, yo no quisiera que esto fuera un debate porque, como nuestro Presidente del Comité de Redacción aquí se está pidiendo al Director General que examinara la posibilidad de. Y sobre todo, señor Presidente, estamos aquí en la Comisión II tratando este tema en el contexto de las relaciones de la FAO con otros organismos y, entonces, el estudiar la posibilidad de una cierta cosa que viene de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y de su Grupo de Trabajo, esto está hablando justamente de evitar duplicaciones, es más, de utilizar eficientemente un trabajo ya realizado por la Organización y que ha sido expresado repetidamente. Se trata de no desaprovechar aquellas cosas en donde ya hay trabajos hechos, en donde la FAO ha demostrado que tiene capacidad para hacerlo y ciertamente hay una vinculación entre los párrafos 20 e inclusive también con él y ese contexto, la relación del organismo con otros organismos y sobre todo esta petición es una petición tan general al Director sobre examinar la posibilidad, que yo les rogaría a los distinguidos colegas de apreciar y analizar y aprueben este párrafo como está.

David COUTTS (Australia): Just to say I must say I do not recall that the Drafting Committee focused very specifically on this. The only thing that bothers me about this is that I am not sure that it is completely consistent with what happened in Commission I. Unfortunately I do not have the Commission I papers here. But Commission I grappled with this idea of a legal instrument and Commission I moved well away from any idea of establishing a legal instrument. At a pinch I could live with the wording here but I am not sure that it is consistent with what Commission I said.

LE PRESIDENT: L'Australie est membre du Comité de rédaction.

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom): I feel very strongly that whatever the merits of the content of the paragraph it should not be here. It is a wrong way of decision taking to take matters normally dealt with by a specialist in another Commission in this Commission, particularly under this item, which is one where we all ride our hobby horses and we do not expect to counteract everything said of the numerous subjects covered by Dr Luhe's paper. It should not be here. If it is consistent with what was in Commission II it is unnecessary: if it is not, it is a wrong way of decision taking and should not be in.

Steen SONDERGAARD (Denmark): Actually I took part in the discussion in Commission I and I must say I cannot recognize the wording in paragraph 20. I would like to support the United Kingdom delegation that we cut it out. But anyway I would like to remind you of the wording in the report of Commission I, part II, page 8, item 9, paragraph 22, which says: "The Conference recognized the role of the Commission as an intergovernmental forum where discussion takes place and consensus was sought for the continuous development of a global system on plant genetic resources." I personally like this wording. If we could use that kind of wording we could keep paragraph 20 in the report, but the wording used is too strong and I am not sure that we will end up with anything that can be called a legal instrument on this case.

Horacio MALTEZ R. (Panamá): Tal como dijo la delegación de España, en nuestra opinión el texto que estamos viendo ahora mismo refleja los resultados de los debates en esta Comisión. En el mismo sólo se plantea que el "Director General examine la posibilidad". Por lo tanto, nos unimos a lo expresado por México, Bélgica, El Salvador y la misma España en que se mantenga el texto tal como está.

Sra, Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Volveros al mismo argumento porque en este caso estamos tratando de la relación de la FAO con otros organismos, y es por eso por lo que estamos pidiendo al Director General ciertas cosas -como la del compromiso-, cuidando que no se duplique y se ignore la importante labor ya realizada. Estamos tratando de ver la cuestión en el contexto de la relación con otros organismos, y por eso decimos que esto es diferente de lo que se trató en la Comisión I. Allá es resolutivo y aquí se está pidiendo que se examine la posibilidad, en un contexto de relaciones con otros organismos, para que la labor de la FAO en este terreno no se vea disminuida o echada a perder. Por eso insistimos en que se quede.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): From the verbatim records we find that this item was specifically raised in the introduction from the podium. It was discussed in detail during the discussion in Commission II. The suggestion which is contained in paragraph 20 was indeed made during the course of the discussion and it was not objected to. Therefore we feel that the wording as it is deserves to be retained on merit.

Point 2, in paragraph 10 of the same draft which we have discussed for a long time, we have said that one of the objectives of the discussion in the fora of the FAO is to decide what are the activities occurring in other UN bodies which impact on or have implications for the work of the Organization. Evidently this is a case like this, where what is happening elsewhere impacts on us, therefore it behoves us to give some direction to the Secretariat and to the Director-General as to what they should do.

Thirdly, paragraph 20 as we read it contains two specific aspects. One is to convert this into a binding legal instrument, and the second is to ensure that the important work already accomplished would not be duplicated or ignored. We have been bemoaning in the same Commission that there has been avoidable duplication among the UN organizations. Therefore in a specific instance where potential duplication comes to our notice we must take cognizance of it and try to avoid it at all costs because as Member Nations we pay for the work in both Organizations.

Here even if in its wisdom Commission II ultimately decides not to say anything under binding legal instrument we should not throw the baby away with the bath water, but at least try to retain that portion which requests the secretariat to ensure that there is no duplication and the work that is done is not lost.

We would plead for the retention of the draft as it is, as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee has mentioned.

Warren MAJOR (Canada) : We simply wanted to indicate concurrence with the suggestion offered by the United Kingdom and also with the additional reasons given by Australia and Denmark. We believe we could safely delete this paragraph and go on.

Francisco ZAMARRIEGO CRESPO (España): Iba a utilizar varios de los argumentos que ha empleado el ilustre delegado de la India. Me sumo a ellos, pero además creo que se está debatiendo nuevamente el tema porque se están diciendo cosas en este momento que se dijeron en el momento en que se trató el tema durante la Conferencia. Hemos dicho que esto debe reflejar lo que ha ocurrido durante la Comisión, y se está reabriendo el debate sobre el tema.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais vous proposer la rédaction suivante: "Dans ce contexte, le Directeur général a été invité...".

Je pense que tout le monde peut se rallier à cette proposition pour que nous puissions passer au paragraphe suivant. C'est toujours comme cela que nous réglons les problèmes lorsqu'il n'y a pas d'unanimité. Je ne vois pas pourquoi on ne pourrait pas accepter cette formule. Sinon, nous devrions mettre la question aux voix. Pour éviter de mettre la question aux voix, il faut accepter cette forme passive.

Est-ce que le Royaume-Uni préfère le vote?

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom): I do not think we should put this to the vote. My preference is the same as that of Canada, not to have it, but if there were some points made in this by Member States that feel they are valuable enough to be recorded, surely the sensible thing is to have: "Some members suggested that the Director-General should examine", which I think reflects the true position and is not controversial.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que nous devons être réalistes. Vous voulez dire: "quelques membres". Mais si nous mettons la question aux voix, elle va obtenir la majorité, donc cela va passer. Acceptons donc la forme passive. Je lance un appel au Royaume-Uni pour qu'il accepte cette forme là. C'est la forme que nous avons l'habitude d'utiliser lorsqu'il n'y a pas d'unanimité. C'est la seule manière de nous tirer de cette situation, sinon on peut poursuivre le débat jusqu'à demain matin.

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom): No, Mr Chairman, I do not accept this, because this is decision taking by inattention. I am told that there were some suggestions of this sort. They were not taken aboard by other members who were thinking they were talking about an information paper where we were told there was no requirement for decision except on paragraph 21, where we say it would be a good idea if the Independent Chairman of the Council did something and there was no decision consciously taken. Obviously if you put that matter to the vote now a decision will be taken, but we are not the people who should be taking the decision, it should be taken in Commission I. So, no, Mr Chairman, please do not press this. We simply record "Some delegations suggested that". I think that is very fair and appropriate.

Antonio Rodrigues PIRES (Cap-Vert): Monsieur le Président, vous êtes très indulgent. Moi aussi j'essaye d'être indulgent mais toutefois je crois qu'il ne faut pas avoir peur de passer au vote. Vous avez fait beaucoup d'efforts pour essayer de trouver une solution par des moyens diplomatiques. Puisque cela ne va pas, passons au vote. Il s'est dégagé une majorité pour souhaiter que le paragraphe reste comme il est. Dans ces conditions, passons au vote.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais encore une fois lancer un appel au Royaume-Uni pour qu'il accepte cette forme passive. Je ne sais pas si d'autres peuvent le faire en même temps que moi. Nos amis suisses sont d'accord. Peut-être pourraient-ils lancer également cet appel pour qu'ils soient entendus.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Gracias señor Presidente. Mi delegación está siempre a su lado buscando soluciones de compromiso. Aunque no nos gusta la fórmula, la aceptamos con mucho gusto. No nos parece atinado que se diga en este fórum, particularmente viniendo de delegaciones que párrafo por párrafo son muy cuidadosas en lo que se hace, que se tomaron decisiones por sorpresa. Son reflejo de lo que ha ocurrido aquí. Estamos en el contexto de lo que la FAO ha trabajado en la Comisión II. No se trata de duplicar, sino de aprovechar lo realizado. Entonces -repitocreemos que estamos en el contexto, y hacemos también nosotros un llamamiento a que se acepte su formulación, y si no es así, aceptamos la decisión de ir a un voto que no deseamos pero que tampoco tenemos miedo de tomar.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Mi delegación quería insistir, cuando pidió la palabra, en que mantuviéramos el párrafo como está porque refleja el resultado de los debates de esta Comisión; no de la Comisión I. La Comisión I ha adoptado su informe. Nosotros estamos adoptando el informe de la Comisión II y reflejando lo que aquí, en esta Comisión, se dijo. Sin embargo, en aras a lograr un consenso, también nosotros le apoyamos en su propuesta de ponerlo en forma pasiva eliminando "La conferencia" al inicio de párrafo 20.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): Clearly the ongoing debate, plus our accumulated experience on this item in these halls, tells us this matter is of importance to just about every delegation. If, in fact, it was discussed in Commission II it means that we cannot sweep it under the carpet. We cannot simply just delete the paragraph. That will not be acceptable. This delegation can live with your proposal, Mr Chairman, on the use of the indirect wording. I personally would prefer not to have to move to a vote. I do not know if we want to use the skill and the experience of the Secretariat to formulate some wording that we might get away with. Hopefully we shall not have to depend upon a vote. The Secretariat always are able to suggest something.

Y.K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): After India had given a background as to the reasons for the insertion of this paragraph in the Report, I thought the matter was settled. I see no reason for this to drag on and on. You, Mr Chairman, have proposed an amendment, but following what India and others have said I think we should adopt it as it is. After all, it is only asking the Director-General to examine the possibility - legal, political, economic or financial possibility - and he can deal with that in five minutes and come out and say it is not possible.

Therefore, please let us retain this because it was discussed and recorded, as India said.

LE PRESIDENT: Puis-je encore une fois lancer un appel au Royaume-Uni pour qu'il accepte l'amendement que j'ai proposé?

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom) : I am going to ask if we could have a definitive English text that we could consider. I had some difficulty in translating it into the passive in general terms.

IE PRESIDENT: Je crois que nous devons aller de l'avant, Utilisons les termes qui l'ont été dans cette salle.

Quels sont ces termes? Si c'est "cadre", il faut le mettre. Je vous avoue que je n'étais pas dans la salle lorsque l'on y a débattu de cette question. Vous connaissez certainement mieux que moi l'ambiance lorsque vous avez discuté ce point. Il faut vérifier dans le procès-verbal quels termes ont été utilisés. Je vois "convention". S'il s'agit d'une convention, cela a force de loi.

Acceptons les termes qui ont été utilisés au cours des débats. La Commission I a fait un travail certainement plus fouillé que la Commission II, mais la Commission a également fait le sien. Essayons de refléter le débat qui s'est déroulé dans cette salle.

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom) : Rather than go to a vote, I would accept the passive tense as you suggest, Mr Chairman, but I am told by people who know more about this than I that to conform with a decision already taken in Commission I we ought to change the words "a binding legal instrument" into "a 'formal framework" which is the wording, I understand, that was used on this subject in Commission I.

Apart from that, I accept the passive tense.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Nous voudrions quand même essayer d'avoir les mêmes signaux que ceux donnés par la Commission compétente en la matière, qui est la Commission I. Pour notre part, nous n'avons pas envoyé nos spécialistes en ressources phytogénétiques à la Commission II; nous n'avons même pas suivi cette question. Il y a peut-être 2 ou 3 délégations qui sont intervenues sur ce point mais il est quand même un peu risqué d'engager toute une Conférence sur quelque chose qui a été débattu ailleurs par les spécialistes. Nos spécialistes étaient à la Commission I. La question n'a pas été soulevée et nous sommes surpris de l'avoir soulevée maintenant. Nous ne savons même pas exactement ce qui a été discuté.

Mais nous pensons qu'il faut avoir tantôt un message qui va dans une direction et tantôt un message qui va dans l'autre. laissons la parole aux spécialistes qui étaient à la Commission I et non pas ici.

LE PRESIDENT: Quoi qu'il en soit, la formule que j'ai proposée est neutre, passive. On ne fait plus endosser cela par toute la Conférence. Acceptons cette formule puisque la majorité est d'accord. Prenons cette forme passive, mettons les termes qui ont été utilisés.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse) : Je pense que votre proposition pour la première ligne est parfaite. Il s'agit seulement de s'assurer que les termes utilisés par la suite ne soient pas en contradiction avec ceux de la Commission I.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Creo que hemos sido muy tolerantes con esta discusión. Hemos aceptado ya una solución de compromiso que usted trajo, debilitando la cuestión de citar a la Conferencia, para dejar el resto del párrafo tal y como está, porque, insistimos, éste es otro contexto. Yo le pido muy atentamente señor Presidente, que si ahora vamos a querer debilitar absolutamente todo, no estamos con este acuerdo. Estamos de acuerdo con la forma pasiva, que ya es demasiado pasiva. Porque apenas está pidiendo al Director General que examine la posibilidad de cierta cosa. Creo que lo que debemos hacer es que los colegas que insisten en debilitar más, tengan la atención de ver que se les está dando un puente de compromiso y que lo acepten. Si no vamos a la votación, pero con la forma original.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais éviter que l'on mette cela aux voix. Prenons la forme que je vous ai proposée. Le délégué de Royaume-Uni est-il d'accord?

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom) : Your proposal is that we do not know now what wording is used. We leave a blank and the Director-General is requested to examine the possibilities of "transforming the present International Undertaking into a ", and then you would use whatever term was used by those who spoke, after consulting the verbatims. This seems to me to be a perfectly logical way of approaching it and if the words "a binding legal instrument" were used by the speakers in this Commission, then I agree that this is a perfectly proper end result. One should, I think, look to see that the words were not used in error or in inexactitude, but if they were used and can be found, then they may, I agree, be quoted.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Looking at the various interventions which I have found so far, one of them referred to transforming the international undertaking into an international convention. That was Spain; that was in Spanish. The same was said by Costa Rica: study the possibility of transforming the existing international undertaking into an international convention. The third one we have discovered in fact said to formulate — No, sorry, that is not a reference to the transformation; that is just a reference to formulating a convention on diversity. Again, it was requested that the FAO should study the possibility of transforming the existing international undertaking into an international convention. That was from Costa Rica. I am afraid we are citing the same thing twice. It was just Costa Rica and Spain.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez entendu le Conseiller juridique. La convention a-t-elle force de loi? C'est cela que nous voulons savoir.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I wonder whether I might make a suggestion. If one could say that "the Director-General be requested to examine the possibility of transforming the present international undertaking into a legal instrument", and then using the ambiguity that we saw before when discussing the words "legal instrument". Would that be all a possibility? Otherwise we could use the words which were actually used in the debate, i.e. "international convention".

LE PRESIDENT: Le délégué du Royaume-Uni demande que l'on utilise les termes qui ont été utilisés dans cette salle. Quels sont ces termes? Je voudrais le savoir car je n'étais pas dans la salle.

Robin Garth PKTTTTT (United Kingdom) : I think we ought to say "two delegations requested the Director-General to ... an international convention", using their words.

LE PRESIDENT: Le délégué du Royaume-Uni n'est pas en mesure d'accepter la proposition que j'ai faite?

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, I think not. I do not think "two delegations" is what the Conference requested. The opposition is quite logical. We should use the terms used by these two delegations.

Steen SONDERGAARD (Denmark): I would say that the Conference actually requested the Director-General to do something but I would like to suggest that we keep the first line as it is. Let me read the whole thing. "The Conference in this same context, requested the Director-General to examine the possibility of a further development of the present International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources into a formal framework" and so on. I think that covers the spirit of the discussion in Commission I.

Sidasty AIDARA. (Sénégal): Je suis vraiment étonné de la tournure du débat. Certes, l'heure est tardive, il est peut-être bon de détendre un peu l'atmosphère, mais je crois qu'il faudrait quand même faire preuve de sagesse. Il n'y a pas que 2 délégations qui ont demandé une telle transforation. Si on a écouté qui s'est instauré il y a un instant, on s'est rendu compte qu'il y en a beaucoup plus.

Je crois que la formule que vous avez proposée est une formule de compromis très acceptable et je voudrais en appeler à la sagesse de tout le monde pour que cette formule soit acceptée. En effet, elle est présentée sous une forme passive: on ne demande pas à la Conférence d'inviter le Directeur général irais le Directeur général "est invité". D'autre part, on évoque la possibilité de transformer; on ne demande pas au Directeur général de procéder à la transformation, on lui demande d'étudier la possibilité de l'envisager. Je crois donc qu'il y a ici une double souplesse qui devrait amener certaines délégations à tenir compte de l'opinion des autres délégations, qui constituent en fait une majorité sur cette question là. Encore une fois, il faut faire preuve de beaucoup de souplesse et accepter votre formule. Sinon, certaines délégations sont prêtes à mettre ce paragraphe aux voix dans sa forme originelle. Or je ne pense pas qu'il le faille.

La délégation du Royaume-Uni pourrait peut-être accepter la forme passive qui est proposée.

Maintenant, ce qui a été dit à la Commission I regarde la Commission I. Nous n'y étions pas, nous avons eu ce débat ici, à la Commission II. C'est ce débat qui doit être reflété et non pas celui de la Commission I, qui a déjà un rapport. Il faut faire preuve de souplesse et de réalisme.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): With due respect to the Legal Counsel, when you are interpreting the verbatim records you have to look at the debates in the context of the questions which are posed for discussion. I am quoting from the document which is the verbatim record where Mr Luhe introduced this. I am reading from page 4, paragraph 5. He says, "Many countries have expressed support for the idea of the convention on biological diversity which would be submitted to the Environment Conference in 1992. FAO member countries may wish to recommend that FAO will play a key role in cooperation with the UNDP in the formulation of the convention. This seems to be only logical in view of FAO's past and ongoing work on plant, animal, forestry and fishery genetic resources, particularly the work undertaken within the

framework of an international undertaking and a commission on plant genetic resources. Moreover it may be important to consider closely how the FAO global system of plant genetic resources can be reinforced to cover existing gaps, if any, rather than superimposing new structures at added expense for the implementation of the convention on biological diversity.

Those countries who have been participating in the discussion in the FAO Conference know the diversion of opinion between the developed countries on one hand and the developing countries on the other. When a question like this has been posed the distinguished delegates have freedom to express their opinion. Thereafter when this was discussed in the Drafting Committee, which contained the representatives of at least two developing countries, unanimous agreement was given for consideration before the Commission.

I think that in a spirit of compromise we have already agreed to a modification which you have suggested from the podium to change the direct reference to the Conference from the direct voice to the passive voice. I think that would be a concession to the concerns expressed by some of the members while discussing this Report properly. We would submit that whatever amendment is suggested this could quickly be gone through, if need be, by putting it to a vote.

Mustapha SINACEUR (Maroc): Je voudrais appuyer les orateurs qui, faisant montre de sagesse et de la volonté d'arriver à un consensus ont demandé l'adoption de la résolution dans sa forme passive, celle que vous avez proposée Monsieur Le Président.

Toutefois, je voudrais interroger le Conseiller juridique afin qu'il nous dise si l'étude de la possibilité de transformer l'Actuel Engagement international en un instrument juridique ayant force obligatoire signifierait que cette étude faite par le Directeur général le pousserait à faire référence à d'autres instances internationales, auquel cas le débat serait transféré à ces instances.

LE PRESIDENT: Je ne sais pas si le Conseiller juridique a entendu la question qui lui est posée.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I think the answer to that would be no, in the sense that I expect the discussions would be taken up at the level of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources or its Working Group, rather than with other bodies outside FAD.

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom) : I am sure your idea of the passive tense is the way out for this. May I make a last suggestion that it should read as follows: "In this context it was suggested that the Director-General should examine the possibility of transforming the present International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources into an international convention. He was also asked to ensure that the important work already accomplished ... ", and then continue as at present. I think that reflects the discussion and the attention given to it.

Francisco ZAMARRIEGO CRESPO (España) : Volvemos a insistir en que se debe de reflejar lo que aquí ocurrió, y el señor delegado del Reino Unido expresó en un memento que aceptaba la forma pasiva y que se pusieran los términos en que se hubieron expresado las delegaciones. Yo creo que han sido leídos los textos en los que se han expresado las delegaciones y son clarísimos y coincidentes con lo que dice el párrafo 20. Nosotros creemos que debe ponerse en su totalidad el párrafo 20, pero transamos por compromiso y aceptaríamos la fórmula pasiva, pero como última concesión.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Señor Presidente, yo creo que a la luz de lo que nos ha leído el distinguido delegado de la India que fija exactamente el contexto en que se llevó a cabo la discusión en esta sala, en este tema, y que, por lo tanto, ya es una concesión muy importante y en aras del coopromiso lo que usted nos ha propuesto pero desde luego no cambiaríamos ninguna otra cosa porque esto está perfectamente reflejado en el contexto de nuestra discusión, como ya lo había leído la distinguida delegación de la India. Por favor, sean tolerantes. Yo creo que estamos todos haciendo un esfuerzo. Si en esa ocasión no se pronunciaron en contra, tenemos que aceptar este compromiso.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): I should like to apologize for asking for the floor at this late hour, but I believe that certain delegates are taking up a great deal of our time. This is not right or fair. There is a discussion between the Chairman, the delegate from the United Kingdom and the delegate from Switzerland. The remainder of the Commission are just sitting here and watching. Either we put the matter to the vote or we shall have to do something else. If not, we shall just sit here and listen to you and the delegates from Switzerland and the United Kingdom. I urge you to rule on this matter, and if the delegates from the United Kingdom and Switzerland are not happy with this text, we totally respect their views. I believe we are all entitled to express our views but I do not think we should just stay here until tomorrow morning in order to make Switzerland and the United Kingdom happy. This is not right. We must respect the wishes of others.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Royaume-Uni seul résiste et continue à résister à l'ensemble... C'est un appel que l'on vous lance. Vous avez tout le monde en face de vous, il faut en tenir compte.

Point of Order

Point d'Ordre

Punto de Orden

Antonio Rodrigues PIRES (Cap-Vert): Si nous continuons à cette allure M. le Président, vous risquez de vous retrouver seul; avec beaucoup de respect je vous dis: regardez la salle... il faut passer au vote. Je suis absolument d'accord avec l'intervention que vient de faire l'Ambassadeur de Libye. Passons au vote et terminons avec cette affaire.

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom): I specifically suggested, Mr President, that voting was not the sensible way of going ahead. Indeed, if it were suggested I would make a proposition that we voted on whether we have a vote.

I am not clear actually what the state of the text is that I am said to be opposing but may I once again put the carefully drafted text which I suggested just now and that reads, "in this context it was suggested that the Director-General should examine the possibility of transferring the present International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources into an international convention. The Director-General was also asked to ensure that the important work already accomplished would not be duplicated or ignored, thereby facilitating the use of existing structures for implementation of an eventual legal instrument on biological diversity". In that form my delegation could accept this.

LE PRESIDENT: Une motion a été proposée; vous êtes intervenus contre; peut-on avoir une autre intervention contre car nous devons passer au vote.

Le Représentant du Royaume-Uni sait très bien que nous avons tout fait pour éviter le vote mais que nous n'y sommes pas arrivés, en raison, avouons-le, de votre intransigeance.

Qui veut parler contre le vote?

Omer ZEYTINOGLU (Turquie): Nous avons étudié avec calme la dernière proposition que vient de faire le délégué du Royaume-Uni; il dit qu'il utilise la forme passive; il dit que le Directeur général a été invité à étudier la possibilité... et il remplace un instrument juridique ayant force obligatoire par une convention internationale. Et le reste du paragraphe reste le même.

Si je comprends bien, il dit que le Directeur général a été prié de veiller, je comprends bien les sentiments des délégués parce qu'en effet depuis une heure nous sommes en train de discuter de ce paragraphe.

Il me semble qu'avec un peu d'effort nous arriverions à trouver un compromis. Ma délégation est contre le fait qu'on mette ce paragraphe au vote.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Mi delegación está a favor porque considera que necesita resolverse una situación de impasse que ha sido creada por intransigencia a una serie de fórmulas de compromiso que fueron establecidas y que, dada la situación, tenemos que resolver pero conforme a su fórmula original porque ya está demasiado debilitada la propuesta. Hubo una solución y no se ha aceptado.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya): (original language Arabic): I agree with the colleague from Mexico. Either the United Kingdom accepts the text as you have suggested or we revert to the original text and not the amended one. If the United Kingdom cannot accept your proposal we shall have to revert to the original text.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que la Grande-Bretagne n'accepte pas le texte que j'ai proposé. Nous devons maintenant passer au vote sur le texte qui nous est proposé concernant le paragraphe 20.

Vote Vote Votación

LE PRESIDENT: D'après les résultats du vote la majorité est favorable à ce texte; c'est une indication; peut-être n'y a-t-il pas le quorum et c'est la raison pour laquelle je n'ai pas voulu indiquer le résultat.

Je dis que l'indication du vote qui vient d'être fait est que la majorité est favorable à ce texte tel qu'il est.

Je vous propose de mettre ce texte entre guillemets et de l'apporter en plénière. Il y a eu un vote, j'irais pas de quorum; ce vote a été une indication; si par conséquent la plénière décide de passer au vote, comme tout le monde sera présent le vote prendra tout son sens. Mais nous ne pouvons pas continuer à discuter de cette question.

Point of Order

Point d'Ordre

Punto de Orden

Steen SONDERGAARD (Denmark): Actually, Chairman, when you pressed the vote through here, the normal procedure is that people who want to abstain should be recognized. Although I could not vote in favour of this I did not want; to vote against it either, but I would like to be recognized as having abstained.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez certainement raison mais comme il n'y avait pas le quorum je n'ai pas cru utile de demander les abstentions; je voulais avoir une indication sur le débat; je l'ai eue; je vous ai livré cette indication; je n'ai pas demandé les abstentions qui ne m'auraient pas donné d'indications.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): I think that all you will really do is transfer the longer haul from here to the Plenary. I like to take into consideration what you call the facts of the subtleties of the situation. I did not think it was necessary to move to the vote. Mr Chairman, I would say it seemed to me the final wording of the United Kingdom was getting very close to something we could accept. If you take the third line of paragraph 20 where we have all the discussion about "binding legal instrument" as I see it the Secretariat examined the text and found references to an international convention. This is my understanding. I will be corrected if I am wrong. There was a suggestion that we used "an international convention".

Then there was your proposal that we used the indirect arrangement and I got the impression that the United Kingdom was coming round to that. I myself wanted to make a suggestion but for whatever reason it was, you did not look in my direction. I wanted to suggest something like, "among the various recommendations or suggestions which emerged" the Director-General be recommended to continue with the text. I think we are getting very close to dealing with the facts and dealing with the subtle concerns. All I can see at the moment, Mr. Chairman, is that you will transfer the long haul from here to the Plenary. We can also vote in Plenary of course.

LE PRESIDENT: Oui, mais il faut que tout le monde soit disposé à coopérer pour que nous arrivions à des solutions à ce problème; cela dit si l'on ne veut pas coopérer c'est difficile.

Warren MAJOR (Canada): Clearly we cannot have it both ways. We put the paragraph to the vote on whether or not to retain it in our text in its original form and that proposal failed. The paragraph is no longer there.

LE PRESIDENT: Trinité-et-Tobago a ouvert le débat; personnellement je l'estime clos pour ce soir, nous transmettrons le texte en l'état en plénière et s'il y a vote en plénière ceux qui sont pour, voteront pour et ce qui sont contre, voteront contre. Paragraph 21 adopté; Paragraphe 22 adopté.

Paragraphs 10-22 not concluded

Les paragraphes 10-22 sont en suspens

Los párrafos 10-22 quedan pendientes

PARAGRAPHS 23 TO 28

PARAGRAPHES 23 A 28

PARRAFOS 23 A 28

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons maintenant au paragraphe 23.

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom) : In this paragraph I would like to have two sentences which reflect the view of either four or five countries which mention that they were not convinced that the case had not yet been made for an International Conference on Nutrition. Assuming the word "It" in the third sentence refers to the Conference rather than the ACC, it would come before that. These would be the third and fourth sentences of paragraph 23 and the sentences would be the following: "A number of delegations were of the view that the case for a governmental level meeting had not been established. They noted, in particular, that the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition had failed to identify any effective affordable interventions to be advanced". They are the two sentences. The next sentence would have to read: "However, the majority considered that....".

LE PRESIDENT: Je ne sais pas si tout le monde a pris note de cet amendement. Pouvons-nous aller de l'avant?

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Me parece que una inclusión de esta naturaleza tendría que buscársele una ubicación apropiada y diciendo "unas pocas, muy pocas delegaciones", pero dada la importancia de este párrafo - que es el primero en donde se está hablando de todo el planteamiento - mi delegación pediría que se agregara una frase final en donde dice: "La Conferencia aceptó la importancia de que esto se viera en esta Conferencia".

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que je peux demander au Président du Comité de rédaction d'intervenir sur cette question?...

Le Président du Comité de rédaction ne souhaite pas intervenir à ce stade.

Philippe PIOIET (France): Je crois que ce que demande la délégation du Mexique se trouve dans le paragraphe 24. Ce qui est important sur ce point de l'Ordre du jour, c'est que nous prenions une décision, c'est-à-dire que nous décidions si oui ou non on fait cette Conférence. Je crois que la grande majorité souhaitait que la Conférence ait lieu. Ceci est dit de manière très claire dans la première phrase du paragraphe 24.

LE PRESIDENT: En effet, le paragraphe 24 dit: "La Conférence a approuvé la proposition du Directeur général de convoquer la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): La situación que se plantea es que en este párrafo, en donde se está examinando la propuesta y vienen las opiniones - particularmente la del CAC - no vemos por qué se tiene que introducir lo que dijeron unas delegaciones en contra. Por eso mi delegación está pidiendo que, como corolario de este párrafo que va a llevar un cuestionamiento, se indique entonces que la "Conferencia tomó una decisión", porque, señor Presidente, no me parece que sea justo que se inserte en un párrafo introductorio una cuestión de esa manera, en una Conferencia que es tan positiva y que a todo lo largo del planteamiento aquí se le da la bienvenida.

LE PRESIDENT: Comment exprimer le point de vue qui n'a pas appuyé cela?

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic) : I think in paragraph 27 we can find something that will satisfy the United Kingdom because it says a number of countries expressed their concern that the preparation of this Conference could imply a financial burden for governments. So I really do not think that we need to have the drafting as suggested by the United Kingdom in paragraph 23.

C. Srinivasa SASTRY (India): I have a suggestion to make for consideration of the delegation from the United Kingdom. Whatever reservations were expressed by other delegates could possibly come in, as mentioned by the delegate from Libya, in paragraph 27 towards the end, where financial and other restraints have been referred to. Secondly, so long as paragraph 24 stands where the effective suggestion is being taken about whether to hold it in the first half of 1993, the suggestion contained in sentence three of paragraph 23 really says that "such a Conference would be an important step towards obtaining national and international commitments to implement strategies and actions". May I therefore request the delegate from the United Kingdom to take his reservations to paragraph 27, towards the end.

Robin Garth PEPTTTTT (United Kingdom) : I would have no objection to the suggestion of Mexico that we use "a few" rather than "a number of delegations". I counted four, with a possibility of five, who specifically expressed reservations about the need or the desirability of a Conference. However, I would not wish to follow the suggestion that these points were collected up amongst the somewhat negative points in paragraph 27. Our objection is not connected with the expense, not entirely connected with the expense, but is a matter of fundamental difficulty with the idea of a government level conference which I have yet to be convinced of the desirability for, so it logically belongs to paragraph 23. If it is felt that it is too strongly worded and my second sentence gives too much weight, I have no objection to it being removed. I put it in because I thought in all honesty one should put the reason, but I would be content just to leave the one sentence in, saying: "a few delegations were of the view that a case for a governmental meeting had not been established", and leave the other sentence. Perhaps with that compromise it would be acceptable.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez écouté l'amendement du Royaume-Uni au paragraphe 23.

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Sí, señor Presidente, porque aquí lo que es muy delicado es que justamente en el primer párrafo introductorio se haga -aunque lo hayan dicho unas pocas delegaciones- un cuestionamiento sobre una Conferencia de naturaleza gubernamental. Por eso nosotros queremos que haya una opinión de la mayoría -si no es de la Conferencia- que diga que considera que una Conferencia de esta naturaleza en un marco gubernamental es lo más apropiado. Esto es importante para todos, pero creo que más importante es el marco gubernamental de la Conferencia. Por eso, si se insiste en mantener una referencia de esta naturaleza, nosotros queremos que haya una contraposición para darle un carácter equilibrado.

Calixte ALAPINI (Bénin) : Ma délégation soutient le maintien des paragraphes tels qu'ils figurent dans le Rapport. Le problème de la nutrition se pose et a été reconnu aussi bien dans les pays en développement que dans les pays développés. Peut-être le représentant du Royaume-Uni n'en est-il pas convaincu, c'est-à-dire que pour lui le problème de la nutrition ne se pose pas dans les pays développés. Mais je pense que c'est un fait réel. Dans beaucoup de documents que nous lisons ce genre de problème est exposé et nous en avons discuté ici. Je pense que l'inquiétude se situe au niveau du coût de cette Conférence, et je crois que cette inquiétude a été exprimée au paragraphe 27. Donc je pense que le représentant du Royaume-Uni pourrait faire une concession pour que nous puissions avancer.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): It is with great hesitation, but I will try just in order to help the Commission at this rather late hour. If it is agreed to keep the sentence as suggested by the delegate of the United Kingdom, it might probably be useful to balance it by the other view and with your permission I might suggest something like this: "a few delegations were of the view that the case for an inter-governmental meeting had not been established. However, the majority did not share this view and the Conference considered that an International Conference on Nutrition would be an important step." etc. The following sentence would remain as it is with a little change because instead of saying "the national Conference" we would say "International Conference".

LE PRESIDENT: Puisque le délégué du Royaume-Uni marque son accord et les autres délégués également, le paragraphe 23, tel qu'amendé est adopté.

Les paragraphes 23, 25, 26, 27, 28 sont adoptés.

Paragraphs 23 to 28, as amended, approved

Paragraphes 23 à 28, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Párrafos 23 a 28, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 29 to 31, approved

Paragraphes 29 à 31, sont approuvés

Párrafos 29 a 31, son aprobados

Paragraphs 10 to 22 (continued)

Paragraphes 10 à 22 (suite)

Párrafos 10 a 22 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: J'ai reçu ici des sollicitations qui demandent de revenir sur le paragraphe 20. Beaucoup de délégués sont partis. Peut-être, si nous revenions sur ce paragraphe, pourraient-ils contester en séance plénière les décisions que nous aurions prises ici à moins d'accepter la proposition que j'avais faite. Mais je crois que le Royaume-Uni n'a pas changé d'avis et la Libye non plus.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): With the same spirit of compromise and conciliation that imbued the end of our discussion I would turn to the delegate of the United Kingdom and urge him to accept my proposal so that in that way we can have a single position when we get to the Plenary and this will mean that we do not have to put it to the vote. I think this will allow us to avoid sate embarrassment and I would also remind the delegate of the United Kingdom that his is the only delegation which opposed your proposal, Mr Chairman, and I would appeal to him that he accepts it.

Robin Garth PEPTTTT T (United Kingdom) : Mr Chairman, I have been trying to establish what your proposal is when it comes into English. It did not seem to be very different from what I had suggested myself. But if I could have it in English, please, then I would give an answer.

LE PRESIDENT: Voici la rédaction que je proposais pour le paragraphe 20: "Dans ce contexte, le Directeur général a été invité à étudier la possibilité de transformer l'actuel Engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques en un instrument juridique ayant force obligatoire..." Mais je pense qu'ici on pourrait reprendre les termes utilisés et dire: "en une convention internationale". Nous savons tous ce que signifie une convention internationale.

Je vois que le Royaume-Uni marque son accord...

Robin Garth PETTTTT (United Kingdom): Chairman, I am not happy, but I accept that.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vois que nous pouvons adopter ce paragraphe 20, je vous en remercie.

Paragraphs 10 to 22, as amended, approved

Paragraphes 10 à 22, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Párrafos 10 a 22, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 5, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport de la Commission II, cinquième partie, ainsi amendée, est adopté

Proyecto de Informe de la Comisión II, Parte 5, así enmendado, es aprobado

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous signale que demain nous adopterons notre Rapport en séance plénière, probablement à 9 h 30. Je vous invite à vérifier votre programme du jour pour que vous sachiez exactement à quelle heure nous passerons au niveau de la plénière. Je souhaite que tous ceux qui ont participé à cette commission appuient le Rapport. Tous les rapports que nous avons adoptés ici l'ont été dans un esprit de dialogue et de compréhension. Je pense que demain nous serons unis pour défendre notre Rapport.

Avant de lever la séance, je voudrais vous remercier pour votre esprit de coopération. Vous avez tous fait des apports importants pour moi, pour la Commission, de telle sorte que nous sommes arrivés aux conclusions auxquelles nous sommes parvenus. Bien sûr, il y a la Résolution, mais il y a aussi le reste du Rapport que nous avons adopté. J'estime que même s'il y a eu beaucoup de longues discussions, nous avons tout fait pour arriver à un accord et je crois que c'est cet esprit-là qu'il faut sauvegarder au niveau de la plénière.

Je vous souhaite une bonne nuit, parce qu'il se fait tard et je vous remercie.

The meeting rose at 21.45 hours

La séance est levée à 21 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 21.45 horas